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## Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature.

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

## Status of 2022 U.S. Senate Race

When Senator Richard Shelby announced he would not run for reelection to a sixth six-year term in 2022, speculation immediately began as to who would run for our iconic senior senator's seat. Numerous names were floated as to who might lineup for the coveted seat. It is expected to be a fairly large field.

The winner of next year's May Republican primary and ultimately the summer GOP runoff will be our next junior senator. Winning the GOP Primary is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie in a statewide race and especially a U.S. Senate race. It is highly unlikely that a candidate can win the primary without a runoff. So, the mission for each candidate will be to be one of the top two vote getters in late May and be ready for a battle Royale runoff brawl in the summer.

As the potential warriors prepare, they best be advised to have tough skin. It will be an acrimonious fray. All serious candidates will retain Washington consultants, pollsters, and media advisors. These D.C. consultants thrive on mean, vicious and unbridled, negative, advertising techniques. Therefore, the arena will be as tough to survive as a Roman gladiator spectacle.

The key to winning this race is the same as all races. It is simple. It is who has the money. Money is the mother's milk of politics. When someone comes to this dance, the first question asked by those who observe, calculate, and analyze this race, is show me the money.

Congressman Mo Brooks of Huntsville wasted no time getting into the race. He has been planning to run for over two years. He has come out of the gate impressively and is the early favorite to win the race, which by the way is only one year away. Brooks is riding high among right wing Republicans for his red meat speeches and voting record in Congress.

There is no doubt that Mo Brooks is an ultra-conservative even if he has been ineffective. He has demonstrated his arch conservative Republican philosophy for nearly four decades of political life in Alabama Republican politics. He hails from the vote rich Tennessee Valley of North Alabama. It does not hurt him that he has run two statewide races, which has helped him build

name identification and some organization. However, his major trump card is that he has received the early whole-hearted endorsement of former President Donald Trump. The problem Brooks faces is that Trump's influence will fade over the next year, and the early favorite very rarely wins in a highly contested race for an open senate seat in Alabama.

Lynda Blanchard is another early entrant into the senate race. She is a Montgomerian, who appears to possess the main ingredient necessary to be a viable candidate. She appears to have the money. She began her campaign by loaning \$5 million to her campaign efforts. She served as President Trump's Ambassador to Slovenia. Her background and resume could be attractive. She should not be underestimated.

A well-heeled candidate who may be edging closer to entering the Derby is Dothan businessman Jeff Coleman. He possesses the right and necessary ingredient for a successful recipe – money. He can bankroll the effort and also has proven fundraising skills. Some people might be skeptical that his 2020 loss in the second district congressional race might hurt his credibility. My guess is that it is irrelevant as to whether he won or lost, most people do not follow politics enough to recall the outcome. The amount of time and especially money spent by Coleman in that race has secured some name identification in the southern part of the state.

The big question is, does Senator Shelby's former Chief of Staff and current President of the Business Council of Alabama, Katie Britt, enter the race. Her credibility and success lie totally on Senator Shelby's commitment to her cause. It is no secret that Shelby wants Katie Boyd Britt to succeed him. He likes the fact that she is brilliant, capable, and young. She would also be an excellent campaigner. However, it will take a lot of money to make Katie a winner. She begins with no name identification.

Again, this will be an expensive and probably a vicious race. The gloves will come off and it will be tough brawl.

*It will be interesting to watch. I will keep you posted.*

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## Loyalty Still Matters

Always the catch-all political crime, an accusation of treason is used to punish rivals and remove them from civic engagement. Autocrats use the insinuation of treason with brutal efficiency to banish, if not execute, a political problem or inconvenient idea.

While treason is bandied about to characterize someone with whose political beliefs we disagree, our founders made treason a particularly difficult crime to

prove. As with so much of the Constitution, the terms were specifically written to prevent abuses witnessed by colonials. Article III, Section 3 not only provides safeguards that treason not be used to silence political opponents, but it also limits the extent of any punishment.

Because of these strictures, we often forget what real treason looks like and fail to fully appreciate loyalty to country or creed. While national ties are not unlike family bonds, this intrinsic loyalty to place or relations is often weakened by opportunity or ideology. Few people today really know a traitor to their country. There may be disagreements on any number of levels, but seldom do acts fully rise to the level of treason within the Constitutional definition. Treason in the United States is more than a lazy term of derision occasioned by mere policy disagreements.

Seventy years ago, when highly placed British diplomats surreptitiously defected to the Soviet Union treason was made manifest.

In May 1951, the Cold War was escalating between the capitalist West and the communist East. The United States had witnessed hearings before the House Un-American Activities Committee, and citizens were rocked by allegations of Soviet agents operating within our nation's government.

Alger Hiss had been convicted of perjury, which fanned the flames that other government employees had divided loyalties and worked for the Russians. But many of the accused denied any involvement in espionage; for every accusation, there was denial and not always crystal-clear evidence of treason.

In a sensational trial held in March 1951, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were convicted of espionage, but there was hardly uniform consensus that they were significantly guilty, and there was enough evidence to question the appropriateness of the death penalty. In similar cases, the accused were defiant and vociferously expressed innocence. Thus, the county was divided about whether the treason was actual and if those accused were more political dissenters than disloyal Americans.

The actions of the British diplomats and the subsequent revelations after their defection left no doubt that our former allies, the Russians, had for years spied on us and penetrated both British and American governments at a very high level.

At Cambridge University in the 1930s, several undergraduates, including Guy Burgess and Donald MacLean, were recruited by the Soviets to provide information about Great Britain. They were from privileged families and considered among the elite attending a premier university. Nothing in their background gave the slightest hint that their loyalties had shifted from King and Country to Stalin and the Bolsheviks.

MacLean joined the British foreign office in 1934 and almost immediately began supplying information to the Russians. Until his defection in 1951, he

delivered more than 4,500 documents to his Soviet handlers.

Burgess was initially employed by the BBC but also British Secret Service and, later, with the foreign office. While working as a spy he supplied the Soviets with more than 4,600 confidential or top-secret documents.

Using information obtained from MacLean, the Russians leaked a copy of a letter from Churchill to President Truman which included an embarrassing assessment of Stalin. The FBI believed the leak had come from the British Embassy and suspected MacLean, but they were unable to confirm their suspicions.

Later, as Western intelligence services began decrypting old Soviet traffic between Washington and Moscow, MacLean emerged as a leading suspect given his access to a host of sensitive documents about the US, British, and Canadian committee on the development of atomic weaponry. Recalled to London, MacLean was tipped off by fellow Cambridge spy Kim Philby (who was stationed in DC with knowledge of the investigation) that he was under suspicion.

Given the stress of his dual identity, MacLean started drinking heavily and was viewed as so unstable that, once accused, he would confess and implicate others. Not wanting to risk exposure, Burgess and Philby explained to Moscow that MacLean must leave Britain, and Burgess began making plans for MacLean to defect.

At this same time, Burgess was dismissed from the foreign service based on conduct unrelated to his espionage. With his career at an end, he decided to accompany MacLean. Moscow felt a dual defection with mutual support could be successful. Others disagreed and argued that 2 defections would prompt counterintelligence to begin connecting dots to uncover seemingly loyal British citizens who served Stalin's workers' paradise.

By a series of feints and head fakes, Burgess and MacLean successfully defected and were noticeably absent, prompting the secret service and other agencies to assess the situation. They soon realized their slow response to American inquiries had given the spies time to depart without exposing their accomplices.

The situation quickly began to unravel as guilt by association caused suspicion to fall on others who had served with Burgess and MacLean. Most importantly, trust between the U.S. and British intelligence agencies deteriorated, which may have been even more significant than the disclosure of state secrets. The instability caused by these defections led both the CIA and MI-6 into a frenzied self-examination, placing former colleagues under suspicion and disrupting normal operations in search of disloyalty. An inordinate amount of time was consumed by Western allies chasing spies who either did not exist or were not in positions to supply actionable intelligence.

Burgess, MacLean and their ilk committed treason by being unambiguously disloyal to their country. There remains no question that their actions lead to deaths and seriously compromised military and diplomatic secrets. They also sowed seeds of discord among Western security agencies.

While many in the United States questioned accusations against American citizens, the defection of Burgess and MacLean laid bear with absolute certainty that the Russians were creating an atmosphere of distrust, destruction, and deception aimed solely at achieving Soviet hegemony. In 1951, this reality shocked the world into confronting communist deception forcefully and directly.

The survival of the Western democracies depended upon blunting communist expansion; in 1989, the appropriateness of their actions was confirmed.

*Will Sellers is a 1985 graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama.*



Justice Will Sellers

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MacLean joined the British foreign office in 1934 and almost immediately began supplying information to the Russians. Until his defection in 1951, he



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# ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## BITS AND PIECES PART 12

Well, here I go with yet another installment of **Bits and Pieces**. To be honest, there is so much foolishness to write about in our country today. Luckily, I am very good at just shaking my head and not letting the insanity of the world bother me too much. Just for the purposes of full disclosure, I was brought up to believe in the American ideal with the realization that our ideal still has to be administered by people. Throughout our history, many of those people have proven to be bad human beings. That doesn't mean our system itself is evil. As we are watching this absurd Marxist/fascist wave sweeping through parts of our country today, if you try to tell me that Marxism, communism or socialism is better than democracy or better yet, our Democratic Republic, and that America needs to become those things, I have nothing but disdain for you. Likewise, if you support any of the clear Anti-Semitic cretins running amok within our government, and, yes, they exist, I oppose you with every fiber of my being. You do not belong in this country. Just a minor vent. *Let's get started ...*

**1. Israel vs. Hamas.** ([www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/17/world/middleeast/israel-palestine-gaza-conflict-death-toll.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/05/17/world/middleeast/israel-palestine-gaza-conflict-death-toll.html)). Since the 10th of May, as we have all seen on television, Hamas has launched thousands of rockets into Israel. Understandably, Israel has retaliated well within their rights and beat down Hamas. In the process, some 212 Palestinians have been killed along with 10 Israelis.

Here's the rub. I for one, love Israel. If you don't like it, I don't care. Pretty simple how that works. Over the course of a week, Hamas showered Israel with over 3,300 rockets but of course, Israel has this thing called the "Iron Dome," which knocked the majority of rockets out of the air. Some people on "the other side" seem to think this is unfair. Over the past couple of weeks, I have heard some of the most idiotic arguments being made against Israel in that they should not strike back since they have more power and that it was unfair to smackdown an opponent who continues to argue for their destruction – especially as they are showering them with rockets. I am not going to get into this right now but will tell anybody stupid enough to agree with this to take a copy of Sun Tzu's *Art of War* and point out to me where it is unfair to kick the snot out of an enemy that is trying to kill you. Get back to me when you find that passage, I will be waiting.

Also, once again, the incomplete argument of civilian deaths has raised its ugly head. Let's be clear about something here. Israeli airstrikes are and have been conducted using precision guided munitions (PGMs) against specific military objectives. The only precise thing about the Hamas' airstrikes via rockets is that they are precisely designed to indiscriminately kill. They are strictly point-and-shoot and without the Israeli "Iron Dome," how many Israeli civilians would possibly have been killed? Here in the states, all the anti-Israel, anti-Semites focus upon the disparity in deaths without any fundamental understanding of operational or strategic warfare. Yes, Palestinian civilians have been killed but that is not the Israeli objective. Their objectives have been to stop the rockets from hitting Israeli cities and then to stop (i.e. kill) Hamas leadership that continues to plan Israel's demise. Hamas' apparent objective? Kill Jews. The more, the merrier. I have a hard time understanding how people cannot grasp the difference between the two. As one keen person once said, "I can explain it to you but I cannot understand it for you."

I am sure this is not over since it seems Hamas has a lot more rockets left in their arsenal. Guess what? So does Israel and they have proven to be the more proficient users of military force. If you cannot take a joke, don't start a war and if Hamas keeps lobbing rockets into Israel, they had better be prepared for the inevitable results of their folly.

**2. Illegals in Tennessee.** ([lidblog.com/illegals-bussed-into-tennessee](http://lidblog.com/illegals-bussed-into-tennessee)). How about this? Apparently, the Biden administration, as reported back on 21 May, has ferreted "thousands" of illegal aliens, under the cover of darkness, and flown them into Chattanooga, Tennessee. From there, they were put onto buses and taken to who knows where. Am I the only person who thinks this is not on the "up and up?" Perhaps, the most disturbing part of this is that the Republican Senator Marsha Blackburn and Representative Chuck Fleischmann, among many I am sure, were never informed of this. The article did not make it clear whether Governor Bill Lee knew beforehand about this either.

Would someone explain to me how much sense this makes and is it even legal? Can the federal government take illegal immigrants and simply drop them off in any state they want? Shouldn't the people of that state have a say in the

matter? Why the secrecy? It is almost as though they are trying to seed little future Democratic voters throughout the U.S. What better way to turn red states to blue? More to come.

**3. Harris at the Border.** Since March, Vice-President Harris has been the so-called "Border Czar." She has been entrusted to oversee the crises at the border that is getting worse with almost every passing day. The problem? If I asked you to pick a number from 1-10 as the number of times she has visited the border, every number would be wrong. The real answer is "zero." Yup. The big ole' goose egg. Not only has she not visited the border to see the plight of the Americans (first and foremost), she actually said that it was not in her job description to go there. Really? She is, however, "working with governments in Mexico and the so-called Northern Triangle countries — Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala — to figure out how to dissuade people from making the journey." ([bangordailynews.com/2021/05/13/national-politics/republicans-arent-alone-in-saying-kamala-harris-should-visit-southern-border/](http://bangordailynews.com/2021/05/13/national-politics/republicans-arent-alone-in-saying-kamala-harris-should-visit-southern-border/)). That is interesting but as the Vice-President of the USA, perhaps at least "some" of her focus should be on Americans first. Don't you think? You know things are bad when people from her own party are asking why she hasn't been to the border and several news outlets have identified her "abysmal" efforts while many have called for her ouster. Time will tell if she was ever up for the job in the first place. We will see and there is certainly more to come.

