



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.

U.S. Senate Runoff Moved to July

The GOP contest for who sits in our number two U.S. Senate seat has been delayed until July 14, 2020 due to the coronavirus. The winner of the battle between Jeff Sessions and Tommy Tuberville will more than likely be our junior U.S. Senator for six years.

Neither are spring chickens. Sessions will be 74 and Tuberville will be 66, when the winner takes office. This is not the optimum age to be a freshman U.S. Senator because seniority equates to superiority in the U.S. Senate. Given their age of arrival neither will be given much deference or have much influence. Sessions' 20 years goes for naught. He does not get his seniority back. Instead, he goes to the back of the line as would Tuberville.

Sessions really does not want to be influential. During his tenure he wanted to be the choir boy and Eagle Scout of the Senate. He was the most honest and conservative member of the Senate. He wore that badge proudly and would again.

Tuberville is planning to be Trump's bodyguard and valet. He will not know where the bathroom is, what committees he has been placed on, or where to sit, much less how to pass a bill or get anything accomplished for Alabama. After about six years he will realize he is a Senator from Alabama, not Arkansas or Florida. His only mission as a campaigner appears to be that he can shoot a gun and wants to be Donald Trump's pawn.

The irony with this Trump love affair is legitimate polling that points to a Tuberville victory also reveals a Trump loss. Trump probably is not going to be president when either Tuberville or Sessions takes office. Anybody with a cursory knowledge of how our president is elected under the Electoral College System realizes that if Trump loses any of the key pivotal battleground states of Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota or Pennsylvania, he loses the Whitehouse. If Joe Biden is the Democratic nominee, current polling clearly has him favored to carry all of those states. He is pretty much a lock to win his home state of Pennsylvania.

The winner of the Tuberville-Sessions contest will be our junior senator. Either one will beat our anomaly, Democratic interloper Doug Jones, probably 60 to 40. Being the Republican nominee for a U.S. Senate Seat in the Heart of Dixie is tantamount to election, especially in a presidential election year with Donald Trump atop the ticket.

It really does not matter which one is elected, they both will vote conservatively and look at their roles as being a reactionary ideologue. Neither will garner much power. However, that does not matter when you have Senator Richard Shelby as your senior Senator. He has enough power that we really do not need a second senator.

Most pundits were saying Tuberville had momentum and was heading towards a victory, especially with Trump's endorsement. However, with 15 weeks to prepare rather than 10 days it is a new ballgame.

Allow me to share two cardinal caveats I have shared with you over the years, and which I have recently shared with national media people who have asked for my insight on this race. First, Alabamians have shown a unique but overwhelming aversion to one politician endorsing another for another office. I was taught this rule of Alabama politics when I was a young legislator.

It is a cardinal rule in Alabama politics that you do not get involved in other races. Alabamians have a very dim view of this practice. They seem to inherently say, "We elected you to your office. You ought to be thankful for that and not show an arrogance that you are so good and anointed that you want to tell us who to vote to place in another office."

George Wallace, in his hey-day, when he was at the height of his popularity, would endorse someone and invariably they would lose. Less y'all forget, Trump endorsed Luther Strange for this same seat. He then lost to Roy Moore. Then Trump endorsed Roy Moore and he immediately lost to Doug Jones. Alabamians do not think much of endorsements, in fact they resent them.

The second caveat is Alabamians will universally, overwhelmingly vote for someone from their neck of the woods. It is called "Friends and Neighbors" politics. Jeff Sessions lives in and is from Mobile. The voter turnout in Mobile-Baldwin is going to be the highest in the State because there is a tossup runoff race between Jerry Carl and Bill Hightower to fill Bradley Byrne's 1st Congressional District seat.

We will see in mid-July week.



**Ronald A.
Holtsford**

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL ISSUES FACING US WITH THE CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)?

I think it important first if I may to express my inward thoughts. Besides my beautiful wife, I have my seven-year-old son. I've thought on how to address this pandemic with my family. My almost 89 year old Dad said to me that besides the fear that the Germans might march in during World War II he has never seen this affect on America. I see this as a time when our children and grandchildren see if we really walk the walk. To this I have said plainly that God is

in control. Regardless of what happens, God is in control and I believe we will be OK, though forever changed. I was listening to our pastor address those that wonder if this is a manifestation of a wrathful God. After all we deserve it. But it is his feeling if it was wrath that God was bringing on us it would have happened sooner and it would be worse. All I can repeat and hold onto is, God is in control. Our children will remember this time, what is your message to them?

I had the opportunity to watch a webinar just a few days ago regarding legal aspects of COVID-19 and the ladies from Legal Services Alabama that spoke had some great thoughts. The downside that they brought up are that deranged people will show an uptick in domestic and child abuse. Very, very sad.

Alabama Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-650-6522

Alabama Coalition of Domestic Violence: www.acadv.org

With the exception of urgent cases the courts are closed to hearings and trials. The first topic covered was evictions. While you may have heard there is a moratorium on evictions, that is not generally true and it is not presently true in Alabama. During these economic difficulties non payment of rent is the more likely. If a landlord decides to evict due to non payment they must give notice giving the tenant seven business days to cure the default. After that time the landlord can file unlawful detainer and the tenant will be served. The tenant can respond by mail having seven day to respond. If the tenant loses the landlord can file for right of possession if the tenant does not leave. Problem is the courts are closed. Best thing for tenants is to talk to the landlord and try to work it out or have an attorney file an emergency injunction. If the landlord is successful with the right of possession then the sheriff can help the landlord regain possession. A landlord that self helps by locking the tenant out or turns off utilities so that they cannot remain gives the tenant the ability to sue and gain three months rent plus attorney fees. A tough time for landlords.

If you are a homeowner and get behind on your mortgage the best thing to do is to call your mortgage company. If your home was in foreclosure prior to this time nothing changes, but if foreclosure occurs during this time then the foreclosure sale can be suspended for sixty days. Homeowners affected by the economic times are eligible for a plan of forbearance to reduce or suspend payments for up to twelve months but again call your mortgage company.

There are always low lifes who cannot let a good crisis go untouched. Watch for price gouging, phone/internet scams and phony cures. The Attorney General for Alabama is set up for consumer fraud and can be reached at <https://www.alabamaag.gov/consumercomplaint> or 1-800-392-5658. Social Security has good information at <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>. If you have appointments they will try to call you to help with your situation. Remember Social Security employees will never threaten you or request immediate payment.

Finally, SNAP or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program is being worked on to continue to assist families and children under that program and may be able to utilize summer time methods of continued nutritional assistance. If you find yourself unemployed because of this situation you can visit https://www.labor.alabama.gov/news_feed/News_Page.aspx?id=203. Workers can begin filing as of March 23rd at www.labor.alabama.gov or by calling 1-866-234-5382.

Finally, if you haven't taken care of estate planning now is the time. Consider that and call your lawyer if you haven't done so.

Remember, GOD IS IN CONTROL. Take care!

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"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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Perry O. Hooper Jr
Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

It Was a Threat Worthy of a South American Dictator

Wednesday on the steps of the Supreme Court Democrat Senate minority leader Chuck Schumer threatened Supreme Court Justices Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh. Schumer said the following:

"I want to tell you, Gorsuch. I want to tell you, Kavanaugh. You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price...You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

Sounds like Michael Corleone in the Godfather, not the Leader of the Democratic Party in the Senate. He didn't even have the decency to address them by their titles. The senator's despicable attack is part of a concerted effort by those on the left to delegitimize the court. If this wasn't a case for the lifetime appointments of Supreme Court Justices, I don't know one.

Schumer compounded his ugly behavior by smearing the chief justice as a partisan ideologue, as well. What partisan behavior did he participate in? He merely issued the following statement: "Justices know that criticism comes with the territory, but threatening statements of this sort from the highest levels of government are not only inappropriate, they are dangerous. All Members of the

Court will continue to do their job, without fear or favor, from whatever quarter.

Chief Justice Roberts by the way cast the vote in saving Obamacare; not exactly a vote that pleased partisan Republicans.

This is an unprecedented attack on justices of the Supreme Court. Unprecedented because you won't be able to find a single instance in modern history of a member of Congress threatening a justice — by name.

The case itself, involves a Louisiana law that gives infants who survive a botched abortion, the right to have basic medical care if they are born alive. A law, by the way, that was sponsored by a Democrat. Schumer, like the rest of his party, can't think of any good reason for hospital-admitting privileges for doctors who perform such procedures. Treating it as an "undue burden" any law that require abortion clinics to provide basic medical care for women. This case has not even been decided. Threatening justices over impending cases is outrageous and must not be tolerated.

Schumer should be removed from his position of leadership by his own party. Censured by the entire Senate and sent packing by the good people of New York.

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John W. Giles

article, my wife and I rarely miss watching a Trump rally streaming on the internet. In the wake of unprecedented leadership, loyalty can sometimes blind one and cloud thinking, not accepting he is human, has flaws and can make mistakes. In this article, I want to stress where the President is right and where he is wrong.

Sometimes those close to the chair are fearful to challenge poor public policy ideas or flawed thinking and become “Fearful Yes Men.” I have worked for two Alabama GOP Governors, serving at their pleasure and was never a yes man. However; when the chief made the final decision, even if contrary to my notion, if ethical lines were not crossed, I would salute and execute accordingly. I was never asked to violate legal or ethical standards, but if it did happen, my conscience would require my resignation.

Trump descending down the escalator that day to announce his candidacy for President, was an iconic, stardom and abstract candidate. He proclaimed, “I will finance my own race, not take a salary, I am a great negotiator and everything will be beautiful.” There was NO mention of issues, which I pay close attention too. Then, came along Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, Kellyanne Conway, and a U.S. Senator from Alabama Jeff Sessions who helped Trump put meat on the bones. Being a reasonable businessman, once shown the facts, quickly embraced the core values of economic, social, moral and constitutional conservatism. The only one remaining from his original four-person, blue ribbon team is Kellyanne. Trumps successful campaign can be largely credited to these four people, but I want to discuss Jeff Sessions for a minute.

Sessions was an independent thinking senator, not a yes-man to the establishment and the well-financed K Street lobbyist. He felt deeply compelled to speak directly to the American people about the hard facts surrounding illegal immigration and the out of balance trade deficits. Sessions won the hearts of the American conservative audience. He was wholeheartedly embraced by Trump for fearlessly stepping out from under McConnell’s thumb and publicly communicated the facts about immigration and trade. Trump actually embraced to the letter the Session’s doctrine on immigration and trade. He then called Jeff a tough guy, but there is more.

Trump is Right, Can He Ever be Wrong?

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What we are about to discuss won the 2016 election for Trump. One of Jeff’s least recognized contributions to Trump represented 60% of Trump’s general election vote, which was the list of 23. I am talking about the list that Gorsuch and Kavanaugh came from, Trump’s Supreme Court List of 23. Trump won 60% of his general election vote on this one issue. Sessions proposed to assemble several conservative legal think tank groups like the Federalist Society, Heritage Foundation and others to vet the list of sitting constitutional originalist Federal District and Circuit Judges, who have already gone through the confirmation process. This one issue elected Trump, my wife and I were in that 60%.

We all have positive attributes, strengths, weaknesses and flaws. Those who have followed my articles know I showcase on a regular basis Trumps attributes. However; the President has two publicly visible deficits in his DNA. He cannot admit ever being wrong or asking for an apology. Secondly, and most unfortunately, his dedicated loyal team members are like chattel and in a moment notice can be thrown from the airplane without a parachute and dog cussed on twitter in their downward spiral. Priebus, Bannon and Sessions have all been verbally slaughtered in this manner. They served with the interest of the country and the Presidents well-being. Unfortunately, those close to the President, while knowing in their heart he is sometimes wrong in his harsh assessment of fellow team members, quietly duck and run for cover because they might be next.

Mr. President, I have previously written where you have it wrong on the issue of Session’s recusal. We all know he was appointed, and then implicated by the Democrats in the Senate Judiciary confirmation hearing and all conservative legal minds including Bill Barr, Lindsey Graham, Rudi and many more have affirmed Jeff Sessions did what was the only judicially ethical thing to do, and that was to recuse. There is only one person who said he should not have recused himself, and that is you. To my good friends in the Tuberville locker room, be sure you have all of the facts, not perceptions.

Truth will prevail and Jeff will be exonerated. Mr. President I will always praise you when you are right, but when I think you are wrong, it is my job as a deplorable to point it out, fix it and move on.

I have known him for 27 years; you have known him for 5 years. In the beginning you were so right about Jeff Sessions, since his recusal you could not be more wrong.



By Daniel Sutter

con artists do not benefit our economy. For those who inherited their wealth, we should consider the original source of the fortune.

The voluntary nature of purchases means that wealth accumulated through business is earned. A customer buying financial information from Mr. Bloomberg’s company or a book from Amazon, whose founder Jeff Bezos tops the Forbes Richest Americans list (net worth: \$116 billion), receives value equal at least to the purchase price. You should only buy a book on Amazon for \$15 if it is worth at least \$15 to you.

Mr. Bezos, of course, does not keep the \$15. Amazon likely bought the book from a publisher, and must also pay its employees. Only part of the \$15 is profit for Amazon, and only a portion of this goes to Mr. Bezos.

Companies sell goods and services at the prices they do because they also benefit. Market transactions make both buyers and sellers better off. Billionaire entrepreneurs become rich by taking a small slice of the value created by a large volume of economic activity.

