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THANKS TO OUR GREAT STAFF OF CONTRIBUTING WRITERS, MANY HAVE WRITTEN 3-19 YEARS FOR THE ALABAMA GAZETTE. THEY ARE THE BEST IN THE STATE.



“And let us never forget in honoring our flag, we honor the American men and women who have courageously fought and died for it...

-President Ronald Reagan



Stony Hill School, in Waubeka, Wisconsin, the site of the first formal observance of Flag Day.

In the United States, Flag Day is celebrated on June 14. It commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777, by resolution of the Second Continental Congress.[1] The Flag Resolution, passed on June 14, 1777, stated: "Resolved, That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation." [2][3]

In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; on August 3, 1949, National Flag Day was established by an Act of Congress. Flag Day is not an official federal holiday. However, it is at the president's discretion to officially proclaim the observance.

Grandfathers Love Graduations also!



Mason King and Grandfather Alva Blair. at Masons High School Graduation Ceremony at Stanhope Elmore High School, May 15th.

JUNE 18



Barbara Harrington will be sharing with our readers monthly her journey thru her fight with cancer.

The Gazette thanks Barbara for sharing her story. Our personal experiences are always our greatest ministry to others.

See page 15



VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96 Elected Its Officers

Veterans Of Foreign Wars Smith-Wynn Post 96 has elected its new Post Officers for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year. The Post meets monthly on the last Monday of each month at 11:00 a.m. at the Golden Corral in Montgomery. For more information, contact Commander Robert Carr at 334-546-5885 or Quartermaster Charles Stults at 334-277-6792.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is a nonprofit veterans service organization comprised of eligible Combat Veterans from the active, guard, and reserve forces. They trace their roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War (1898) and the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902) founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans' pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves.

In their misery, some of these veterans banded together and formed organizations that would eventually become known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. After chapters were formed in Ohio, Colorado and Pennsylvania, the movement quickly gained momentum. Today membership stands at more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Smith-Wynn Post 96 was mustered March 15, 1921. The Post is honored to be named after two men who died serving our Country in WWI. John F. Smith and Rush P. Wynn were both assigned to Alabama's 167th Infantry Regiment, 42nd Division, which became part of the "Rainbow" Division and then the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) in France during WWI. Rush P. Wynn died from combat wounds on July 26, 1918, and John F. Smith died from combat wounds on July 28, 1918. Post 96 is proud to remember the sacrifices of these brave men by representing VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96 in their honor.

In addition to serving our local veterans in need with assistance on VA claims, Smith-Wynn Post 96 serves area youth through the VFW Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Essay competitions where VOD winners at the Post level can then compete at district, state, and national levels for a chance to be awarded a \$30,000 school scholarship. Post 96 has conducted the Montgomery County Spelling Bee for the last 67 years. The Post focuses on comradery and serving veterans and local youth.



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

SMITH-WYNN POST 96 – MONTGOMERY ALABAMA

OFFICERS 2023 - 2024



 <p>Robert Carr Commander</p>	 <p>Paul Robertson Jr. Sr. Vice Commander</p>	 <p>Brian Petters Jr. Vice Commander</p>
 <p>Charles Stults Quartermaster</p>	 <p>William "Bill" Chivalette Adjutant</p>	 <p>Charles Stults Service Officer</p>
 <p>James "Skip" Dotherow Trustee 1</p>	 <p>Terry Fetzer Trustee 2</p>	 <p>Jason Hughes Trustee 3</p>
 <p>Thomas Burch Chaplain</p>	 <p>William "Andy" Griestead Judge Advocate</p>	 <p>Hillard Means Surgeon</p>
 <p>Post 96</p>	 <p>Brian Petters Past Post Commander</p>	 <p>Post 96</p>

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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE

With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama’s leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>



Kay Ivey is Alabama’s second female governor. Lurleen Wallace was the first. Ironically, Kay Ivey’s idol and impetus for striving to be governor was Lurleen Wallace. Kay’s first involvement in state politics was as a campaign worker for Governor Lurleen’s 1966 race for governor when Kay Ivey was a student at Auburn.

It was 55 year ago in May 1968 that our first female governor, Lurleen Wallace, passed away. She was a genuinely humble person. Lurleen Wallace was very popular. The state fell in love with her. She was not only beloved, she was also a good governor for the 18 months she served before she succumbed to cancer.

Her husband, George Wallace, was first elected governor in 1962. He had ridden the race issue to the governorship and had made segregation the hallmark issue of his first four years. He had become the paramount king of segregation in the nation. He was very popular. However, he was forbidden by the Alabama Constitution from seeking a second, consecutive term. At that time, the governor could not succeed themselves.

The idea of George Wallace running his wife Lurleen as his proxy had been tossed out by a few of his cronies as a joke. After a few weeks, the idea grew on Wallace. He made calls around the state and began to realize that dog might hunt. George and Lurleen met when he was a 22-year-old law student at the University of Alabama. He met her at a dime store in Tuscaloosa where she was a 16-year-old clerk. She was born and raised in Northport. They soon thereafter got married.

Wallace’s life and devotion was to politics and being governor of Alabama. Lurleen was content to be a behind the scenes mother. George’s passion was politics. Lurleen’s passion was being a mother and going fishing.

Lurleen was a genuinely sweet lady. Her humble background as a dime store clerk in Northport endeared her to Alabamians. She was gracious and sincere, and people fell in love with her. Lurleen had been diagnosed with cancer two years prior to the 1966 election. Although it seemed to be in remission, her health was not excellent. The campaigning was a challenge to her. She did not cherish the spotlight like George. Instead, she preferred her quiet time. She had been mother and father to four children.

However, after Lurleen agreed to run it seemed to grow on her. She was a quick study. She got better day after day. As the crowds grew, you could feel the momentum and surge in popularity. She seemed to thrill to it.

Lurleen’s landslide victory in May of 1966 was astonishing. She set records for vote getting, some of which still stand today. She defeated nine male opponents without a runoff. Left in the carnage was an illustrious field of proven veteran political men. Included in the field she demolished were sitting Alabama General Richmond Flowers, Jasper Congressman Carl Elliott, State Senator Bob Gilchrist, Dothan businessman Charles Woods, two former governors John Patterson and Big Jim Folsom, popular state Agriculture Commissioner A.W. Todd, and of course Shorty Price. She then went on to trounce the most popular Republican in the state, Republican Congressman Jim Martin, by a two to one margin.

Lurleen Wallace became Governor in January of 1967. She warmed to the job and made a very good governor. She let George know that she was Governor. However, she lived less than two years after she took office. Soon after her inauguration she visited the state’s mental hospital in her native Tuscaloosa County. She was so moved by the deplorable conditions that

she made it her mission to improve the mental health facilities in the state. She gave one of the most moving speeches ever delivered before a legislature that resulted in passage of a major bond issue to support mental health.

Lurleen was also instrumental in the creation of a major cancer center at UAB. It came to pass after her death.

She became beloved by Alabamians. She showed amazing grace and courage as she battled against cancer. When she died, the outpouring of sympathy from people of the state was unparalleled. Thousands of Alabamians filed by her casket in the Capitol Rotunda. Schools let out and school children came to Montgomery from all over the state to pay their respects for our Lady Governor.

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



JUSTICE WILL SELLERS

The Precursor to Revolution

Two hundred and fifty years ago, the British Parliament stumbled into what can only be described as a textbook case of how to alienate friends and lose loyal subjects.

When the Tea Act was passed in 1773, British conventional wisdom was that decreasing the tax on tea would be well received. And even though the science of economics had not fully developed, reducing the cost of a household staple would arguably increase consumption to the applause of merchants and consumers.

Little could anyone know that this Act would precipitate the Boston Tea Party and start the American Colonists down the road to rebellion and independence. Certainly, no one in England could have imagined this result, but the Tea Act was yet another in a series of botched attempts by the mother country to directly impose a tax without utilizing the existing colonial political structures.

As the colonies developed, the familiar English political institutions served as a pattern for governing. To some extent, the initial colonial political experience was basically an experiment in self-government, but this changed as the colonies grew both in territory and population and became a significant economic factor. Most importantly, as England expanded its global power, the colonies became part of British foreign policy.

As continental wars became global inscope, having a significant British presence in the New World gave them not only raw materials to trade for consumables, but also strategic bases for their military to check the growth of French and Spanish settlements.

The colonists welcomed trade with England, which initially came without significant taxation or regulations. But, as the colonies prospered and gained more clout, they became a pawn in the British plan for empire. The mother country became a helicopter parent closely guarding the young colonials and superintending many aspects of colonial political and civil life. Had the British been a more hands-off parent and fostered independence under a protective umbrella, things would have been different.

But as is often the case in families, the misunderstanding of roles, relationships, and maturity led to unintended consequences. Here, by creating a tension between the advancing development of the colonies and Parliament’s paternalism, the consequences were severe, consequential, and irrevocable.

Unlike a conquered country, the colonies, in their unique way, were transplanted Englishmen. Their immigration was not a planned occupation but was an evolving and organic expansion. Initial interference from England was limited as the government of the colonies was essentially local. Royal governors represented the King in Parliament, but each colony had its own means of government. Colonists were involved in raising a militia for protection and imposing taxes for public improvements.

But this changed when Britain needed to defend its expansionist plans and fight the localized version of wars with France and Spain. Committing troops in a foreign outpost was not a cheap endeavor. With the cost of an expanding empire, Parliament’s coffers were running low, and new sources of revenue were needed. Given the financial growth of the colonies, they were ripe for the picking, but parliamentary leadership went about it the wrong way.

Bypassing existing colonial political institutions and without any consultation with the colonists, Parliament started imposing taxes directly on goods the colonists consumed from England. Their tariffs and import duties completely changed the relationship between England and the colonists.

Instead of a nurturing relationship, these taxes stunned the colonists when the costs of goods increased with no seeming local benefit.

Once household goods became more expensive, colonists sought alternatives that were duty-free. This quest for cheaper goods inspired colonists to manufacture their own goods, but more critically gave rise to smuggling. So, instead of collecting significant taxes, the opposite happened.

Fewer British goods were purchased, and the machinery to impose the tax created a bureaucracy to focus the ire of the colonists.

When Parliament realized that it had accomplished very little other than to stir up the feelings of its subjects, some of the taxes were repealed, but the tax on tea remained. As a matter of principle, many colonists refused to drink tea imported from England preferring coffee and smuggled Dutch tea.

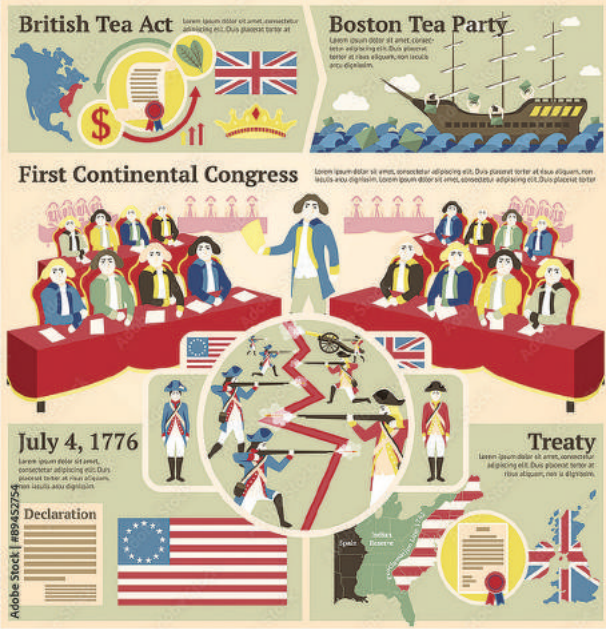
The decrease in demand for British tea created warehouses full of rotting tea in England. In fact, the lack of sales to the colonies worked a severe hardship on the British East India Company. In an example of 18th Century corporate welfare, Parliament passed the Tea Act to allow this tea to be sold directly to the colonies, but at a lower cost so that even with a tax, the tea was cheaper than smuggled tea. Parliament, however, also made the British East India Company the exclusive purveyor of tea, restricting merchants authorized to buy and sell tea.

This franchise coupled with the tax on tea was too much. The colonials realized that the power of Parliament to tax, limit trade and regulate the sale of commodities would become a means of control if not stopped. Even though tea might be cheaper, the colonists resisted the normal impulse to accept the tax and enjoy cheap tea.

In short, the Tea Act aroused every suspicion the colonists had about England and their future relationship. While initially undefined, the developing association became more strained as neither side appreciated that their political relationship had changed. The colonists had matured and were creating their own methods and manners to govern themselves. They were happy to pay taxes for a government they could see and appreciate, but, were unwilling to accept Parliament’s arbitrary intervention over which they had no say.

Each American colony reflected a very English system of self-government, but the Tea Act was the final straw in a battle of principles of who had the right to govern and be governed. Parliament inadvertently gave would-be loyal subjects an excuse to run away from home and achieve independence. Had Parliament worked through the existing political structures and allowed the colonists to continue to grow both economically and politically with limited interference, history might have turned out differently.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

By: Rob Tate

HOLD ONTO YOUR HATS

VS

HOLD IN YOUR PUKE

The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.

As I write this, today is the 8th anniversary of my father's passing. Sad day for my super small family. My feeling matches the overcast skies here in Montgomery. Miss you, dad.

What I wanted to write about today was the **Durham Report**. There is so much there and I cannot believe our prisons are not filled up with lawless politicians and alleged protectors of our democratic republic. What I have seen thus far is frightening. But before I write about the report, I want to read the whole 300+ pages for myself. So, yes. There will be more to come in a later Robservation. LET'S GET TO IT!



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Anyone who knows me knows that I love going to the movies or watching movies on television. New, old, color, black and white, foreign, I love most. I hate "period pieces," you know guys in powdered wigs and such. I am also not a real fan of most musicals. Some are okay but most are just not my style no matter what it may be.

Case in point, I hated Les Miserables. It was an excellent movie but just not my style. Sitting all the way in the back row, I remembered texting my brother (nobody could see the light on my phone) and telling him if I hear one more stupid song I was going to gouge my eyes out. Just not my style, just like I know many people out there hate the war movies I love to watch.