Her refusal to go to the border to see the situation for herself reminds me of Adolf Hitler. Yes, I am going to compare her to the "evil one" in this case. Why? Because it is accurate unlike most comparisons. After the July 1943 Allied bombings of Hamburg which killed some 45,000 Germans and decimated the city, Hitler refused to visit the city and see exactly what his people had gone through and what they were enduring. I feel the same way about Harris. It is as though she doesn't want to face up to the reality she has helped to create. Sad stuff, actually. Time will tell if she was ever up for the job in the first place. We will see and there is certainly more to come.

**4. Shoplifting in San Francisco.** ([www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/05/20/nolte-out-of-control-shoplifting-in-democrat-run-san-francisco-closes-17-walgreens/](http://www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/05/20/nolte-out-of-control-shoplifting-in-democrat-run-san-francisco-closes-17-walgreens/)). This story, reported on Breitbart News, comes from the combined pages of "I told you so" to "You gotta be kidding me." In 2014, Californians passed Proposition 47 which basically gave an open hand for shoplifting. You can go into a store and steal whatever you like and if the value is under \$950, there is little chance the police will do anything to stop you. Likewise, if you come out of a store carrying a \$949 flat screen television and sell it to me, there is no major penalty for receiving stolen goods under that magic number of \$950. If anything, all you are going to get is a misdemeanor charge.

Well guess what has happened? In five years, 17 Walgreen stores have shut their doors because of the shoplifting. The article said 42% of their losses came from 12 stores and they still have 35 operating in the city. Who would have thought that basically legalizing theft would have engendered more crime? Uhhhhhhh, most of us with a brain! Add to this the previously reported "poop maps" identifying the places where people #2 on the sidewalks and you get a picture of a district that Nancy Pelosi should surely be proud of ([wmmr.com/2019/04/17/someone-made-an-interactive-san-francisco-poop-map/](http://wmmr.com/2019/04/17/someone-made-an-interactive-san-francisco-poop-map/) and [www.sfgate.com/local-donotuse/article/map-street-sidewalk-poop-feces-311-report-waste-13278828.php](http://www.sfgate.com/local-donotuse/article/map-street-sidewalk-poop-feces-311-report-waste-13278828.php))

**5. Critical Race Theory (CRT).** ([www.thepilot.com/opinion/column-critical-race-theory-engages-nation-in-a-divisive-debate/article\\_e54442fe-b259-11eb-bc58-db65328cb0bd.html](http://www.thepilot.com/opinion/column-critical-race-theory-engages-nation-in-a-divisive-debate/article_e54442fe-b259-11eb-bc58-db65328cb0bd.html)) Just to let you know that I am thinking about this subject, but it will have to be a topic for another day. No time to get into it now. Here is a starter article. It is a must-read view of this dangerous, itself racist, ideology. Then read more and more and more. There is an attempt to push this ideology within American schools as being absolute truth and luckily, several states have begun to push back and say, "Not today, Satan." I believe we can always use more race dialogue in this country, but at the same time, we had better be careful. More to follow. *In short, not a fan — AT ALL.*

**6. COVID** starting in a lab, not naturally, looks more likely every day. Even Dr. Fauci is beginning to suggest it. Take a look. I have no dog in this fight. Just reporting. ([nypost.com/2021/05/22/the-wuhan-lab-leak-theory-looks-more-credible-then-ever/](http://nypost.com/2021/05/22/the-wuhan-lab-leak-theory-looks-more-credible-then-ever/))

*A lot of stuff here, I know. But more to follow. Cheers, peeps.*



Daniel Sutter

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## REFORMING OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING

Occupational licensing involves government-imposed requirements for practitioners in different professions, or what critics call government permission slips to work. Despite a lack of evidence of benefits to consumers, licensing has been proliferating across Alabama and America, with the percentage of workers covered rising from 5 to over 20 percent.

A new report from the Alabama Policy Institute and the Archbridge Institute offers some potential reforms. "*Not-So Sweet Home Alabama: How Licensing Holds Back the Yellowhammer State*" is written by Dr. Edward Timmons and Conor Norris of Saint Francis University. Dr. Timmons has extensively researched licensing, including a 2019 case study of Alabama barbers.

The economic argument for licensing is consumers' difficulty verifying expertise. Does a person claiming to be an electrician truly know this job? If you knew the trade, you could quiz or test them. Yet our economy is built on the division of labor, which is really a division of knowledge. Instead of learning how to repair a car, you hire someone who knows how.

Markets can assure consumers of experts' expertise. Reputation in various forms – including references, positive word-of-mouth, Yelp ratings, and brand names – accomplish this. Insurance also helps. An insurance company will only offer medical malpractice coverage to med school graduates.

Yet skepticism about how well markets work leads to calls for licensing. A state licensing laws establishes a board of experts to set education, training, and testing requirements. The board verifies applicants' qualifications and working without a license becomes illegal. Revoking licenses for professional misconduct weeds out bad apples.

Research finds that licensing increases prices for consumers and incomes for professionals without improving the quality of services. Education and training requirements must produce higher prices to let doctors, plumbers and hair stylists recoup their training and education costs.

The lack of quality improvement implies no gains for consumers to compensate for higher prices. Licensing boards may enact unnecessary require-

ments to artificially restrict the number of practitioners and boost earnings. Enriching some citizens at the expense of others is not, however, a legitimate task of government.

Public choice economics helps explain the proliferation of licensing. The return on political action to support or oppose a bill depends on the amount one has at stake. Licensing can boost practitioners' incomes by thousands of dollars a year, while consumer pay a little extra when using a service, with the extra hidden in the overall price. Only professionals seeking licensing vote or make campaign contributions based on passage of the bill.

Timmons and Norris offer two reform proposals. The first is for Alabama to accept other states' licenses, or reciprocity. Licensing reduces mobility because once licensed, a professional might have to incur significant costs to get licensed in another state.

This imposes a heavy burden on some people, particularly military spouses. The spouse of a servicemember who gets stationed in Alabama may lose the freedom to work in their profession without incurring costs to obtain an Alabama license. Some licensed professions already have reciprocity agreements; this proposal would require all to do so.

A second reform is sunrise review of new licensing proposals. Sunrise review is a variation of the sunset reviews required in Alabama and other states. Sunset review involves a study by a designated agency recommending either renewal or termination of a program, after which legislators must vote to reauthorize the program. Sunrise review requires an evaluation before establishing licensing.

As Timmons and Norris explain, licensing is the most extensive way government can regulate a profession; less intrusive forms of regulation include certification, registration, and insurance requirements. An objective review of the evidence makes sense; extensive regulation should only be employed for serious market problems.

Occupational licensing may improve the performance of some professional services markets. But licensing's extensive application is likely due to the nature of legislative politics. We should seriously consider Not-So Sweet Home Alabama's proposed reforms.



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## FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS FOR BUSINESS BUYOUT



*I'm looking at selling my business, and the buyers want me to stay on as an employee but also to sign a non-compete. My health is not good and I think my ability to complete the seven-year term is not in my favor. What do you know about that?*

**Ronald A. Holtsford**

Rather than answer your question directly I want to discuss a recent Alabama Supreme Court case that will make you think about how these agreements are structured. The structuring could mean that in the event of your death within the seven-year period your estate could either continue to receive money promised under the contract(s) or not receive it. This can be a substantial financial benefit to your heirs if your attorney advises you correctly.

The recent case was *John Boyd and Batey & Sanders, Inc. v. Emily Hawk Mills, as personal representative of the Estate of Thomas Batey, deceased*, which initially arose from the Etowah County Circuit Court. The facts were that Thomas Batey sold all of his stock to Boyd as its president and to Batey & Sanders, Inc. through a stock purchase agreement. Other contracts were also signed including a non-compete agreement and an employment agreement. The stock agreement required that the non-compete and employment agreement of Batey also be signed to make the execution of the stock purchase valid. The total price under the non-compete was just over two million dollars. All the non-compete included was a promise that Batey would not do certain things. It was based on 120 equal monthly payments, which of course is ten years. With almost \$641,000 remaining to be paid after several years of payment, Batey died. For several more months the buyers made most of their payments but then stopped all together. There were three years remaining for payment. The trial court held for the estate of Batey in that the non-compete was not a personal services agreement and the buyers appealed.

The Supreme Court was asked only to determine whether the non-compete survived Batey's death. It was necessary that the Court look at the plain language of the contract and not create a new one. In fact, the non-compete did not address what would occur in the event of Batey's death. The non-compete simply laid out the payment plan for ten years and what the buyers were entitled to do should Batey breach the contract. There were no duties that Batey had to perform under the non-compete only that he would be paid and the fact that he had to refrain from doing certain things. The buyers did not have a right to cancel the non-compete if Batey should breach the contract though Batey had the right to cancel the non-compete if the buyers defaulted in their duties. Looking at other case law the Court noted that a contract which relies on "personal performance by the promisor is of the essence and the duty imposed cannot be done as well by others as by the promisor himself, are personal and do not survive his death." This was not the case in Batey. The Georgia Court of appeals held in *Mail & Media, Inc. v. Rotenberry*, 213 Ga.App. 826,446 S.E.2d 517 (1994), "[w]hen a

noncompetition agreement ancillary to the sale of a business does not also require the seller to affirmatively provide services to the buyer, the essential benefit the buyer is purchasing is the business's goodwill (as opposed to the seller's expertise),"so" the seller's death does not deprive the buyer of this benefit...." The buyers self-acknowledged that they were sophisticated in the negotiation of this agreement. Sophistication does not mean in the legal sense that they knew the best wines, the best restaurants in Alabama or stuck out their pinky when drinking an afternoon tea, but simply means these individuals had the requisite experience and education necessary to be involved in the understanding, negotiation and execution of such an agreement. This definition is not from a legal dictionary but rather the general understanding and the memory that lies between my ears from my legal education and experience.

The bottom line reached by the Alabama Supreme Court was in agreement with the trial court in that the non-compete obligations of the buyers did not cease at the death of Batey.

It is unfortunate that your health is not the best and such a situation like Batey could potentially play out. In any contract it is important to consider all scenarios and address them within the context of the agreement. Whenever a company is involved with multiple shareholders the likelihood of the sudden death of all of them is very small. Even with an individual involved in a contract that has generally good health the chance of death is probably small, but an unforeseen death of a single shareholder has greater consequences to one or all parties dependent on duties. For that reason, I hope that your counsel will look at all avenues of the agreement considering the effect on your ability to perform or the effects of your inability to perform either due to disability or death and even what that may mean to your estate and/or heirs.

As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

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*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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## OUT OF AFGHANISTAN

For well over a century, America has always remained the most powerful nation on the planet. In that context, it is a good thing; no other nation would lay a hand on us unless it wanted to be annihilated. However, this power also has a dark side—opportunities for warmongers and profiteers to generate huge fortunes from unspeakable destruction around the world and the mass murders of millions.

From the 20th century onward, we have been at almost continuous war. World War I was claimed to be "The War to End All Wars." But then, two decades later, when its horrors were still fresh in American minds, FDR pulled off his scheme (See my Dec. 2018 article for details) to goad Japan into bombing Pearl Harbor in a "sneak attack." That, of course, drew us into World War II.

Since then, with the exception of a decade of peace under Eisenhower in the 1950's, we have been at almost constant war—not defending our country—but meddling into the affairs of other nations where we had no legitimate business—Korea, Vietnam, Iran, Kuwait, Serbia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Syria, Niger and other places. Whether it's fighting, rendering aid, or whatever, the results have always been the same—more mass murders and more destruction, and the needless deaths of thousands of Americans and thousands more horribly wounded and incapacitated.

On January 17, 1961, President Dwight D. Eisenhower delivered his farewell address to the nation. His biggest concern was the runaway growth and massive profiteering of engaging in warfare. A portion reads:

"We now stand ten years past the midpoint of a century that has witnessed four major wars among great nations. Three of these involved our own country. Despite these holocausts, America is today the strongest, the most influential and most productive nation in the world. Understandably proud of this pre-eminence, we yet realize that America's leadership and prestige depend, not merely upon our unmatched material progress, riches and military strength, but on how we use our power in the interests of world peace and human betterment.

"Throughout America's adventure in free government, such basic purposes have been to keep the peace; to foster progress in human achievement, and to enhance liberty, dignity and integrity among peoples and among nations.

"To strive for less would be unworthy of a free and religious people.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex."

This past April 14, while addressing our nation, President Joe Biden announced that he had inherited Donald Trump's peace agreement with the Taliban and his promised drawdown deadline of our military personnel from Afghanistan, beginning May 1. Biden vowed to finish removing them all by September 11, the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the twin towers, promising to never pass America's longest war onto another president.

Biden frankly admitted that the Afghan war was never meant to be multi-generational, and that only Afghan citizens have the right and responsibility to lead their country. "After consulting closely with our allies and partners, with our military leaders and intelligence personnel, with our diplomats and our development experts, with the Congress and the vice president, as well as with [Afghan President Ashraf Ghani] and many others around the world, I concluded that it's time to end America's longest war. It's time for American troops to come home."

Soon afterwards, NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg in Brussels said the alliance had agreed to pull out its 7,000 troops to match Biden's decision.

Officially, we now have about 2500 American troops in Afghanistan, but because of fluctuations, we actually have about 3500, in addition to the 7000 foreign and NATO personnel.

So far, this war in Afghanistan alone has cost trillions of our dollars along with thousands of American lives and at least 100,000 Afghans killed and injured.

Retired General Colin Powell said the exit was long overdue: "I'd say we've

done all we can do.... What are those troops being told they're there for? It's time to bring it to an end." He said that the Soviet Union, which had occupied Afghanistan for ten years, "did it the same way. They got tired, and they marched out and back home."

Former Congressman Ron Paul said that winning a war like this was never an objective: "Even if 'won,' endless wars like our 20 year assault on Afghanistan, [it] would not benefit our actual national interest in the slightest. So why do these wars continue endlessly? Because they are so profitable to powerful and well-connected special interests. In fact, the worst news possible for the Beltway military contractor / think tank complex would be that the United States actually won a war. That would signal the end of the welfare-for-the-rich gravy train.... [It] would result in wailing and gnashing of teeth among the military-industrial complex, which gets rich from other people's misery and sacrifice.