Did Mr. Bezos and Mr. Bloomberg make their billions at the expense of their workers? No, although their businesses needed the efforts of many employees to succeed. In a market economy, not even the world’s richest person can force anyone to work for them. All employment is voluntary. Every Amazon and Bloomberg Business employee chose to work for the wage or salary offered. The employees presumably found these jobs attractive relative to their alternative options.

Economics shows that workers get paid based on their productivity. Competition between businesses bids up wages to this level. An employee paid

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Billionaires and the Good Society

Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders contends we should not allow billionaires. His view produced interesting debate exchanges with Michael Bloomberg, who has a net worth of \$53 billion. ***Are billionaires good for America?***

A first consideration is the source of the riches. Were they earned from a successful business, or by stealing from or swindling others? Bank robbers and

less than their contribution can be hired away by other businesses.

Consumers typically value what they buy more than the price paid. For instance, that \$15 book you bought from Amazon might be worth \$25 to you. The extra \$10 is called consumer surplus and is our share of economic prosperity. In a sense, billionaire entrepreneurs get rich by providing us consumer surplus.

Research shows that billionaire entrepreneurs get very little of the value they create. Nobel-prize winning economist William Nordhaus found that firms capture just over two percent of the total value of their inventions. The rest goes to consumers mostly, but also to employees and suppliers. The two percent is for the business, not just the founder. Amazon’s value created for society must be in the tens of trillions of dollars.

Billionaire entrepreneurs make our modern world enormously more prosperous and have done nothing legally or morally wrong. Still, a billion dollars is more than anyone could spend responsibly in a dozen lifetimes. Couldn’t we tax their wealth, as Mr. Sanders has proposed?

A wealth tax may not have the dire consequences some predict. Money cannot really be motivating the super-rich who continue to work hard. Mr. Bloomberg was already a multimillionaire when he was crawling under desks to hook up his information boxes for clients. Perhaps their motive is intrinsic, that they simply desire business success. Or they may care about relative standing, say moving up the Forbes list.

Both of these motives suggest that reasonably high taxes may not deter the rich from working hard. Does this make a wealth tax good policy? Not necessarily. America’s billionaires might move to nations with lower taxes. And billionaires’ wealth helps fund new innovations by their companies and risky startup ventures by others, as Forbes columnist John Tamny emphasizes.

Billionaire entrepreneurs benefit America. They become super-rich by making our lives better, not by taking from us. Mr. Bloomberg may not win the Democratic presidential nomination, but he need not apologize for the wealth he has helped create.



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ROBSERVATIONS...by Robert Tate

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THERE IS NEVER A WRONG TIME TO DO THE RIGHT THING

If you have been reading my column long enough, I am sure you already know one thing for sure; I love WWII history. Whether talking to folks at Orange Theory, meeting a new First Officer or basically most people I come into contact with, they quickly realize this. Give me WWII, airplanes, German Luftwaffe, British Royal Air Force, or the USAAF and I am happy as can be. With that love of history, unfortunately often comes disappointment. Something or someone I may have held in high esteem, through their actions or inactions, leaves me with a terrible taste in my mouth or a long-held belief is shot down in flames. That is one of the things that I actually love about history. Case in point, a couple of weeks ago I was watching the Smithsonian Channel special titled, “Black in Space” about America’s first Black astronauts. If you have On Demand or can catch the show, I highly recommend it. I love learning new things and this show did not disappoint.

This was a most interesting show and I have to say, “Boy, do we have a checkered racial past in this country.” I am not talking about the obvious cases or as some might call it “ancient history,” but the blatant “crimes” that existed well into my lifetime. As a self-professed WWII historian, whenever I talk with people about race relations inside America, there is one sentient date for me and that is 6 June 1944. Why this date? Easy. It was D-Day. It was the day that the Western forces stormed the beaches in Normandy, France to help liberate Europe, defeat the evil Nazi threat and wipe their ideology from the planet. In respect to American race relations, I use this as a pivotal date in which I can clearly point to incredible ignorance and hypocrisy inside America. For example, it took 8 years from this date for the U.S. Military to fully integrate (not talking about executive order 9981 forbidding discrimination), 16 years for the University of Tennessee to integrate, 19 years for the University of Alabama, 20 years for Auburn, 23 years for all states to legalize interracial marriage and a whopping 28 years, 1972 for the SEC to fully integrate their football programs. This sad list goes on and on. We were fighting to save the world from evil in 1944 but fighting to keep our own abhorrent, racially discriminatory institutions, laws and practices intact. It actually makes my stomach turn when I think about it. It’s that whole “before removing a speck from your brother’s eye, first remove the log from your own eye,” thing. For crying out loud, that Smithsonian show taught me that the friggen communist Russians put a Black man in space three years before we did. What the heck is that about?



Anyway, our first Black candidate was Air Force pilot Captain Ed Dwight. As a side note, if you are interested, Google Dwight and look at his incredible sculptures. He is quite a highly recognized artist now. Long story short, apparently Dwight’s main nemeses and obstacle to getting into space was American WWII fighter pilot, test pilot, legend and national hero Chuck Yeager. According to the show while referencing some of his own memoirs, Yeager apparently did not believe Blacks should be astronauts and clearly lied and did his best to have Dwight removed from the program. Yeager claimed Dwight, who graduated cum laude in aerospace engineering from Arizona State, was “slow,” could not keep up academically and needed special tutoring. In an interview with Dwight, he said that was a lie; I believe him. Dwight was no dummy and he eventually finished 8th out of 16 in his test pilot class Aerospace Research Pilot School (ARPS). The reality is that at these levels, the people are so evenly matched, I would not be surprised if less than 2-5 points separated all those men. Although finishing 8th, NASA, also skipping an opportunity to do the right thing, did not select Dwight but selected the others in the class. So to imply that Dwight was “slow” and could not keep up is misleading and clearly Yeager was lying – again. If Dwight needed extra help and tutoring, what about the next 8 guys in line behind him? According to the documentary, Yeager said if they let a Black

man into the space program, NASA would become a Black program. Oh my, and they might even end up talking to White women! Yeager is also reported as saying, “Why in hell would a colored guy want to go into space anyway? And if it was left to me, you guys wouldn’t even get a chance to wear an Air Force uniform.” (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NASA_Astronaut_Group_3) That makes this comment a bit personal to me. Yeager as a male sexual organ is the image that comes to mind right about now.

It reminds me of the story of when Colonel Benjamin O. Davis, commander of the Tuskegee Airmen had to fight for their survival in D.C. When faced with his unit being withdrawn and sent back home, Davis was asked by a Senator why Davis’ men had yet to score any aerial victories while every other unit had scored many. Davis’ straight and in your face answer was along the lines of, “Well, Senator. You have placed our Group in an area of North Africa where we have yet to even see any enemy aircraft. . .” Duh! In other words, Colonel Davis, how dare your group have no aerial victories although you have not even engaged enemy aircraft in combat.

I had always read that Yeager could be difficult. But now I see him as a racist, bigoted jerk who knew better. There is a saying from the movie Tin Cup where Kevin Costner says, “When faced with a defining moment, either you define that moment or you let that moment define you.” At this point in time, Yeager could have looked at the writing on the wall and said, “You know what, this racism stuff is stupid. These guys can fly. I’ve seen it. I am going to make a stand for what is right.” Instead he took the low road, crawled under the proverbial bar and said, “You know what, no matter what, I don’t like these guys or their kind and don’t believe our country has an equal place for them. So even if they are more than qualified to compete for every flying job out there, I am going to use my celebrity status and my back wood West Virginia blinders to impede the rights of other Americans. That is just how I roll.”

Yeager saw first-hand what Blacks could do in the airplane in both combat and peacetime operations. Yeager had to know it was the Tuskegee Airmen who won the first USAF Fighter Gunnery Meet in 1949 although the Air Force buried that reality for almost a quarter century. Although a very good pilot and one who will go down in history for his achievements in the air, in my book Yeager allowed his own myopic, racist, prejudiced world view to forever define him and that moment in 1963 as a little man with a crappy attitude.

Although not surprised, I was disappointed; very disappointed. Yeager should have known better but could not get out of the way of his own “stinking thinking.” He had an opportunity to stand for something beyond himself but just couldn’t pull it off. Obviously, he had too much prejudice and hate coursing through his veins. Some people who I have discussed this story with have fallen back on the old, “You have to understand, it was a different time.” No, I don’t have to understand anything of the sort. That is easy to say when you and your ancestors were standing on one side of the fence and mine were on the other. My father, one of the smartest men I have ever known could not go to his college of choice, the University of Tennessee, the land where he was born and raised, only because he was Black.

In my days of WWII research, I have sat in the living rooms of many an old Luftwaffe veteran and never once were they anything but polite, professional and always asked me to come back and visit. I became great friends with one of them until the day he died and to be honest, I have been treated better by those veterans than many from this country. Yet we are to believe they were all evil Nazis, right? Not true. Not hardly. Clearly many were but not all. After watching the show on Smithsonian, one word that comes to mind when I think of Yeager now is “Jerk!” No, there is never a wrong time to do the right thing. After watching the special, I feel even less guilty by saying that had my guy Hans Marseille met Yeager in combat, another American would have broken the sound barrier.

I wasn’t going to put this in here but at this moment, I don’t care. My fingers won’t stop typing. When I look at Chuck Yeager and German fighter pilot Hans-Joachim Marseille and compare their combat records, there is simply no comparison. Then when I examine what both men stood and fought for, and clearly Marseille fought for the other side, but in many ways, he was much more of a man to be admired than Yeager ever was. Where Marseille was more of a classic Renaissance man devoid of racial or religious prejudices, Yeager was a racist segregationist; and yes, wanting to keep Blacks out of the Air Force makes him a segregationist. Where Yeager rolled with and promoted the prevalent racist norms of the time, Marseille actively butted with Nazi leadership, to include Hitler himself, through words and actions at extreme personal risk, in demonstrating the folly of racial and religious bigotry and condemnation. The man never joined the Nazi party, never ascribed to their doctrines and here I am 75+ years following his death, extolling praises in parts of his character far in excess of a bonafide American hero that did not think enough of Black aviators to even want them to wear the same uniform he did. Ain’t that something? Again, this is one reason I love history so much; no matter how painful it might be.

No, there is never a wrong time to do the right thing.



Robert Tate

There is an idea out there that when you write a column of any kind, one should not be angry when writing. Although I adhere to this most of the time, I am going to violate this rule. Having already submitted my Robservation, “Never a Wrong Time,” the Gazette was gracious enough to let me write another column since this edition is going to focused as a digital version. I felt the need to get this off my chest instead of waiting for next month although certain aspects will be continued later. To my credit, I have dialed back my vitriol considerably since the first draft.

CORONA: Obviously, this is the biggest news story of this Century thus far. It is not even close. Some people are “pooh-poohing” it as a hoax while others are trying to minimize the deadly reality. At the other end, there are those who are saying the end of the world is near. I, as my usual self, am trying to look at it through more realistic eyes and see that yes, it is bad, it is likely going to get worse, but the world as a whole will continue to turn; unfortunately, not for many.

There is a bigger issue, in my mind, than just the Corona virus itself. Yes, and unlike the weakling press, it is the China Corona virus no matter how hard they have forced the news people to call it COVID-19, as a way of trying to deflect where this thing originated by saying it is somehow “racist” to call it anything other than COVID-19. To the bigger issue is this: China has, in effect, created a bio tsunami over the entire planet. Even if not intentionally.

Look, I do not say this lightly, in jest or out of fear. This is how I see it. Here

Robservations 2.0 ...

NEVER WRITE WHEN YOU ARE ANGRY

is a site for you: <https://www.axios.com/timeline-the-early-days-of-chinas-coronavirus-outbreak-and-cover-up-ee65211a-afb6-4641-97b8-353718a5faab.html>. This site breaks down how the virus got its start and how the Chinese didn’t do their best to stop its spread. In some cases, it appears they were more concerned with stopping the spread of information about the virus. According to this one site, they knew as early as 10 December about the first infected person. Another site says they knew about the virus as early as November. Still, on 18 January, they had huge Lunar New Year banquet in Wuhan with tens of thousands of people. Despite this, afterwards millions of Chinese citizens from Wuhan were allowed to travel throughout China and thousands were allowed international travel. Not only this, at least two doctors reporting the new illness as early as December were reprimanded for bring forward this information.

So, let’s spell this out. The virus, very contagious and deadly, was found as early as November-December 2019. The first US patient left Wuhan and arrived in the US on 15 January 2020. Knowing this virus was active and spreading, the Chinese still allowed the Lunar New Year Banquet to go ahead after Thailand received their first patient on 13 January. South Korea got their first case two days later on the 20th of January. So, knowing this virus was present since mid-December at least, **the Chinese KNOWINGLY ALLOWED PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE LIKELY INFECTED, TO FREELY TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD.** This is really not in dispute. This is real. Knowing how deadly this virus was, being the communist country they are, they could have put an immediate travel ban in or out of China until this was under control. They chose,

Continued on page 5A

Coronavirus Pandemic 2020 ... Continued from page 1A

flu as his measuring stick when no real controls, public or private, were instituted. This one simple control dropped the number of deaths from 2.2 million to roughly 200,000, with only one variable applied.

More variables reduce the number of cases to a range approximately equal to the common flu. Time will tell whether we go from 3,000 deaths at the end of March to 100,000 by May 1. (It is really difficult to see that multiplier, especially if you look at the Italian statistics, which already show the incidents of the virus beginning to trail downward. The second world “epicenter” has reached its peak according to Mike Ryan of the World Health Organization with the imposed lockdown of a couple of weeks ago bearing fruit).