In the hundreds of movies I have seen in my life, I have only walked out of two. One was *Little Shop of Horrors* when I was stationed in Germany and the other was *Noah* while I was on a layover in Albuquerque. If I had been in a theater last night, it would have made movie number three. But since I was home alone with my dogs, I had to finish watching it because I knew I was going to write this Robservation and I needed to talk from a position of experience.

I am not going to make any bones about it. I love *Top Gun: Maverick*. Almost every time it is on television, my wife and I will watch it. That is after watching it three times in the theater. In total, I have likely watched it all the way through or in part close to 15 times now. It never gets old. From start to finish it is a "hold onto your hats" movie. The casting, the aerial scenes, the story line and their ability to tie up so many loose ends from the first *Top Gun* movie is admirable. If you ask me whether a mission would have been planned and flown that way, I would say not a chance. But so what. It is an excellent visual experience and you get to really feel for the characters.

My favorite scene? Well, I have two. One is when Maverick steals the F-18 and flies the practice bomb run in 2 minutes and 15 seconds. Like the female F-18 pilot "Phoenix" says, "Nice." The next is right before Maverick takes off on the mission toward the end of the movie and his friend "Hondo" is standing outside the cockpit.

Hondo: "Hey, Mav. I don't like that look."

Maverick: "It's the only look I got." A long pregnant pause. "Thank you. Hondo.

If I never see you again, thank you."

Hondo: Gathering himself. "It's been an honor, Captain."

Powerful stuff there. I think about how many hundreds of times that same conversation has happened throughout the history of air warfare. Even while flying my NATO AWACS during the Gulf War, we had similar conversations with our crew chiefs. Looking back, only once did I have to retrograde because of a potential enemy threat which turned out to be nothing. But knowing Soviet bloc doctrine, my airplane was always among the primary targets to shoot down. At the time we did not know. We were always grateful when we knew we had American F-15s flying Combat Air Patrol (CAP) to protect us.

But looking at this movie and how great it is, I wondered why in the heck it did not do better in the Academy Awards. There was a lot of discussion about it being too "American" or too military. Not "woke" enough for some. So, I decided to watch the movie that won the Academy Award this year, *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once*.

This is where "Hold in Your Puke" comes into play.

I can say without a sliver of a doubt that this was one of the three worst movies I have ever seen. The term worthless comes to mind. Having the obligatory homosexual/lesbian relationship is not even an issue. I do not care about that. I have mentioned many times in previous Robservations that I have had many friends and relatives who were/are gay, so let's not go there. But let me mention just a couple of things.



avsforum.com

1. The Butt Plug: I cannot even believe I am mentioning this in a column of mine. There is a scene where Jamie Lee Curtiss, an IRS tax auditor is talking to the lead family. She has three trophies on her desk for auditor of the month. I looked at the trophy and immediately said, "What the . . ." Well later in the movie two men have a fight scene with lead actress Michelle Yeoh with these things, well, uh, hanging from..... You get it.

Really? Really? In no way am I any kind of prude but that is disgusting. To be honest, one guy's "insertion" is actually a lighted cylinder with colored glitter in it, I think. Just as disgustingly stupid. If you dare:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wYrBD7AbkHQ>

2. That Thing: In another fight scene, a young lady beats a guy half to death with, uhhhh, how do I say it? I know the word but let's just say beats him up with two gigantic fake male sexual organs, wielding them like Nunchakus. **NO!** I am not making this up.

From a nonsensical plot to an alternate universe where people have hot dogs for fingers (yes, I wish I was still making this up), this movie is horrible. Yet it won 7 Academy Awards; *best movie, best actress, best supporting actress, best director, best supporting actor, best film editing and best original screenplay*.

People were cheering that Michelle Yeoh was the first Asian actress to win the best actress award. I have seen her in many other movies where her performance was much worthier than this. Then I watched an interview with her gushing over that "butt plug fight scene." Oy!!

There was a time when I would watch the Academy Awards. I used to love watching the winners and checking off my list of who I thought would win. Most years I would watch all the movies nominated for best picture. Those days ended well over a decade ago.

Today, I do not even turn the Academy Awards on. I could not care less about rich people giving other rich people trophies. But when I saw *Maverick* last year, one of the best movies I have seen in a long time, I was really interested in seeing how the Academy would respond to this movie. Then when this crazy movie won, I finally felt compelled to watch it. Like Sun Tzu's *Art of War*, you must know your enemy. For me to talk about the movie, I had to see it.

Now unfortunately, those perverse images cannot be unseen and I will never get back those two hours of wasted time.

All I can say to the Academy is, "Shame on you." I just wonder what kind of influences were pedaled to secure this victory for such a horrible movie. As for these two movies, there is no way I can be convinced that *Maverick* was not the better movie.

Perhaps the \$718 million vs. \$69 million box office gross is something to look at.

While *Maverick* was number one, *Everything* was only number 27. That says something. The next time *Maverick* comes on, I will undoubtedly watch it.

That wretched *Everything, Everywhere, All at Once* will never again spread its ridiculous filth on my television.

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Ronald A. Holltsford

One case that I recently saw reported in the news involved a copyrighted photograph early in the career of the artist Prince and silk screens by Andy Warhol using that copyrighted photograph to create the images. Warhol was famous for his silk screen images of commercial items but often changed the commercial item to reflect a varied new work, possibly with outlandish colors or maybe an absurd wording.

Professional photographer, Lynn Goldsmith photographed Prince Rogers Nelson in 1981 as an up and coming rock musician. One of the photographs was used by *Newsweek* magazine after appropriate licensing and much later another magazine, *Vanity Fair* sought to use a photograph as an “artist reference for an illustration” for one time use and appropriate acknowledgement. Ms. Goldsmith was paid \$400.00. Also employed to create the artistic illustration from Ms. Goldsmith’s photograph was Andy Warhol. Warhol created not only one silkscreen but an additional fifteen others in various colors.

After Prince’s death, *Vanity Fair*’s parent company *Condé Nast* asked that *Vanity Fair* provide the original image only to learn that there were several others that had been created. The “Orange Prince” silk screen was selected and used. It was later when Goldsmith saw her photograph recreated as a different colored Warhol of Prince and used without her permission or acknowledgement as the original source. Goldsmith notified the Andy Warhol Foundation (created under the Will of Andy Warhol following his death) that she believed the work was derived from and infringed on her copyrighted photograph; *Condé Nast* responded by suing her for a declaratory right (asking a court to declare my rights) noninfringement or in the alternative “fair use”.



Goldsmith countersued for infringement. “Fair Use” is around the reader all of the time without From my law school education, it is my opinion that the random snippets of various songs that you are probably familiar with heard on news shows before they go to break, etc. come under the fair use doctrine.

The District Court considered the fourfacets of the Fair Use Doctrine and

ARE THERE ANY INTERESTING RECENT LEGAL CASES?



granted declaratory judgment to the Andy Warhol Foundation. The appeals court reversed the decision and held just the opposite that the four facets favored Goldsmith. The case was submitted to the United States Supreme Court who agreed to hear the case. Justice Sotomayor wrote the 7-2 majority opinion. Justice Sotomayor wrote: “In this Court, the sole question presented is whether the first fair use factor, ‘the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes’ §107(1), weighs in favor of AWF’s (Andy Warhol Foundation) recent commercial licensing to *Condé Nast*”.

The Andy Warhol Foundation stated that the images were transformative because the images conveyed a “different meaning or message than the photograph”. “But the first fair use factor instead focuses on whether an allegedly infringing use has a further purpose or different character, which is a matter of degree, and the degree of difference must be weighed against other considerations, like commercialism. Although new expression, meaning, or message may be relevant to whether a copying use has a sufficiently distinct purpose or character, it is not, without more, dispositive of the first factor. Here, the specific use of Goldsmith’s photograph alleged to infringe her copyright is AWF’s licensing of Orange Prince to *Condé Nast*.”

A bottom line is that the Andy Warhol orange Prince and the others are of commercial value. While the Copyright Act encourages “fair” derivative works it must balance the “fairness” in copying a copyrighted work as described in four facets with **two noted below**:

- 1. The first already discussed is the character and use whether it is for **commercial** use or **nonprofit educational** use.
- 2. Secondly it furthers the goal of copyright promoting science and the arts **without** decreasing an incentive to create copyrighted works.

Finally, the majority held the works to be transformative but the commercial use was found to be a larger incentive and therefore the majority held for Ms. Goldsmith, affirming the opinion of the appellate court.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney- client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist

“No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed” by other lawyers.”

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John W. Giles

Every night at 7 pm central, I join 3.5 million plus Tucker Carlson viewers looking at the lava lamp saying, so what do we do now? Many of us have abandoned Fox, because of this gross, misguided judgment of firing a stellar example of pure journalism. Why would a publicly traded company who lives and dies by the value of their stock, fire the highest rated news show with target rich demographics. His base is coveted by advertisers with 490,000 viewers between the ages of 25-54. Many of my friends and colleagues asked my opinion about why he was fired and I gave them three reasons: January 6th and Ray Epps, Big Pharma and the Dominion Voting machine lawsuit settlement. Actually, my instincts were accurate, but the plot thickens, stay with me. Tucker was dismissed for telling the truth.

Conservatives all across America often say, we have to get to the bottom of the Wuhan Virus and vaccines, 2020 election and January 6th. Tucker was exposing facts and truth on each of these issues and the weak woke leadership at Fox caved to outside pressures, and now we have evidence, so let’s break it down.

Tucker had Dr. Anthony Fauci’s number, in fact he called him Lord Fauci; his words were sacred and undisputable. Woe to anyone who questioned his hallowed opinion. Tucker reported how the Communist Chinese Wuhan Lab purposely leaked the virus, while Fauci was using U.S. Taxpayer funds to pay for gain of function, which enhances the lethal nature of the virus. Fauci sat in those meetings with the President Trump, knowing the origin and intent of the virus. He committed treason upon America and was the divine instrument executing the plan for the Communist Chinese. Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson and Johnson tried to hide they use aborted fetal tissue in their formula.

Tucker cited that the vaccines did not preclude one from getting the virus, spreading the virus or prevented wearing a mask. Lord Fauci, tell us again how many times did you have COVID? Tucker also exposed all of the mysterious sudden unexplained deaths popping up all over the world, myocardia and blood clots hitting the exponential curve. Funeral home directors and embalmers have documented a 50% increase in deaths since the vaccine roll out, along with the unprecedented increase of fibrous long strands of blood clot tissue found during embalming.

We recently learned from an undercover video of a Fox Producer, Sean Langille where he stated that Pfizer, who is a substantial advertiser on Fox, demanded they fire Tucker. Why, because he was telling the truth about their cash cow ineffective vaccine. One day the truth will be shouted from the rooftops of the long-range scope, goal and negative effects from these vaccines. As a reminder, we need to look deeper into the World Health Organization (WHO), which is an echo chamber, cheerleading and shielding the Communist Chinese Wuhan Lab. Oh yeah, all three Big Pharma vaccine producers are protected against any litigation.

Tucker had the truth about the 2020 election in the crosshairs as well. Talking about election interference in 2020 triggers lightning rod heated shouting matches from the left. During the 2020 General election cycle, Biden boasted on national television stating, “We have put together I think the most and inclusive voter fraud organization in the history of American politics.” He got away with it.

TUCKER-THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

John Giles Former President & Chairman - Choose Life Alabama



jacquelineperalta

Tucker Carlson

The Trust Shall Set You Free

nights, Tucker was exposing falsehoods that had been spewed for 2 years. Americans know it was a set up for the Pelosi driven Trump impeachment #2. Democrats, weak Republicans and other media outlets were howling at Fox leadership to shut down Tucker.

Many folks are in jail today who were proven innocent by these undisputed videos withheld from their defense attorneys. Tucker talked extensively about Ray Epps, an FBI operative and some 41 federal agents on the ground inciting the crowd and encouraging them to enter the capitol.

Don’t forget John Earl Sullivan, a known paid operative who worked with Black Lives Matter and incited riots during Back the Blue Rallies, who filmed and sold CNN for \$35,000.00 the video footage of Ashley Babbitt, an unarmed female veteran, who was gunned down in the capitol. Tucker was on a roll exposing all of the false accusations and reporting for the last 2 years of what really happened on January 6th until Fox bosses shut him down from exposing the truth.

Fox has taken a beating in ratings, viewership has dropped 50%, and among the ages of 25 – 54 shrunk by 66%. What happened to the constructional protection of the First Amendment: “Congress make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting its free exercise. It protects freedom of speech, the press, assembly, and the right to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

So how honorable is that, Tucker Carlson was fired for doing his job as a journalist, telling the truth and informing Americans. If there is any silver lining here, truth will one day prevail and all wrongs will be made right. Tucker will return soon with an unprecedented format and will have a tsunami of sought-after blue-ribbon viewership.

Sometimes I get my eye off the ball and focus on the internal enemies of this great Republic. One day we will be freed from these falsehoods, heresies, and double standards of free speech and justice.

Jesus said in John 8:32: “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Truth Prevails!

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John Sophocleus

Resolve for I&R [Initiative and Referendum] in Birmingham

Oppressed Birmingham citizens may appreciate **LPA** [Libertarian Party of Alabama] efforts for greater access to their ballots. Their Executive Committee recently approved a resolution introduced by District Representative Patrick Merritt [Region 3] to support Birmingham citizens using **I&R**, see Article 3.15(b) link: <https://www.birminghamal.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/mayorcouncilact.pdf> to restore some of their cherished liberty.

I&R enables citizens to place measures on their respective ballots to either submit a new law, such as recall and term limits, or voting up or down an **existing** law. This is increasingly more important when trying to undo harm like the Birmingham sewer debacle. Furthermore with big government conservatives (a.k.a., traditional Republicans) running the show in our State it is increasingly less likely libertarian/small government conservatives (for example Dr. Jimmy Blake) will be allowed to have any input on blocking wasteful spending and attenuating overbearing government as he did when on the Birmingham City Council. Apparatchiks kicking Dr. Blake out of our highly subsidized and protected Red Duopoly Party last year offered further evidence little change will result from our elected politicians.