"How many Americans, if asked, could answer the question, 'Why have we been bombing Afghanistan for an entire generation?' The Taliban never attacked the United States, and Osama bin Laden, who temporarily called Afghanistan his home, is long dead and gone. The longest war in US history has dragged on because... it has just dragged on.... the US has wasted \$2.26 trillion dollars on a generation of war on Afghanistan.

"President Biden has announced that the US military would be out of Afghanistan by the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11. But as always, the devil is in the details. It appears that US special forces, CIA paramilitaries, and the private contractors who have taken an increasing role in fighting Washington's wars, will remain in-country—bombing Afghans so that Max Boot and his neocons can pat themselves on the back.

"But the fact is this: Afghanistan is a disaster for the United States. Only the corrupt benefitted from this 20-year highway robbery. Will we learn a lesson from wasting trillions and killing hundreds of thousands? It is not likely. But there will be an accounting. The piper will be paid. Printing mountains of money to pay the corrupt war profiteers will soon leave the working and middle classes in dire straits. It is up to non-interventionists like us to explain to them exactly who has robbed them of their future."

Now what about our other entanglements in Iran, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, parts of Africa, and various other locations where we should never be? Is Biden going to get us out of those armpits also? He hasn't said a word about that. Already I hear rumors that he is preparing to lock horns with China and Russia because he is getting worried that they are "threats." Is he just throwing us a small bone of peace to keep us contented, only to be escalating conflicts elsewhere? And is he allowing the mighty military-industrial complex to twist his arm to engage in continued cruelty, mass murder, carnage, destruction, and the wastage of many more trillions of American dollars? When will it really ever end?

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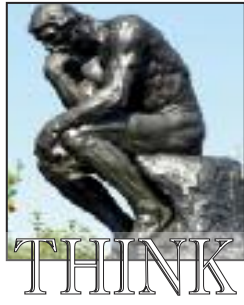
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John Sophocleus

# DC Statehood: time to take a “Mulligan”

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**US Constitution: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17** “To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.”

No shortage of ‘bull-feathers’ these past months from politburo members championing modern Democrats like Comrade Trump (‘Donning’ the Red Soviet jersey these past five years) and Comrade Biden to make **DC** [District of Corruption] a 51st state. Little surprise ‘Moscow on the Potomac’ fails to consult our Constitution for guidance about Washington, DC in our now **forced** coalition of once sovereign States. No city in modern history displays greater deficiency living up to a namesake, particularly for one like Geo. Washington – most instrumental in winning independence for their geo-political unit(s), curbing mercantilism, abolishing importation of slaves, etc.

Three electoral votes wrongfully given to DC is just as great an abomination as the ‘taxation without representation’ suffered by those allowed to assert residency in the ten mile square proscribed in Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 17 cited above. House members I’ve interacted with (e.g., Brooks, Rogers, Sewell) understandably have no clue what the document they’ve taken an oath to uphold and defend guides them to accomplish; being sycophants for higher positioned politburo members like Comrades Biden and Trump is much more rewarding in this world. In short, no residents at this federal installation/district (nor any other Arsenal, Fort, Dockyard, Magazine, etc.) are allowed/makes sense **IF** the document is followed. This ten miles (maximum) square was purposefully **NOT** to be a State, and it was important those employed, living/stationed there had residence in their home State for purposes of having a connection back to the places they are from/represent. Furthermore, I don’t think anyone pays attention to the text of our Constitution guaranteeing a representative **Republic** when our politburo finds the ability to abuse ‘Democracy’ much easier than the checks and balances of independent sovereignty.

Similar to the unconstitutional 435 HoR limit [1929] impact upon electoral v. popular vote results, the 23rd Amendment [1961] granting DC electors distorts the outcome from the structure our framers designed. Again, the 10-mile square to make DC a federal installation wasn’t supposed to have residents... just as many folks who work and live on other federal installations have voting residencies in their respective/declared States. One of the biggest margins of victory for a presidential candidate in DC was Hillary Clinton’s 93% running up the popular vote difference 248,670 for that separate area; tied to the smallest State electoral allotment [3 votes] since DC **also** has no reason for Senators. Just like the constitutional abomination of illegally creating West Virginia under the circumstances of War Between the States; little wonder why in this environment there’s discussion of DC’s population getting two Senators instead of proper residency. Sadly, most ‘feel gooders’ about changing the Constitution for the current ‘zeitgeist’ moment fail to understand political change is a fact of life just as the ups and downs of climate changes. Difficult to get ‘Electoral College deniers’ to comprehend DC votes would otherwise be apportioned to their States of residency which may make a difference in recurring razor thin margin states like Florida and Michigan under ‘duopoly party’ rule. The fraud of restrictive ballot access laws, 435 limit driving Electoral College distortions and hyper-gerrymandering, etc. is not what Comrades Biden and Trump want addressed. Productive citizens (dare I type hosts?) don’t care which politburo thief is determined the winner of a fraudulent election.

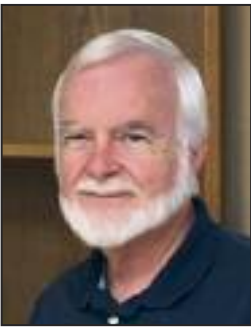
So what’s the Constitutionally correct answer? Revisit 1847 history toward returning all the wrongfully titled private property in the ten miles square back to the States of Maryland and Virginia to be properly included in each decade’s census to determine population for representative taxation along with House members, electoral votes, etc. The more daunting task is taking a ‘Mulligan’ on executing the 10 miles square and **learn** from past mistakes. The remaining parts of federal properties can be named Washington, **HD** – *i.e.*, **Historic District**. Those who want to conduct transactions, demonstrate, visit, etc. the old White House Memorials, remaining active federal buildings may continue to do so. No reason areas returned to Maryland and Virginia won’t incorporate as separate cities with their own proper mayors, police, courthouse, etc. – may I suggest Armistead (Battle of Ft. McHenry hero) for my home State of Maryland? No shortage of great historical Virginia names for the Old Dominion State to consider...

There is no reason for a DC mayor, police force, etc. to deal with demonstrations, real or imagined insurrections, etc. If Sen. Schumer wants to incite demonstrators at the Supreme (or any other federal building) Court it is the responsibility of federal marshals on federal properties. If some Washington, HD places/properties are deemed historic sites, park rangers and administrators would serve that function. Just as our State has moved the Alabama capitol these past centuries, the time is long overdue to move our central government’s capitol. I suggest the name Lincolnton, **FD** – *i.e.*, **Federal District**. This would reflect the failure of Washington’s vision of free and independent sovereign geopolitical units addressing issues of abortion, drugs, gun laws, hate crimes, mask wearing, slavery, transgender, etc. It further affirms the victory of Mr. Lincoln’s vision of a forced coalition of states Comrades Lenin, *et al* admired and replicated. I think it important for our posterity to understand what failed and what our command legal-political economy has and will wrought.

I suggest 2040 as the target date – the 250th Anniversary of the ‘Compromise of 1790’ which determined the first placement of our ten miles square federal capitol. Furthermore, it gives about 20 years to adjust, just as giving 20 years for New England shipping interest to phase out importation of slaves in their profit mix to agree to secede from the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union and adopt the US Constitution. Always thought the Potomac placement poor given the population distribution of that era. As I recall the 1790 Compromise was done to proffer favour with Southern States to continue to pay the Revolutionary War debt disproportionately incurred by States North of the Mason-Dixon line. Insulting to think Southerners wouldn’t honour the agreed upon collective debt as long as States held to the letter and Spirit of the document. Southerners already displayed great resolve supporting their sister colonies sending provisions North when the British blockade was most devastating.

In closing, it would not be difficult to find a ten mile square more centrally located to place Lincolnton, FD on a large, inactive military base. Further thought could be put toward high-speed rail access if we can get the ICC and other unconstitutional agencies out of the way. If one really wants to be industrious toward a return to a representative Republic, install the infrastructure for thousands of House Members as we’re designed to have where they may ‘zoom in’ to participate in Congress while actually among the 30,000 or so they represent. An abandoned Air Force Base may be found which would already have the ability to handle Air Force One and the air traffic. Auctioning off land around the ten mile square for food, lodging, etc. would help offset the expense of the capitol move and improvements. If done, I pray for more straight shots, less errors and great wisdom after taking this ‘Mulligan’ – perhaps if we can get our Republic back on course, Lincolnton will not live up the namesake and the Spirit of Washington may prevail.

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John M. Taylor

## “The Informed Southerner”

# SNAKES IN THE GRASS

“The rivers are full of crocodile nasties, and He who made kittens put snakes in the grass.” ~ Ian Anderson

I attended and briefly spoke to House State Government committees in Montgomery in support of House Bill 242 and in opposition to House Bill 43. It was quite an experience observing how the political machine functions in the State of Alabama. The assault on

Alabama’s Southern and/or Confederate history was eye-opening, especially discovering who was for and against some of these bills. A noticeable degree of animosity also seeped through some of the dialogue.

Anyone with a modicum of perception is aware of the many enemies of the South and Southern history. Unfortunately, this now includes many Southerners who have been sufficiently “dumbed down” to disparage their own flesh and blood. When you create such a phenomenon, it provides real-life proof that the anti-South plan has been successful.

Historically, the Puritans (who settled mainly in New England) generally disliked the Cavaliers (who settled mainly in Virginia) and vice-versa, dating back to their time in England. In a modern context, the South-haters are everywhere, from leftist politicians to Hollywood, to the “Lincoln cult,” and on and on. From one perspective, their hatred for the South is obvious, i.e., many self-identify. However, there are others who give lip service to the South and its history but look the other way when radicals seek to destroy every vestige of Southern history. Indeed, one consistently guilty group—neoconservatives—actually trace their roots to the political left.

Neo simply means new and, while the neoconservatives are relatively new, in most areas they are not traditional conservatives. Neo-conservatism is often traced back to the Russian communist Leon Trotsky (real name Lev Davidovich Bronstein), from a Ukrainian-Jewish family. The Marxist Trotsky joined the Bolshevik Party, was a leader of the Red Army, and was one of the seven members of the original politburo. After splitting philosophically with Vladimir Lenin in the early 1900s, Trotsky later got crossways with Joseph Stalin. Exiled from Russia, in 1940, Soviet agent Ramon Mercader assassinated Trotsky in Mexico City.

Rather than delve into details about Trotsky’s life, a macro view of the philosophy that has ties to him and his philosophical ilk is in order: “Today’s neoconservatives share with Stalin and Hitler an ideology of nationalist socialism and internationalist imperialism. The similarities deserve closer scrutiny and may contribute to a better understanding of the most influential group in the U.S. foreign policy-making community.”

“Most heirs of the Trotskyite Left are internationalists and one-world globalists, whereas all neoconservatives are unabashed imperialists. The former advocate ‘multilateralism,’ in the form of an emerging ‘international community’ controlled by the United Nations or through a gradual transfer of sovereign prerogatives to regional groupings exemplified by the European Union.” Neocons of varying degrees include: Irving Kristol, Bill Kristol, Paul Wolfowitz, Charles Krauthammer, Norman Podhoretz, Richard Perle, Ben Shapiro, Leo Strauss, Harry Jaffa, John Bolton, John McCain, Rich Lowry, Max Boot, David Frum, Dick Cheney, Liz Cheney, Dennis Prager, George Will, and

William F. Buckley. In Alabama, we have several politicians and “community leaders” who, although they may not identify as neocons, echo their playbook.

One constant within the neocon ideology is their near-fanatical admiration of Abraham Lincoln. (Lenin, a staunch centralizer, was an ardent admirer of Lincoln.) Neocons also love wars as long as they do not have to fight and they can profit from them. They scoff at decentralized power, States’ Rights, and true federalism – they love empire. Many think it is fine to tear down and destroy remembrances of Southern people yet they hyperventilate when their sacred heroes like Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, etc., are destroyed.

In an even broader sense, the role of the globalist George Soros has allegedly factored into many current controversies. A self-identified enemy of Western Civilization and its Christian traditions, Soros has made it clear that his goal is to destroy those very things. Many believe Soros has influenced the once great State of Virginia. That allegation is plausible judging by the present “leadership” that seems to have more in common with Marx, Engels, and Lenin than with honorable men like Washington, Jefferson, Lee, Jackson, etc. This is what happens when lesser individuals rise to power.

Most enemies of the South self-identify; however, when it comes “crunch time,” do not expect groups like neoconservatives to defend the proponents of true federalism/States Rights, such as Thomas Jefferson, John Taylor of Caroline, Patrick Henry, Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee, etc. They, like those on the State and Local levels who have a globalist agenda (probably some in the committees I attended), must be scrutinized. Those of us who have studied Southern history know first hand about those “snakes in the grass.”

Sources: *Neoconservatism – Where Trotsky Meets Stalin and Hitler*, by Srdja Trifkovic; The introductory quote is from Jethro Tull’s *Bungle in the Jungle* (1974), the “pop” hit that uses animals as an analogy of human behavior and references the corruption of big cities, especially in America. P.S. – President Jefferson Davis’ birthday is June 3rd.

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## Elise Stefanik is the Right Choice

**Editor’s Note:** *On Wednesday, May 12, 2021, Republicans quickly voted to oust Cheney from her position. Stefanik was voted as her successor the following Friday.*

In February I authored a Resolution that was adopted by the Alabama State Republican Executive Committee calling for the removal of Never Trumper Liz Cheney from her position as Chair of the Republican Conference.

Unfortunately, she is still in her position of power. With each passing day it is becoming more and more apparent that Liz Cheney does not represent the values of the Republican Party, but the values of the Swamp. She now has Nancy Pelosi singing her praises. As the nation watched, she gave Joe Biden an “atta boy” fist bump while he was on his way to deliver his speech outlining his plan to turn the United States into a socialist nightmare. Cheney is so out of touch with the grass-roots of the party that she has stated that President Trump "doesn't have a role in the future of the GOP." She constantly belittles Trump supporters.