For a detailed explanation of how numbers help build hysteria go to reason.com, the Volokh Conspiracy.

Almost as a pre April fool’s joke, former president O’Bama stated on 3-31 in a Twitter, “We’ve seen all too terribly the consequences of those who denied warnings of a pandemic,” we can’t afford any more consequences of climate denial. All of us, especially young people, have to demand better of our government at every level and vote this fall.”

Really? How about N1H1 under O’Bama’s administration in 2009, or the ongoing polio battle, which has been around since the Egyptians, or consider the Spanish Flu that killed 700,000 Americans in 1918. Even Shakespeare wrote about the black plague (bacteria born) in his plays that decimated London in 1563 killing a quarter of the city’s population and throughout Europe killing upwards of 200 million people.

Man-made climate change had and has nothing to do with this outbreak. Nor does climate change have any thing to do with the decision by Virginia’s (D) Governor Northam to impose a stay at home order to run through June 10, one day after the state Republican Party election. The date could cripple



Virginia’s economy and dissuade Republican voter turnout on down ballot races that could be detrimental to the state and party.

In Alabama, as of March 31, the Wuhan Virus numbers indicate about 1,000 people infected, with approximately 15 deaths. In comparison, approximately 1,000 Alabamians die by traffic accidents annually, 10,000 by cancer and 12,000 by heart related problems while the overall population in Alabama is 4.5 million citizens.

The above numbers are revealing but impersonal. Many of us know someone who either has been exposed to the Wuhan Virus or has it. Our family knows this fact all too well.

Our uncle, George Kelly, originally from Evergreen, Alabama, has contracted the Wuhan virus. George is 94 years old. George and his wife Jain have lived in New York City for over sixty years in the same small apartment on the upper eastside. Back in the 60's my father and mother would load us up in the Chevy II at midnight to make the long trek to the Big Apple.

George, my mother's youngest of four brothers, travelled a different path. He served as an airman in Alaska during WW II. After graduating from Northwestern University and attending UPenn and Alabama, he spent years in India and came back to cofound a successful kite business and Cookbook Shop in New York that he later sold. George worked as a journalist for several U.S. newspapers in IL, NJ, and PA as well as the Associated Press. My father thought of him as a beatnik (precursor to hippy), but my mom and I saw him as a great adventurer. Back in the 60's the neighborhood was almost exclusively Puerto Rican. The apartment had no air conditioner. George did not own, drive or want a car. The neighborhood improved a bit when a police precinct was built at 94th and 2nd adjacent to his four story building that as far as anyone could tell has been kept alive by a strong roof and layers of yellow paint.

He walked everywhere. His small frame and modest living habits proved to be healthy decisions compared to his siblings who died much earlier in their sixties and seventies.

After his marriage to Jain and the birth of their child, George determined to conduct a more traditional lifestyle. He sold commercial real estate, went to a nearby church and began writing children's books to include: *What Does the ToothFairy Do with All Those Teeth?*, *Georgette's Biovortex Theory of the Universe*, and *Santa Christina and Her Sled Dogs*. George did an autograph session at Capitol Book and News in Montgomery. He also served as the Public Relations Director for the Children Museum of New York.

He now is in a NY hospital on a ventilator. George had some very serious underlying health issues when he contracted COVID-19. Jain and Georgette may not visit him. Just like many others in this predicament he is alone. We pray for George and all who are suffering, to find and comfort and peace and rest that only Christ can give.

Please share your story of your loved one who has COVID-19. Put a beautiful face on this ugly disease.



More from Daniel Sutter ...

Socialism and the Horrors of Communism



Bernie Sanders’ pursuit of the Democratic presidential nomination continues to bring popular attention to socialism. Polls continue to reveal socialism’s considerable appeal to many Americans. Opponents of socialism often offer up the horrors of 20th Century Communism as a rebuttal. Is this history relevant today?

Received wisdom holds that young Americans know no history. So here’s the history lesson: communist regimes in the 20th Century produced over 100 million deaths, numerous famines, gulags, purges, and mass arrests. The Berlin Wall and Iron Curtain turned Eastern Europe into a virtual prison to keep citizens from fleeing.

Whether such brutality was an inevitable feature of communism is debatable. The Russian and Chinese revolutions occurred by force, not peaceful means. An international coalition, including the U.S., invaded the Soviet Union after World War I and helped foment civil war. External forces arguably pushed communist nations down a violent path.

Yet are Josef Stalin’s atrocities relevant for the Sanders campaign? I do not think so, and this strikes me as a poor rebuttal.

So why bring up this history? The answer lies, I think, in F.A. Hayek’s argument about “Why the Worst Get on Top” in *The Road to Serfdom*. Hayek was a distinguished economist (he won a Nobel Prize) who also had significant impact outside the academy. Britain’s Margaret Thatcher was strongly influenced by Hayek’s writings, and George H.W. Bush awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Even socialist movements starting with a democratic tradition, Hayek argued, would be pushed to extremes. He had previously argued, along with Ludwig von Mises, that socialist economic planning would seriously founder. Socialists would need almost dictatorial powers to implement their economic plans. Once possessing such powers, leaders would face a choice “between disregard of ordinary morals and failure.”

If the initial socialist leaders would not use power to achieve their goals, they would lose out to less scrupulous rivals. As Hayek put it, “The old socialist parties are inhibited by their democratic ideals; they did not possess the ruthlessness required for the performance of their chosen task.”

Robservation 2.0 ... Continued from page 4A

however, to allow this to happen which of course brings into question, intent. That is for another column.

To be honest, I am not going to go the route of COVID-19 being manufactured in a lab. I do not believe that to be the case and I hope history supports this. Let’s be clear about one thing though. Unlike the Chinese who are trying to spin a perverted narrative, American soldiers did not spread the virus in China: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/13/world/asia/coronavirus-china-conspiracy-theory.html>. Get real. American soldiers in China? Laughable. And yet they keep trying to argue that this is all America’s fault (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/mar/16/us-demands-china-halt-coronavirus-propaganda/>) and our sorry press does very little to correct it – anything to make Trump look bad is fair game in their dark and demented world. Let’s just stick to what is true for now and that is China, through commission or omission, allowed this Pandora’s Box to bust wide open. Now, billions of people’s lives are disrupted and in danger, and as of writing this (Sunday 22 March 1321 CST), worldwide there were 338,104 Corona cases, 14,456 deaths with 96,958 people recovered. This breaks down to 226,690 active cases, with 216,392 people in mild condition with another 10,298 in serious or critical condition. The following website keeps an updated worldwide and by country, running tally of the infection: www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/.

There is no doubt this is serious, but like I said, the bigger issue to me, the elephant in the room so to speak, is that this act has seen many American’s 401Ks take significant hits as world markets tumble. Billions of dollars have been lost within weeks. So, the real question that follows is what is the world going to do about it? My guess, nothing. Hey, the world knows China is running concentration camps in their country today and is doing nothing:

<https://www.borgenmagazine.com/chinese-concentration-camps/>
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/idx-sh/China_hidden_camps
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/voices/2019/05/09/uighur-chinese-human-rights-violations-concentration-camps-column/1143252001/>

Ethiopian nomads are dying by the thousands by a mystery illness in a region currently being drilled for natural gas by the Chinese company Poly-GCL since 2014 (www.voanews.com/africa/mystery-illness-kills-ethiopian-nomads) and the Chinese recently threatened the US Navy with an EMP attack in the South China Sea (<https://www.breitbart.com/nationalsecurity/2020/03/17/china-threatens-emp-attack-south-china-sea/>). No, the feckless U.N. and the rest of world is not going to do anything. They never do. There will more to come on this in the future.

Things the Corona outbreak have proven beyond a doubt:

1. Reliance on China, or any other country for our pharmaceuticals is ridiculous and needs to stop.
2. Idea of open borders with people entering the country without any screening is more ridiculous. Can you imagine the damage 3,000 bio-terror bombs (uh, infected people) could inflict if allowed open access into the country? Yeah, I know. They just wanted a better life, right?
3. People fighting for toilet paper shows exactly how dangerous people can be in a crisis. Imagine a real national disaster with food and water shortages. No, I think I will keep my guns handy. And no, that is no typo. There is an “s” on the end of the word, “gun.”

CROOKED POLITICIANS: Since I am running out of room, this will be just a short note. It appears that several of our illustrious politicians, upon receiving a classified briefing of the impending Corona world global financial meltdown, sold millions of dollars in stock in order to protect their portfolios but without warning the American people. Those in question, not surprising are claiming innocence and of course I do not believe them. One guy reportedly told a group of investors and friends after hearing the classified briefing. If this is true, I won’t say what should happen but to get an idea, watch the last 15 minutes of the movie, *A Tale of Two Cities*. I have attended hundreds of classified briefings in my day and the catch phrase is always, “A need to know.” People who have a need to know are privy to some interesting information. In this case, since this information affected all Americans, I think we should all have been given the same information when they received it. “But, Rob, that would have caused a wild panic.” Okay, so we’ll just let the political elites keep their wealth. After all, they are so important.

There will be more on this for sure. But the culprits, no names for now but you can look them up, are on both sides of the aisle. And if it is true that they used this information directly for their benefit, shared classified information with those without requisite clearances, they and whomever they informed, likewise benefiting by this information, which is illegal by the way, should . . .

Just watch the movie.



The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

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October 1929 v. October 1987 Black Mondays: a tale of two crashes



These are indeed unwonted times – certainly a first in my ten plus years as an Alabama Gazette columnist. I wholeheartedly concur with the wise decision to not print an April issue for many reasons, mostly driven by loss of distribution points with so many businesses closing. I’m nonetheless blessed to be included in this ONLINE-ONLY edition. Seems apropos in the midst of this current crash to repost my October 2017 Gazette column on the anniversaries of 1929 and 1987 crashes. Rewarding to have former students and long time readers contacting me about this history from classes and this past column as where they first learned of ‘curbs & circuit breakers’ on Wall Street now being triggered these past days. I pray you agree it is worthy of your time to (re)read.

I’ll let the history below speak for itself. To those asking if this will be a quick, easily forgotten 1987 crash, understand in our current less market driven results, it is unlikely. With bond and interest rates increasingly more manipulated in our command economy, the herding mentality into equities/stocks is as distorted as I’ve ever witnessed. In short, we’ve inflated the bubble much more than usual these past years making this POP all the more profound. With ‘circuit breakers’ there’s not a short, well defined selldown – it is no longer allowed as was the case in 1987 – i.e., don’t expect to see another 23% one day drop. Furthermore, the federal legislation which triggered the 1987 sell off was easy to back-off of allowing quick return/correction back up to the long-term trend line. Our current crash is more like the 1929 distorted economy and it appears the politburo is going to push toward even more Hoover/FDR type leviathan responses than using this event to bring an end to the bubble/bailout cycles. This is no surprise to anyone understanding our ‘privatize the distorted gains and socialise the losses’ US economy. This is not sustainable and will accelerate our path to the usual destination of all command and control/mandated socialist economies.

The October 2017 Alabama Gazette column is as follows:

The more commonly remembered (88th Anniversary) stock market crash of 1929 resulted from “an overbought, overvalued, and excessively bullish market, rising even as economic conditions were not supporting the advance,” according to pop press accounts and economists who like to describe instead of explain results. What proffered the overbought, overvalued unsupported exuberance is noticeably absent in the discourse of Keynesian economists and other lotharios of leviathan. The crash began on Thursday October 24, when the market fell 11%. Institutional investors and financiers attempted to attenuate the 'panic' selloff with above market bids so the day's sharp losses were blunted and stocks rebounded.

These feeble attempts failed to address what triggered (think fear) this Wall St. selloff. Hoover's 'jawboning' for the Smoot-Hawley Tariff signaled further resolve toward another high-watermark of protectionism actually enacted in June 1931 where unemployment immediately spiked up from about 6% to 14%, long after the October '29 crash. Economists who understand Wall St. realize investors respond to a legislative event(s) when they forecast it will pass, not when actually signed (7/17/30) into law or enacted. European investors were also ripe for a crash observing the looming clouds of protectionism forecasted to once again contract economies; high profile fraud cases are cited for the September London exchange crash which also did not recover since fraud and forgery weren't the fundamental reason(s) driving the selloff. Exacerbated by margin calls, Wall St. closed down 13% on October 28th the Monday (a.k.a. 'Black Monday' in retrospect) days after the 'double-digit' loss on Thursday. Bids further disappeared the next day (Black Tuesday) as the market fell another 12% starting the long-term trend line down hitting bottom in 1932 with some 'sucker rallies.' More informed investors who understood what was happening correctly forecasted the Democrat likely to win the nomination wouldn't reverse the typical big-government Republican policies advanced by Hoover.

A month prior to the 1929 crash the market peaked September 3rd with the Dow Jones Industrial Average [DJIA] at 381.17; the bottom was recorded on July 8, 1932, where the Dow closed at 41.22. A remarkable 89% drop from peak to trough which was even more devastating for small-cap and speculative stocks, some compelled to declare bankruptcy and unlisted from the market dropping them out of reported data. A quarter century later the DJIA returns to the 381.17 result on Nov. 23, 1954. As observed with many proactive command economy policies/programs, less stable results (i.e., higher peaks/lower troughs) with longer durations outside less amplified (more stable) cycles from the long-term trend line occur than if/when market forces are allowed to more quickly correct. A brief overview of some economic history is required pedagogy to understand what shepherded the October '29 crash as the US became a more dominant player on world stage, even if they didn't realize their increased standing. The newly formed Republican Party (morphed from the protectionist wing of the Whig Party) deployed federal armies to military accomplish desired wealth transfers after exited States proved it would not be achieved politically. Other nations (most notably Europe) witnessed our experiment in independent sovereignty over empire and nation building finally fail after a few score.