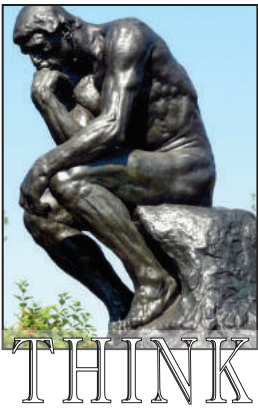
Citizens in 26 States enjoy this right [**I&R**] unimpeded. **I&R** is blocked in Alabama, because of the controlling practices of our Montgomery politburo and the stranglehold **ACCA**, **BCA**, et al lobbyist enjoy in our State. We just elected a **BCA** lobbyist to the US Senate sucking \$574,000/yr. salary to be more effective than “*Cash-register Shelby*” boasting about his parting shot of \$666 mil. to keeping ringing up the obscene Trump/Biden debt these past years. Shelby Britt is just one of our high end political prostitutes not wanting others having more access to lawmaking that would devalue her services or undo some of the massive theft brokered from your city council all the way up to DC.

Statistics show Alabamians want **I&R**. Notasulga’s Frank Dillman, a long-time advocate and activist for the voice of the people via this mechanism said: “*citizens want and deserve the right to vote on taxes, such as the unwanted state fuel tax and income tax, gaming, school choice, segments of the state budget, and recreational marijuana when our legislature continuously fails to represent us.*”

Birmingham may be the sole municipality with **I&R**, however, the several counties which adopted the 2005 Limited Self Governance Act, see Sections 2(b) and 6 of SB 129 [<https://arc-sos.state.al.us/ucp/B05146AA.AM5.pdf>] also have this capability. Your county commission office and the office of judge of probate is required to know if you may place measures on your county-wide ballots. Of course, don’t your county politburo and bureaucrats to be forthcoming - more counties are feeling insulated enough to block citizen input from taxpayer provided video broadcasts, fail to produce budgets, have special elections to overturn failed tax votes on general elections, etc. Dillman closed his perspective with, “*This is exciting seeing the LPA taking the lead for all citizens, regardless of political choice,*” who suggested visiting www.LetBamaVote.org for more on Initiative and Referendum.

The text of the **LPA** Executive Committee Resolution is as follows:

Whereas, We consider it suitable that the citizens of Alabama should have the right to represent themselves; and
Whereas, There is no vehicle aside from elected representatives to provide this representation; therefore
Resolved, That the Libertarian Party of Alabama should be committed to the advancement and provision of Initiative and referendum to the people of Alabama.

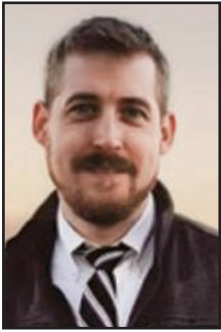


Resolved, That the Libertarian Party of Alabama is committed to supporting efforts to make use of Initiative and Referendum in the City of Birmingham.

LPA Chair Samuel Bohler provided his thoughts:

Within the last month, Alabama House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter told reporters he would not allow recreational marijuana use bills on the floor for the duration of his term. That means Alabama will be trailing behind while about half of the other States have legalized it, and others are working on legalization. For four more years, Alabama can save people from “*ruining*” their lives with marijuana - *i.e.*, ruining their lives with drug convictions and putting them in prison. We could spend \$100 million from the education fund to teach young kids how to lead successful lives and avoid substance abuse and dependency or reallocate that money to buy more prison space to incarcerate them. Governor Kay Ivey appears to have budgeted for the latter. The revealed priorities of those governing Alabama are concerning.

Bypassing bureaucracy and petty party politics, **I&R** restores some voice of the governed to the citizens so they can speak about what they value. The people of Alabama are willing and ready to engage in directly shaping the laws and allocation of funds. Let them.



Samuel Bohler
Chair — Executive Committee
Libertarian Party of Alabama

Kudos to the **LPA** who keep fighting the duopoly in our State and championing restoration of some voice in our representative republic which grows increasing less competitive thus less communicative of the people hosting the parasites decaying what would be a an improved quality of life if allowed. Sadly as population grows and the number of representatives doesn’t adjust as designed, we’ll continue to witness more concentration of power at every level of government.

PS: Comments on last month’s column - *esp.* with respect to the passing of Camilla L. Rice were sincerely appreciated. Some across the State did not know of Camilla’s passing prior to reading the **In Memoriam**. I ask forgiveness from those who thought I ‘*over-emphasized*’ following generations [**Exodus 20**] squandering blessings accrued by ancestors who endured taking God’s righteous path. Camilla was among the last who reminded me of my Grandmothers with true Southern grace and grit. They shunned ‘*Nimrods*’ who made government their god. They shepherded their immediate posterity to this understanding of the Decalogue. Sadly, the 3rd and 4th generations of my grandparents observed display much more fidelity to government as their benefactor via **SSA** checks, *etc.* unwilling to speak or act against the command economy/wealth transfer society of corporate and social welfare recipients we now so ardently embrace.

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AN EPIDEMIC LIKE NO OTHER

Right here in the Heart of Dixie, amidst our rich traditions and enduring values, a somber shadow is being cast over our beloved Alabama. This specter is not of an external invader or a natural calamity, but a silent, insidious crisis sweeping through our communities, threatening our most precious resource - our youth. The teenage drug overdose statistics are not just alarming, they are a stark warning, a call to immediate action. Our bright, promising torchbearers of tomorrow are falling prey to an epidemic that is as deadly as it is preventable.

The figures are not just alarming, they're heart-wrenching. Nationally, the rate of overdose deaths among teenagers nearly doubled in 2020, courtesy of the onset of the COVID pandemic. Worse still, it escalated by a further 20% in the first half of 2021 compared with the decade preceding the pandemic. A first in our recorded history, the rate of teen drug death is on an exponential upward swing.

The primary antagonist in this deadly drama is fentanyl, a synthetic opioid with a potency up to one hundred times greater than morphine. Slyly mixed by drug dealers with other drugs like cocaine or heroin, fentanyl is the unseen enemy, causing unwitting teens to overdose due to the sheer potency of the cocktail they're ingesting.

Additionally, prescription opioids such as oxycodone and hydrocodone, stimulants like cocaine and methamphetamine, benzodiazepines, and even alcohol are often the accomplices in these tragic tales.

The bitter truth is that these deaths are completely preventable. This has to be a call to arms for parents, educators, elected officials and healthcare providers to join forces to stem this rising tide. We have a clear mission: to inform our teenagers about the dangers of drug use, to be alert to signs of drug use, to facilitate access to treatment for drug addiction, and to explicitly educate them about the risks of fentanyl and other synthetic opioids.

As we combat the rising tide of teenage drug overdoses, implementing a comprehensive curriculum in Alabama's schools is a critical step. One that must be mandated by the Alabama legislature. This curriculum must not only educate students about the dangers of drug use but also empower them with the knowledge to make informed decisions and seek help when needed.

The curriculum should start with a basic understanding of what substance abuse is, how it can occur, and the potential repercussions. It should provide an overview of different substances, both legal and illegal, including prescription drugs, stimulants, benzodiazepines, alcohol, and opioids.

Special attention should be given to the dangers of synthetic opioids, especially fentanyl, given their potency and prevalence in overdose deaths.



Perry O. Hooper Jr.
Founder Let the People Speak
Founder Patriots First
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



Students should understand how these substances can be mixed with other drugs without their knowledge, leading to accidental overdoses.

Students need to be educated on recognizing the signs of substance abuse in themselves and others. This includes changes in behavior, physical health, and academic or sports performance.

An important part of the curriculum should be about decision-making skills and resisting peer pressure. It should equip students with strategies to say no to drugs and to make healthy choices that align with their goals and values.

Students must learn how to respond to an overdose situation, including recognizing the symptoms of an overdose, calling for help, and administering life-saving interventions like Naloxone, an opioid overdose reversal drug.

The curriculum should provide information on where to seek help, both within and outside the school. This includes local and national helplines, substance abuse counselors, and healthcare providers.

Finally, the curriculum should incorporate general health and wellness education. This includes teaching students about mental health, stress management, and healthy coping mechanisms.

This proposed curriculum is not just about preventing drug overdoses, it's about providing our students with an empowering education that equips them to make informed decisions about their health and well-being. It's time to move from reactive to proactive, focusing on prevention rather than cure. Our teens are our future, and they deserve every tool we can provide to secure a healthy, vibrant future for them.

Ultimately, our efforts to prevent drug overdoses among teenagers must involve a comprehensive approach that emphasizes education, support, and personal responsibility. By instilling these values in our youth, we are equipping them with the tools they need to navigate their lives with confidence and make choices that prioritize their health and happiness. Together, we can help them build a brighter, safer future for themselves and their communities.

PURE FENTANYL



FENTANYL LACED PILLS





Col. John Eidsmoe

OUT OF THE PANDEMIC: A DIFFERENT APPROACH TO CHURCH AND

In 2011, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas decried *"an Establishment Clause jurisprudence in shambles."* Unable to come to a consensus, the Court has shifted from one theory to another, with confusing, conflicting, and sometimes bizarre results. Over the past several decades the Court has struck down school prayer (1962) and Bible reading (1963) but allowed prayer at town board meetings (2014), prohibited (1948) but later allowed (1952) released-time programs whereby children could be released from school for religious instruction, prohibited the display of the Ten Commandments in schools (1980) but in 2005 prohibited the Ten Commandments in a courthouse but on the same day allowed them on a state capitol lawn, allowed (1984) but later prohibited (1989) a public nativity display, and a host of other irreconcilable rulings.

More recently, the Court has moved away from some its more radical rulings, and now says the Establishment Clause *"must be interpreted by reference to historical practices and understandings"* where *"the line that courts and governments must draw between the permissible and the impermissible has to accord with history and faithfully reflect the understanding of the Founding Fathers."* *Kennedy v. Bremerton School District*, 142 S.Ct. 2407 at 2428 (2022). Accordingly, the Court in *Kennedy* held that a coach's prayer on the 50-yard line was not an establishment of religion, just as the Court held in 2019 that a 30-foot cross erected to honor World War I veterans did not violate the Establishment Clause.

These are positive developments, but the Court still needs provide a definitive answer to the question: What did the Framers mean when they wrote, *"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..."*? On May 5, 2023, the Foundation for Moral Law presented a case to the Court which could give the Justices the perfect opportunity to answer this question.

Spell v. Edwards

In 2020, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards responded to the COVID threat by issuing a series of executive orders which, among other things, prohibited churches from assembling with more than 10 people present. Tony Spell, Pastor of the 2,000-member Life Tabernacle Church, believed that closing his church would violate **Hebrews 10:25** (*"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."*). He therefore decided he must *"obey God rather than men"* (**Acts 5:29**) and led worship services, and thus he was changed with several misdemeanors.

Pastor Spell retained the legal services of the Foundation for Moral Law. The Foundation attorneys spoke with him at great length, and he convinced them that he was 100% sincere in his religious convictions and that he would not back down even if it meant going to jail. With the Foundation attorneys, he launched a two-pronged offensive against the charges and the Governor's orders -- one in Louisiana state court to defend against the charges, and one in federal court to fight for religious liberty.

In Louisiana State Court

In state court he argued that the Governor had exceeded his powers under the Louisiana Health Emergency Powers Act, R.S.29:760 et seq., in part because Sec. 736.D provides that *"Nothing in this Chapter shall be interpreted to diminish the rights guaranteed to all persons under the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution or the Bill of Rights of the United States Constitution."* (**Note: We need a similar protection in the Alabama Emergency Act! Tell your legislators!**)

On May 13, 2022, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled in favor of Pastor Spell, quashing the charges against him because the Governor had exceeded his authority in issuing the order. The Court noted that the Governor's order discriminated against churches, placing them under a 10-worshiper limit while grocery stores and liquor stores were under no similar 10-shopper limit.

As the Court said, *"What defendant [Spell] seeks -- and what our Constitution ensures -- is that his religious activities be treated no differently than comparable secular activities. ...We interpret Pastor Spell's request not as one for special treatment, but for equal treatment."* The State may not single out a church for discriminatory treatment without showing it has a compelling interest for doing so that cannot be achieved by less restrictive means, a standard that is called *"strict scrutiny."* The Court concluded, *"The state's disparate treatment of religious gatherings is simply not supported by any evidence."*

This was a victory for religious freedom. But Pastor Spell and the Foundation attorneys believed it did not go far enough. The First Amendment protects free exercise of **religion** -- not free exercise of shopping, gambling, or business. The Constitution does not place religion in an equal position with other activities; it places religion in a **preferred** position.

So Pastor Spell and the Foundation pursued the case further in federal court.

Foundation of Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.

(334) 262-1245.

In the U.S. Supreme Court

On May 5, 2023, having argued these issues in the Federal District Court and the Fifth Circuit, Pastor Spell filed a petition for *writ of certiorari* with the United States Supreme Court. In this petition, they noted that the Justices are now seeking the Framers' intent concerning religious freedom, and we need to remember that the Framers grew up in the shadow of the Reformation and viewed Church and State as two distinct kingdoms or jurisdictions.. To find the Framers' intent, we need to look to the Reformation and the Bible.

They understood separation of church and state -- which is a proper concept, despite the Left's distortion of it into hostility toward religion --as a jurisdictional separation. Even in Old Testament Israel, the kings came out of the Tribe of Judah while the priests came out of the Tribe of Levi -- separate offices, separate jurisdictions, but both derived their authority from God and both were subject to the Law of God. And Jesus Christ strengthened the principle in his response to the Pharisees (**Matthew 22:21**). As Lord Acton noted,

When Christ said: *"Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's,"* those words, spoken on His last visit to the Temple, three days before His death, He gave to the civil power, under the protection of conscience, a sacredness it had never enjoyed, and bounds it had never acknowledged; and they were the repudiation of absolutism and the inauguration of freedom.

Augustine recognized these two kingdoms in his *Civitas Dei*, which, Luther said, *"set the very course of Western Civilization."* Luther himself said of Church and State,

...these two kingdoms must be sharply distinguished, and both be permitted to remain; the one to produce piety, the other to bring about external peace and prevent evil deeds; neither is sufficient in the world without the other.

Calvin's views of Church and State were similar to those of Luther.