“Liz Cheney was put on notice when our conference held a vote to remove her in February," Rep. Lance Gooden, R-Texas, said in a statement. "Her role is to lead House Republican messaging, but she is totally unaligned with the majority of our party. We cannot fight for the America First agenda with her in a leadership position.”

Solid Trump supporting, conservative New York Representative Elise Stefanik is the perfect choice to replace Cheney as Chair of the Republican

Conference. She has the support of House Republican Whip Steve Scalise whose office released the following statement “House Republicans need to be solely focused on taking back the House in 2022 and fighting against Speaker Pelosi and President Biden’s radical socialist agenda, and Elise Stefanik is strongly committed to doing that, which is why Whip Scalise has pledged to support her for Conference Chair,”

Since she was first elected in 2014, she has worked hard to recruit, support and elect more conservative Republican women to Congress through her fundraising committee known as E-PAC. Representative Stefanik hit the campaign trail hard in 2020. She raised a lot of money for Republicans in the 2020 election cycle. She was instrumental as Republicans won upset elections throughout the country and turning 14 blue seats red.

The House will return next week, and the House Republican Conference will meet. Representative Virginia Foxx of North Carolina is expected to make the formal motion to remove Cheney. The House Republicans must move on from Cheney’s divisive presence in their leadership. Republicans must be united to take back the House in 2022, and Elise Stefanik is the perfect leader for this effort. Cheney must be put on the back bench. The voters of Wyoming will do the rest.

## MORE THOUGHTS FROM HOOPER: Biden Polices are Stopping Recovery

The Labor Department is reporting very disappointing employment numbers while employers, especially small businesses, are begging for workers. How can this dichotomy exist? The answer is simple: The Biden Administration is paying people not to work. They have extended federal supplements to state unemployment benefits despite companies experiencing labor shortages. Potential employees are staying home because they have removed the economic benefit from working. Bowing to the pressure from teachers’ unions the Biden Administration is also refusing to require schools to reopen despite all the evidence that says schools can reopen safely and school children need to be back in the classroom. These closed schools force many working parents to stay home and not return to work.

Why might you ask is the Biden administration doing this? It fits their narrative for more government spending and control to solve a problem they created. They want to create groups of people dependent on the government rather than have people go back to work and they are succeeding.

It is up to the states to fight back. The Democratic controlled U.S. Congress certainly will not. Led by Montana, South Carolina, Arkansas and Alabama states are doing just that. Montana was first. Governor Greg Gianforte ended his state’s participation in federal COVID-19 unemployment programs and announced the start of a new state program to give people “Return to Work” bonuses instead of extended unemployment benefits. “Montana is open for business again, but I hear from too many employers throughout our state who

can’t find workers,” Gianforte said in a press release. “Nearly every sector in our economy faces a labor shortage.”

South Carolina and Arkansas soon followed. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster said in a statement: “What was intended to be a short-term financial assistance for the vulnerable and displaced during the height of the pandemic has turned into a dangerous federal entitlement, incentivizing and paying workers to stay at home rather than encouraging them to return to the workplace.”

Seeing that Alabama employers are experiencing the same worker shortages, Kay Ivey has stepped up to the plate. As she stated; “As Alabama’s economy continues its recovery, we are hearing from more and more business owners and employers that it is increasingly difficult to find workers to fill available jobs, even though job openings are abundant,” said Ivey in a written statement. “Among other factors, increased unemployment assistance, which was meant to be a short-term relief program during emergency related shutdowns, is now contributing to a labor shortage that is compromising the continuation of our economic recovery.” All states should follow these policies and refuse incentives from Washington that keep able-bodied potential employees out of the workforce.

I am also confident Under Kay Ivey’s bold and decisive leadership; Alabama will continue to be in the forefront in the fight against federal overreach and the vastly destructive policies of the Biden Administration.

## !! UPDATE ON RECENT LEGISLATIVE SESSION !!

*These are some of the bills passed by the legislature and became law upon signature of Governor Kay Ivey. Bill origination: House (HB) / Senate (SB)*

- HB 106 mandates the ADOC (Corrections) to report to legislative oversight quarterly
- HB 137 helps sexual assault victims and creates a Task Force
- HB 167 makes it illegal to vote more than one time per election and/or in more than one state
- HB 191 allows multiple annexation actions to obtain parcels
- HB 235 permits pet owners to dine with their dogs in an outdoor dining area subject to rules
- HB 237 requires physician to use reasonable care to save a child born after an abortion
- HB 273 raises age limit to buy tobacco products from 19 to 21
- HB 285 prohibits curbside voting
- HB 309 General Fund budget through September 2022 \$2.4 BILLION, largest in history
- HB 391 prohibits transgender athletes from participating in competitive sports
- HB 426 authorizes local boards of education to offer yoga
- HB 437 allows manufacturers to ship wine directly to Alabamians
- HB 521 mandated health care facilities to permit visitors during public health emergencies  
(Bill took effect without Governor's signature)
- HB 540 establishes AIC to promote businesses by use of grants
- HB 631 creates the Alabama Reservoir Development Program
- SB 46 forms Alabama Medical Cannabis Commission for control of medical cannabis use
- SB 189 Education Trust Fund through Sep 2022 \$7.7 BILLION largest in history
- SB 209 permits county commissions to approve business license or privilege fees
- SB 215 forms the Digital Expansion Authority under ADECA
- SB 221 establishes a Deputy Commissioner for Prison Rehabilitation
- SB 267 prohibits vaccine passports or mandating immunizations to get government benefits

*No bills passed regarding gambling or Medicaid expansion or redistricting and reapportionment.*



ABOVE: Rotary Club President Donna Marietta (MACOA) and Senator Kirk Hatcher. Senator Hatcher shared some remarks to Rotarians on May 24th about the results of the recently concluded 2021 Legislative session.

### WETUMPKA TEA PARTY ANNOUNCES – OFFICIAL CLOSING - Effective May 31, 2021

#### Fellow Patriots,

The Wetumpka TEA Party is officially closing its doors effective May 31, 2021. We’d like to thank all of you for your support in helping make us such an influential conservative grassroots organization in Alabama and across the nation. It has been our distinct honor to serve you, “The People!”

Although we are closing, there are still many opportunities for supporting other conservative grassroots organizations that are involved in upholding conservative values. Eagle Forum of Alabama has been one of our most engaged and successful partners in fighting for conservative principles over the last decade.

We are so thankful to all of the men and women who have labored and contributed so many hours to our success as an organization, but we’d like to especially, once again, thank Becky and Eric Gerritson (our founders), whose sacrifice and commitment gave voice to so many against insurmountable odds. It truly was a David and Goliath story.

Thank you for your devotion and commitment to keeping our nation strong! May God bless all of you and your families!

Gratefully,

**Melanie Wallace-Colquitt**

President, Wetumpka TEA Party



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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:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery county sheriff "O"
- Click "Application Manager," if it doesn't take you directly to the location, Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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

### COURTHOUSE ANNEX I CONSTRUCTION

As renovations progress on Montgomery County Annex I, located at 100 S. Lawrence Street, the public entrance and security screening will temporarily move to the entrance on Adams Street between Lawrence Street and Perry Street.

**The Montgomery County Commission will no longer require masks to be worn inside Montgomery County Offices.** Commissioners are strongly encouraging the public and employees to exercise personal responsibility and continue to wash hands, practice physical distancing, and wear masks when appropriate. (Note: some offices still might request mask wearing at their discretion)

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(This list is not all inclusive)

## ARRAY Appoints D'Arcy Smith to Lead USAF Programs in Montgomery, AL



ARRAY Information Technology, announced the addition of **D'Arcy Smith as Delivery Executive based in Montgomery, Alabama.** In this new role, he will be responsible for providing leadership for ARRAY teams and programs, business development activity, strategic relationships, and community outreach in the greater Montgomery, AL area, where ARRAY has been delivering application services for nearly 10 years. D'Arcy brings to his new role over 20 years of experience with a demonstrated history of success in the information technology and services industry.

Smith will work to support and foster relationships with ARRAY employees, clients, and the Montgomery area community, where he will also be managing a significant portfolio of Air Force programs, mostly based at Maxwell/Gunter AFB. He brings extensive expertise in applications services and technologies including Agile, DevSecOps and Cloud to the Montgomery USAF community.

Prior to joining ARRAY, Smith served in several roles for the Department of Defense. In this capacity, he worked in a variety of roles ranging from Software Developer to Deputy Program Manager. Most recently, Smith developed and introduced Agile programs to the Air Force.

"D'Arcy's extensive experience working in the Montgomery USAF community makes him a perfect fit for ARRAY," said Axel Foley, Vice President of Air Force Operations at ARRAY. "We are committed to delivering technical expertise to meet mission needs and look forward to supporting D'Arcy as we secure mission success."

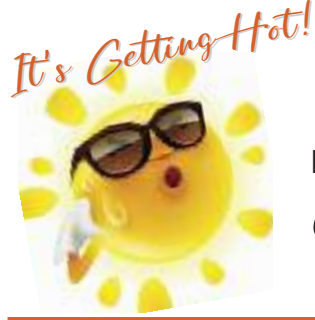
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## Dr. Lester Spencer

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# Soul Searching

## NEVER GIVE UP!

Can you name the person that *Life* magazine named the number one man of the past millennium? He had over 1,000 inventions and held more patents than any other person in the world – at least one every year for 65 consecutive years. Are any lights coming on? *You guessed it – his name is Thomas Edison.* We should give thanks for his genius every time we turn on a light or listen to recorded music!

Thomas Edison also said some remarkable things: “Genius,” he declared, “is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration.” He believed in hard work and perseverance. After thousands of attempts, Edison still could not find the right materials for the incandescent light bulb, but he never doubted that he would find the right combination. He said, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”

*Look at this list of some of the amazing contributions of Thomas Alva Edison:*

**Incandescent Light Bulb** – “I have not failed, I’ve just found 10,000 ways that won’t work.” Though Edison did not invent the first light bulb, as most people believe, he did invent the first incandescent light bulb. Though prior bulbs burned out after only a few minutes, Edison’s incandescents were practical, staying lit for hours and hours, and amazingly are still in use today after over 135 years.

**Electricity** – “There are no rules here – we’re trying to accomplish something.” Thanks to Edison’s dynamo technology, devices similar to generators, which make direct current (DC) electricity with the help of electromagnetism, a complete system was created capable of delivering DC electricity to large areas. In 1882, the formation of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York, constructed the first commercial electricity generation and distribution system. It powered a one-mile square of residences and businesses in Manhattan, offering Americans more affordable, efficient electricity and lighting.

**Phonograph** – “Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.” One of Edison’s favorite inventions, the phonograph, revolutionized sound recording. Though devices existed capable of recording sound, none had the capability for playback, as Edison’s 1877 phonograph did. The two needled device – one for recording and one for playback – led to the development of recorded telecommunications, improvements in dictation and letter writing, phonographic books for the blind, music boxes and toys, and music portability.

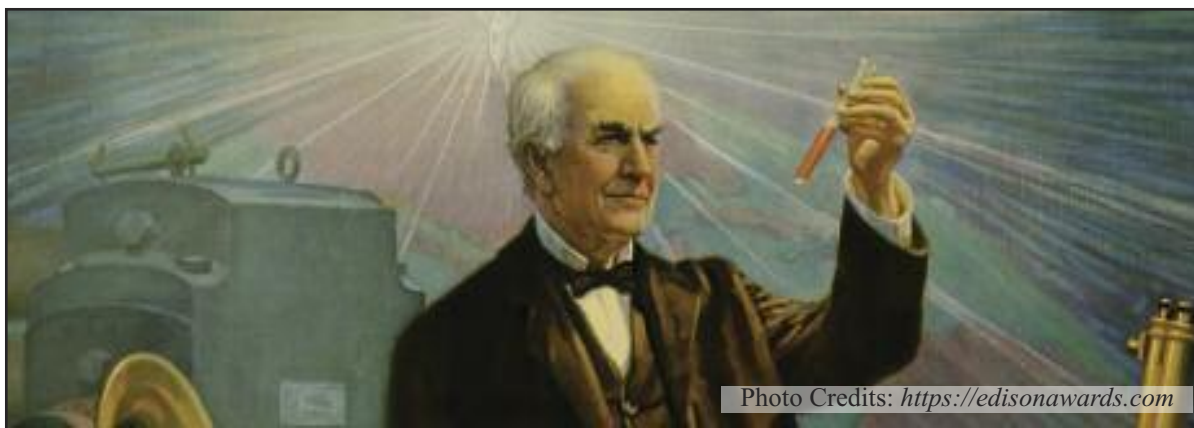


Photo Credits: <https://edisonawards.com>



**Motion Picture Camera** – “To invent, you need a good imagination and a pile of junk.” After the phonograph and with the help of employee W.K.L. Dickson, Edison spent years inventing the motion picture camera. He wanted to do for the eye what the phonograph did for the ear. Following the invention of the kinetograph (motion picture camera) and kinetoscope (peephole motion picture viewer), he constructed a motion picture production studio for filming.

**Alkaline Batteries** – “Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration.” After thousands of experiments involving metals and other materials in an attempt to create a lighter, reliable, more powerful storage battery for the electric cars of the time, Edison discovered an alkaline solution, which produced a longer lasting battery. Though gasoline powered cars took over the market before the battery’s completion thanks to Henry Ford, it was nevertheless hugely successful in industrial applications and one of Edison’s biggest moneymakers in later years.



U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Edison National Historic Site

*“The three great essentials to achieve anything worthwhile are, first, hard work; second, stick-to-itiveness; third, common sense.”*

If Thomas Edison had viewed failure as most people do, we might all still be in the dark. Thanks, Mr. Edison, for empowering us all, and to everyone else; always remember: Never Give Up!