Thoughts of reclaiming New World riches faded following the War of 1812. How industrious the US shown itself to be toward ruthless consolidation and hegemonic empire (Lincoln-Marx mentality made it clear the New World was leading the way toward command and control/soviet-style government) discouraged further attempts of reclamation. Europe resumed their amplified cycle of death and destruction followed by rebuilding instead of decentralized peace and stability. Modern technologies more quickly ground European armies to a halt, bankrupting their nations toward stalemate. Whenever Europe goes to war demand for US exports explode, WWI was no exception. Instead of simply benefitting from the folly of this war to end all wars, the US entered to break the stalemate moving the end result to the 1919 Treaty of Versailles which many economists (including John Maynard Keynes) forecasted impossible for Germany to meet in the coming years. This shepherding Europe to the even more virulent national socialist result of WWII is fodder for a future column.

The end of WWI meant return to normalcy, those who benefitted from the short-run boon of war must adjust. As Europe began to clear their fields and real-



located resources to a peacetime economy (more interested in feeding themselves than producing arms) was quickly noticed by American farmers. The so-called “Emergency Tariff” [1921] was a response to Europe getting back on their feet. More formalized under the “Fordney-McCumber Tariff” [1922] the US imposed high tariffs on agriculture and raw materials which are our ‘comparative advantage’ often exported. Republicans promised this would lead to great wealth for the American farmer as they had always touted protectionism helps American jobs over a uniform tariff to keep commerce regular as proscribed in the Constitution. Since our manufactured goods are usually inferior, there’s less demand to export them. Impeding the flow of refined steel, equipment, etc. increasing the price of inputs for production (esp. construction, manufacture) has a negative impact on employment, ceteris paribus. Political rhetoric of the next boon in farming fooled the dumb masses driving the ‘roaring twenties’ as the big govt. Repulocrats effectively fool the masses today with similar ‘feel good’ rhetoric.



Those who bought into this traditional Republican protectionist promise, reallocated their capital, effort, time, savings, etc. into farming. The ‘sodbuster’ distortion increased prices for farmland, mortgages, tractors, etc. but had very visible consequences. Once the usual protectionist result unfolded, demand for US exports decline as other nations react to our artificial trade barriers with ‘in kind’ raising of their protectionist policies in response. This time the folly was felt all the more enacting protectionist policies on our comparative advantage often exported; protectionism on inferior manufactured goods less exported was not as profound. As markets for our Ag and raw materials slowly closed while

Europe further recovered from WWI, much of the newly sodbusted land along with longer/market established farmland was foolish to plant giving rise to the actual cause (contrary to modern politically trained student claims these past years of global warming) of the “Dust Bowl.” When struggling farmers press Hoover and the Republicans on where all the relief and promised prosperity was, Hoover’s response was tariffs clearly were still not high enough. The 1931 Smoot-Hawley Tariff’s average dutiable rate of 60% was a little below the 1828 ‘Tariff of Abominations’ record at 61% which triggered the Nullification Crisis a century before. The stage for war between the States was set with the 1828 Tariff, but cooler heads prevailed and tariff reductions narrowly avoided conflict. Enter Mr. Lincoln (the greatest politician this nation has ever produced) and the newly formed Republicans wanting to return the tariff to 1828 levels mastering the use of slavery rhetoric to cloak their avarice; willing to accomplish their ends militarily when political machinations failed.

Just as warnings were sounded in the past, a thousand professional economist (before they ‘were all Keynesians’ as espoused today) sent an open letter to Hoover warning of the consequences (if history were

any guide) of pursuing the path to yet another extremely protectionist tariff. Displaying his reputed for blatant hubris, Hoover ignored the economists’ prophetic caveat saying he realized consumers would pay higher prices but would be made better off... Whenever a politician claims higher prices will benefit consumers (or welfare in general) when those higher prices will NOT motivate more supply, innovation, etc. but are a result of wealth transfers from impeding commerce – hold onto your wallet and RUN AWAY!

Easy to understand special interests who receive the transfer championing these policies/programs, but it will not promote the general welfare and allocation (esp. in capital markets) of resources to higher valued use(s) in our economy. Among the most ardent lotharios of leviathan in our pantheon of presidents, Hoover went to his grave lamenting how many of HIS big govt. programs were attributed to FDR. Once it was clear Hoover and the Republicans would not back off of this new high-watermark of protection, a crash with no foreseeable correction (until a change in Executive and/or Congress) was a rational forecast. Investors in fact observed Hoover and Congress remain obstinate even with the huge selloff response on Wall St. Some argue a 1929 Congress made more comfortable by the recently established 435 limited House of Representatives, enjoying less competition/discipline from voters, aided and abetted these recalcitrant protectionists.

Onto some more myth busting (to accompany “Republicans fought to end slavery” and “Protectionism saves jobs,” etc. rhetoric) w.r.t. Lincoln-like deification of FDR. It was an interesting time for the Democratic Party. After the Grover Cleveland era some considered a tipping point (as the only President to not serve consecutive terms as another popular vote v. Electoral College anomaly) a growing number of traditional Democrats grew tired of losing to the big govt. Republicans. The race was on to ‘out republican the Republicans’ and the socialists were accomplishing all the goals traditional big govt. Republicans (progressives) wanted without being elected under the Socialist Party moniker. It took four ballots at the DNC before FDR secured the 770 votes required to lock the nomination as Garner (who would be FDR’s VP for most of his four term presidency) finally released his delegates to FDR. It was clear the traditional Democrats (Jeffersonians who rejected corporate AND social welfare redistributionists) could not carry the day. Perhaps Garner thought the ills of progressivism were somehow different from deleterious results of the corrupt political machines. While the direction of the transfer matters to the specific recipient(s) the contraction to the economy is nonetheless profound – especially among those least able to weather tough economic times.

Contracting economies induce the worst out of mankind. As unemployment reaches unbearable levels the word ‘racism’ [1936] enters our lexicon when competition and merit attenuate as determinants of employment. More explicit, vulgar fallacies of inherent superiority of race carry the day as progressives become more emboldened and empowered over peoples’ lives desperate to get or hold onto jobs. Progressives gave birth to the first federal minimum wage in this era, one of the more effective tools still today to enable discrimination against minorities, single moms, etc.

Traditional Democrat voters, slow to see the realignments, think their candidate will come in and again clean-up the usual mess of Republican protectionism. Voters, unlike investors, are generally more ignorant of what specifically drives economic results. They were in for a surprise. FDR was NOT a traditional Democrat, he was a big govt. Republican enamored with his Uncle Teddy’s progressive hard charging toward centralized command economy results. Much had already been accomplished (some say the ‘Revolution of 1913’ today) with a more certain federal income tax, direct election of US senators, federal reserve, debt less tied to specific federal projects, etc. Some of our top soviet economists say the fed didn’t do enough with monetary tools at their disposal, but they DID – it failed because it was addressing a symptom, not the problem.

Sharp increases in Discount rates, buying bonds, etc. were met with further increases in unemployment as it showed further resolve to continue the

Continued on page 7A

Sophocleus – “A Tale of Two Crashes” ... continued from page 6A

Republicans’ extreme protectionist policy. Tariff revenues declined – no surprise to anyone familiar with the Laffer Curve. The recently [1913] reestablished federal income tax is already in place (no delay/effort required to impose it as did Lincoln in our first federal income tax) to continue financing this tariff policy contracting the economy. The fiscal discipline designed in the Constitution to limit duration policies of this sort could be sustained was circumvented. We could now observe the result of high tariffs AND the ability to increase a federal income tax when tariff revenue drops from protectionism. Indeed as the federal income tax was raised, unemployment climbed to an even higher new record providing short-run revenue for the federal government to continue operating.



the bitter reality of no relief in sight for years sets in... he declares a Bank Holiday as marginal banks (about 6,000 already closed their doors 1929-32) hanging on will not survive a “New Deal” instead of relief from Republican protectionism. More unconstitutional policies/programs (y’all know the ‘alphabet soup’ many of us had to memorize in govt. schools – AAA, CCC, CWA, EBA, FCA, FDIC, FERA, FHA, FSRC, HOLC, NRA, NIRA, PWA, REA, SSA, TVA, et al) along with the revered Glass-Steagall Act, did nothing to address the source of the problem. Unemployment hovers around 25% from 1932 to late 1934 until MFN (Most Favoured Nation trading status) provides some tariff relief. MFN was also unconstitutional, but did reduce some specific tariffs (up to 50%) with other nations for reductions in kind at the pleasure of the executive (FDR was the first president to enjoy this empowerment) so finally unemployment slowly declined.

This downward trend-line in unemployment would end in 1938 as many State and local governments imposed minimum wage laws and the NLRB (soon after the Wagner-Connery Act was deemed OK by SCotUS) imposed our first federal min. wage. Unemployment again spikes up, hovering around 20% until the storm clouds of war in Europe overshadow the ills of protectionism where once again demand for exports from America increase. WWII is what brings unemployment down and keeps it down for the duration. I pray younger readers learn and understand this economic history to come up with more sane ways to get out of failed policies we appear to be headed toward yet again.

The less remembered (30th Anniversary) but deeper stock market crash of 1987, “resulted primarily from program trading selloff and some secondary factors including excessive valuations, illiquid markets, balance of trade fears, market psychology, etc.,” according to pop press and the usual talking heads. Again, why programing to buy as the market dropped 508 points (22.6%) didn’t kick in and why sudden concern on the same day about valuations, liquidity, BoT results, etc. are noticeably absent among most economists who supposedly ‘are all Keynesians now.’ Computer trading was nothing new in 1987 and computers do not THINK for themselves. Investors decided to pull the plug on buy bids because what triggered the selloff was not resolved as stock prices plummeted toward record loss results. 1987 was another strong year for the stock market leading up to this ‘Black Monday’ crash, continuing the bull market which started charging up in 1982. Widely recognized as the ‘most extreme one week plunge in history’ – why is this crash largely forgotten, yet most know something about the 1929 crash? If one does not want an example/illustration of market forces disciplining political folly, 1987’s Black Monday is best forgotten.

A more reasoned explanation for the stock market crash of October 19, 1987 was published in the Journal of Financial Economics by a classmate from my grad school days at Clemson, Professor Mark Mitchell. He found the crash was triggered by legislation under consideration in closed Ways & Means Committee meeting Tuesday, October 13th. Just as the Mitch & Nancy types do their ‘public service’ behind closed doors to hide their evil, so did Dan. Mr. Rostenkowski (D – Illinois) was a fixture on this powerful committee for 13 years and a perfect

complement to President Reagan who was another big govt. (modern) Democrat who ran as a Republican to grow government (champion corporate welfare, increase debt per capita three-fold, amnesty instead of Constitutionally based policy, etc.) while the masses reveled in Reagan rhetoric.

Rostenkowski was well paid by wealthy upper level managers and CEOs of companies who didn’t like being disciplined by ‘hostile takeovers’ exposing their poorly managed firms. Some may be more familiar with ‘Corporate Raider’ nomenclature or terms like ‘poison pill.’ Hollywood certainly makes it clear with movies like “Pretty Woman” (Richard Gere’s epiphany) and “Wall Street” (not heard subliminal names like Gordon Gecko and Bud Fox since Caddyshack) how they want the ignorant masses to think about their role in society. The lesser known “Other Peoples’ Money” is my favorite, can you cast anyone better than Danny DeVito as an obnoxious reviled corporate raider going after Gregory Peck – a.k.a. Atticus Finch? Corporate raiders buy into firms so poorly managed their stock price does not even reflect the firm’s asset value. Let that sink in... millions of dollars of ‘stuff’ are so misallocated by the firm’s managers the company is worth less than if the assets were sold. It is the LAST firewall of protecting investors, retirees, etc. from stock prices going far below asset value. When news leaked from this closed Tuesday October 13th caucus meeting to protect high level execs and managers from corporate raiders, the selloff began. Rostenkowski knew his legislation would trigger fear – the reason for the closed meeting. Investors who understand how markets work realize stock prices would be less likely to at least reflect the firm’s asset value and now ‘the cat was out of the bag.’ Corrupt Dan didn’t have time to get his minions to buffer the response in a pre-circuit breaker/curbed Wall St.

Even more deleterious to the economy in general, reducing the discipline of corporate raiders would make it more difficult to get assets out the control of corrupt/poor managers and into the hands of more competent, honest ones. Yet another recipe for job destruction and contraction. Remarkably, one of our most entrenched, corrupt DC swamp creatures (similar character, integrity and spirit as our felon Hubbard, but Rostenkowski plead guilty to his charges) had to back off the legislation with such a shattering response from Wall St. Once the fear of Dan’s legislation subsided and investors changed their forecast that this powerful taker of huge campaign contributions and corruption wouldn’t logroll the proposed legislation into law, the market quickly corrected. Adam Smith’s so-called ‘animal spirits’ in action – i.e., fear and greed. When investors fear something on Wall St. they’re selling. Once the fear subsides greed kicks to return to buying – the greater the drop, the more appealing the stock prices. Some may recall how mutual funds delighted in showing returns since 1/1988 taking advantage of those ignorant of this historic event.