Understood against this jurisdictional backdrop, Jefferson's 1804 letter to the Danbury Baptists in which he spoke of a *"wall of separation between church and state,"* and Madison's *Memorial and Remonstrance Against Religious Assessments* (1785) in which he declared that Christianity is *"the Religion which we believe to be of divine origin"* that enjoys the *"patronage of its Author"* and therefore does not need the aid of the State, start to make sense.

So what has this to do with a Governor's order to close churches? Simply this: Imagine, for a moment that Pastor Spell had issued an order closing all state offices during the pandemic. People would stare with open-mouthed astonishment, wondering, where does he think he gets the authority to close state offices? And here's the point: The State has no more authority to close churches, than the Church has to close State offices. It's a matter of jurisdiction.

A Closing Word

We're realistic. We recognize that the Supreme Court receives more than 10,000 *certiorari* petitions every year, and they can only hear about 100. Mathematically, the odds of this petition being granted are about 1%. But we hope the Justices will recognize the importance of the issues we have raised. Whatever they do with this petition, the issue of jurisdiction will not go away.

In times past, State officials would not have considered closing churches. On July 3, 1849, in the face of a cholera epidemic, President Zachary Taylor proclaimed a *"Day of Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer"*:

At a season when the providence of God has manifested itself in the visitation of a fearful pestilence, which is spreading itself throughout the land, it is fitting that a people, whose reliance has ever been in his protection, should humble themselves before his throne; and, while acknowledging past transgressions, ask a continuance of the Divine mercy.

It is, therefore, earnestly recommended that the first Friday in August be observed throughout the United States as a day of *Fasting, Humiliation, and Prayer*: All business will be suspended in the various branches of the public service on that day; and it is recommended to persons of all religious denominations to abstain, as far as practicable, from secular occupations, and to assemble in their respective places of Public Worship, to acknowledge the infinite goodness which has watched over our existence as a nation, and so long crowned us with manifold blessings; and to implore the Almighty, in his own good time, to stay the destroying hand now lifted against us.

Things were different then. People knew that God is real, His wrath is real, and His saving grace is real. And they knew He answers prayer.

Rather than closing the churches, they wanted the churches open, and they wanted the people of God to pray to Him to implore His intervention.

Is that what's been missing during the COVID pandemic?

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John Taylor

Northerners Opposed to Coercion

Jefferson Davis not only received verbal criticism, he was also subjected to physical abuse when he was held in a Union prison awaiting a trial that never happened; however, he never backed down from his belief in the sovereignty of the States. In 1846, Davis described the only source of the Federal Government's powers: *"I answer; it is the creature of the States; as such it could have no inherent power, all it possesses was delegated by the States."* Many Northerners agreed that the

Union is voluntary and ultimate sovereignty lies with the creators of the federal republic—the States. The people of the respective States determined, through their representatives, which coalition they would be part of.

On January 21, 1861, in an emotional and grief-laden chamber, Davis resigned from the U.S. Senate, explaining: *"Senators, we recur to the compact which binds us together; we recur to the principles upon which our Government was founded; and when you deny them, and when you deny to us the right to withdraw from a Government which thus perverted threatens to be destructive of our rights, we but tread in the path of our fathers when we proclaim our independence...."*

A large number of Northerners who agreed with Davis openly expressed their beliefs. A few examples include:

Thomas Reynolds, Democratic ex-Governor of Missouri and Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court, said on December 28, 1860: *"I am heart and soul with the South. She is right in principle from the Constitution."*

Gerald Hallock and David Hale, staunch opponents of the Republican Party's coercive tactics, published The Journal of Commerce. Their anti-coercion stance

was met with the U.S. Post Office's refusal to carry their papers.

President James Buchanan explained to Edwin Stanton that the Constitution does not provide any power to the federal government to coerce a seceding State.

In his book, American Conflict, Horace Greeley wrote: *"There was not a moment when a large portion of the Northern Democracy was not hostile to any form or shade of coercion. Many openly condemned and stigmatized a war on the South as atrocious, unjustifiable, and aggressive."*

Massachusetts lawyer, editor, and author John T. Morse wrote in his two-volume biography about Lincoln. *"History is crowded with tales of despots, but of no despot who thought or decided with the taciturn independence which marked this president [Lincoln] of the Free American Republic in regard to coercing seceding States."*

Edward Everett, Massachusetts Whig politician, educator, and pastor said: *"If our sister States must leave us, in the name of Heaven let them go in peace."*

In February 1862, author Nathaniel Hawthorne revealed his Jeffersonian inclinations by stating: *"It would be too great an absurdity...to spend all our Northern strength, for the next generation, in holding on to a people who insist on being let loose."*

Several abolitionists associated with William Lloyd Garrison and Wendell Phillips opposed coercion. Even some Republicans opposed forcing seceded States back into the Union; Stanton biographer George Gorham noted this split. The 1860 Republican Party Platform stated: *"we denounce the lawless invasion by armed force of the soil of any State or Territory, no matter under what pretext, as among the gravest of crimes."* Clearly, Lincoln disagreed with this part of his party's platform since he and his supporters demanded an unbroken Union. Conversely many prominent Republicans, e.g., Horace Greeley and Salmon Chase were originally fine with disunion.



John Martin

STOP THE MEGA PRISONS

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Before you even read any farther, take a look at this short video. It is absolutely FRIGHTENING.

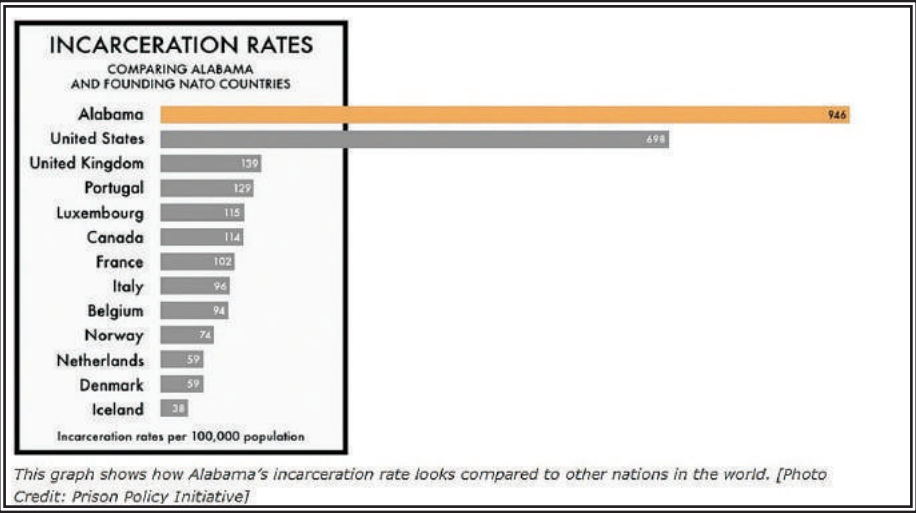
<https://www.facebook.com/InsiderNews/videos/760507585303195/>

This is a new mega-prison in El Salvador, especially designed to house and punish the country's vicious drug gangs. Look at them—handcuffed, leg shackled, and herded like cattle. Think about it. Would you want anything like this in YOUR state, in YOUR county, or anywhere NEAR where you live?

Even when locked in prison, could you feel safe with a huge concentration of thugs like these close by? What if even just a few escaped. What kind of mayhem could you expect.

And besides escapes, what about some just being turned loose? Don't think it could happen? Don't ever forget GITMO. The terrorists inside should have been promptly executed on the spot. But George W. Bush decided it was safe to just keep them there—perhaps indefinitely. After all, they were in a secure military base down in Cuba; what could possibly go wrong? But when Bush's term expired and Obama took over the presidency, he released FIVE of the **most dangerous** of these despots in exchange for ONE American deserter. We can only guess how many innocent people those five have massacred since then.

As a percentage of its population, Alabama is already top-heavy with prisoners, including many perfectly harmless individuals, convicted against constitutional standards, who would pose no public safety risk if released. Were you aware that the United States has a higher percentage of its people in prison than any other country in the WORLD? And now look at Alabama. Its percentage is even HIGHER. Why so many?



The answer is largely our insane zero tolerance drug laws. If you get caught with a gram or two of a “*controlled substance*,” you go straight to jail. The absence of any harm done to anybody is irrelevant; you're BUSTED!

In fact, just this last April (2023), our legislature passed an extreme bill to outlaw Fentanyl. A single gram was enough for three years in prison. Eight grams would sentence you to LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE. This is just for possession, not for harm of any kind. Our governor, Kay “*Poison*” Ivey, immediately rubber-stamped it into law.

To enforce this insanity, on March 15, Kay Ivey had already given her approval to spend **almost \$1 BILLION** to build a new 4000 bed mega-prison in Elmore County. Earlier, she had actually proposed building **THREE** of these monstrosities. Her impeachment cannot happen soon enough.

When we look at Western Europe, we can see a sharp contrast. Only a tiny percentage of its population is in prison or jail. And yet, it has minimal crime compared to ours. Why? It does not have our idiotic laws forbidding people's personal habits. Over there, people are free to smoke “*weed*,” and enjoy numerous other personal pastimes that would land Americans in jail and impose huge fines. In Amsterdam, people can legally come to public places to engage in various “*sins*” ranging from recreational drugs to prostitution. In fact, prostitutes display themselves in store windows. They are certified clean, safe, and free from any venereal diseases. There is NO crime associated with any of these activities. Western Europe's crime rate is so low, some countries are actually closing prisons for lack of inmates.

But in America, we have a long history of jail and prison abuse. Beginning well over a century ago, innocent people were literally picked up for just existing, for “*vagrancy*,” just “*having no visible means of support*.” They were arrested, packed into local jails, and leased out to farmers and businesses for hard labor—**state-sanctioned human trafficking and slavery**.

Then in 1920, with the enactment and enforcement of prohibition, crime escalated to intolerable levels, and multitudes were incarcerated for selling and imbibing prohibited spirits. Eliot Ness style raids terrorized neighborhoods everywhere.

After prohibition's repeal in 1933, in its infinite stupidity to provide jobs for laid off enforcers, our government, under Franklin D. Roosevelt, began criminalizing marijuana and other drugs in 1937. Then in 1970, Congress passed the Controlled Substances Act with catastrophic drug regulations and penalties which created gangs, cartels, crime, and prison over-populations both here and abroad. Over the last few decades, prison profiteering and incarceration rates have exploded.

How do we rectify this problem? Step one is to REPEAL our stupid anti-drug laws—ALL of them—including Kay Ivey's new Fentanyl crusade. Yes, these drugs are dangerous. But everybody has a right to decide what to put and what not to put into his body. Yes, some will make stupid decisions and hurt themselves. Some will even kill themselves and win “*Darwin Awards*.” Never-

theless, a person's personal choice is sacrosanct and should be left strictly alone. That also includes prostitution, gambling, and all other so-called consensual crimes.”

If drugs are legal and open to free markets for everybody, drug cartels and gangs become unprofitable and disappear, and they will not be enticing new recruits to try dangerous drugs to enhance their profits. As a result, crime must greatly diminish with them.

How do we deal with other crimes? Thugs who commit murder, school shootings, armed robberies, and acts of terrorism should, if possible, be shot on the spot, and finished off with a second shot if needed. Gangs like those who shot up the Dadeville birthday party—including the 15 year old—deserve swift extermination.

For heinous and capital crimes, execution is the only rational solution. Now, since Alabama has officially adopted nitrogen asphyxiation (which is quick, expedient, simple, safe, cheap, painless and idiot-proof), there is no excuse not to have a quick trial (no more than a week) with no more than a one day appeal, and then prompt execution the next day. No more 20 year delays on death row with endless appeals costing millions, and no more lengthy life without parole for the same reason. If the crime is that severe, then quick, humane execution is the solution.

An obvious treatment for rape is castration. This is very effective in abating the uncontrollable sexual urges that are present in some people. Those who have been castrated would then be able to live and work like normal people. A simple way to perform it without surgery or bloodletting is to apply a rubber band onto the scrotum in the same manner it's done with farm animals. After a month or two to allow hormones to adjust, the inmate could be released.

Thieves, burglars, and vandals should be required to pay double for all of the damages they had done to their victims—double the monetary value of any property taken plus an assessment for family heirlooms, other special items, and medical treatments for injuries. Minor thieves can be on work release as long as they pay their victims in a reasonable time, AND commit no more thefts or other crimes. Major thieves can work on the prison farms and perform other duties, and ALL of their earnings shall go to the victims until the debts are paid—perhaps double the value of their victims' losses.

To justify whether a person should be in prison, these assessments must be made.

1. Did his act cause **bodily harm** to the victim?
2. Did his act cause **loss of property** to the victim?
3. Was his act **intentional and deliberate**—not an accident?

If these are true, then prison can be justified. Otherwise, no.

If an act was a bona fide accident, even a deadly one, with no intent of malice, prison should not be imposed. Prison for traffic violations and accidents is a big no no. And of course, every citizen has a right to defend himself against criminals, even with deadly force.

Keeping people in prison for long periods of time is cruel and useless. Ditto for long times while awaiting trial. Not only does it interfere with their abilities to pay off their debts and take care of their homes and families, but it costs tons of our tax money and often subjects them to abuse from prison staff and other inmates, including beatings, stabbings, homosexual rape, and desires for revenge. And finally, prisons often function as crime schools where inmates teach each other how to commit greater crimes.

Prisons should NEVER attempt to prevent suicides. If an inmate cannot tolerate his life in prison, for whatever reason, he should at least be allowed to end his misery. In fact, in a civilized prison, he should be granted his RIGHT to be voluntarily euthanized by nitrogen asphyxiation. Besides being merciful, it will save the state considerable money.

Yes, our prisons could use upgrading and improvements. But we do NOT need more or bigger prisons. We MUST eliminate profit motives and mandatory sentencing. We need to follow Western Europe in minimizing prison populations and enacting alternatives to keep crime down. That includes prompt executions of vicious criminals and ending our extreme and abusive laws against recreational drugs and personal activities that have no victims.

STOP the prison-industrial complex. STOP the mega-prisons. STOP prison profiteering. STOP mass incarceration. STOP state-sanctioned human trafficking. STOP modern day slavery. STOP the CRUELTY.