**find hope.  
find family.  
find God.**

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## Southern Gardening Potpourri for June



Judge Peggy Givhan

June is the month that most people are in earnest about their gardens. If you do not believe me, just go to nurseries and garden centers on these warm sunny days. Women and men are filling shopping carts full with an array of summer annuals, perennials, bulbs and tropicals. The congestion can get frantic and the lines long, so I suggest going during the weekdays and avoid the weekends. Also early in the mornings the gardening trade would be lighter. If you are starting from scratch or have large areas in which there is nothing, do not forget to purchase good soil to use as a top dressing which will prove to be a great start for the small plants. And do not forget the fertilizer. I usually apply it after I plant, and then water it in really good. Osmocote, which is time released, and after applied, should last most of the summer. The only flower that will not tolerate commercial fertilizers to remain on its leaves are begonias. The fertilizer pellets burn the leaves and could affect the future health of the plant. If you use what I call common or cheaper raw fertilizer on begonias, shake the leaves well before watering. Of course liquid fertilizer is good in any situation.

There is one thing for sure in the gardening realm, if at first you don't succeed, try again. That holds true if the color scheme is bad, pull out or transplant to another area the block of plants that do not work, and re-plant; if the seedlings have poor germination, re-sow the seed, as you will know within a couple of weeks; if the weeds out pace your ability to get control, put up blinds around flowers you want to keep and use a normal solution of Round-up. Gardeners know that nature always gives us a second chance, for she is very forgiving. So get going, to get growing.

I really like to place plants in close proximity where one gets a sequence of bloom or the plants bloom simultaneously. In my backyard, which is mostly semi shade, I am enjoying a huge terra cotta pot filled with

blooming light purple digitalis with three oak leaf hydrangeas in full bloom behind and off to the side-a dynamite sight. These two techniques show good garden planning and gives one a lot of bang for the buck. On a black privacy fence, a good combination of plants that bloom at the same time, are red Knock roses and white confederate jasmine. Also the jasmine gives off a wonderful scent. Both of these choices have very long bloom cycles and look great framed by the black privacy fence. A sequence of blooms example includes a mass of daffodils in front of old fashioned day lilies. When the daffodils die down with browning leaves, the day lilies are shooting up fresh green leaves hiding the daffodils' ugly feet. One has to allow the bulbs to die down to the ground in order to be nourished for bigger blooms next season.

### PLANT OF THE MONTH – PHLOX

There are mainly three varieties of Phlox. One can say that we can have a Phlox for all seasons with a full range of colors and sizes. We have P. paniculata, a garden or summer Phlox which gets to around 4' in height; P. stolonifera, a creeping Phlox which grows to around 10 inches in height; P. subulata, moss pink or lavender and grows to 5 inches or so. All three of these varieties are hardy to USDA Zone 4, needs a sunny location and well drained soil. Our region is in USDA Zone 8, the higher the number, the colder the climate. In other words, these do well in our area.



**GOOD GARDENING!**





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# Gazette

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Community Lifestyles





Alabama Gazette Distribution Area



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

# Honoring Our Heroes

## Colonel Hugh David McCracken, Jr.: Age: 85

Col Hugh David McCracken, Jr. served 26 years in the United States Air Force. He was born October 27, 1935, at West Hartford, CT, to his parents, Hugh David McCracken, Sr. and Grace, and he graduated from Wethersfield High School at Wethersfield, CT, in 1953. He received a B.S. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies of Mathematics and Physics in 1957 from Trinity College at Hartford, CT. Having participated in the Air Force ROTC while in college, he entered military service November 28, 1957, in the U.S. Air Force.

Col McCracken’s military career began with six weeks of initial training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) TX followed by primary pilot training at Spence AFB, GA for six months, flying the T-34 and T-28. He then served at Craig AFB Selma, AL, for basic pilot training flying the T-33, receiving his pilot wings in March 1959. After that, he trained as a pilot of the B-47 at McConnell AFB, KS, and flew this turbojet-powered strategic bomber designed to fly at high subsonic speed and at high altitude to avoid enemy interceptor aircraft. During the Cold War, a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union and the United States and their respective allies, he was assigned to Lincoln AFB, NE for the Strategic Air Command (SAC) for five years during 1959-1964 where B-47’s were loaded with nuclear arsenal and on alerts. During the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, he was sent to a civilian airport at Duluth, MN, on alert status for several weeks.

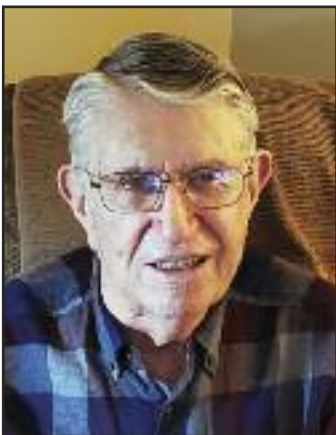
He was then transferred to Maxwell AFB, AL, to serve as an instructor at the Squadron Officer School. This was cut short after 1.5 years because of the war in Vietnam. He was then trained at Sewart AFB, TN, in the C-130 Hercules, an American four-engine turboprop military transport aircraft capable of using unprepared runways for takeoffs and landings. The C-130 was originally designed as a troop, medevac and cargo transport aircraft, but this versatile airframe found uses in a variety of other roles including as a gunship (AC-130), for airborne assault, search and rescue, scientific research support, weather reconnaissance, aerial refueling, maritime patrol and aerial firefighting.

Col McCracken was sent along with his family to Naha Air Base on Okinawa where he spent most of his time on temporary duty flying in Vietnam. He completed 440 combat missions involving air-drop and air-land carrying supplies and ammunition.

He then returned to Maxwell AFB, AL, for four years, completing his teaching assignment at the Squadron Officer’s School. Since his service in Okinawa provided an accompanied tour for his family, his next deployment flying the C-130 was to the Philippines for an isolated tour of 18 months while his family remained at Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex at Montgomery, AL. Returning to the USA, he served as the commander of the Air Force ROTC detachment at the University of Southern MS for four years where he was promoted to full Colonel. His last assignment was at Maxwell AFB, AL, to serve as Registrar of the Air Force ROTC senior units at 144 colleges and universities until his retirement June 30, 1983.

His numerous decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons are: Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism at Khe Sanh, Vietnam, Meritorious Service Medal with two Devices, Air Medal with three Devices, Air Force Commendation Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Korea), Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with five Devices, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with six Devices, Air Force Presidential Unit Citation, Marine Corps Presidential Unit Citation with one Device, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and six Devices, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

After military retirement, Col McCracken worked at a university. He served as the Director of Alumni at Troy University (Troy State University) for five years. While at Troy University, he received a Master of Science Degree in Education, majoring in secondary mathematics education in 1989, and he taught mathematics at Troy University for several years retiring in 1999.



## Lieutenant Colonel John Gibson Hamilton: Age 84

Lt Col John Hamilton served in the U.S. military for 34 years including six years on active and reserve duty with the U.S. Marine Corps, and 28 years on active duty in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty was a Personnel Programs Staff Officer and later Education and Training Staff Officer. His medals and awards included the Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal with three service stars, the Armed Service Reserve Medal, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lt Col Hamilton was one of six children, born April 4, 1936, at Newport, RI, to his parents, Harry Goodrich Hamilton and Mary Calhoun Hamilton. For many years, his family lived in a rural area in Rollinsford, NH, in a house with no electricity or running water. They moved to Rochester, NH, where he attended school, belonged to a rifle club, hunted, played various sports, qualified as a Water Safety Instructor and lifeguard for summer employment, was a Boy Scout, and learned to scuba dive. He also worked in a five and dime store as a stockboy and in the kitchen of a YMCA summer camp. He graduated from Spaulding High School in Rochester in 1954.

Upon graduation, Lt Col Hamilton attended Taylor University in Indiana for one year and then volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps arriving for a 13-week boot camp at Paris Island on May 1, 1956. He was proud to be a Marine; graduated at the top of his platoon and promoted to Private First Class (PFC). After completing advanced infantry training, he was assigned to Hqs Second Marine Division and then as a guard at the Portsmouth Naval Prison at Portsmouth, NH, where he was promoted to sergeant. He ended his active duty with the Marines on July 31, 1958.

While completing his reserve commitment with the Marines, he attended the University of New Hampshire receiving a B.A. Degree in Education, Physical Education and History in 1961. During this time, he also worked for a GM supplier producing auto parts, sold shoes at an Endicott Johnson Shoe Store, and was the steward and bar tender at the Loyal Order of the Moose Club. After graduation, he taught at the Springfield Junior High School, in Springfield, VT.

Lt Col Hamilton enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, attended Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, becoming a 2nd Lieutenant on August 7, 1962. His first assignment was as a personnel officer with the 1370th Photo Mapping Wing at Turner AFB, GA. In this capacity, he was sent to Sao Paulo, Brazil, for four months to support the aerial photography mission and visited New Guinea, Australia, Japan and Alaska. He volunteered for service in Vietnam where he served at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, and then at the Udorn Thai Air Force Base in Thailand, working as a personnel staff officer. The most challenging aspect of his work included casualty reporting of missing aviators over North Vietnam and subsequent rescue and recovery efforts. After a one-year deployment to southeast Asia, he served as a personnel plans officer at Headquarters PACAF, Hawaii where he also completed an M.Ed. Degree from the University of Hawaii.

Lt Col Hamilton returned to the mainland and served at the Air Force Military Personnel Center at Randolph AFB, TX. While there, he selected officers to attend graduate schools to satisfy educational needs of the Air Force and served as Chief of the Air Force ROTC Policy Branch. His next assignment was to Texas A&M University where he completed a Ph.D. Degree as a distinguished graduate in 1976. He was then tasked to teach Labor Management Relations in the Federal Sector to commanders and senior personnel at the Professional Personnel Management School at Maxwell AFB, AL. He also taught elective courses on this subject at the Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, the Senior NCO Academy and at various Air Force bases. He was then assigned to Duke University to teach Aerospace Studies and assume command of the Air Force ROTC Department. His last assignment was a return to Maxwell AFB, AL, as Chief of Curriculum for high school and college ROTC programs until retiring from military service September 1, 1990. His family includes six members who have served in the U.S. military including his father, three brothers, one son and him.



... continued on page 2B

... continued on page 2B

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## Petty Officer Second Class Kenneth O. Brewton: Age 97

Kenneth O. Brewton served in the United States Navy for 2 years and 10 months during World War II. His Military Occupational Specialty was radio operator. He received the Pacific Campaign bars with three battle stars.

Brewton was born to his parents, Hose and Alice Brewton, in a rural area near Castleberry, AL, in 1924. He was reared for 12 years there and then was reared near Evergreen, AL, where he attended Lyeffion High School. At age 18, he dropped out of school and volunteered for military service with the U. S. Navy enlisting February 7, 1943. Brewton completed Basic Training at San Diego, and after scoring well on aptitude tests, he qualified to serve as a radio operator, which he did during his entire time of service. Brewton served in the treacherous waters of the Gilbert Islands, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, the largest of the Mariana Islands, Guam and the Philippines. He served as the radio operator on the USS Curtiss (AV-4), the first purpose-built seaplane tender constructed for the United States Navy. It was designed to provide command facilities for forward operating long-range patrol seaplane squadrons. To accomplish this, it was heavily armed with four 5-inch (130 mm)/38 caliber dual-purpose guns, and contained repair and maintenance facilities, along with supplies for operating in forward areas for many months. Brewton was discharged from military service December 7, 1945, at Norman, Oklahoma.

After his military service ended, Brewton returned to Alabama and worked at a laundry. Using the G.I. Bill, he completed accounting, taxes and business law courses at the Wheeler Business College in Birmingham in 1949. He then worked in cost accounting in Houston, TX, at Brown and Root, a company that repaired tanks. He returned to Birmingham where he began to work for truck lines as a traffic manager in tariffs and freight bill rates and then for Baggett Transportation, Mason Dixon and other truck lines in Alabama. After 40 years in this business, he retired December 31, 1995.

Brewton and his wife, Zula, were married for 43 years before she passed, and they had three children and one grandchild. He and his wife, Mary Lou, were married for 20 years before she passed. Brewton has enjoyed gardening and fishing on his 42 acres. He did most of the carpentry in his house. He continues to use his accounting skills by assisting his neighbors in preparation of their income taxes.

Brewton's conclusions about his military service are, "I would not take anything for it. When we got on the ship, we did not know if we would ever see this country again. We intended to whip the enemy. When we sailed away from San Francisco, we didn't know where we were going. I was among six sons in my family with five of us serving and one brother staying home to help on the farm. My mother had a service flag with five stars which she put on her front door."

Brewton's conclusions about life are, "I think that people should work for what they have. Of course, there are some exceptions to that. I lived through the Depression. The love for this country is the main thing in my life."



## Marine Corps League Det. 920 Luncheon

On May 3, 2021, Dr. Martha Poole Simmons participated in the luncheon meeting of the **Townsend Detachment # 920 Marine Corps League** at Sommers Place, Montgomery, Alabama. She represented the American Red Cross and spoke after lunch. Dr. Simmons told them how her son became a Marine and described her experiences of visiting all of the U.A. Marine bases. She went on to detail how the Red Cross serves active duty service members and veterans, and about her involvement with ARC Service to the Armed Forces through serving as a caseworker, making phone calls to families who have requested an emergency communication message to be delivered to the active duty service member when a family member is seriously ill, has passed away or a baby has been born. This virtual case-work also involves entering data onto the ARC SAF website after the call has been completed and then closing the case. After concluding, she saluted them and thanked them for their service on behalf of a grateful nation, the American Red Cross and herself, a Marine mother. Dr. Simmons then asked each Marine to tell what their service in the Marine Corps has meant to them. Each attendee was then given a copy of the April 2021 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*, and Dr. Simmons asked them to contact her if they were interested in being included in an upcoming issue of the *Alabama Gazette* as she would love to write an article about their lives and times of service.



### Col Hugh David McCracken, Jr. . . . continued from page 1B

Col McCracken and his wife, Connie, have been married 58 years, and they have four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They were active members of St. Martin Catholic Church at Troy, AL, where he managed financial records and served as Parish Council President. He was a member of the Troy Exchange Club and served as President for two years. They enjoy playing bridge with other couples.