The ability of Wall St. to so loudly and clearly signal fear to thwart legislation of this sort had to be quashed. Circuit breakers and curbs will not permit such effective communication and makes markets easier to manipulate today, knowing exactly where the boundaries lie. The observed less stable results (higher peaks/lower troughs) and much longer durations outside cycles remaining closer to the long-term trend line are no surprise. Moving onto bailouts of poorly managed firms and policies/programs to discourage correction was an easily predictable next step in keeping with the 1929 history of further empowering the command economy addressing symptoms instead of the problem. Making it more difficult for markets to purge trash (poorly run firms) out of the system impedes resource allocation to higher valued uses to promote jobs, more competitive prices, etc. So what’s the punchline? The deeper 1987 crash is forgotten because DC backed off the legislation which triggered the selloff, so the market was allowed to quickly correct. The lesser 1929 crash is an indelible memory because DC did NOT back off the legislation which triggered that ‘Black Monday’ selloff and didn’t provide any reversal (however partial) until MFN five years later. Long drawn out downturns like 2008 are much more likely under the current ‘breaker and curbed’ command economy result; little dispute the federal government has much greater power than a century ago to dust up much more devastation to make the ‘Dust Bowl’ look like a small ‘Dust Devil’ in comparison.



John Martin

works and earns his living in Montgomery. That’s everybody, whether or not he actually lives in the city.

The really nasty surprise in this tax is that it does not just tax net income. It is a tax on gross receipts. Depending on one’s profit margin, the actual tax take could be anywhere from about two or three percent up to ten or even twenty percent or more of net income. Even a business that suffers a loss would have to pay the tax—a double whammy.

For example, one of Montgomery’s most popular grocery stores, Food Outlet, sells everything at ten percent above cost. Simple math proves that the store must pay tax not just on its ten percent markup, but on its gross sales; that includes the wholesale cost of its stock. The tax bite would come to 11 percent.

The tax is also evil in other ways. It obligates everybody to spend considerable extra time performing additional paperwork to pay the tax. It also sets up a new money-draining bureaucracy to do the city’s paperwork and collect the tax.

And finally, there is nothing mentioned to limit the tax to one percent. At some time in the future, the city could claim it needs more money and double it, or even triple it. Read your history about the federal income tax. In the beginning, in 1913, it was only one percent. We all know how that worked out.

Montgomery’s people are not happy. The very next day, they flooded WACV talk show hosts Greg Budell and Dan Morris with angry comments. The Alabama State Employees’ Association (ASEA) also voiced disapproval. A Montgomery doctor said he had already relocated his business to Wetumpka.

In the State House, Representative Chris Sells of Greenville introduced a bill to prohibit municipalities from imposing new or increased occupational taxes without legislative approval, retroactive to February 1. It quickly passed both houses. Governor Kay Ivey signed it on March 3.

Mayor Reed said it was inappropriate meddling in city affairs. “That to me is a danger, and a crippling measure of power-hungry, arrogant legislators with the hubris to think that local people don’t know how to solve local problems.”

Really! What about your power-hungry ego and arrogant city council attempting to fleece the people with a new tax they would never approve? Why don’t you let them vote on it? What did you do with the consent of the governed?

Greg Budell announced that if the city should somehow succeed in getting the tax implemented, “it would be the death knell of the city. The people will be fighting it tooth and nail, and I will be leading the charge.”

Montgomery’s Occupational Tax

City occupational taxes are not new. About 20 other Alabama cities and towns have their versions with rates from 0.5% up to 2%. Birmingham is the biggest city with such a tax, and it has suffered greatly over the years. Once known as “The Magic City” and “The Pittsburgh of the South” because of its prosperous steel mills, it has now slid down into the cusp of bankruptcy as business, industry, and the more prosperous people fled to greener, less abusive pastures.

This year is not the first time Montgomery attempted an occupational tax. In fact, it actually passed one back on September 20, 1972.

Back then, Montgomery was ruled by a three-man commission—a mayor, a commissioner of public works, and a commissioner of public affairs. The mayor was Jim Robinson, and the two commissioners were Cliff Evans and Jack Rucker.

Suddenly, on that Tuesday morning, Cliff and Jack voted for a one percent occupational tax against Jim’s “no” vote—two against one—like the proverbial “two wolves and a sheep voting on what’s for dinner.”

The public’s outrage was immediate. Don Markwell’s radio program was inundated with angry people demanding the immediate impeachment of the two commissioners. Activist Gordon Tucker (who later ran for U.S. Senate) created an organization to oppose the tax called “Action America.” Petitions to repeal the tax were handed out everywhere, and just about everyone who found one signed it with gusto.

Cliff Evans and Jack Rucker stood their ground, insisting that the tax was necessary, “We need money

for the fire department, the police, and...” They quickly printed up forms and instructions to pay the tax and mailed copies to everyone in the city.

The people were absolutely livid. The whole city was discussing plans for revenge. After six weeks of angry people nearly rioting, the two commissioners decided that repealing the tax was the only way to end their wrath and restore peace.

Today, Montgomery is burdened with five unfaithful councilmen and Mayor Steven Reed, who were just elected last year and are just beginning four-year terms. Steven is the son of one of Montgomery’s most notorious scoundrels, Joe L. Reed, who has held and abused multiple public offices, including city councilman and trustee at Alabama State University. One of his schemes was to double the parking fees for students at the university. The students quickly responded by not buying permits, and instead, parked their cars along streets in residential neighborhoods on the other side of Carter Hill Road. As a councilman, he pushed through an ordinance to prohibit on the street parking over there, even for people who lived there.

There is an old saying, “Like father, like son.” At his first opportunity, Steven Reed has proven it by pulling a dirty trick of his own—the occupational tax.

Sadly, the people will have to wait nearly four years to throw out Reed and the five colluding councilmen.

The good news is that Chris Sells’ new law is standing guard. The new tax is unlikely to become effective any time soon.

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



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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

Updates Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Social Security Benefits Will be Paid On Time



Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, reminds the public that Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit payments will continue to be paid on time during the COVID-19 pandemic. The agency also reminds everyone to be aware of scammers who try to take advantage of the pandemic to trick people into providing personal information or payment via retail gift cards, wire transfers, internet currency, or by mailing cash, to maintain Social Security benefit payments or receive economic impact payments from the Department of the Treasury.

“Social Security will pay monthly benefits on time and these payments will not be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic,” Commissioner Saul said. “I want our beneficiaries to be aware that scammers may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping or somehow changing your Social Security payments, but that is not true. Don’t be fooled.”

The Department of the Treasury will soon provide information about economic impact payments under the recently enacted law, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act. Treasury, not Social Security, will be making direct payments to eligible people. Please do not call Social Security about these payments as the agency does not have information to share.

The agency continues to direct the public to its online self-service options whenever possible. Local offices are closed to the public but are available by phone. People can find their local field office phone number by accessing the Field Office Locator at <https://secure.ssa.gov/ICON/main.jsp>.

To allow available agents to provide better phone coverage, the agency is temporarily changing the National 800 Number hours starting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. The hours will change from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. local time to 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. local time. The agency is experiencing longer than normal wait times on the 800 Number and asks the public to remain patient, use its online services at www.socialsecurity.gov, or call their local office.

Please visit the agency’s COVID-19 web page at www.socialsecurity.gov/coronavirus/ for important information and updates.

Important Information about Social Security Services

We recognize that you may have questions about how the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) will affect Social Security services. The first thing you should know is that we continue to pay Social Security and SSI benefits. Also, beware of scammers who may try to trick you into thinking the pandemic is stopping your Social Security payments. This threat is not true. Don’t let the scammers fool you.

We want to share other important information about our services during this pandemic.

To protect you and our employees, and help stop the spread of COVID-19, we cannot accept visitors in our offices at this time. We provide many services online and limited, critical services via phone and email. During the pandemic, we are dedicating available staff to serve people in most critical need of our services.

Need help from Social Security? Many of our services are available online at www.ssa.gov/online/services, including:

- Applying for benefits.
- Setting up or changing your direct deposit.
- Changing your address, if you get benefits.
- Getting proof of your benefits.

We strongly encourage you to try our convenient and secure online services before calling us. Please be aware that our call wait times are much longer than normal. Save time and go online.

For more information, please visit our COVID-19 page at www.ssa.gov/coronavirus. There you can find out what limited services we can provide by phone, and important information about deadlines we are extending to ease the burden on you and medical providers during this pandemic. You can also subscribe to get an email or text message notification when we update the page so you stay informed.

Please share our COVID-19 page with your friends and family.

SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICES CLOSED

All local Social Security offices are closed to the public for in-person service. This decision protects the populations we serve—older Americans and people with underlying medical conditions—and our employees during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. However, we are still able to provide critical services.

Please visit our Social Security & Coronavirus webpage to get updates on the latest, including how to get help from the Social Security Administration by phone and online. I encourage you to share this information with your members, colleagues, affiliates, and other interested parties.

Visit: <https://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/>

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff’s Office

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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

A Message from the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Office Protocol: Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Sheriff’s Office is actively working on plans to limit exposure of our deputies with the general public. As a result of the pandemic, the Montgomery County Commission issued a resolution on March 17, 2020, closing all county complexes to the general public for 14 days. The tentative reopen date is set for Wednesday, April 1, 2020. The Montgomery County Commission took these precautionary measures to make sure employees as well as all citizens that we come in contact with are safe and their health and well-being is of utmost importance during this crisis.

Furthermore, effective immediately, we are going to begin handling some matters via telephone as much as possible. When our Dispatch receives a call, they will continue to follow normal protocol, i.e., CAD (notate) the call and dispatching the call to the appropriate unit. It will be the responsibility of the deputy and the on-duty supervisor to evaluate which calls can be handled via telephone. Once a determination is made, as to whether the matter can be handled via “telephone” response or not, the deputy will contact the complainant to provide the appropriate information as well as complete the proper paperwork.

The Sheriff’s Office will continue to operate at normal capacity as much as possible via telephone and internet; however, we have listed below a quick reference contact guide to various Sheriff’s Office Divisions.

If you have Pistol Permit or civil-related questions (evictions, subpoenas, etc.), please dial 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337.

If you have warrant-related questions, please dial 334.832.2579 or 334.832.2516.

Our Investigations Unit is still actively working and if you need to speak with someone in that Division, please dial 334.832.2532.

Our office staff will continue working Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-5:00pm. Our website www.MontgomerySheriff.com is a great source of information as well as our app! If you haven’t downloaded our app, please search your app store for “Montgomery County AL Sheriff” and download it today. Our app is user-friendly and an easy way to inquire about current inmates in the Detention Facility, find out if someone has an active warrant as well as learn about various programs we offer at our agency.

Currently, our Detention Facility is closed to all visitation including vendors except for deliveries to maintain the normal operations of the facility. Additionally, inmates will still have access to the phone system to call their loved ones. As you know, we are doing everything possible to make sure that our inmate population as well as our employees are safe and to minimize exposure to as least as possible.

As a reminder, please wash your hands regularly, disinfect all public access areas not only at your job but at home as well. Don’t forget to clean your hands thoroughly after pumping gas into your vehicle as everyone has to touch the same pump to refuel their vehicle. Finally, try to use your Bluetooth or speakerphone so your cell phone doesn’t have to touch your face. These simple techniques could mean a lot!

We appreciate your patience during these stressful times and hope to resume normal operations soon.

Community Relations Events

Sheriff Cunningham has decided to cancel the following Community Relations events this year due to the Covid-19 (Coronavirus):

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Citizens Academy (postponed until later in the year)
- April 18, 2020 Firearms Familiarization Course
- Deputy Dave’s Day

Social Media

The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office has a new Facebook page! Make sure you follow us as All our social media outlets are listed below:

Social Media Search
Facebook**Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office Alabama**
Instagram**Mcsaal**
Snapchat**mcsa.alabama**
Twitter**MG_Twitter**



SANITIZE AND STAY ALIVE!



Community Lifestyles



Montgomery, Al

Soul Searching


- ✚ Choose to enjoy some family time and love each other well.
- ✚ Get some projects done around the house that you haven't had time to. Catch up on some yard work.
- ✚ Spend time outside. There are no prohibitions about being out in God's great outdoors. Sunshine and fresh air are the Lord's natural disinfectants.
- ✚ Get some rest. Many of you need to catch up on your sleep. Doctors and medical research tell us that a rested body is much healthier and can fight infections and viruses much easier.
- ✚ Get some exercise. There are no bans against taking a walk or a hike. There are no cancellations on going for a bike ride or jogging either.

✠ Ask the Holy Spirit to help you control your thoughts so that you are not overwhelmed with fear and worry. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self control.

✠ Jesus said, ***“Be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.”*** – *Matthew 10:16*. Be wise in your choices to honor the recommendations of the CDC and our Federal, State and Local health officials. And be harmless as a dove by doing no harm to others as you practice good hygiene and proper social distancing right now.



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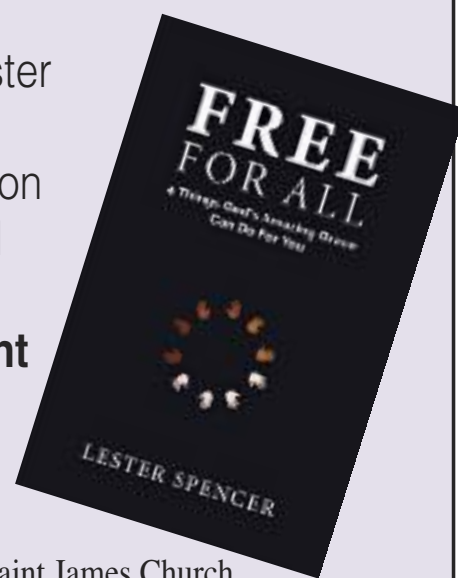


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James Church** and
online: sjlife.com



Dr Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the **Soul Searching** column for *Alabama Gazette* each month.

Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Brigadier General Marvin Kent Speigner: Age 96

Brigadier General (BG) Marvin Kent Speigner served in the U. S. Army for 35 years. His medals and awards are: Combat Infantry Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with Three Stars, World War II Medal, National Defense Service



Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Philippine Liberation Medal, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Alabama Commendation Medal and Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

BG Speigner was born in Enterprise, AL, to his parents, Leroy and Tommie Speigner June 10, 1923, as the 7th son in his family. He was reared and educated in Enterprise graduating from Enterprise High School. BG Speigner worked as a carpenter at Ft. Rucker (Camp Rucker) having learned the skills of such work from his father. He was drafted into the U. S. Army January 7, 1943, and completed Basic Training at Camp Croft, SC, with further training as a machine gunner in the Infantry at Camp Livingston, LA. BG Speigner was deployed with the 149th Infantry to the Asiatic Pacific Theater traveling through the Panama Canal with the 38th Infantry Division. He received jungle training in Hawaii and then was sent to New Guinea and to Leyte, the seventh largest island in the Philippine Islands. BG Speigner valiantly served in combat in the liberation of Leyte and Bataan. The mission was to defeat and expel the Imperial Japanese

forces. BG Speigner arrived on beaches aboard the Landing Ship Tanks (LST) making the amphibious landings with the Infantry wading ashore. The conditions of combat were terrible during mostly rainy seasons fighting the Japanese who didn't want to ever surrender. He served there on three beachheads until just after the Japanese surrendered August 5, 1945, following the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. BG Speigner returned to America for separation from the Army at Camp Shelby, MS, in 1946 after serving almost three years of deployment.

BG Speigner went into the Inactive Army Reserve for a year working in carpentry on building houses, but he reenlisted in 1947 to serve in the Army's Artillery reporting to Ft. Sill for artillery communications training. He next went to Ft. Bliss, TX, for training in radar systems. BG Speigner joined the 226th Army Artillery Group in the National Guard where he maintained radar guidance systems for the anti-aircraft artillery. In 1952, he went to Seattle, WA, for the purpose of replacing the guns with a missile system. BG Speigner returned to AL and worked with the Army National Guard. He worked with the storage sites for radar sets for vehicles in Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery. BG Speigner then served as the administrator officer for the signal units for the AL National Guard. He attended the U. S. Army Advanced Signal School in New Jersey and the U. S. Army Armorer School in Kentucky. BG Speigner became the administrative officer of the Army's 31st Division in AL. His rank continued to rise reaching the rank of One Star General. In 1975, he retired as the Deputy Adjutant General of the AL National Guard.

Immediately upon military retirement, BG Speigner opened the real estate company, Southern Properties, after receiving his real estate and broker's licenses. He then ran Southern Mineral Leasing, Inc. for five years returning to his real estate business and worked with it until he retired at age 79.

BG Speigner and his wife, Hazel, have been married 72 years. and they have four children, 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. One son, one son-in-law and two nephews have served in the military. For many years, he and his wife enjoyed traveling. He built houses which she decorated at Lake Martin and Gulf Shores, AL, and he bought, rebuilt and resold beach condos. He is a strong, avid supporter of the University of Alabama's Crimson Tide football team having listened to Bama's games on a radio as a young boy.

BG Speigner reflects upon his service to America saying, "I was serving my country. I enjoyed it. I was in construction before I joined the military, but I didn't feel about it like I felt about the military. At the end of the day in the military, I always felt that I had accomplished something."

Lee Andrews Kennedy: Age 91

Lee Andrew Kennedy was born May 12, 1928, in Camden, AL, to his parents, Van Kennedy and Evie Dee Kennedy in low socio-economic circumstances in a rural setting during the times of segregation in Alabama. His mother



passed away when he was only four years of age, and his grandmother, Mary Ella James reared him and taught him to live by always trying to help people and to respect people. He walked five miles to school and graduated from high school at the Camden Academy in 1950. He attended Alabama State University for a while until he was drafted entering service with the U.S. Army April 27, 1951. He was sent to Ft. Brag, N.C. for basic training and then to San Antonio for training with artillery. He was deployed to Korea where he served 1.5 years,

used the Carbine M1 and 90mm guns and was the gunnery sergeant commander on a 16 ton gun. Kennedy concludes about his military service saying, "It taught me how to get along with all kinds of people. My experiences as a sergeant in Korea changed my life. It changed by attitude and my perspective."

After discharge from the military, Kennedy resumed his education at Alabama State University studying physical education and social studies in the teacher preparation programs. He then worked with moving companies in Montgomery for a while, and then delivered school supplies for the Montgomery Paper Company in various parts of AL. The Montgomery Bus Boycott had ended its successful efforts, and Kennedy applied for work as a driver for the Montgomery City Lines. He was the third African American to become employed in this work, and he continued working with this for 20 years. He also drove vehicles for the Montgomery Y.M.C.A., and he retired in 1999.

Kennedy and his wife, Linda, have been married 30 years. He was married twice previously, and he had three children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren with his first wife. Kennedy has been a member of the Beula Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL, for over 50 years where he has served as a trustee, a deacon and president of the W. L. Alford Gospel Chorus in addition to membership in the Male Chorus. He has also participated in Beulah Baptist Church's meals on wheels program. He has been a member of the W. T. Wood Masonic Lodge for 60 years. He and his wife enjoy riding bicycles.

Kennedy's biography has been described in the book, *The Third Black Bus Driver: The Montgomery Bus Boycott: The True Story of the Man Behind the Wheel*. Information about purchasing the book can be found at this website: www.thirdblackbusdriver.com. This is an important story about one of many unsung heroes who helped fulfill the demands of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Kennedy reflects on his experiences as a Black bus driver saying, "I am a typical person who found himself in unusual circumstances, and I did what I had to do."

Bobby Neville Asbury: Korean War Veteran: Age 89

Bobby Neville Asbury is a veteran who served one year in the Korean War during his almost four years in the U. S. Army. He received the following medals: Army Commendation Medal and the Korean Service Medal with Three Bronze Stars.

Asbury was born in Lakeland, FL, to his parents, Jack and Jessie Mae Asbury May 29, 1930. He was reared in Montgomery and Verbena, AL, dropped



out of high school to assist his father in building a log house in Chilton County, AL, and later received his GED. Asbury volunteered for military service, and he joined at a recruiting station at Maxwell Field, AL, in 1948. He completed Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, SC. After taking aptitude exams, he was sent to a leader-

ship school. Asbury was then assigned to the 1st Calvary Division near Tokyo for one year. He deployed to Korea with the artillery that fired the large 155 mm guns and worked in the fire direction center. Asbury experienced the trauma of the loss of many American soldiers in northern Korea with the 2nd Division. One of the highlights of his time in Korea was being entertained by Bob Hope in a USO show. Asbury developed vision problems while serving in Asia. He was sent to Ft. Benning, GA, where he served as a public information officer and wrote articles about AL troops and sent them to their hometown newspapers.

After discharge from the military in 1952, he held a variety of jobs. He worked selling advertisements, auto parts, insurance for Liberty National and audio-visual equipment for schools with EBSCO, supervising carriers for the Montgomery Advertiser and driving a delivery truck for wholesale sales for Teague Dairy Co., Barber Dairy Co. and Colonial Bread Co. retiring in 1998.

Asbury and his wife, Joyce, were married for 67 years before she passed, and they had three daughters and one son, 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. He recalls his courtship of his wife when it was necessary for him to ride a bicycle and then to take a ferry to cross the Coosa River in rural Chilton County, AL, to reach the place where she lived. He has enjoyed rooting for the Atlanta Braves Baseball Team, serving as the first ordained deacon at the Catoma Baptist Church, spending time with his family and traveling with the United Commercial Travelers, a fraternal organization of salesmen.

Asbury reflects on his military service saying, "It was a pretty good thing because I've got a lot of good benefits since I got out. Because of my eyesight problems, the VA has furnished me with glasses and sent me for visual impairment training I seemed to get along while I was in there. I was always near the headquarters except when I was with the artillery in the 2nd Calvary Division near the Yalu River in North Korea. Those boys got shot up before they could get out of the truck. I saw it, and it was sad. The bodies were lying in the two and a half ton truck like it was firewood."

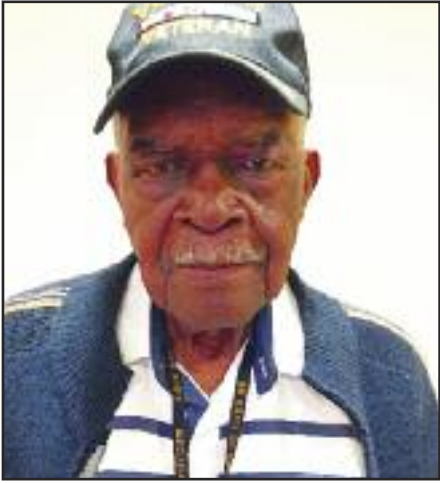
Patriotic Ceremony for Veteran's Funerals



- Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals.
- Families should take a copy of the veteran's DD214 discharge papers to the funeral home and ask for an honor guard to conduct a flag ceremony.
- Although the funeral home can arrange for the honor guard to include a bugler to play "Taps", that bugler may bring a bugle and play a tape recording.
- To arrange for a "live bugler", contact Raymond Keel, a veteran who attend veterans' funerals and plays "Taps" live.
- Call him at 334-233-8736. He is the Assistant Director of the organization, Bugles Across America for Alabama.
- Go to this web site: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugler providing the date, location and time of the interment.
- There is no charge for the military honor guard or for the live bugler.

James E. Dyson Jr.: Age 89

James E. Dyson Jr. served 30.5 years in the U. S. Army with one tour with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Dyson began his military service as a private retiring at the rank of Sergeant Major. He worked, observed and learned beginning in the area of transportation and progressing to recovery ordinance



becoming an instructor in recovery, shop foreman, production control supervisor, ordinance maintenance chief at the Pentagon and finally as the Army’s Inspector General. His military awards and medals are: National Defense Service Medal (One Oak Leaf Cluster), Good Conduct Medal (8th Award), Army Commendation Medal (One Oak Leaf Cluster), Bronze Star Medal, Vietnam Service (Two Bronze Stars), Vietnam Campaign Medal (60 device), Two Overseas Service Bars, Drivers Mechanic Badge "T", Vietnam Cross of Gallantry (with Palm Unit), Meritorious Service Medal, Sharpshooter (M-14), Expert (M16) and 10 Service Stripes.

Dyson was born December 20, 1930, in Palmetto, FL, to his parents, James E. Dyson Sr. and Queen Simms, and he was reared near Tampa, FL. He dropped out of school in the ninth grade and worked in labor- intensive odd jobs such as washing dishes and being a busboy in hotels. At age 17, his mother signed the paper for him to join the Army, and he completed eight weeks of Boot Training at Ft. Dix, NJ. Dyson was assigned to work in transportation where he was taught to drive vehicles such as a 2.5 ton truck which he did for five years. His first duty station was deployment to Munich, Neuremberg and Schlangenbaden, Germany, in 1948 at the time of the Berlin Airlift hauling troops for the 1st Infantry Division for almost four years. He was discharged from the Army for 17 days, and he re-enlisted because of hopes of getting a job and an education. Dyson concludes that he was spiritually guided with that decision.

Dyson was then sent to Ft. Jackson, SC, still working in transportation. His next assignment was at Ft. Benning, GA, where he was a jeep driver for a year followed by assignment to Ft. Knox, KY, for eight years where his military occupational specialty (MOS) changed to working with recovery including removing tanks from mud holes, transporting tanks back and forth to shops, weapons transport, heavily lifting for the company and rapid standby bringing disabled vehicles back to the company. Dyson says, “I met a whole lot of educated, smart people in that unit including mechanical and petroleum engineers as well as psychologists and I learned a lot from them.” He was advised

by a psychologist that if he wanted to learn some basic psychology to read the book, “How to Win Friends and Influence People,” by Dale Carnegie. Dysons recalls reading that book eight times during his military service and three times during his retirement following the advice found in this publication. Dyson concludes, “You can’t control everything around you, but you can control your reaction to these things. The most important person in the world to you is you. Why argue? When you argue, if the person is going against his will, he is still of the same opinion.”

In 1962, Dyson deployed to Korea, with the 44th Engineers first working as a motor sergeant and then demilitarizing 475 armored personnel carriers going in one day from 13 to 87. In 1962, He had temporary duty to Thailand teaching recovery, driving, operating and maintaining tanks for the Royal Thai Military for three months where he learned to speak and sing Thai. After returning to Korea, he went to Ft. Benning, GA, working in recovery followed by deployment to Neuremberg and Schlangenbad, Germany, reaching the rank of E8 in 1965. He became Maintenance Platoon Sergeant supervising a section of 59 men where he led in the rebuilding of jeeps and 2.5 ton trucks. Then he became Shop Foreman Production and Control Supervisor. Among those being trained in this field of vehicle reconstruction, he graduated 2nd in his class. He returned to Thailand as an advisor to a regiment tasked with getting vehicles ready by deadlines for the 3rd Royal Thai Army. In 1968, he went to the Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD, and served as an instructor and Chief of Recovery. In 1970, he deployed to Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division for nine months. Following another assignment to Ft Benning, GA, he was sent to the Pentagon for 37 months as Ordinance Chief. His final duty station was at Ft. Benning, GA, as Inspector General of supply, medics, armor, cooking, etc. for the entire U. S. Army where he retired November 1, 1978.