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5. Smith, Doug, **End Mass Incarceration Cutting Jail & Prison Populations**. <https://www.brennancenter.org/issues/end-mass-incarceration/cutting-jail->

Continued from page 6-JOHN TAYLOR

Greeley summed up the South’s desire for independence in November 1860: “...we maintain that they have a perfect right to discuss it; nay, we hold with Jefferson to the inalienable right of communities to alter or abolish forms of government that have become oppressive or injurious, and if the Cotton States decide that they can do better out of the Union than in it, we insist on letting them go in peace. The right to secede may be a revolutionary one, but it exists nevertheless, and we don’t see how one party can have a right to do what another has a right to prevent.” [Greeley later became a supporter of Lincoln’s war.]

The Confederate States’ failure to gain independence dealt a near deathblow to voluntary government. As H.L. Mencken noted, “*The American people, North and South, went into the [Civil] war as citizens of their respective states, they came out as subjects, and what they thus lost they have never got back.*” However, as Jefferson Davis said: “*The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form.*”

Jefferson Davis’ birthday is June 3rd and deserves remembrance. Davis was all that the modern critics hate— he was a Christian, a Confederate, and a believer in consensual government.

Sources: *Truths of History*, by Mildred Lewis Rutherford (Harrisonburg, Virginia: Old South Institute Press, 2009); George Lunt, *Origin of the Late War* (University of Michigan Reprint Series, 2006); “Nathaniel Hawthorne disses Abe Lincoln,” by Peter Carlson, from *U.S. History in Context*; The Gray Book: *A Confederate Catechism*, by Lyon Gardner Tyler, (Wiggins, Mississippi: Crown Rights Book Co.—The Liberty Reprint Series, 1997); “H.L. Mencken Quotations,” from *Freedom Writer* at https://www.hugedomains.com/domain_profile.cfm?d=freedomwriter.com “Jefferson Davis quotes,” from AZ Quotes, at <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/658598>; and *Jefferson Davis—The Unforgiven*, by Grady McWhiney (Biloxi, Mississippi: The Beauvoir Press, 1989). Jefferson Davis’ birthday is on June 3rd. It has long been recognized as a State Holiday in Alabama.

Vietnam Veterans of American Central AL Chapter 607 American Legion Pike Road Centennial Post 2019 Remembering America's Veterans

A Memorial Day service was held at the Vietnam War Memorial on Memorial Day, May 29, 2023 in Greenwood Cemetery at Montgomery. Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Central AL Chapter 607 and the American Legion Pike Road Centennial Post 2019 provided an inspirational service for remembering America's military who gave the ultimate sacrifice in America's wars.

Col John Eidsmoe served as Master of Ceremonies, and names of military from central AL who had lost their lives in Vietnam were read aloud. A description of the meaning of the Missing Man Table was read.

The 13 folds of the American flag were presented. An Honor Guard shot three rounds of ammunition followed by the playing of Taps.



Support YOUR Local Law Enforcement



Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980

♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com



Chief Deputy Murphy

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE PRESENTS: CAMP SHOW-N-

We still have a few slots available for
Camp Show-n-Tell, which will be held at
Camp Chandler,
July 31-August 4, 2023!

The camp is free and open to youths between the ages of
9-11 and activities to include arts, crafts, archery,
swimming, canoeing, outdoor survival skills, big dance
and much more!

Please call our Support Services Division at 334.832.2515
for more information and stop in to pick up a camp
application at 100 S Lawrence Street in Montgomery.

PUMP REPAIRS



6908 Norman Bridge Road
Montgomery, Alabama
(334) 281-1258
Service Station Repairs
Tank Installations & Closures
Hydrostatic Tank & Line Testing
Norman (Tony) Mitchell

Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escapee, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your Phone's setting icon.
- Scroll Down and click "Applications".
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" ... OR
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location.
- Click "Notifications".
- Turn on "Allow Notifications" & "Previews in pop-ups".

*You should be all set to receive the
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office
push notifications!*



**Autauga County
Alabama
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
(334) 361-2500
162 W 4th Street,
Prattville, AL
www.autaugasheriff.org



Sheriff
Mark Harrell

Lowndes County



(334) 548-2222

1 S Washington St
Hayneville, AL 36040

[www.facebook.com/
LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/](http://www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/)



Sheriff Chris West

"Honoring Our Fallen Fellow Officers"

May 19, 2023

Augauga County Court House

The Fraternal Order of Police held their Annual Memorial
Service "Honoring Our Fallen Fellow Officers".

The Autauga County Sheriff's Office was honored to participate.

OFFICERS THAT MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN 2022

IVAN MAURICIO LOPEZ.....08/22/2022
BRADLEY S. H. JOHNSON....06/30/2022
JMAR C. ABEL.....06/20/2022
DARRYL W. FORTNER.....04/06/2022
CHRISTOPHER M VAUGHN..03/01/2022
MICHAEL K. MORGAN.....02/16/2022
STEVE BOBBITT.....02/03/2022
KEVIN POUNDERS.....01/23/2022
STEVEN R. FINLEY.....01/14/2022



ELMORE CO

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Wetumpka, AL 36092

<https://www.elmoreso.com>



Sheriff Bill
Franklin

POLICE OFFICERS PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me where
Others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of a body to protect others
and strenth of spirit to
lead others...I ask for dedication.
Dedication to my job to do it
well. Dedication to my community,
to keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern for others who trust
me
and Compassion for those who
need me...and please Lord through it all
Be at my side.

Honoring Our Heroes



A COMMEMORATION OF MEMORIAL DAY

was held May 29, 2023 at the Crossings, a senior adult facility at Montgomery, AL. Patriotic music was presented by Cindy Cornette, soloist.

Veterans who were present were recognized including 100 year-old Brigadier General Kent Speigner who served 36 years in the U.S.

Army, Petty Officer First Class Frank Stovall who served 20 years in the U.S. Navy, Master Sergeant Walter Woods who served 20 years in the U.S. Army, Champlain Terry Greer who served 20 years in the

U.S. Army and the featured speaker, Lt. Col Mark Barnhardt, who served 16 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.



Martha P. Simmons
The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing stories of the many great Veterans in our area

Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as these guys.



Rear Admiral Kent Davis and Lt. Commander Lisa Davis



Captain John M. Jeffries,



Headley



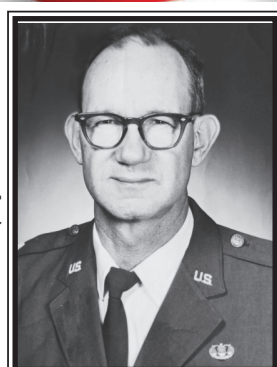
Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. **Raymond Keel** will provide this service free!

Call him at 334-233-8736
<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.



Cairns

In Memorium of those that served.



Lt. Col Harold Howell
1922-2023
World War II Veteran
"I have considered it an honor and a privilege to serve my country. I love the United States of America."

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1. James Owen Dozier: June 2nd
2. Julie Martin Harris: June 3rd
3. Pete "Jiggs" Bowdin: June 7th
4. Marvin Kent Speigner: June 10th
5. Maxine Mullins: June 10th
6. Ronald Urquhart: June 23rd
7. John M. Vickery: June 24th
8. William Joseph Heath: June 30th



STAFF SERGEANT GEORGE WHITE JR.



Staff Sergeant (SSgt) George White Jr. served 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Warehouse Clerk for four years and General Warehouse Stock Clerk for 16 years. His decorations, citations awards and medals included: Rifle Marksman Badge, Pistol Marksman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal with four stars, Meritorious Masts (three), Letters of Appreciation, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (two) and Certificates of Commendation.



SSgt White was born October, 1952 in Letohatchee, AL, to his parents, W.C. White and Ida Lou White. He attended Dunbar High School at Ramer, AL, but in the 10th grade, he voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps. While serving in the military, he earned a GED for completion of his high school education. He also used the G.I. Bill and studied history at a university while stationed at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, CA.

SSgt White began his Marine service January 3, 1973. He completed three months of Boot Camp training at the Marine Corps Recruitment Depot at Parris Island, SC. He then completed training at the Marine Ground Supply School at Camp LeJeune for three months. His first assignment was deployment to Okinawa for 13 months where he began his work in supply. He then served at the Marine Corps Air Station at El Toro, CA, for three years. When his first four years of Marine Corps service were finished, he reenlisted. SSgt White served at a series of Marine bases including: 1. Marine Corps Air Station, Beauford, S.C., for two years, 2. Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan, for 13 months, 3. Marine

Corps Air Station, Beauford, S.C. for two years, 4. Marine Corps Air Station, El Toro, CA, for three years and Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe, HI, for seven years with three of those years with the ground crew.

SSgt White suffered serious injuries while being involved in physical training. He was hospitalized at a Navy hospital in Hawaii for six months, and then he was sent to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton where it was necessary for him to retire from military service. He was first put on temporary retirement and then permanent retirement with full disability. He was honorably discharged July 27, 1989.

SSgt White's conclusions about his service with the U.S. Marine Corps are: *"Serving in the Marines meant the world to me. I would not have it any other way. I am so proud of the Marine Corps. No matter how I came out, I still respect anyone who wears the uniform of the U.S. Marine Corps. He would like to be remembered as being an excellent husband, father, grandfather and an outstanding Marine."*

SSgt and his wife, Jeanetta, have been married 27 years. He has two children, one grandchild, three stepchildren and 10 stepgrandchildren. He is an active member of the Townsend Detachment #920 of the U.S. Marine Corps League in Montgomery, AL, and he is a member of the Big Zion AME Zion Church in Letohatchee, AL. He enjoys watching televised sports programs and visiting with other Marines.





CAPTAIN MICHAEL JEFFRIES



Captain Michael Jeffries served 10 years in the U. S. Marine Corps. His MOS's were Huey Helicopter Pilot, Parachutist, Forward Air Controller and Cobra Helicopter Pilot. His decorations, ribbons, citations and medals included: National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, Air Medal with 25 stars, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Navy Commendation Medal with "V", Meritorious Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation with one star, Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation with Palm, Presidential Unit Citation, Certificate of Commendation and Letter of Appreciation.



Captain Jeffries was born in Chicago, IL, March 20, 1943, to his parents, George and Florence Louise Jeffries, and he was reared in Pittsburg, PA, and in Dania Beach, FL, where he graduated from South Broward High School in 1961. Using a Navy R.O.T.C. scholarship, he graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. Degree in Aviation Systems in 1965, and he was commissioned at the rank of Second Lieutenant entering the U.S. Marine Corps December 16, 1965. While still a Midshipman at Auburn, he attended the U. S. Army jump school at Fort Benning, Ga, and was qualified as a parachute officer.

Captain Jeffries began his military service by completion of six months of officer training at the Basic School at Quantico, VA, where all newly commissioned and appointed United States Marine Corps officers are taught the basics of being an Officer of Marines. He remained at Quantico serving as the Assistant Clubs Officer for three months. Next, he reported to the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL, for training to be a Marine helicopter pilot in 1966. He then went to the New River Air Station at Camp LeJeune, NC, where he was assigned to Observation Squadron One, and he became qualified as a pilot in the HUEY H-1 helicopter which had a crew of two to four members.

Captain Jeffries then served 385 days in Vietnam where he was stationed at the Marble Mt. Air Facility near Da Nang. After completing the "Forward Air Controller" course, he served as the Air Officer for the Seventh Marine Regiment for three months, and he flew dangerous missions on the HUEY Gunship. His next assignment was for three years at Kaneohe Bay, HI, where he served with the "1st Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company" (1st ANGLICO). The mission of ANGLICO is to provide Marine Air-Ground

Task Force (MAGTF) Commanders the liaison capability to plan, coordinate and conduct terminal control of fires in support of joint, allied and coalition forces. Per this mission statement, ANGLICO is designed to support U.S. Marine Corps maneuver elements or allied organizations that do not have those capabilities. His first job in Hawaii was jumping out of planes, thirty times in one year, followed by two years of service at Headquarters Squadron Fleet Marine Force Pacific.

Captain Jeffries then served for one year at Camp Pendleton flying Cobras with Marine Attack Helicopter Squadron 369. He was deployed to Okinawa for 10 months as a Cobra helicopter pilot. He then served two years (1974-1976) at Camp Pendleton with the Huey Squadron. Captain Jeffries retired from active duty June 30, 1976 at Camp Pendleton. Captain Jeffries' conclusions about his military service are, "I had a profound sense of duty. I did my duty and never quit. I never refused a job. On every job that I was given, I did my duty and gave 100%."

After his military service, Captain Jeffries worked for Texas Instruments Inc., an American technology company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, that designed and manufactured semiconductors and various integrated circuits which it sold to electronics designers and manufacturers globally. He began work as a manufacturing engineer responsible for buying, manufacturing, scheduling and assembling parts for one year. He was then transferred to the flight department flight testing military flight systems for 20 years. Lastly he was an executive transport pilot for six years. He retired from Texas Instruments in March 2003.

Captain Jeffries and his wife, Patricia Ann, have been married 58 years, and they have two children and five grandchildren. Mike's father, George, served in the Navy, and Mike's son, Michael, served in the Marines retiring at the rank of Lt. Colonel. Captain Jeffries and his wife moved to Millbrook, AL, to be near their family. They enjoy travel such as cruises.

They are members of the St. Michael All Angels' Episcopal Church in Millbrook. He has a workshop at his house that is 3500 square feet where he makes things from wood and iron for his family and church. He is a member of the Millbrook Men's Club, and he is a Board member of the Montgomery Chapter of Military Officers of America. Captain Jeffries is now serving as the Commandant in the Townsend Detachment #920 of the Marine Corps



STAFF SERGEANT DORIS COBB NORRIS:



Staff Sergeant (SSG) Cobb Norris served six years in the United States Marine Corps, rising to the rank of Staff Sergeant during her service to the U.S.A. Her Military Occupational Specialties focused on information technology as well as journalism and public relations. Throughout her military career, SSG Norris received a number of awards, yet the Good Conduct Medal appears to be her most prized honor.