Col McCracken's reflections upon his military service: "I met my wife when I was stationed at Lincoln A.F.B., NE, and she spent all of this time with me. We reared four children together. It has been a wonderful, enjoyable life. I had only one relative in the military before me, who served in World War II. Serving with the Air Force was the natural thing to do. I just went where I was told to go. I have no regrets."

### Lt Col John Hamilton . . . continued from page 1B

Lt Col Hamilton and his wife, Joanne, were married 13 years before she passed away. He and his wife, Barbara, have now been married over 50 years. They have five children, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter. They have enjoyed square dancing, traveling, swimming at the YMCA, maintaining their five acres, gardening and activities at the church. He has completed 13 marathons (26.2 miles) including the Boston Marathon twice, the Marine Corps Marathon, the Blue Angel Marathon, the Huntsville Marathon and others. Since his military retirement, he worked writing curriculum for an Air Force contractor involving a Leadership and Management Program, and he worked six years as an electrician for his son's company, Hamilton Electric. He has been a volunteer with the Volunteer in Police Service (VIPS) program of the Montgomery Police Department and at Frazer United Methodist Church where he has served in the widow's ministry and as an usher and greeter at services, a kitchen helper at the men's breakfast and Wednesday night suppers and is a member of the Sowers Sunday School Class.

Lt Col Hamilton says, "The Marine Corps was a good place to grow and mature. I learned to put my best effort into everything I did, to obey and to lead and to respect and be respected. In the Air Force, I enjoyed every assignment and the opportunity to travel and see many parts of the world. I loved the Air Force and all of the opportunities it provided and to work with true professional people. The military made me proud to be an American, and I love the retirement."

## Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!



(right) **Col Karen Brantner** and **Col John A. Brantner** with the *Gazette*. Their articles were published in the February 2021 issue.



(left) **Thomas Miller Derickson, Jr.**  
U.S. Navy  
May 2021 *Gazette*

*Dr. Martha Poole Simmons met Patsy Philpott to deliver copies of the May 2021 issue of the Alabama Gazette. Seeing the picture of Laurence Edward Morrow, Sr., her deceased husband, when he was so young in his Air Force uniform and his article at the top of the page brought tears streaming down her cheeks. Patsy was so thankful to have this tribute to him published after losing him in 1965.*



Editor: Thank you, Martha, for bringing the stories of these heroes to life!

## Resources for Veterans



**Veterans Crisis Line**  
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**National Center for PTSD**  
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Calls are answered by a live agent 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. The hotline is staffed by more than 60 agents who have had extensive training on VA programs and services. Most of these agents are a Veteran, military family member, caregiver or a survivor. Veterans should continue to use existing VA customer service hotlines:

Health Care: 877-222-8387 Benefits: 800-827-1000 MyVA411 (other): 844-698-2411

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

Call him at 334-233-8736

or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>.



### 98-yr-old Veteran Passes Away ~ May 15, 2021

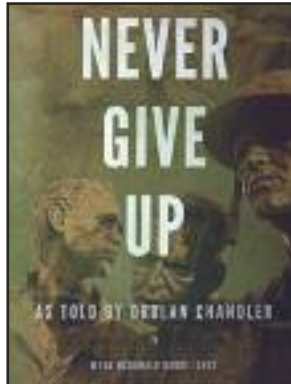
A WWII Navy veteran, Johnnie L. Williams, passed away May 15, 2021, at the age of 98. It was the hope of Dr. Martha Poole Simmons to write his story for "Honoring Heroes." However, she was unable to interview him before he became ill and passed away.

We thank him for his service to his country, and send condolences to his loved ones.

## SPECIAL FEATURE:

### *Never Give Up* as told by Drolan Chandler

written by his niece, **Myra Jones**, of Verbena, AL, published December, 2020



**Sgt. Drolan Chandler – Alabama Resident & WWII Veteran – Pacific Theater, Luzon, Philippines, Japan.**

*[Chandler] received the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, WWII POW medal; flight crew member wings, ribbon for tail gunner qualifications; various Philippine and POW medals and ribbons.*

Drolan Chandler's intriguing and inspiring story is told in the book, *Never Give Up as told by Drolan Chandler*, written by his niece, Myra Jones, of Verbena, AL, published December, 2020. It contains 200+ photographs of POW camps, etc., and more than a dozen maps, written for military and non-military, students and all ages to enjoy. Mrs. Jones' intention was to share her uncle's incredible and entertaining story to honor his memory, give honor to all men and women who serve in all branches of the military, and to stir patriotism in readers who will read about the great sacrifices that have been made for our freedom. "Freedom is not free!"

Visit: <https://store.bookbaby.com/book/never-give-up1> for Overview, Description, Author Profile and read a chapter of the book. It can also be purchased at that link, or on Amazon and other popular websites. Mrs. Jones is available to speak to community groups about her uncle's story and the process of writing one's memoirs.



## Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

**Eugene Thomas Beasley**  
June 7th  
**Pete "Jiggs" Bowdoin**  
June 7th  
**Marvin Kent Speigner**  
June 10th  
**Maxine Mullins**  
June 10th

**John M. Vickery**  
June 24th  
**James Manley**  
June 29th  
**William Joseph Heath**  
June 30th

If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please

email: [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)





# 6 Ways to Tell If You Have Enough Life Insurance

If we’ve learned anything from 2020, it’s that life can be unpredictable. Having sufficient life insurance can provide financial stability and security to loved ones during times of uncertainty.

Forty-one million Americans say they need life insurance but don’t have it, according to LIMRA’s 2020 Insurance Barometer Study. Others are insured but don’t have enough coverage. If this describes you, your spouse or children could find themselves in a financial lurch, expected to pay off debts, loans and final expenses when you die, especially if you’re the main source of income.

“Having insurance isn’t just about financial protection,” says Louis Colaizzo, senior vice president of Erie Family Life. “It also helps maintain some sense of normalcy for family members. Kids can continue their extracurricular activities, partners can maintain their lifestyle and families can stay in the home they know and love.”

So, how do you know if you have enough? Here are six questions from Erie Insurance experts to help you find out.

**1. Do you have enough to cover final expenses?** Make sure you can accommodate funeral or burial expenses, end-of-life costs or unpaid medical bills. Otherwise, your family may be responsible for paying these. According to the National Funeral Directors Association, the national median cost of a funeral with viewing and burial for 2019 was \$7,640 – a steep sum many can’t pay out of pocket without notice.

**2. Will your family receive enough to cover income loss or debt?** If you’re your household’s primary earner, you’ll want to ensure you have enough money to maintain your family’s lifestyle. For example, can your policy help pay off a mortgage or multiple car loans in full or cover expenses like groceries? If not, your spouse or dependents might find themselves struggling, putting them at risk for foreclosure or other financial hardships.

**3. Do you have dependents?** A dependent is someone who relies on your income to make ends meet. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the average cost of raising a child through age 17 is \$233,610, not including the cost of a college education. That’s a big strain.

**4. What kind of retirement do you want?** How do you guarantee you’ll have enough for the future and won’t need a second career late in life to cover living expenses? One way is to tap into the cash value of a permanent life insurance plan and use it as supplemental income during retirement.

**5. Do you have unique lifestyle considerations?** Do you own a business or want to leave a legacy when you’re gone? Having an insurance plan will protect these assets and give you peace of mind that your money goes exactly where you want it.

**6. What if your circumstances change (again)?** Some life insurance companies, including Erie Family Life, offer a Guaranteed Insurability Option rider to help with the quickly changing times, making it possible for you to purchase additional insurance later, even if circumstances deem you “uninsurable.” This means the death benefit can be increased as your needs change but you won’t have to answer medical underwriting questions – a relief for many.

To revisit your life insurance policy, contact an independent Erie Insurance agent who can discuss your personal options by visiting [erieinsurance.com](http://erieinsurance.com).

According to experts, one of the easiest ways to protect loved ones and their financial futures is to prepare for the unexpected. (StatePoint)

PHOTO SOURCE: (c) Alessandro Biascioli / iStock via Getty Images Plus



MACOA continues to serve seniors!

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)

SERVING SENIORS FOR 48 YEARS!

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.*

115 East Jefferson Street / Montgomery, AL 36104 / <https://www.macoa.org>

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1 Bedroom Apartments with furnished utilities, and *rent is income-based.*

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SUDOKU

(solution page 5B)

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				5	8	6	1
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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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By *Kylle' D. McKinney*  
*kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov*  
 (334) 479-1242--Cell  
 (334) 272-7630--Fax



*Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration*  
*4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100, Montgomery, Alabama 36116*



## Check the STATUS of Your Social Security Benefits CLAIM Online

If you applied for Social Security benefits, or have a pending reconsideration or hearing request, you can check the status online using your free personal my Social Security account. If you don't have an account, you can create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to see the following information about your claim:

- Date of filing.
- Current claim location.
- Scheduled hearing date and time.
- Re-entry numbers for incomplete applications.
- Servicing office location.
- Publications of interest, depending on the claim and current step in the process.

Use your personal my Social Security account to check the status of your application or appeal at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

If you have questions about retirement, disability, Medicare, or survivors benefits, as well as Supplemental Security Income, visit our webpage at [www.ssa.gov/benefits](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits).

## 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 is disabled and entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

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.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you'll receive your full spouse's benefit amount, which is up to half the amount your spouse can receive. You'll also get your full spouse's benefit if you are under full retirement age, but care for a child and one of the following applies:

- The child is younger than age 16.
- The child has a disability and 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 [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/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. You can find out more by visiting [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html) for more information.



## Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

*Bobbie Ames' erudite collection of prose, first published in **The Alabama Gazette**, will serve humanity, and more specifically, the Christian community, for generations to come. Her book can be purchased at the link below.*

<https://www.nordskogpublishing.com/product/land-that-i-love/>

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## Social Security and Protecting Elders from Scams



### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

On this day, and throughout the month, communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, organizations, and the private sector unite to prevent the mistreatment of and violence against older people.

Social Security imposter scams are widespread across the United States. Scammers use sophisticated tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. They target everyone – even the elderly – and their tactics continue to evolve.

Most recently, Social Security's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has received reports of phone scammers creating fake versions of the identification badges most Federal employees use to gain access to Federal buildings. The scammers may text or email photos of the fake badges to convince potential victims of their legitimacy. These badges use government symbols, words, and even names and photos of real people, which are available on government websites or through internet searches.

If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, hang up or do not respond. You should know how to identify when it's really Social Security.

### We will NEVER:

- Text or email images of an employee's official government identification.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
- Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Send official letters or reports containing your personal information via email.

We only send text messages if you have opted in to receive texts from us and only in limited situations, including the following:

- When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.
- As part of our enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights.

We encourage you to report suspected Social Security imposter scams – and other Social Security fraud – to the OIG website at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov). You may read our previous Social Security fraud advisories at [oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-release](http://oig.ssa.gov/newsroom/news-release). Please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

## Choose a Representative Payee for Social Security to Consider Before You May Need One

The future is uncertain. Our Advance Designation program allows you to pre-select a trusted individual if a time comes when you need a representative payee to help manage your money. Advance Designation enables you to identify up to three people, in priority order, whom you would like to serve as your potential representative payee.

We recently celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Advanced Designation program. Since its launch in March 2020, more than one million eligible individuals have opted to participate.

You may choose an Advance Designation if you are capable of making your own decisions and are:

- An adult or emancipated minor applying for benefits and do not have a representative payee.
- An adult or emancipated minor beneficiary/recipient and do not have a representative payee.

You can submit your Advance Designation information when you:

- File a claim for benefits online.
- Use the application available in your personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).
- Call us by telephone at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

In the event that you can no longer make your own decisions, you and your family will have peace of mind knowing you already chose someone you trust to manage your benefits.

We have updated our Frequently Asked Questions to answer any questions you may have about Advance Designation at [www.ssa.gov/faq](http://www.ssa.gov/faq) under "Other Topics." You may also find more information about representative payees on our blog at [blog.ssa.gov](http://blog.ssa.gov).

*Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.*  
*Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov)*



### Senior Living Tips ~ Keep Active!

*From inside to outside, activities keep the mind, body and soul busy and productive as we age and have more time for ourselves!*

- |                         |                     |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Crafting             | 6. Cooking & Baking |
| 2. Gardening            | 7. Volunteering     |
| 3. Walking & Exercising | 8. Music & Dancing  |
| 4. Higher Learning      | 9. Pet Therapy      |
| 5. Reading & Writing    | 10. Pampering       |

**CENTRAL ALABAMA AGING CONSORTIUM (CAAC)** is a part of a state-wide aging network that provides a variety of Home and Community based services to the region's senior and disabled populations and their caregivers. CAAC coordinates services for these targeted populations in Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore counties. The primary goal is to develop, coordinate, and support services in the community that support an active and independent life-style where those we serve can live and thrive.



**Contact Us For Your Free  
Phone Screening:**  
**(334) 240-4670 or toll free**  
**(800) 264-4680**







## Service Dogs Alabama Now An Accredited Member of Assistance Dogs International

Service Dogs Alabama ... continued from front page

You'll comprehend the life-altering perspective after hearing from the mom of a diabetic child relating that "Sunny never forgets his job. He is a hero...he's our hero." (*see front page image*) Diabetic-alert dogs are trained to detect the changes in blood sugar to signal diabetics, and especially their parents, of the need to test before a serious episode occurs. Hearing a parent share that they can sleep better at night knowing the service dog is on constant alert helps you realize just what a difference these dogs make in the lives of their owners. As one diabetic-alert dog owner explains, "There's not a moment when you're not thinking something can go wrong and you can end up in the hospital. Diabetes isn't just needles, it takes your entire life away...and he gave me that back."

But the difference isn't just limited to the dog owners – it also extends to numerous individuals in a correctional facility in Florida who are learning to train these service dogs – individuals who are discovering how to re-program their minds, emotions, and negative reactions to situations as they are training dogs for service to others. In turn, they are changing their own lives as they master the self-discipline necessary to prepare for life beyond incarceration. Coupled with the reduced recidivism rates for those who participate in the Prison Training Team, it's a positive impact for our society that deserves implementation in correctional facilities across our nation.