When reflecting on what serving in the military meant to him, Dyson says, “I was able to take out an allotment to my mother in the beginning providing her with \$137.10 a month. When I got married, I was able to support my wife and family.”

Dyson and his wife, Mary, were married 65 years before she passed away, and they had three children, 13 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren. Carrying on the tradition of service to America, all three of James’ and Mary’s children served and reached full retirement in the Army. Since his military retirement, Dyson has visited veterans who are patients at the Bill Nichols Veterans Home in Alexander City, AL, and participated with other veterans by going to the Central AL Health Care System West Campus in Montgomery, AL, where he played bingo and visited patients convalescing in the hospital there. He is an active member of Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America and also with Disabled American Veterans. Dyson is a local celebrity on radio talk shows where he is known as "50/50", on radio stations, 102.7 FM and 1440 AM. He's hard hitting, controversial and claims he can present both sides of a discussion. He maintains his lawn keeping it free of weeds.

Dyson is a voracious reader having read over 190 books since his military retirement. Dysons’ conclusions about his lifelong learning are, “The way I learned along the way was when you are observing an operation, watch what is being done, and in the conversation, listen to what is being said. The whole world is my country. Everybody is my brother or sister. To do good is my religion.” Dyson helps people giving from his heart but preferring to remain anonymous. Coming from a low socio-economic background in segregated American society, Dyson has used his keen intelligence, his ability to get along with others, his perseverance and his determination to do well by achieving and succeeding where others might have given up.

Bobby Joe Mitchell: Age 76

Bobby Joe Mitchell is an Alabamian who served five years in the U. S. Marine Corps 1961-1966. Carrying on the tradition of his family’s military



service given by his father who served in the Army and his older brother who served in the Army National Guard, at the age of 17, Mitchell joined the U. S. Marines and was sent to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at Parris Island for Boot Camp. Mitchell survived the stressful whirlwind of in-processing, haircuts, uniform and gear issue and medical evaluations. After undergoing an initial

strength test to ensure he was prepared for training, he met his team of drill instructors who were responsible for the rest of his training. Mitchell received instruction on military history, customs and courtesies and hand-to-hand combat skills. He had to learn to leap into deep water, to tread water to stay afloat and to shed heavy gear that could pull him under water. Mitchell’s training included weapons marksmanship, close order drill and personal hygiene. He was trained not only physically and mentally but morally as well. Marines learned the Marines’ Core Values—Honor, Courage and Commitment. His MO was one of a four-man Fire Team ready for combat. He served in security at the Naval Base at Charleston, S.C., and was deployed on a naval ship patrolling off the coast of Cuba during the October, 1962, Cuban Missile Crisis, a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union after discovery of Soviet ballistic missiles in Cuba. For two years, he also served at Camp Geiger, part of the Marine Corps Base at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina.

Mitchell, the fifth child of his parents, Ocie and Thelma Mitchell, was born September 5, 1943, in Birmingham, AL, and he was reared in Barbour County, AL. After discharge from the Marines, he worked in air conditioning maintenance in his own company, Mitchell Service, and other such companies for 50 years. He worked in Dothan, AL, and Chipley, FL, and Ozark, AL, retiring in 2000 after injuring his back. Mitchell enjoys reading newspapers and magazines as well as watching television. Mitchell and his wife, Katie Williams Mitchell, had two children He enjoys feeding birds especially a parrot that he has had for several years.

Reflecting upon his service as U. S. Marine, Mitchell states, “We had to keep the peace. We were war people. We had to do what we were told.”

Robert Wesley Marcus: Age 80

Robert Wesley Marcus served in the United States Marine Corps for four years. Marcus was born in Montgomery, AL, September 6, 1939, to his parents, Henry Edward Marcus, Sr. and Thelma Louise Bagwell Marcus. He was reared in Montgomery, and he served in the Naval Reserve for one year at age 16 by training one summer at Bainbridge, MD, followed by his leaving Montgomery’s Lanier High School to join the U. S. Marines July 29, 1957. His Basic Training for 20 weeks was at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, SC, in the



Marine Corps Boot Camp O311 preparing for combat where Marines are referred to as “grunts” followed by infantry training at the U. S. Marine Corps Base Camp Geiger, S.C., home of the Marine Corps School of Infantry East learning to fire the BAR rifle and receiving combat training. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Division at Camp LeJeune, NC. followed by three trips aboard Navy ships to the Mediterranean Sea during the difficulties at Lebanon during 1958. He sailed on the USS Pocono (AGC-16), an Adirondack class amphibious force command ship, the Cambria which joined the 6th Fleet in support of the American landings at Beirut, Lebanon, and on a USS Landing Ship Tank (LST) used to support the amphibious operations by carrying tanks, vehicles, cargo and landing troops directly onto shore with no docks or piers. His next assignment was to Cuba for six weeks to protect the American Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay (GITMO) prior to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Returning to Camp LeJeune for three years of additional training, he then transferred for one year to the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, FL for service as Corporal of the Guard at a brig, a prison for military prisoners, and he also flew all over the U. S. A.

as a prisoner chaser picking up prisoners. In addition, he served on the Honor Guard raising and lowering the American flag each day. In June, 1961, his four years of military commitment ended with his honorable discharge.

After discharge, Marcus returned to Montgomery where he later completed his GED and started a family including two children and four grandchildren. Marcus has worked in a variety of jobs including selling home and auto products and working as the first and only white, male teacher at a Head Start Center in Montgomery, AL, for three years and with the Mobile, AL, Head Start Training Office for five years teaching at the Child Development Center at Brookley Air Force Base. In 1967, Using the G.I. Bill, he attended night classes at the University of Alabama’s Bell Street Extension Center and at Auburn University in Montgomery, AL. In 1971, he was hired to teach at the Child Development Center at the University of South Alabama where he transferred graduating with a B.S. Degree in Early Childhood Education. He became a kindergarten teacher and taught for 25 years with the Title I program at Butler County, AL, at the Baptist Hill School for seven years and the W.O. Parmer Elementary School for 18 years retiring from teaching in 2001.

After retirement, Marcus returned to Montgomery and worked as a vehicle driver and activities coordinator at two assisted living facilities for five years, as a bank courier for a company serving banks for one year and as inventory maintenance worker for grocery stores. Currently, he works as a courier for a national laboratory. With his own business, he measures race courses for runs to certify race courses for racing events for the U.S. Track and Field Association, and he also times races. Not only does he manage races, but he also participates in races. He has competed in ice skating, and in 1980, he first participated in competitive running and has completed 16 marathons with his best time as three hours and 52 minutes. Marcus has participated in four Marine Corps Marathons. Marcus has placed in his age group in many divisions. He won first in his age division of age 70 in a half-marathon in Florence, AL. Now he works out almost daily at the Crump Senior Center. He also rides with the Montgomery Motorcycle Club. In addition, his hobby is photographing at races.

Marcus concludes about his service in the U. S. Marines, saying, “You have to understand that I was a boy growing up in the 1950’s without having gone anywhere. Serving in the Marines really does mean, ‘Once a Marine, always a Marine.’ Somehow America has lost the patriotic feeling like those of us who served and are proud of this country. I didn’t go to war. They didn’t send me. I served my country deliberately. In my mind, I know what it means to be a proud American. When I was teaching, each day my kindergartens classes would say the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag and sing, God Bless America and the Marine Corps Hymn.”



Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer



From Pigskins to Rawhides



The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

There is No Joy in Mudville

As I practiced social distancing on my 800-pound motorcycle these past weeks; touring Montgomery I saw empty fields and only the sounds of birds singing at the ballparks I visited. No baseball, who could have imagined it. Not the familiar sounds of high school, college and youth baseball filling the air, rather silence. No family outings to watch kids playing baseball, soccer, basketball nor any other sport. The silence is deafening! High school softball cancelled, major league baseball postponed for who knows how long.

The COVID-19 virus has changed our lives, and while a normalcy will return, it will be a new normal. I'm still in a state of shock and can never remember times like these. Nothing that I've lived through, but times I heard about from my grandmother. As the great Depression left the landscape scarred, and WWII changed the world, baseball endured. Baseball was far and away the favorite sport in the country in the 1940s. Fans watched as many players left to join the military in the conflict. They included stars such as Ted Williams, Stan Musial, Joe DiMaggio, Yogi Berra, Pee Wee Reese and Hank Greenberg. The World Series was played every year during WWII. In all, 500 Major League players and more than 2,000 minor league players left to join the military, according to the American Veterans Center. But the seasons went on. One of the remarkable stories that involves World War II and baseball happened after the defeat of



Germany. A team of racially mixed U.S. players – including Negro League player Leon Day – formed teams that competed in a league. They played many of their games at the Hitler Youth Stadium in Nurem-

berg, where Adolf Hitler had lead many Hitler Youth rallies. That included a five-game “World Series” in September 1945.

But the unseen threat of the Corona virus has changed all of that in the blink of an eye. Only in 1994 was the World Series cancelled due to the players strike, with the exception of the 1904 series when the New York Giants refused to play the American League champion Boston Americans. Many minor league teams disbanded because so many young men were drafted. However, Chicago Cubs owner Philip K. Wrigley tasked an assistant to the team's general manager, Ken Sells, to find a solution. The All-American Girls Baseball League, made famous by the Tom Hanks movie.

And here we find ourselves in an apocalyptic time, where sports can no longer be played. Where churches and non-essential businesses are



closed. A time when I find myself reticent to adapt to the likely end of baseball season this year, if not, certainly in a much different reconfiguration. A time when I'm teaching virtual Bible studies and Sunday school lessons via computers.

And the players, our youngsters and boys and girls robbed of the seasons they worked so hard to accomplish. These, along with collegiate end professionals, sharing the same kind of loss. My heart goes out to all of them, including managers, coaches and umpires alike. Not to mention the fans.

College Football, a staple of American life is now put on hold until this pandemic is under control, until we can manage it. What of those thousands of young men, denied spring practice and just waiting? These are certainly some of the most difficult times they likely, and hopefully, ever will face.

And we do endure, we will endure and we will conquer this insidious foe. As President Kennedy famously quoted, “We will do these things, not because they are easy, rather because they are hard.”

May God be with us, and Godspeed to those brave souls in the medical profession, first responders, and all of those who are keeping our country together and strong while we wait for this to run its course.



More to come next time.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for March

by Peggy Givhan

Reprinted from *The Alabama Gazette*, April 2017

As we have heard all of our lives, “April showers bring May flowers,” and hope this will ring true as I have enjoyed the low water bills from the City.

The garden chores should not be mounting if we have kept weeding on a periodic schedule; however, there are some of us who just turned our backs for a few weeks, and wake up to find the soil covered with winter weeds. Luckily the dock, and others do have shallow root systems, and take very little effort to yank them out by the roots. In fact, the weeds create such a large crown or head with just the tiniest of roots. I have weeded out a huge pile while perhaps only pulling out perhaps 20 root balls. Be careful, since you will need to locate plants that have reseeded and can easily be pulled out with the drag net of weeds. So identify these before they get swept up in your weeding frenzy.

Besides the flower garden, if we have not planted lettuce, collards, turnip greens or kale, we should do this now before it gets too hot. Lettuces are especially nice, as they grow rapidly and one eats the whole plant. There is nothing better than serving a salad grown in your garden. Somehow, the salad just tastes fresher and better. If you do spray the lettuce with insecticides, remember that some "poisons" are taken up into the leaves and washing the leaves will not be enough to keep one from getting sick. There are very good organic sprays on the market which are alternatives to insecticides. For instance, one article suggested a caffeine spray for bugs. As for animals wanting to nibble some salad greens, try spraying with a mixture of garlic and another strong smelling herb. The fight to keep every bug out of your salad greens is not that daunting a task, because after six weeks, the lettuce begins to bolt and the greens have bitten the dust.

I was reading a garden article on flowers that tolerate and thrive in alkaline soil such as we have in Montgomery also known as Gumbo Soil. What I read made me rethink on my failures of Baby's Breath, or Gypsophila, which means "lime-loving". Lime is alkaline and I have always planted Baby's breath in acid to slightly acid soil. The plant requires good drainage, needs full sun or light shade, and is perennial. They make great fillers in the garden and are great for cutting. There is a creeping variety that does tolerate acid soil. Maybe before I try a new addition to the flower garden, I should read the plant's requirements.

Ornamental grasses can be a lovely addition to the flower bed. Fountain Grass, or Pennisetum, has become very popular and is noted for its foxtail fuzzy flowers that stand above clumps of rounded fine textured foliage. These are stunning when planted in large drifts. Most re-seed year after year, so thin periodically so as not to have a massive invasion.

Now that we should not have any more hard freezes, we need to search for and plant some hardy tropicals, such as plumbago, and hibiscus. These woody-stemmed plants have to be brought in during the coldest months, so I just keep them in pots and cut them back when the time comes. Just a couple of each lends an interesting texture with variety of colors from white, to pale blue to bright orange, red, yellow, peach and all colors in between.

GOOD GARDENING!





**Chef
David Spooner
Retired Chef**

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

Southern Cuisine

It is difficult not to comment on what is going on in the world today. First, the news is changing and updating so fast you cannot keep up. The vocabulary of everyday conversations includes phrases such as “self-quarantine” and “social distancing.” What happened to the times when the only social distancing was to keep away from Aunt Eunice? She would coral you in a corner at Thanksgiving and ask why you are not married and why are you not going to become a doctor. She knows someone at the bank that has a daughter that you should call.