SSG Norris was born on June 10, 1928, the daughter of George W. Cobb Sr. and Hester Robinson Cobb, in Montgomery, AL, and was reared in Coosada, AL. She graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in 1947, and while attending Sydney Lanier High School, she started entry-level work as a key punch operator and rapidly progressed to senior technical analyst. As such, it became her responsibility to train additional people as they were hired for the Alabama Department of Education from 1946 to 1954. Norris's typing skills coupled with uncanny accuracy enabled her to understand the complex ADE coding system. At that point in time, the work was performed using

punch card equipment. During this period, she simultaneously served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1951 to 1954.

SSG Norris enlisted in the United States Marine Corps December 31, 1954, in Birmingham, AL. An important part of her incentive for joining the military was that she had four brothers who had served in the military during WWII, and amazingly all four of her brothers returned home safely. SSG Norris completed Boot Camp at Parris, Island, SC, followed by service at Camp LeJeune from March, 1955 through March, 1957.

Because of her training and experience in information technology, at Camp LeJeune, SSG Norris taught new recruits early computer technology which utilized punch cards/tabulating equipment including the wiring of 'plugboard' control panels. She also trained Marines who were returning from combat.

In March 1957, SSG Norris re-enlisted for a three-year hitch in the USMC in order to attend a 16-week course at the U.S. School of Journalism at Great Lakes, IL. This comprehensive course included journalism, radio, and photography as well as military customs and courtesies. Upon completion, she was stationed at the 4th MCRRD in PA. For the remainder of her re-enlistment, Norris travelled across a five-state area. Her new mission was to recruit and enlist Women Marines, beginning at the high school level. For six months of each year, she also travelled with the Women Officer Selection Officer (WOSO) to all colleges and universities in the state, selecting women to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). These special assignments included extensive travel, numerous speaking engagements, public appearances and photographic journaling. SSG Norris notes that these duties offered many opportunities to improve her photography skills. She remains an avid photographer to this day. SSG Norris was discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps in Philadelphia, PA, on March 30, 1960. Upon discharge from military service, she attended Temple University as well as several other universities along the way and remained in the Philadelphia area for several years. In 1964 SSG Norris returned to

Alabama to work with the world renowned Space Program at Huntsville, Alabama.

For almost half a century 1960-2001, retired SSF Norris traveled across the country working in 44 of states as an independent trouble-shooter for many large aerospace corporations. Her woman-founded and owned company specialized in information technology. The scope of her work included military data bases, TOP SECRET required clearance, an artificial intelligence system, out of space technology with NASA's launch of "men to the moon" in the 1960's, and also the design of computer controlled firing systems for US Naval ships at sea. The work with NASA included the moon shot and a special request assignment to return to do the information retrieval when the Astronauts were killed in 1967. While working with NASA, she also taught information technology at a community college in Athens, AL. Norris's journalism training enabled her to succinctly define a company's problems and subsequently write recommendations for correcting these issues.

SSG Norris has held memberships in the U.S. Marine Corps League, Women's Marine Association, V.F.W. Auxiliary, American Legion, RVing Women and the Robinson Springs United Methodist Church.

After both military and professional retirement, Norris continued to contribute to the world and to her community by volunteering her training and skills to create informational graphics, by teaching and by making videos to aid homeless female veterans in Phoenix, Arizona. She created a video to honor AZ WWII women veterans for showing at the US Airways Arena. Furthermore, she raised the funds needed to purchase and furnish a 16-unit apartment building for homeless female veterans there. She has also created five veterans' Honor Walls at assisted living facilities that span across the U.S., from Arizona to Alabama. She used a large motorhome for both temporary quarters and travel to multiple locations.

Norris sums up her exceptional life of service in these words, "The training that I received while serving as a Marine enhanced my civilian career one thousand per cent. The public relations, military terminology, customs and courtesies training made me very much in demand for top secret clearance, for projects in outer space and in a number of vital military-related operations. I had a marvelous life working in almost every state in the U.S.A. and in Canada. I have enjoyed every minute of traveling and visiting each place. Incredibly, I have maintained lifelong friendships formed while stationed at Camp LeJeune. The demand for my work was always such that I never had to look for job. Writing artificial intelligence systems was a joy as were the people I met on my life's journey! I have been truly blessed both professionally and personally. I have a family that loves me, friends all over the country and many wonderful memories. My life could be summed by three songs, namely, "Climb Every Mountain", "On the Road Again" and "What a Wonderful World." "Life has been good! I am a Christian and believe firmly that I will not "go on (final) leave until my job on this earth is done."



Picture Correction for Vol. 23, Issue 8, May, 2023.

Honoring Our Heros *****

Col. Douglas B Cairns United States Air Force

Col Cairns stated, "It has been an honor for me to serve.



ALABAMA MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CONVENTION

The Alabama Marine Corps League Convention will be held at the Double Tree Hotel 120 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, AL, June 22nd - June 24th.

This Convention is the annual gathering of the detachments of the Department of Alabama of the Marine Corps League. The purpose of this event is to elect the officers who will lead the department in the coming year. Registration and check in at 0800 Friday the 22nd with opening ceremonies at 0900!





SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA) SERVICES IN MONTGOMERY

By: *Kylle’ D. McKinney*
kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

Cell: (334) 479-1242 Fax: (334) 272-7630

SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS
TEACHERS ONLINE CAREER

Well-informed instructors can have a powerful and positive influence on their students. That’s why we created an Educator Toolkit. It’s a shareable online resource for teachers to engage students and educate them on Social Security. The toolkit includes:

Lesson plans with objectives.

- Infographics and handouts for each lesson plan.
- Links to Social Security webpages.
- Talking points.
- Quiz questions and answers.

You can access the toolkit at:
<https://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/educators.html>

We value and welcome the efforts all teachers make to educate America’s young people. We want to help spark discussion with students about Social Security.



10 WAYS TO
PROTECT YOUR
PERSONAL
INFORMATION

Identity theft affects millions of people each year and can cause serious harm. Protect yourself by securing your personal information, understanding the threat of identity theft, and exercising caution.

Here are 10 things you can start doing now to protect yourself and your loved ones from identity theft:

1. Protect your Social Security number by keeping your Social Security card in a safe place at home. Don’t carry it with you or provide your number unnecessarily.
2. Be careful when you speak with unknown callers. Scammers may mislead you by using legitimate phone numbers or the real names of officials. If they threaten you or make you feel uneasy, hang up.
3. Create strong, unique passwords so others can’t easily access your accounts. Use different passwords for different accounts so if a hacker compromises one account, they can’t access other accounts.
4. Never give your personal or financial information in response to an unsolicited call or message, and never post it on social media.
5. Shred paper documents that contain personal information, like your name, birth date, and Social Security number.
6. Protect your mobile device from unauthorized access by securing it with a PIN, adding a fingerprinting feature, or using facial recognition. You can also add a password and adjust the time before your screen automatically locks.
7. Regularly check your financial accounts for suspicious transactions.
8. Avoid internet threats by installing and maintaining strong anti-virus software on all your devices—including your mobile device and personal computer. Use a virtual private network (VPN) to stay safe on public Wi-Fi. Do not perform certain activities that involve sensitive data, like online shopping and banking, on public Wi-Fi networks.
9. Protect yourself on social media by customizing your security settings and deleting accounts you no longer use. Also, double-check suspicious messages from your contacts, as hackers may create fake accounts of people you know.
10. Never click on any link sent via unsolicited email or text message—type in the web address yourself. Only provide information on secure websites.

We encourage you to create your own personal my Social Security account to track your earnings record. For more information, please read our publication, Protecting Personal Information, at: https://oig.ssa.gov/files/21-540_Protecting_Personal_Information.pdf. Contact us if you see suspicious work activity on your record—you could be a victim of identity theft.

Please share this information with your family and friends.

DEFEND AGAINST SCAMMERS WHO TARGET
YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents or other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number (SSN) is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you should do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information or payment of any kind.
- Report the scam at: <https://oig.ssa.gov/> to immediately notify the law enforcement team in our Office of the Inspector General

You should continue to remain vigilant if you receive a phone call from someone who claims there’s a problem with your SSN or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email. Remember that we will never:

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from us or law enforcement about Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at: <https://oig.ssa.gov/>

ELIGIBILITY FOR SPOUSE’S BENEFITS

Social Security helps you secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools that support you throughout life’s journey. If you don’t have enough Social Security credits to qualify for benefits on your own record, you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

To qualify for spouse’s benefits, you must be one of the following:

- 62 years of age or older.
- Any age and have in your care a child who is younger than age 16 or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age, your full spouse’s benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive your spouse’s benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit. You’ll also get a full spouse’s benefit before full retirement age if you care for a child who is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse’s record.

If you’re eligible to receive retirement benefits on your own record, we will pay that amount first. If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit. For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$1,000 and a spouse’s benefit of \$1,250. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$1,000 retirement benefit. We will add \$250 from her spouse’s benefit, for a total of \$1,250.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse’s benefits? Are you at least 61 years and nine months old? If you answered yes to both, visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/retirement> to get started today.

Are you divorced from a marriage that lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse’s record. For more information, please visit our website at: <https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/planner/applying7.html>

Gifts to Elevate Dad’s Morning Routine this Father's Day

(StatePoint) A great morning routine makes getting out of bed more pleasant and sets the tone for a successful, happy day. Whether your Dad is a morning lark or a night owl, he will appreciate gifts that help him start his days on the right foot. With that in mind, here are three fun Father’s Day gift ideas to consider, all of which would also make great gifts for the newly-graduated:

1. The perfect cup of coffee: Most people think they are satisfied with their morning cup of coffee, that is, until they try Nextmug, a smart, self-heating mug that keeps beverages warm (130 degrees F), hot (140 degrees F) or piping hot, (150 degrees F) depending on the setting selected. Lab testing has shown that liquid in a standard ceramic mug loses 52% of its heat over a two-hour period. Nextmug loses no heat over that same time frame, making it possible to savor coffee or tea for as long as it takes to drink it. If Dad has ever resorted to microwaving a forgotten morning brew, which can turn even the best drink bitter, or has simply slugged it down tepid, he will appreciate this sleek, ergonomic, easy-to-use mug. Plus, its optional spill-resistant lid means that Dad can take his cup of joe throughout his home or office, on the back deck, or wherever he would most enjoy it. Perfect for a dorm or first apartment, this makes a useful high school or college graduation gift as well. For more information, visit <https://nextmug.com/>.

2. A closer shave: Help Dad say goodbye to nicks and patchy facial hair. Offering a close shave, even on a dense beard, Braun’s Series 9 Pro Electric Shaver features sensors that adjust power to beard density, and a precision switch to capture tricky hair. Because its built-in sonic technology yields a more efficient shave, and its docking station automatically charges and cleans the razor, you’ll be giving Dad the gift of more time for himself in the morning.

3. Music and podcasts on-the-go: Add entertainment and motivation to Dad’s morning workouts with comfortable, durable headphones. Just be sure to consider his needs when selecting the right pair. Whereas bone conduction headphones offer the safety of being able to hear surrounding sounds, which is great for morning jogs and commutes, air conduction offers the best shock-free comfort. Finally in-ear style headphones can isolate outside noise when it’s desired, such as at the gym. The X9-pro, allows users to switch between these three modes. It’s also completely waterproof and Bluetooth-connected, so Dad can listen to his favorite jams and podcasts, even when swimming laps at the pool. And thanks to its 32G storage, he won’t get bored with his listening options.

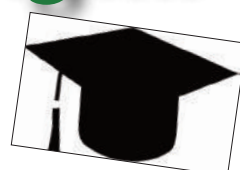
This Father’s Day (and graduation season) put a smile on the face of your honoree by looking for gifts that help elevate morning routines.





Lead Pastor
St. James Church
Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching....



The Three Big C's Advice To Graduates and Others Who Wish to Thrive!

Dr. Lester Spencer

Congratulations to all the High School and College graduates! On behalf of all of us in the cities, towns and communities across Alabama, we honor your accomplishments, and we are proud of each of you!

No doubt all of you have been blessed, encouraged and challenged by some great Baccalaureate Addresses and Commencement Speeches. But, may I add my three cheers and offer **“Three Big C’s”** to think about as you step out into your next season of life? This advice also applies to all who wish to thrive in life and work. I’ll keep it short and give you the Cliff-notes version.... I promise.

As you move from this point forward either to college or the working world or just seek to thrive in life and work, these three practical things will serve you well. And, I guarantee you that every future employer, professional co-worker and/or professor will be looking for these three C’s in you!

Character

Be a person of character!

“Set an example for other followers by what you say and do, as well as by your love, faith and purity.” - Paul, 1 Timothy 4:12

“The first key to greatness is to be in reality what we appear to be.” - Socrates

Character is who you are when no one is looking, someone once said. Image is what people think we are. Integrity is what/who we really are. Your character determines the kind of name you will make for yourself. Will you keep your word? Will you do what you say? Will you keep confidence? Will you be on time?

It’s simple really. Do what you say you’re going to do. Stand up for what you believe. Be a person people can trust. If people trust your character, they will trust you! Period! If you break that trust, it’s very, very hard to get it back!

Guard your character and protect it at all costs. Be careful of where you go, who you hang with, words you use, photos and videos you take and share, what you post and share on Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and any other social media. Believe me, your potential future employers plus your Professors, your potential girl friends or boyfriends, and everyone else on the planet who you might run across is watching. Trust me. They really are.

Be cautious. Be wise. People are always watching to see who you really are. They are checking out your character!

Competence

Grow in competence!

If your gift is leadership, administration, service, generosity, etc... whatever it is... then do it with all your might. Give it your best! Give it 100%! (Romans 12:8 paraphrase)

In other words, make the most of the gifts you have been given. Hone them. Sharpen them. Use them wisely! You have already been given a great gift. A High School Diploma is a big deal. A College Degree is a big deal. You have worked hard to get here, and I’m sure a lot of folks helped you all along the way. Your should be proud of yourself as they are also proud of you. But don’t stop here. Keep moving forward!

Some of you are headed into the workplace from here. Wherever you end up in the marketplace, give it all you have. If you are a person of character and competence, you will go very far and do very well my friend of that truth....I have no doubts.