Through seed grant money provided by the Alabama Department of Education, Service Dogs Alabama has also placed Facility Dogs in dozens of state school systems to support the various psychological and emotional issues of students. Educators and counselors in our schools are daily faced with the challenges of meeting not only their students' educational goals, but also in creating a "safe haven" needed by so many children as a result of increasingly negative outside influences which carry into the classroom. Teachers and counselors who have the benefit of a Facility Dog in their schools attest to the improvement in classroom attendance and behavior, reduced social and testing anxiety, the ability to draw children out of emotional distress due to



MacKenzie and "Maddie" – Wheelchair Assistance



Daniel and "Webster" – Autism Intervention Dog

home life conflict, and a reduction in disciplinary reports and office referrals, all directly attributed to the ability of the Facility Dogs to positively influence behavior and defuse anxious situations.

While these are stories of such hope and encouragement, it's also a reminder that there is unfortunately an expanding need for even more service dogs within our state. There are currently 52 applications for service dogs, and the cost for the two to three-year training program, including veterinary care, is \$40,000.00 per dog. Recipients of these dogs are required to cover some of the cost, but the majority of funding is obtained via donor contributions, and as with all non-profits during the pandemic year, fundraising has been a challenge.

One of my husband's favorite adages states there's a reason "dog" is "God" spelled backwards, and perhaps that's why dogs are considered "man's best friend." While I know that's not sound biblical doctrine, one thing is certain as it relates to Service Dogs Alabama – they are without a doubt doing the Lord's work in mending the lives of so many in our fallen world, and they are truly worthy of financial support.

Service Dogs Alabama is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and donations are tax-deductible. For more information, visit [www.servicedogsalabama.org](http://www.servicedogsalabama.org).



Jeremy and "Daisy" (right)



Darrell and "Toby"



Ben and "Charm" graduation.

## Support Local Arts & Culture, Non-profits & the Community!



<https://mmfa.org>

Summer art camp is **FREE!** for all this year!



The MMFA is super excited to share our Summer Art Camp plans for 2021. This year, parents can choose between our safer-at-home summer camp lessons or attend summer camp in person at the Museum. For those attending in person, we will be holding camp in the outdoor studio during the morning hours.



**W.A. Gayle Planetarium**

Show Times

M-T: 9:30 am, 1 pm, 4 pm

F: 9:30 am

Saturday and Sunday: Closed



GaylePlanetarium

General Admission: Ages 5/up: \$7.50



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334-625-4799

<https://www.troy.edu/student-life-resources/arts-culture/wa-gayle-planetarium/index.html>



After sitting vacant for eight years, Goodrich Quality Theaters (GQT) spearhead operations to refurbish the movie theater. It will have upgraded concession stands, state-of-the-art projection and sound systems, and new leather seats – including one auditorium with recliners. GQT has committed to keeping prices affordable, with an average cost that will be 15-20% less than the typical movie-going experience. Eastdale Mall Cinemas will be running weekly specials, including \$3.99 tickets for shows on Monday or Tuesday, \$3.99 for morning matinees, and \$4.99 for afternoon matinees.

## Alabama ABE Savings Plan Launches to Help Those with Disabilities

(EXCERPT) Alabama State Treasurer John McMillan announced the official **Alabama Achieving a Better Life Savings Plan (Alabama ABE)**.

ABE covers a variety of disability-related expenses, from medical costs to education, assistive technology, service animals, housing, transportation, basic living expenses and more. You can explore the full list of qualifying expenses at [www.alabamaable.gov/eligible-expense-examples](http://www.alabamaable.gov/eligible-expense-examples). ... ABE accounts empower families to save without having to worry about losing these benefits. For more information about the new Alabama ABE Savings plan or to enroll, visit [alabamaable.gov](http://alabamaable.gov) or call 334-242-7515.

The Alabama ABE Savings Plan (the "Plan") is offered and administered by the state of Alabama Treasurer's Office. The State of Alabama, through the Alabama Savings Board, contracted with the Sunday to participate in and create the Alabama ABE Savings Plan. The Plan is intended to operate as a qualified ABE program to be used only to save for Qualified Disability Expenses, pursuant to the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2014 and Section 529A of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Contact: Brittany Carter, Office of State Treasurer John McMillan, 334-353-5169 or 334-546-1488.

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Prices:  
Male Cats: \$50  
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Male Dogs\*: \$70  
Female Dogs\*: \$85  
\*Extra fee for dogs over 60 lbs.

[www.alabamaspaynecenter.com](http://www.alabamaspaynecenter.com)

Surgeries are performed  
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For over 40 years, the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra has played a key role in Montgomery's artistic community. Throughout the years, many individuals have given generously of their time, talent, and resources to ensure that residents of Montgomery's River Region and the state of Alabama have the opportunity to hear great orchestral works performed.



[www.montgomerysymphony.org/](http://www.montgomerysymphony.org/)

**Keep Checking for Upcoming Events!**

**Montgomery Ballet School**  
**SUMMER INTENSIVE 2021**

Summer Intensive 2021 (In Person and Virtual Programs): We will be offering our intensive for two different levels (online and in person) for intermediate and intermediate advanced.

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**Alabama ABE Savings Plan Launches to Help Those with Disabilities**

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2021

**APPLY NOW**

**Montgomery County Student Apprenticeship Program**

June 7 - July 30

- Montgomery County resident
- 16-22 years old
- Enrolled in school (high school, homeschool, college)

Applications are currently being accepted for our Student Apprenticeship Program at [mc-ala.org](http://mc-ala.org).

**NEW! Classified Ads**

Email Submissions to: [ALGazetteSubmit@gmail.com](mailto:ALGazetteSubmit@gmail.com) Picture Ads are \$5/mon. Please email quality pictures. Number of pictures and length of text dictated by available space. \$5 fee can be sent via PayPal to [alabama.gazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabama.gazette@gmail.com). Classifieds can be submitted by mail, postmarked no later than the 20th of the month prior to issue, and picture payment can be made by check and sent to: Alabama Gazette, 12 E. Jefferson St., Montgomery, AL 36109.

*Senior Living Sudoku*

Solution from pg 3B

4	6	7	1	9	2	3	8	5
3	2	9	4	5	8	6	7	1
8	5	1	3	6	7	2	9	4
5	1	8	2	7	9	4	6	3
2	7	3	6	4	1	8	5	9
6	9	4	8	3	5	1	2	7
7	3	2	9	8	4	5	1	6
1	4	5	7	2	6	9	3	8
9	8	6	5	1	3	7	4	2





# Southern Cuisine

**Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef**  
*Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul's Episcopal Church,  
 Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County*

Finally! It seems that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and it is not an oncoming train. The mandatory restrictions concerning masks has faded.

Restaurants are trying to re-open even with the limited pool of workers to fill the jobs. Prices for food have started to increase in the grocery stores. The health news might be getting better but the general cost of living is increasing. Now is the time to bring your household expenses under control.

Did you know that the third largest household expense is for **FOOD**? I think the two largest are housing and transportation. I cannot help you with where you live and how you get about, but I have touched upon, in past articles, ways to save on food. Keeping a well-stocked pantry and purchasing fresh local fruits and vegetables are not just money saving practices but also healthier.

I have stressed upon reading the fine print in the ingredients list hidden food packaging. After reading some labels, I wonder if I should even eat the stuff. There is an alternative. I am a fan of Alton Brown on the Food Network because I like to learn how to make many items from scratch. If you watch him, you know that some of his alternatives for making food from scratch can be laborious tasks. To me, it boils down to Time and Money. A book by Jennifer Reese, *“Make the Bread, Buy the Butter,”* sums it up. There are things that you

should not try to make thinking you will save money.

There are many choices to “store bought” products that can save you money and be healthier. Knowing how to make the alternative can be a lifesaver.

Especially if you run out of an ingredient in the middle of some cooking project such as ten people are coming over for dinner tomorrow night.

I am going to break it down to “substitutions” and “alternatives.” Substitutions are quick fixes that you need when you find out you are out of an ingredient in a recipe. In the art of baking, many substitutions are used. There is no baking powder in the cupboard and your recipe calls for one teaspoon. Combine a quarter teaspoon of baking soda, one half teaspoon of cream of tartar and one-quarter teaspoon of cornstarch.

Alternatives are not always money savers but are mostly healthier choices. My favorite alternative is subbing pasta with spaghetti squash. Pasta can be a cheaper dish, but one cup of pasta has 200 calories and 35 grams of carbs. Spaghetti squash has 40 calories and 10 grams of carbs per cup.

That does not say that all substitutions and alternatives are going to be better in taste or outcome of the recipes. Peanut butter is a good example. I do not like to buy peanut butter because I do not like all the added sugar. However, the peanut butter that does not have added sugar is usually more expensive. Since I cannot get the creamy texture of store bought peanut butter from my food processor or blender I buy expensive peanut butter.

Many items are better homemade, and you can tweak the recipes to suit your tastes. Pesto is a good example. The store bought is expensive and seems to have too much oil. Basil is more expensive than spinach and the cheese in this recipe is milder and softer than Parmesan.

I noticed that my shelves in the pantry are filling up with salad dressing cruets. It seems that the company wants you to buy the cruets thinking that you will keep buying the packaged mix. And they price it so think that you are saving money by getting a free cruet. If you have more than three cruets, start making your own mix.

Remember the ten people coming over for dinner tomorrow night? Have you decided what to serve? You look in the pantry and find bread and a few pantry basics. In your refrigerator there is some leftover cheese and the usual milk, butter and eggs. And you are wondering what else to do with that bumper crop of tomatoes.

## DRY SALAD MIXES FOR YOUR FANCY CRUET

### Onion or Garlic Mix

#### INGREDIENTS:

**1 tsp onion powder or 1/2 tsp garlic powder**  
**1 tsp parsley flakes, crumbled**  
**1/2 tsp dry mustard**

**1/2 tsp salt**  
**1/4 tsp pepper**  
**Pinch of paprika**  
**Pinch of sugar**

**METHOD:** Follow directions on side of cruet (1/4 cup vinegar, 2 tablespoons water, mix and shake. Let stand 30 minutes, add 3/4 cup oil, shake well and serve).

### Italian Mix

#### INGREDIENTS:

**1/2 tsp sugar**  
**1/2 tsp dry mustard**  
**1/2 tsp salt**

**1/4 tsp each: pepper, oregano, onion powder, garlic powder, sweet red pepper flakes**  
**Pinch of paprika**

**METHOD:** Same directions as Onion Salad Mix.

This next recipe dates back at least to the 18th/19th century and is the early days answer to a grilled cheese sandwich. Before preparing this dish, you will find interesting tidbits about it in WIKIPEDIA. A quick search of mine in one of my cooking apps, came up with over fifty variations for Welsh Rarebit. It can be a quick nondescript dish of cheese and bread or a gourmet delight with cheese and bread and prosciutto, curry powder, waffles, and portabello mushrooms. A great recipe to use up leftovers and try your hand at different cheeses.

But your guest deserve better than a plate of leftover pantry items, so read the ingredient list and go to the store and pick up what you need.

Growing up, I can remember my mother toasting a slice of bread, and then spreading mayonnaise on it, then adding a slice of tomato with a little salt and pepper, then a slice of American cheese on top. Putting it under the broiler until the cheese melted. Sliced the bread diagonally and served it with potato chips. Oh what memories!

### Welsh Rarebit

#### INGREDIENTS:

**2 cups milk**  
**3/4 cup butter**  
**1/4 cup flour**  
**2 cups grated sharp cheddar**  
**1/2 cup English-style ale**  
**1/2 tsp tomato paste**  
**1 tsp Worcestershire sauce**

**1/4 tsp dry English mustard**  
**10 slices of cooked thick-sliced smoked bacon**  
**5 slices of hard crusted sourdough bread, thick and lightly toasted**  
**Chopped parsley**

#### METHOD:

- Turn on oven broiler.
- Heat milk in a small saucepan.
- Melt 1/4 cup butter in another saucepan, stir in flour, for 2 minutes.
- Whisk the hot milk into flour butter mixture stirring constantly until thickened, about 5 minutes. It is not just Cajuns that start every recipe with *“First you make the roux.”*
- Add cheese, ale, tomato paste, Worcestershire sauce, and mustard; stir constantly over low heat until cheese has melted, about 3-5 minutes.
- Spread remaining butter on the bread and place on cookie sheet. Top bread with bacon then the tomato slices. Pour 1/2 cup cheese sauce over each bread slice.
- Broil until lightly browned about two minutes.
- Garnish with chopped parsley. Serve.

**TODAY'S WISDOM: KITCHEN (KICH-UHN) NOUN -**  
**a GATHERING PLACE FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILY.**  
**a PLACE WHERE memories are HOMEMADE**  
**AND SEASONED WITH LOVE.**

*I just do not want to look back and think ... “I could have eaten that.”*

### Spinach-Pistachio Pesto

#### INGREDIENTS:

**4 cups spinach packed**  
**1/2 cup grated Gruyere cheese**  
**1/3 cup shelled pistachios**

**2 garlic cloves, chopped**  
**Juice from half a lemon**  
**1/4 tsp salt**

#### METHOD:

- Using a food processor, pulse all of the ingredients until a coarsely chopped.
- Scrap down the sides and then pulse while adding a steady stream of oil. Continue until pesto looks uniformly smooth.
- Add additional oil and lemon juice to use as a salad dressing.
- You can freeze leftover pesto in ice cube trays and then store in a Ziplock bag for future use.

This is one of the best recipes to change to suit your taste and your pantry. Changing the base plant (kale, arugula, mint, cilantro) and changing the nuts (pine nuts, walnuts, pecans, pumpkin seeds, almonds) and the oil (walnut oil, olive oil, avocado oil, grape-seed oil) and the acid (white wine vinegar, red wine vinegar, cider vinegar, lemon juice) makes for a myriad of combinations.

Other items to make at home should include granola, BBQ sauce, pancake mix, croutons, salsa, and soup. So what to do with that bumper crop of tomatoes you will have in your garden this year. If you plan it, you could go the whole winter and not have to buy any tomato products, such as tomato sauce, spaghetti sauce, pizza sauce, or ketchup. Now, remember when I said it boils down to time and money, this is the time you have to decide between the two. With the tomatoes you have, the first step to turning them into something different than slices for a hamburger or chunks for a salad, takes some time.

First, you make a tomato puree, and you can freeze some of that. The rest is cooked down to make tomato sauce. Freeze some of that and the rest goes to making tomato paste. Whatever your final product, you need to peel the tomatoes. My favorite way to peel tomatoes is the freezer, warm water method I saw on PINTEREST. First freeze the tomatoes. When ready, use a bowl or sink and fill with warm water. Working in small batches drop the tomatoes into the water and swish around to warm all of the skin. Then hold tomato in your hand and pinch the stem end of the tomato and the skin pops off. Of course this is basic information. What do you consider warm water. It makes a difference in the size and type of the tomatoes, and medium sized roma tomatoes work the best. A video to watch on PINTEREST takes about a minute. If you went through all the steps and ended up with your own tomato paste, then it is time to make your own ketchup. I do not go through all those steps because I lean toward saving time when it comes to ketchup and the fact that I cannot find my favorite Jalapeno Ketchup anymore. Therefore, I buy my tomato paste. If you shop like I do, you will find good and very inexpensive tomato paste. With this I can add whatever spices I want to make my custom ketchup.

### David’s Favorite Homemade Ketchup

**Word of warning:** I usually, no, I always add more peppers or hot sauce to what I eat than the family can stand. If you are going to add heat to this recipe, start gently and add heat to your tolerance.

#### INGREDIENTS:

**1/6-ounce can tomato paste**  
**1/4 to 1/2 cup apple cider vinegar**  
**1/2 tsp salt**  
**1/2 tsp dried oregano**  
**1/2 tsp cumin**  
**1/8 tsp ground black pepper**

**1 tsp Coleman’s English Mustard Powder**  
**1 or up to not too many drops of Melinda’s Original Habanero Pepper Sauce Extra Hot (to taste)**

#### METHOD:

- Combine all ingredients in a bowl and whisk together.
- The amount of vinegar determines the acidity you want for your ketchup.
- Add water to vinegar mixture to always equal one half cup.
- Will keep well in refrigerator a few weeks.warm or cold.

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# Home Town Community News

*Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)*  
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

**Patricia Killough**  
Community Editor



## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- |                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2 Christian Grant             | 14 Kerry Brown         |
| Amber Holbrook                | Julie Echols           |
| Pat Moseley (82nd)            | Kelly Kilgore          |
| Mike Moseley (82nd)           | 15 Angie Ashurst       |
| Barbara White                 | Greyson James Looney   |
| 3 Margie Johnson              | Caty Jane Turnipseed   |
| Kade Wallace                  | 16 Saralu Belkofer     |
| 4 Denver Taylor Moore (2nd)   | David Morrow           |
| 5 Braden Crowe                | Terri Ratliff Taylor   |
| Michelle Crowe                | Carson Tucker          |
| Lane Carter Johnson           | Garrett Tucker         |
| Maggie Mills                  | Anna Shay Wasden       |
| Johnny Rush                   | 17 Susan McGuire       |
| 6 John Michael Higgins        | 18 Mary Jane Flurry    |
| Kathryn Meredith Hilton       | Jonathan Lowe          |
| 7 Jeannie Handey              | 19 David Vinson        |
| Frank Litchfield              | 20 Linda Reynolds      |
| James Stanley                 | Michael Taylor         |
| 8 Georgie Harris              | 21 Mary Raley          |
| 9 Faye Boyd (64th)            | 22 Nita Tidwell (98th) |
| Laura Smith                   | 23 Thomas Berrey       |
| 10 Chelese Beck               | 24 Alice Ivey          |
| Juanita Beckman               | Joe Sedinger           |
| Jeffery Horton                | 25 Janet Treat         |
| Seth Lumley                   | 26 Jan Morris          |
| Justin Manning                | 27 John Donahey        |
| Melinda Newell                | 28 Paul Hanson         |
| 11 Betty Gentry Holmes (65th) | Tricia Norris          |
| David Livingston              | 29 Ansley Brown        |
| Ashley Owens                  | Lauren Moffitt         |
| 12 Gary Crowe                 | Dot Rebren             |
| Charlotte Gaston              | 30 Kathy Blount        |
| Beverly Ming                  | Gordon Davis           |
| Mackenzie Richardson (13th)   | Wyatt Echols           |
| Madilyn Sellers (13th)        | Jonathan Killough      |
| 13 Rachel Miller              |                        |



**Happy Belated Birthday!**  
**Debra Findley: May 5**

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (65th) | 15 Tim & Stacy Nester           |
| 2 Tony & Kate Smith            | 18 Lera & Kim Evans             |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd               | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey           |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter         | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb        |
| Rick & Ann Pascal              | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield  |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden      | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten    |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers          | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes           |
| Jim & Joy Fleming              | Matt & Melanie Smith            |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes       | Dan & Marcelle Thompson         |
| Johnny & Jean Sport (65th)     | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (60th) |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh          | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle          |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young         | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (53rd) |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton       | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty           |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion      |                                 |

On Saturday, May 22, a beautiful bridal shower was hosted by Kaye Blomeke, Frances Carr, Pam Cook, Sarah Glass, Jeanie Handey, Marianne Hancock, Paula Lansdon, Jean May, and Donna Scroggins for **Ann Takacs**, Bride-elect of Robby Bugg, at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road. The couple will be married in July, and will reside in Opelika after the wedding.



Sarah Kate Selva graduated from Coosada Elementary kindergarten! She received the Junior Mint Award because she was "mint" to be in Mrs. Strickland's class!

Later, the family celebrated her brother, Daniel Selva's 13th birthday at Outback Steakhouse.

Elijah Cole Browning graduated from Spanish Fort. He is the son of Tammy Browning Boyd and stepson of Terry Boyd, of Montgomery.

Friends and family gathered to celebrate with a fun day including a crawfish boil and pool party at the Boyd home on Saturday, May 22.

### William Preston Parrish - April 22, 2021 - May 3, 2021

William Preston Parrish opened his eyes in the arms of Jesus on May 3, 2021. He was 7lb 6oz of love, and his 11 days on earth were a gift from the Lord. Will is the son of Slade and Alissa Parrish, and is survived by his big brother, Jack. He is also survived by grandparents, Billy and Camilla Irvin, and Marsha Parrish; aunt and uncle Nikki and Beau Darley, and aunt, Laura Leininger; cousins, David and Hayes Darley, and Mattie Leininger.

For more about this precious soul, please visit: <https://www.southernmemorialfuneral.com/obituary/william-parrish>



## Alabama Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Kenmore, Jr., George V. ....	April 21
Barnett, Sandra "Sandie" DeMarais (74).....	April 23
Kamburis, Dennis "Danny" Antonio (89).....	April 23
Driver, Sr., Marvin D. (91).....	April 24
Weaver, Mike Cameron (70).....	April 25
Francis, Margaret "Peggy" Jean Marshall (91).....	April 26
Washing, Charles Craig (81) .....	April 27
Aldridge, Jr., Jesse Reed (95) .....	April 29
Burnette, Jr., Albert Harrison .....	April 29
Endicott, Judy Garber (77) .....	April 29
McCall, Anne Rutland (84) .....	April 29
Truitt, William Edwin (93) .....	April 29
White, Sr., Hunter Parker (89) .....	April 30
Williams, Martha Carol Shaner (82) .....	April 30
Smith, John "Jack" Freeman (98).....	May 1
Pass, Leila Anne Guidroz (83) .....	May 2
Barr, Joe Tildon (77) .....	May 4
Pugh, Daisy Juanita Cargill .....	May 4
Lawrence, Charlotte Ann Crawford (80) .....	May 7
Anderson, Marjorie Marilyn (83) .....	May 10
Jordan, Florence Phillips Evans (81) .....	May 13
Chambers, Mildred Johnston (95) .....	May 13
Burkhalter, Marguerite Chandler (95).....	May 14
McElroy, Derwyn Frank (86).....	May 14
Smedley, Sara Hamilton Boyd (86) .....	May 14
Crowe, LaNell Thompson (92).....	May 18
Hartin, Sarah L. Robinson.....	May 20
Weaver, Carol L. Brown (87).....	May 20
Cleveland, Lt. Gen. Charles "Chick" (93) .....	May 22
Brown, Martha .....	May 23
Davenport, Ron (73).....	May 23
Latham, Sr., David Earl .....	May 23
Nelson, Jennifer Stewart (59) .....	May 23

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## In Memory Of

Jenifer Stewart Nelson .....	May 23, 2021
John Sanders Presnell .....	May 21, 2021
Dennis Lee Dean .....	May 19, 2021
Ruth Diane Petersen (Forshey) .....	May 17, 2021
Samuel Dewey (S.D.) "Big" Sanford .....	May 16, 2021
Ronnie Spencer Bradberry .....	May 13, 2021
Carolina Soares Burdette .....	May 11, 2021
Phyllis Larrain Samson .....	May 11, 2021
Jacqueline Anne Bush .....	May 9, 2021
Benjamin Wade Berrey .....	May 9, 2021
Rodger Dale Ribelin .....	May 8, 2021
Barbara Lynn Holmes Bowman .....	May 8, 2021
Bianca Janell Moore Carnley .....	May 5, 2021
Frederick G. "Fred" Sides .....	May 3, 2021



# TODAY'S WOMAN

*The Value of a Woman...Be very careful if you make a woman cry – because God counts her tears.*



By Amanda Walker

## Tears & LAUGHTER: The Good Times of an Alabama Summer

Summer means different things to different people. To some it probably means nothing more than long days and hot nights. Unless you are a fan of the two...which I happen to be. I'm not sure anymore if I like summer because of the season itself, or if it has more to do with the state of mind.

Or maybe it's just the memories.

In Alabama, summer is not defined so tightly by the calendar and temperature as it is activities. School being out adds more freedom for some – for teachers, and students, and homeschool mothers – who are particularly giddy this time of year. This marks my sixteenth summer as a homeschool mom, and it will be my final. I clap my hands every time I think about it.

My 17-year-old thinks this summer will be the best summer ever. She can list the reasons – she is older, she can drive, and she is now officially a senior. I have tried to assure her this won't be her last good summer.

The summer I was 17, my best friend's dad bought her a red Trans Am. I think it was as much for him as for her. It was the car he had wanted when he was young. He got as much joy out of giving it to her as she did receiving it.

We drove to the beach in search of the boys of summer, singing along with the Beach Boys to "Kokomo." We would play it, rewind it, and play it again. That was our plan, to get there fast and then to take it slow. It was a good plan, but it went so fast it was a blur. A lot like life itself I suppose.

My childhood summers were spent mostly in Sandflat. We were not members of the country club. We were not members of the country club because at that time to be members of the Thomasville Country Club a family had to live within the city limits. Not to mention we couldn't afford to be members. So it worked out fine.

Besides, if I had spent my summers at the country club I would have missed out on the thrill of searching for swimming holes. Some of the very best days of summer were spent in search of creeks and streams hardly deep enough to wade through. And there were two types – the phantom and the real. There wasn't a whole lot of water in Sandflat. We were not a river community, and we were 150 miles from the coast.



Photo by: Rick Jernberg/freemages.com

A phantom swimming hole was one somebody had heard about but wasn't exactly sure how to get to or find. It was kind of like being in search of Eldorado. But since part of the fun was getting ready and the anticipation of going, it was still a good time. We would spend a couple of hours gathering things we would need – like towels, fishing poles, and Kook-Aid in Mason jars. Somebody would usually take a machete – to cut a way in, and also to use for snakes, potentially. Then we would spend the rest of the time searching for a place that didn't seem to exist. Or we would find it, but when we would finally get to it, the water would be so shallow it hardly flowed.

Then there were other days, when somebody's mama would suggest going to the creek. These, were the sacred mothers of summer. The ones who thought to pack a watermelon in an ice chest. Brave enough to drive a carload of us swimming. It was a time before swimming pools dotted backyards across the landscape. It was another time. It was ... a good time.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with *AL.com*, *The Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at [Walkerworld77@msn.com](mailto:Walkerworld77@msn.com) or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Ms. Wheelchair America/  
Alabama 2005

## Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

## "A Recipe for Life"

Do you have a favorite recipe? Perhaps it's a family recipe and the ingredients are a well-kept secret. The first time you prepared the dish, you examined the recipe like a map to a hidden treasure, precisely measuring the amounts of each item. You knew the combination of the ingredients would result in something delicious.

In some ways, our lives are like a recipe. The difference is that there are no secret ingredients. It begins with a faith in Jesus Christ. Peter, a follower of Jesus and one of the leaders of the Church, gave us some ingredients for an even better, more fulfilling life in Christ. Here's his recipe for an effective and productive life:



- Begin with a personal relationship with Jesus.
- Add goodness and an equal amount of knowledge.
- Stir in self-control and perseverance.
- Combine with godliness and a pinch of mutual affection.
- **Mix thoroughly and bake with an abundance of love.** (2 Timothy 3:5-7)

God does not expect us to become instantly perfect in the qualities listed by Peter, but he tells us that we can "possess these qualities in increasing measure." Growth in our understanding and

knowledge of God is necessary to our growth in understanding and knowledge of ourselves. When we know whose we are, we can know who we are.

If we're not growing, then we're resigning ourselves to stagnation and settling for less. But this is not God's intention for His children! Jesus told us **He came to bring us life to the full, overflowing with joy, peace, passion, and purpose.** No matter where we are in our spiritual journey, God always provides room for us to grow. And, that, my friends, is the best recipe for a productive life!

*Many Blessings!*



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## Quick Kitchen Tip!



Don't waste money by buying new kitchen sponges over and over! Instead, disinfect them in hydrogen peroxide.

Mix one part hydrogen peroxide and one part hot water and place your sponges in the mixture for 15 minutes.

Then rinse thoroughly.



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