My suggestion is don’t just go for the highest salary. Don’t ever move anywhere to do anything just for money! Go for the opportunity where your heart and passion are calling you. And very importantly, look for

opportunities to work with great people who are people of character and competence. You can learn from them. They will add value to you. And, as you grow, you can look for ways that you can add value to the company and to others!

Some of you are headed off to college. I know you are excited and that is awesome. My advice is this: Enjoy it. Have a great time. But also, study hard. Make the most of it. Learn all you can. You will need it. I’ve never met anyone who regretted furthering their education and getting a degree. But I’ve met many who quit and lived to regret it.

If you’re going to college or to further your education in some way, commit for the long run. Get ready to persevere in your education toward your goal and/or your degree. Your not just going there to learn a skill or get a job. You are going to grow in knowledge and wisdom! Knowledge is what you know. Wisdom is knowing how to apply what you know and when to use it.

Develop greater and greater competence, and you will be rewarded!

Chemistry

Have chemistry! Develop better people skills!

“Do to others as you would have them do to you.” - Jesus, Luke 6:31

Chemistry has to do with your relational skills. Your people skills. I call it the **“Like”** factor! Do people like you? Do they like to work with you? I like to work with people I like to be around. How about you?

The fact is life is about team work. If your headed to college, your college is your team. You hired a team of professors, teachers and faculty to teach you, train you, pour into you. But you have to work with them and with your fellow students. Right? It involves good chemistry! People skills.

If your headed to a job in the market place, you will most likely be working with a team of other people. Work for most people involves working for a common purpose with a group of other people. Chemistry is the key to the success of any business venture.

The most important thing you need to remember about chemistry is attitude.

“Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we respond to it. Our attitude makes all the difference”

Well. There it is. Three key things for you to remember as you seek to be the best God created you to be. Remember these three, and seek to be a person of character, competence and chemistry. It you do, you will experience success, significance and fulfillment in your life!

I pray God’s richest blessings and favor upon each of you! Three cheers for all the graduates and the rest of us who wish to thrive in life and work!

St. James Church

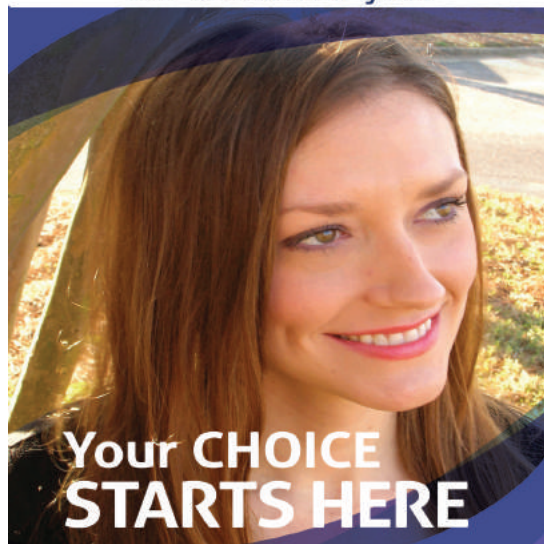
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*For I know the plans
I have for you,
declares the Lord,
plans for welfare
and not for evil,
to give you a future
and a hope.*

Jeremiah 29:11

YOU ARE NEVER ALONE...

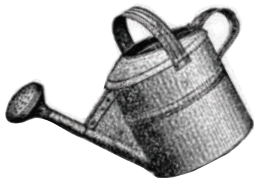


Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening



Potpourri for June

We have had a relatively cool spring, with plenty of rain which has done wonders for flowers planted last month. Recently I went to the big box stores looking for summer annuals and perennials to plant to fill some areas of my garden. I was not just amazed, but stunned at the huge hike in prices, even since March. There were no 6 packs, just quarts which were \$6.00 per container. And the herbs were not much cheaper since a 6 inch pot was \$5.78. Earlier in February I tried my hand at getting up basil and dill seeds. So I have decided to transplant these to 6" pots and save the cost of \$5.78 per pot. Of course my Pacific Giant zinnias have reseeded like gangbusters, so luckily I will use these.

However, I paid about \$14.00 per pot for some verbena which I think is outrageous. Presently, I took some cuttings from these and am rooting them now. Also I decided to spring for a tray of dusty miller which lasts even over the winter. This plant known to many as lamb's ears has gray-green to silver leaves and is a great foil for really bright colored flowers. Incidentally, they do well in sun and shade, plus prefer dry soil.

If you are trying to set out a Memorial Day flower bed or pots, white vinca, blue ageratum or blue salvia, and red petunias, or geraniums will do the trick. When I was out and about I spotted any annuals that would fit the bill. These choices should be pretty until fall as long as you deadhead and fertilize the geraniums once a week, The Blue Salvia is almost a carefree perennial, and the petunias need to be cut back in July. So once this flower color scheme is established, you are set for the Fourth of July and Labor Day.

I have tried an experiment at the farm regarding lettuce. I started the seed indoors, transplanted the seedlings outside in early March. One set of seedlings went straight into the garden, and another set of seedlings were planted in a raised bed with protective sides. We had rabbit damage last year, but the lettuce in the raised bed with the sides was not eaten. Probably because the rabbits could not view the lettuce.

Plant of the Month

COREOPSIS ASTERACEAE or the common name "tick seed".

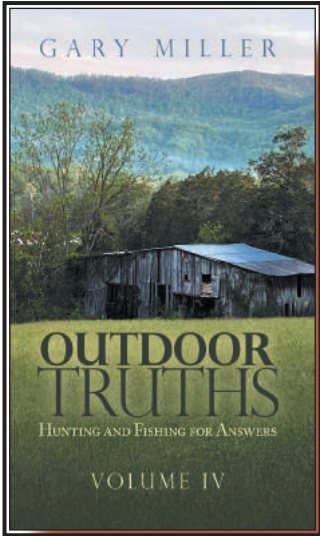
Coreopsis family of plants range from ground covers to upright plants standing up to 6 feet. This plant of many colors and many varieties blooms from mid spring to late fall. With low maintenance, this perennial should have a front row seat in any flower bed. All varieties are hardy in Zone 8 (our zone) and are quite drought resistant. They do not thrive in overly rich soils. Their daisy-like blooms make good cut flowers. Also Coreopsis can be divided through their root corms or rooted by stem cuttings. So there is no excuse not to propagate plenty of Coreopsis.



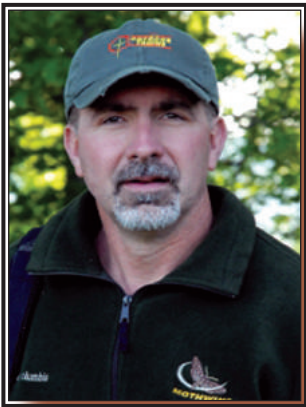
GOOD GARDENING.



Accomplishing Great Things Through Fear



There's one thing about hunting. One will have to get used to walking in the dark. I have noticed lately how each morning, I begin my turkey hunt, walking through woods and across a field in the dark. This year the lightening bugs have put on a daily pyrotechnical display. I tried to film it one morning, but there was not enough surrounding light to show its real beauty. And sometimes the sky is so clear, it's almost that one can't see a spot without a star. And then there are the times when the overcast is so dense, you can barely see your hand in front of your face. These are the times a flashlight is a must. And these are also the times when a little fear wants to show its head. Now, don't get me wrong. I am rarely afraid in the woods. That is unless I'm hunting the mountainous places in my home area. There, I'm always thinking about black bears and the occasional mountain lion that has been spotted. Then, I am making sure I have one hand on a pistol, the other with mace, and a headlamp on that could light up the local football stadium. No one has ever been bored from fear. And nothing great has been accomplished without it, as well. My Christian life is no different.



There is a statement in the Bible that is to characterize a believer's life. It is, "The just shall live by faith." Faith is needed when uncertainty is absent. When uncertainty is absent, fear will rear its ugly head. The greater the uncertainty, the greater the fear. Just ask Moses, as he stood with two million grumbling Jews at the bank of the Red Sea. Just ask Joshua as he surrounded the city of Jericho without weapons. Just ask Peter as he released his grip on the boat in order to walk on the water. Don't let anyone tell you anything differently. They all had fear. None had perfect faith, because each one depended on a supernatural interruption in a natural world. All through the Bible, perhaps God's most given command and advice to his people was don't fear. Don't be afraid. He was not telling them that so they wouldn't be afraid.

He was telling them that because he knew they WOULD BE. No one who has ever attempted something great and risky has done so without a temptation to fear. That is simply impossible. And if a believer is to live by faith, God will call him or her to attempt something great and risky... and unlikely, improbable, or even impossible. With that call, will always be the temptation to fear. And THAT is why God says, "Don't fear." He knows, great men and women of faith are made, as they put fear in its rightful place. And that's just below the words of the One who has just told us not to be afraid. If your Christian life boring, maybe you need to get out of the boat. No one has ever been bored from fear.

Gary can be reached via email at:
gary@outdoortruths.org.

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 20 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.



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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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**HAPPY
FATHER’S
DAY!**

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!
JUNE**



Accepting the “Ole Brick” are (From L-R)
John Killough, Adrienne O’Leary,
Stacy Dickinson & Nick Hughes

“OLE BRICK” AWARD 2023

Woodland’s Food Pantry, located at Woodland Methodist Church, received the Pike Road Civic Club’s “Ole Brick” Award on Thursday May, 11th 2023
For over 50 years, this award has been a standing tradition at the Civic Club located in Pike Road. It is a prestigious award given to persons who have made a tremendous and positive impact in the community and surrounding areas. This is the first time it has been given to an organization.

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Christian Grant | 15 Angie Ashurst |
| Pat Moseley (84) | Greyson James Looney |
| Mike Moseley (84) | Caty Jane Turnipseed |
| 3 Margie Johnson | 16 David Morrow |
| Kade Wallace | Danny Ratliff (49) |
| 4 Denver Taylor Moore (4) | Terri Ratliff Taylor |
| 5 Braden Crowe | Carson Tucker |
| Michelle Crowe | Garrett Tucker |
| Lane Carter Johnson | Anna Shay Wasden |
| Maggie Mills | 17 Susan McGuire |
| 6 John Michael Higgins | 18 Jonathan Lowe |
| 7 Jeannie Handey | James “Hotshot” McGuinty (90) |
| Frank Litchfield | 19 David Vinson |
| James Stanley | 20 Linda Reynolds |
| 9 Faye Boyd (66) | Michael Taylor |
| Laura Smith | 21 Mary Raley |
| 10 Chelese Beck | 22 Nita Tidwell (100) |
| Jeffery Horton | 23 Thomas Berrey |
| Seth Lumley | 24 Alice Ivey |
| Justin Manning | 25 Janet Treat |
| Melinda Newell | 26 Jan Morris |
| Kent Speigner (100) | 27 John Donahey |
| 11 David Livingston | 28 Paul Hanson |
| Ashley Owens | Tricia Norris |
| Brody Ratliff | 29 Ansley Brown |
| 12 Gary Crowe | Kristiane “Krissey” Hilton- |
| Charlotte Gaston | Davis (30) |
| Beverly Ming | Dot Rebren |
| Mackenzie Richardson (15) | 30 Kathy Blount |
| Madilyn Sellers (15) | Gordon Davis |
| 13 Rachel Miller | Wyatt Echols |
| 14 Kerry Brown | Jonathan Killough |
| Julie Echols | |
| Kelly Kilgore | |



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (67th) | 15 Tim & Stacy Nester |
| 2 Tony & Kate Smith | 18 Lera & Kim Evans |
| 3 Tom & Vivian Ledbetter | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb |
| Rick & Ann Pascal | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield |
| 4 David & Janet Hite | 23 Mike & Mary Pat Sikes |
| Budd & Connie Jones | Matt & Melanie Smith |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden | Dan & Marcelle Thompson |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (61st) |
| Jim & Joy Fleming | 26 Billy & Shirley Rotton |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle |
| Johnny & Jean Sport (67th) | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (54th) |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young | |

Alabama Gazette’s Sympathy to the families of...

Turner, Eva Olivia 68.....	April 06
Norman Sr. John Edward “Bud”	April 24
Howell, Lt. Col. Harold 101	April 25
Marshall, Mary Ella Wright 93.....	May 01
Meigs, Paul Phillip 80	May 04
Dawson Jr., Marion “Taylor” 94.....	May 04
Cook, Catherine Ann 69.....	May 05
Ivy, Jesse Don 85.....	May 06
Guy II, Renzo Meade 95.....	May 07
Holley, Patricia “Pat” 82.....	May 09
Scarbrough, Shirley Evelyn King 75.....	May 09
Wilson, Barry Lewis 80.....	May 10
Moseley, Bryan Anderson 37	May 12
Vinson, Thomas “Blake” 72.....	May 13
Moseley, Jeffery Anderson 61	May 14
Stough, Albert Meshack 91	May 14
Golson, Leigh Ann Trotter 50.....	May 15
Logan, Andrea Lynn 69.....	May 15
Missildine, Norman Gene 76	May 18
Colin, Penelope “Penny” Bush 74	May 19
Durden, Mary Lou Deese 92.....	May 19
Johnson, Mildred “Anita” Quill 99.....	May 19
Adair, Maxine Farris 89.....	May 21
Davidson, Martha Joyce Blankenship 85	May 21
Burch, Hunter Victoria 50.....	May 22
Clark III, Lloyd Kenyon 76.....	May 23

ABOUT TO TURN THE “BIG 1 0 0”



About to turn the “
Big 1 0 0”
are: **Nita Tidwell and
Kent Speigner**
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on this incredible milestone.
God Bless you both!



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By: Amanda Walker

Tears & LAUGHTER

OLD CARS AND THE PLACES THEY TOOK US

My friend Shirley was telling me about her first car the other day. She is in the market for a new car is what had the subject on her mind. I assure you cars are not our usual topic of conversation.

Typically, we gossip.

She said she paid \$200 for her first car – a blue and white, two-door Thunderbird. It ran, it had a radio, and it had plenty of ashtrays, but it was missing a window.

This did not hamper her or kill her enthusiasm in any way though. She said she designed a replacement window using cardboard and plastic and even though it leaked, when she drove around town with her besties in the back, they still looked good.

She said she was always low on gas and tried to conserve fuel. She knew just when to turn her car off after leaving church so that when she topped the hill toward home, she could coast into the driveway.

My first car in 1990 was a 1968 Mustang. It was more car than I knew to appreciate. I bought it from the editor of the Clanton Advertiser. It had been his son's car, and he was only parting with it because it was no longer practical for him.

It wasn't exactly practical for me either. I had just graduated high school with that same son. But it was a fun car. I enjoyed driving it. Then I took a job with a bank in Montgomery and I would plow into the employee parking lot in a way the other girls didn't. They could feel when I arrived. Not to mention it had been painted a shiny bright yellow.

It wasn't long before I conformed and started making monthly payments on a Chrysler New Yorker. And then it wasn't too long after that before it was

t-boned at an intersection in Panama City. There were no injuries, but the New Yorker was totaled. That is when I became the owner of the Mighty Colt.

It was street side there in Panama City with a for sale sign in the window. A 1983 Plymouth Colt. It was gray. Not factory painted gray, but primer gray. It had a heater, no air, a radio, and all of its windows. I was there to have a good time and for \$400 cash, I was back on the road and ready to rock like a top.

The Mighty Colt did not blend especially well in the employee parking lot at the bank either. But what it was good for was going to yard sales.

My friend Jeanette and I were fresh out of college, we were always looking for deals. We would map out a route of sales on Friday based on yard sale ads in the Bulletin Board and the Montgomery Advertiser. Then we would get up early Saturday morning and head out to the sales. We were the self-proclaimed yard sale police and would make a couple passes by looking before deciding if the sale was worthy of a stop.

What we quickly learned, was that we got better deals if we went to a sale in the Mighty Colt. It pulled the eye, and maybe the ear a little bit too. It had one of those engines that would keep turning a few spins after the car was switched off. Jeanette drove a new car, a Saturn, and we did not want to give anybody the wrong impression.

The Mighty Colt came to a final halt one night near downtown Montgomery on a cold December Saturday night. The engine failed in a high crime area. I called a cab from a pay phone...and never looked back.

It was a good car.

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

Trisston's Tidbits:

Be A Buffalo

We all deal with storms in our lives. Whether financial problems, health scares, or relationship issues, no one's life is free of challenges. And we often don't get to choose which storms pass through our life. The only choice we usually have is how we respond to those storms.

A dear friend recently shares with me a great metaphor looking at the different reactions between a herd of cows and a herd of buffalos when a storm approaches. The cows make what might seem the logical choice. They try to run away from the storm.

However, the problem is that cows are not very fast and hence can't outrun the storm. Soon they get caught by the storm, and instead of outrunning it, they are running along with it, extending their pain and suffering.

The buffalo, on the other hand, do not try to run away from the storm. But they do not wait until it's over either. Instead, they charge directly towards the storm. The buffalos run straight through the storm and, as a result, spend way less time in pain and frustration than the cows. By

approaching the storm that way, the buffalos actively minimize their suffering.

I had not heard his metaphor before.

It really got me to thinking about life and responding to challenges. Which approach do you take? Do you try to run away from it, thinking you can outrun it or that the problem will take care of itself? Or do you face your life's storms head-on and deal with them proactively as soon as they approach?

Dealing with challenges head-on might seem harder, but ultimately, it is the easier choice. You only prolong your frustration and suffering if you act like a cow.

Friends, choose to be the buffalo and face life's storms head-on. You got this! If you want to be in the driver's seat of your life, then start acting like a buffalo.

***"Peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Don't let your heart be troubled or fearful."* John 14:27**

Many Blessings!

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Barbara F. Harrington's Ongoing Story.....

Metastasized Breast Cancer stage 3

The story I didn't expect.....

Why was I diagnosed with cancer in my lymph nodes next to my breast where I had cancer before? Being told in September, 2000 that I had breast cancer was shocking. Now it has returned. It takes time to understand and share with others what is ahead.

My oncologist, Dr. Stephan Davidson, with Montgomery Cancer Center meets and reassured me we can fight this disease. He then told me how surprised to see me with Metastasized Breast Cancer. He bragged on about how I always had my mammogram and scheduled oncology appointments. But he wanted a PET scan done. I am thankful his scheduling assistant was able to get a quick appointment.

The PET let him see if there are cancerous tissues or cells anywhere else in the body. Dr. Davidson saw me December 20 to discuss what the scan showed. Only a few nodes in my lungs that he is watching as well the two lymph nodes next to my breast. He discussed all procedures such as surgery first or shrink the nodes next to the breast before surgery.

It was decided to do surgery first on December 30 with Dr. Pam Strickland, UAB breast surgeon here in Montgomery. A long day was ahead.

A few days later she did a follow up with me to discuss what the pathology report from UAB showed. I was diagnosed with five cancerous lymph nodes and cancer around one in the tissue. She removed it all by doing a partial mastectomy. The next surgery was to place the port in.

As I recovered I discovered a Seroma. It is where fluid gathered. Dr. Strickland had me come into her office two times to drain the fluid, each time it was 4 ounces. On February 14, the second visit she decided to place a drain in my incision to take the fluid out for 10 days. I emptied it twice a day.

Then I saw my oncologist on February 16

when he said until all fluids are gone and the hematoma and incision is healed, no chemotherapy can start. Now plans are chemotherapy first.

The chemotherapy is a bit different from the first experience I had. My oncologist explained treatment used for my first time cannot be used again.

My treatment goes like this, my Smart Port is flushed then my lab work begins. After an office visit where my lab work is discussed I receive a chemotherapy infusion. This is every 21 days. After sitting for about four hours in the relaxation of the treatment room, I get extra excited as I watch as each bag of chemicals are hung. How much longer will it be? Will I be able rest today? Praying is a major part of my day.

The staff and volunteers who've been serving in the MCC are a unique group. They are truly concerned about caring for each patient. My family and friends have also been praying and helping me with each treatment. Sometimes overly cautious about my bald head!

After a week, I return to Montgomery Cancer Center where again I have my port flushed and labs are done again. A visit from the nurse practitioner tells me how I compare to the week before.

It is always a pleasant experience when she lets me know my stats are good.

Before I left MCC after my final treatment, they bring my next anticipated appointments, Breast Ultrasound and a Pet Scan scheduled on June 23 then a meeting with Dr. Davidson on June 26 to review the scan reports.

I have spent a couple of months trying to make wise choices. Taking medications to stop nausea, sleep deprivation is a major factor immediately following each treatment. Learning to eat clean to help me fight the cancerous areas. Taking a nap and being thankful it lasted over an hour.

*Barbara will be sharing with us her journey each month....
We are sure that your prayers are appreciated.
The Gazette is honored to share her story with you.*

There are some different side effects that are a real pain from the treatments. Skin care is one that is frustrating. The poisons that I have been taking to kill the cancer cells has caused my skin to crack and peel especially on my hands. I have struggled with what products I can put on my face and head because some have alcohol and burn. Keeping sunscreen on every exposed part of my body is huge if I want to walk out of my home.



Neuropathy is a problem. I have had it prior to this trip with breast cancer and it seems worse. My feet are numb as well as my fingertips. My fingernails split and peel so I am told to stay away from washing dishes or bathing for long. My poor husband has had to take up the slack in the kitchen duties! Sometimes I have muscle and joint aches which are usually hard for walking. Edema or swelling from fluid retention, lymphatic swelling in my arm where I have had a total of six lymph nodes removed. Using a compression sleeve helps ease this problem.

The plan has been for me to complete the chemo, then have radiation. This is another reason I am thankful for my support of family and friends. The anxiety of radiation is a tremendous challenge. I have never really thought about the effects of it also. My body is tired and I have to move forward. I know I will begin a new chemo pill added to my system to prevent the cancer from returning. Summer fun with family will be different this year.



Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County



I write about and like the combination of Southern Cuisine and Mexican Cuisine. It is a fusion of flavors that can delight the palate and satisfy the appetite. Southern Cuisine is known for its comfort food, such as fried chicken, cornbread, collard greens, and macaroni and cheese. Mexican Cuisine is famous for its spicy dishes, such as tacos, enchiladas, burritos, and salsa. By combining elements from both cuisines, one can create dishes that are unique and delicious.

Quick, Delicious Food for Celebrations!

We were going to prepare some finger-food for a graduation party and after much discussion and searching for a dish that a teenager would like and for us, easy to make, we found this slider recipe. Depending on the tastes that a teenager will have determines the

SLIDERS

Ingredients:

- (1) 16-oz package dinner rolls
- 1 Tbsp. Vegetable oil
- ½ yellow onion, peeled and chopped
- 1¼ lb. Ground sirloin (90/10)
- 1½ Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp. ground black pepper
- ¼ c. mayonnaise
- 2 Tbsp. ketchup
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- (1) 8-oz bag shredded cheddar-jack cheese
- ½ c. Dill pickle slices
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. everything bagel seasoning
- T tablespoons unsalted butter



Method:

1. Preheat the broiler. Remove the rolls from the packaging in one piece. With a serrated knife cut crosswise through the all of the rolls at once, to divide the top half from the bottom (keeping the sides of the rolls intact). Place both halves cut-side up on a sheet tray and broil for 2 minutes until lightly toasted. (If using slider rolls, separate the tops from the bottoms and place cut side up on the sheet tray, sides touching; broil as instructed). Set aside.
2. Heat the vegetable oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook for 3 minutes until just slightly softened. Add the ground sirloin and cook, breaking up into small pieces with a wooden spoon. Increase the heat to medium-high. Add the Worcestershire sauce, salt, and black pepper, and stir well to combine. Cook until the beef is no longer pink and the liquid from the pan has almost fully evaporated, about 8 minutes. Remove from the heat.
3. Preheat the oven to 375°. In a small bowl, mix together the mayonnaise, ketchup, and mustard.
4. Spread the cut sides of the rolls with the mayonnaise mixture, and then sprinkle with half of the cheese in an even layer. Layer the meat mixture over the cheese, then top with the remaining cheese and the pickles. Cover with the top half of the rolls.
5. Brush the tops of the rolls all over with olive oil and sprinkle with every thing bagel seasoning. Bake 10 to 12 minutes or until the cheese is melted and the tops of the rolls are golden and toasted. Pull sliders apart and serve warm.
6. If you don't have everything bagel seasoning, use sesame seeds instead or mix 1/2 teaspoon of garlic salt into the olive oil before brushing on the rolls.
7. Best served warm.

FOR EXAMPLE, ONE CAN MAKE A SOUTHERN-STYLE CHICKEN AND WAFFLES WITH A MEXICAN TWIST BY ADDING HABANERO AND CHEESE TO THE WAFFLE BATTER AND TOPPING THE CHICKEN WITH A SALSA VERDE. OR ONE CAN MAKE A MEXICAN-STYLE CORNBREAD CASSEROLE WITH GROUND BEEF, BEANS, CHEESE, AND ENCHILADA SAUCE. OR ONE CAN MAKE A SOUTHERN-STYLE SHRIMP AND GRITS WITH A MEXICAN FLAIR BY ADDING CHORIZO, CILANTRO, AND LIME JUICE TO THE GRITS AND SERVING THEM WITH A CHIPOTLE CREAM SAUCE.



SUMMER SQUASH & SHRIMP FRICASSEE

Ingredients:

Serves a bunch

- 2 (5 ounce bundles of scallions
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 6 medium garlic cloves thinly sliced (about 2 tablespoons)
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 ½ cups corn kernels
- 1 pound peeled and deveined raw large Alabama caught shrimp
- ½ cup fish stock
- 1 small fresh habanero, seeded and minced amount per your taste
- 1 pound summer squash, chopped ¼ inch
- 1 medium tomato finely chopped
- ½ dry white wine
- 3 tablespoon chopped fresh flat-leaf



- parsley
- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme leaves
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper

Method:

- 1 Thinly slice scallions, dividing the white and green parts from the dark green parts. Set the dark green parts aside.
2. Heat oil in a Dutch oven over medium-high. Add wine and light green scallion parts, garlic, and bay leaves; cook stirring occasionally until scallions soften, about 2 minutes. Add corn; cook, stirring constantly about one minute. Add shrimp, fish stock and habanero; cook stirring constantly until shrimp just turn opaque but not cooked through, about 45 seconds. Add squash, tomato, wine, parsley, thyme, lemon juice, salt, and black pepper. Cook stirring constantly until shrimp are cooked through.

Add butter stir until it makes a creamy sauce.

3. Remove from heat stir in dark green scallion parts. Serve immediately.

At our house, a bread of some sort like rolls or crusty loaf bread is always served with the meal. If the main dish is a dish like a stew or a fricassee, crusty bread that can absorb some of the liquid in the dish is best. Also adding some spice to the bread, helps accent the flavors of the main dish. A crusty French loaf topped with peppers, cheese and onions will do the trick.



These are just some of the possibilities that a combination of Southern Cuisine and Mexican Cuisine can offer. By experimenting with different ingredients and techniques, along with the fresh vegetables coming from your garden and from the farmers markets, one can create dishes that are flavorful, hearty, and satisfying. Add the fresh seafood

JALAPENO CHEESE BREAD

Ingredients:

- 1 cup ketchup
- ¼ cup apple cider vinegar
- ¼ cup molasses
- ¼ cup honey
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon smoked paprika
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt and black pepper to taste



Method:

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F
2. Combine the butter, mayonnaise, jalapenos, Cheddar, pepper Jack, olives, green chilies and green onions in a mixing bowl.
3. Stir together until thoroughly combined.
4. Spread the mixture onto the French bread and put the bread on a baking sheet.
5. Bake until the cheese is melted and browning, 20 to 25 minutes.

At our house, a bread of some sort like rolls or crusty loaf bread is always served with the meal. If the main dish is a dish like a stew or a fricassee, crusty bread that can absorb some of the liquid in the dish is best. Also adding some spice to the bread, helps accent the flavors of the main dish. A crusty French loaf topped with peppers, cheese and onions will do the trick



Remember to always monitor your blood sugar levels and speak with your healthcare provider about any dietary changes.



MACOA continues to serve seniors!

**The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)
SERVING SENIORS FOR 48 Yrs.**

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. You can help! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals. If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.

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