There is a Quarantine Cooking Show on YouTube, to make the most from your pantry. The news to pay attention to is how to protect yourself and your family. There are many plans to protect people and some of those plans contradict someone else’s plan. Sadly, some of the plans introduced are only developed to further along someone’s political agenda. Some people are not thinking rationally and panic buying. This has caused shortages of some staples in many grocery stores.

I write this article to tell the story of Southern Cuisine; how to cook it, and learn the history about the foods we eat. In addition, I give you tips and ways to save time and money in your food purchases and menus. Also, to introduce you to some new recipes and menus to hone your culinary skills. And in times like these we could be thankful that we set up a well-stocked pantry.

The pantry would limit the times you needed to venture to the grocery store only to find that the items you wanted are not in stock. You cannot go out to a restaurant. Not that they will have no food to eat, but sadly, because you want to limit your exposure to other people. Fast food restaurants are closing their dining rooms but still have their drive-thru open. Besides, I do not know of very many restaurants that make their cornbread in a cast iron pan with a hefty dollop of bacon drippings (in the pan and in the batter). The stocked pantry will allow you to do just that while making your self-quarantine much more bearable. But this month’s article is not about that.

We have lived through a wet and cold winter. I think every winter is too wet and too cold. Winter is the time we eat hearty and filling meals. Lots of stews, thick soups and calorie-laden casseroles. Also, the calendar says we just left what I call the feast season. Christmas and Thanksgiving contributing greatly to the hardy and filling meals and to the bounty of leftovers to snack on. Those meals serve their purpose during the cold days of winter. But Spring is here and the available fruits and vegetables have multiplied. It is time to lighten up on your calorie intake. Enjoy the bounty from the farms that dot the landscape of Alabama.

April has a day just for you to make a peach cobbler, eat some BLTs, enjoy fresh tomatoes, add more pecans to your menu, surprise your significant other with an Egg’s Benedict for breakfast, add mushrooms to your pigs-in-a-blanket and have it all on April 23rd, National Picnic Day.

This recipe has a combination of ingredients including kalamata olives, sun-dried tomatoes, pasta and chickpeas that warrant it to be called Mediterranean. This ***Mediterranean Pasta Salad*** recipe is filled with fresh veggies and pantry items. Top it with a homemade Greek dressing.

MEDITERRANEAN PASTA SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

8 oz rotini pasta
1 cup tomatoes, chopped
1 whole medium cucumber, halved and sliced
1/4 cup oil-packed, sundried tomatoes, drained
1/2 cup kalamata olives or black olives
1 cup chickpeas, drained and rinsed
1/4 cup red onion, diced
1/2 cup feta cheese, crumbled
1 medium jar marinated artichokes quarters, drained
1 Tbsp fresh parsley, rough chop



DRESSING:

3 Tbsp red wine vinegar
1/3 cup light olive oil
1 Tbsp lemon juice
1 tsp honey

1 tsp Dijon mustard
1/2 tsp oregano
1/4 tsp garlic powder
Salt & pepper to taste

METHOD:

1. Cook pasta al dente according to package directions. Run under cold water to stop cooking. Chill.
2. Combine dressing ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid & shake well to combine.
3. Place all salad ingredients in large bowl. Top with dressing & mix well.
4. Refrigerate at least 1 hour before serving.
5. Garnish with extra feta cheese & parsley if desired.

Notes: Scrub the cucumber well to remove waxy coating. I do not like to peel a cucumber but before I cut it I to run the tines of a fork down the cucumber to score the skin. A garden pasta variety will give the salad some color but will not impart much flavor. Do not be cheap with the feta cheese. It should be white with a tangy flavor and rich aroma. It should not taste bitter, sour, chalky or tasteless. I like to buy feta in a block and crumble what I need. Also, this recipe calls for a cup of chopped tomatoes. Sun-dried tomatoes can be substituted but do not use a whole cup as the recipe calls for. Thinly slice the sun-dried tomatoes in strips and add a third cup of a cup at the most, a quarter cup will do.

The next salad, ***Jicama Salad***, is a light contrast to meals that are spicy and heavy. Jicama can be found in most larger grocery stores and in stores that specialize in Mexican cuisine. The vegetables can be found all over Alabama. A variation of this salad was a favorite of mine to use as a topping to an artichoke bottom. Omitting the cuties and the cucumber, doubling the jalapeños and finely chopping all of the ingredients, will produce an attractive and delicious hors d'oeuvre.

JICAMA SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

1 medium jicama (1 lb) peeled & julienned
1/2 cup finely chopped red bell pepper
1/2 cup finely chopped yellow bell pepper
1/2 cup finely chopped green bell pepper
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
1 hot house cucumber, peeled & chopped into 1/4-in pieces
4 clementines (Cuties) peeled, de-seeded, segments cut in half
1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
1/3 cup lime juice
1 medium jalapeno seeded & finely chopped
1 tablespoon light olive oil



METHOD: Toss jicama, peppers, onion, cucumber, clementines, and cilantro in a large bowl. Add lime juice and let sit for 30 minutes.



I was watching a cooking show, but I do not remember which one. I did write down the instructions to make these delicious hors d'oeuvres. I was thinking of using these morsels of goodness as a substitute for sun-dried tomatoes. Set your oven for 325 degrees. Look in your pantry for a can of whole peeled Roma tomatoes. Drain well but keep the juice for a later meal. Slice the tomatoes in half length wise. Separate a bunch of unpeeled garlic but do not peel. Cover a sheet pan with parchment paper. Lay out the tomatoes on the parchment paper and scatter the garlic cloves around the pan. Drizzle olive oil over the tomatoes and garlic and lightly salt and pepper the pan. After about 90 minutes, remove pan and when cool enough to handle, squeeze the garlic clove out of their skin onto a tomato slice. Roll it up and place in mouth!! You can also slice the tomatoes for later use and save the garlic but it is more fun eating them nice and warm with your favorite fermented red grape liquid. Make the most out of your self-quarantine!

For the final salad to celebrate spring, ***Corn & Black Bean Salad***, I use this recipe because it has a multitude of variations and uses. When I am through with it as a salad, I add a spicy salsa and enjoy with corn chips. Then with what is left, I drain it and with plenty of cheese the mix makes great nachos.

CORN & BLACK BEAN SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

1 can of black beans, rinsed & drained
1/2 can yellow corn, drained
1/2 cup rough chopped cilantro
1/2 cup chopped red onion
1 to 3 jalapeños, seeded & chopped (how spicy do you want it?)
1 cup chopped bell peppers, mix up the colors



DRESSING:

Juice from two limes
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon each, salt and pepper

METHOD:

1. Wisk the lime juice, olive oil, cumin and salt and pepper together or put in a mason jar with lid and shake until combined.
2. Place all of the veggies in a large bowl, add dressing and toss to coat.
3. Chill and serve.

*A final word about the state of things. Huffington Post even has an article on **How to Prioritize your Pantry and Make Food Last Longer**. Costco will not take returns of toilet paper, Alabama.*

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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com

The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

Happy Birthday, Patricia!



Honoring Vets who have Passed

Willie Lee Maxwell: Feb. 22, 1922 ~ Feb. 6, 2020











From Martha Pools Simmons: I received a lovely note, a copy of the funeral program and a newspaper article about the passing of a WWII veteran, Willie Lee Maxwell. I had written an article about him for the *Alabama Gazette*, which was published in the October, 2019 issue, and I sent him a birthday card from the **American Red Cross**. His 98th birthday was going to be February 22, but he passed away on February 6. His daughter wrote to me, “You are so thoughtful, remembering my father’s birthday, but sadly he passed away. The funeral was February 15th. Daddy became ill in December and was in ICU until he passed away. He had heart problems, but I believe that he was just tired. We can’t thank you enough for the [joy] you added to his life. We called him a celebrity. The article you wrote was shared with family and his church members. It brought a smile to his face. Thank you.” ~ Mamie (daughter) Maxwell Ellis

Thank you, Martha Poole Simmons, for caring so much and sharing the stories of our Veteran heroes! ~ The Alabama Gazette

Gazette’s Sympathy to the families of...

- Bailey, Glenn David (74)February 23, 2020
Derickson, William Robert (Bob) (66)February 25, 2020
Olive, Virginia (Jenny) Redmond (73)February 27, 2020
Nichols, Coy O. (78)February 29, 2020
Dunn, Mary Elizabeth (Ebba) Kendall (80)March 1, 2020
Young, James (Jim) H. (94)March 1, 2020
Weil, Alan Edward (91)March 2, 2020
Cole, Ethel Louella (Peggy) (89)March 4, 2020
Elliott, Charles O. (82)March 4, 2020
Williams, Nancy Cone, (64)March 4, 2020
Dennis, Katie (91)March 6, 2020
Mobley, Richard Randolph (71)March 6, 2020
McLemore, Emily Elizabeth Riddle (74)March 7, 2020
Norred, Larry Cameron (69)March 8, 2020
King, Frances Newman Dean (90)March 11, 2020
Meriwether, Jr., Benjamin Baldwin (74)March 12, 2020
Kiser, Bettie Olivia Berdeaux (96)March 13, 2020
Wood, Charles Lester (89)March 16, 2020
Armstrong, Georgia Mathews (79)March 21, 2020
Ellis, May Green (87)March 21, 2020
Gordon, Algernon “Collins” (92)March 22, 2020
Rudder, Fern W. (76)March 26, 2020
Strickland, Georgia Leigh HolmesMarch 30, 2020

April Birthdays

- 
- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Magan Gramling
Linda Mann
Ann Pascal | Sherry Knight
Patrick O’Mailia
Jimmy Sellars
Franklin Williams (41st) |
| 2 | Ronnie Broadway
Helen Gordon (91st)
Ken (Buddy) Hicks
Christopher Kenmore
Patricia Killough (70th)
Colby Mills
Ruth Neilson | 14 Brenda Blackburn
Chuck Holmes |
| 3 | Cole Andrews
Winston Webb
Emily Claire Needham (12th) | 15 Skylar Campbell (22nd)
Moseley Higgins (20th)
Tom Ward |
| 4 | Owen Scott Edwards (12th)
Bill Younkin | 16 Judy Barnes (69th)
Shannon Holmes (41st) |
| 5 | Prasertsi Atkinson
Steve Stringer
Coleman Taylor (24th)
Edwina Davis Walker | 17 Donna Daffron Allen (75th) |
| 6 | Lew Baxter
Brenda Caprara
Evelyn Claire Carter (5th)
Ann Orr (83rd) | 18 Julia Norris
Slade Rhodes
Eunice Broadway
Samuel Sullivan |
| 7 | Winford Collier (87th)
Caroline Handey
Bea Ward | 19 Haley Boyd (27th) |
| 8 | Debra Ehrlich
Cynthia Mull
James White
Clara Wright | 20 Frank Grove |
| 9 | Rev. Melvin J. Hendricks (67th) | 21 Jennifer Champion
Emily Garner James
Betty Kirksey (91st)
Queen Elizabeth (94th)
Anna Beth Taylor
Amanda Taylor |
| 10 | Jean Douglass
Wade Norris
Jimmy Grubbs
Hayden Ward
Travis Ratliff | 22 Sue Arant
Tammy Orr
Brandy Terrell
Alice Guntharp
Sarah Kathleene Selvage (5th) |
| 11 | Mae Bishop
Margaret Boyd
Buddy Handey
James Griffin | 23 Shane McKinley
Jud Parenteau (11th) |
| 12 | Sally Brown
Morgan McGough
Carolyn Perry
Tim Sansom
Dalton Stephens (10th) | 24 Bara Edwards
25 Blane Campbell (23rd)
Don Cooley
Debra Kinman
Barbara Ratliff |
| 13 | Kim Golson
Lillie Ben Harris | 26 Joe Cotney
Betty Strickland
27 Erik Box
Julie Livingston
Wayne Watkins
Landyn Whigham (10th)
28 Johnny Johnson
29 Katie Moseley (22nd)
30 Luke Adams |
- (Send us YOUR Birthdays!)

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

- Donald E. Hayhurst ~ April 1st ~ Age 96**
Marvin G. Smith ~ April 13th ~ Age 97
John L. Cannady ~ April 15th ~ Age 62
Wanda Sue Mehlhoff ~ April 25th ~ Age 71

Happy Anniversary

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Warren & Doris Miller (58th) | 12 | Jason & Kaycee Wiggins |
| 2 | Bobby & Mickey Ann Boyd (32nd) | 20 | Jeremy & Stacy Dickinson
Jimmy & Barbara Pugh (64th) |
| 3 | John & Patricia Killough (49th)
Milton & Wanda Madison (10th)
Shawn & Katie O’Mailia (10th) | 21 | Russ & Valerie Russell |
| 6 | Clint & Tiffany Hammock
Pat & Lonnie Smith (52nc) | 22 | Lamar & Glenda Boyd (48th)
Jim & Phyllis Fenn |
| 7 | T. G. & Margaret Batley (64th)
Richard & Susan Feaga | 23 | Zack & Geri Azar (43rd) |
| 8 | Eric & Melony Gwin | 24 | Byron & Pam Lynch |
| 9 | Tony & Gail Dixon (26th) | 25 | Bill & Dee Russell |
| 11 | Herb & Mary Sue Meadows (45th)
Mike & Donna Mulchay (33rd) | 27 | Scott & Heather Russell |
| | | 30 | Aaron & Kayla Ramer (10th) |
- (Send us YOUR Anniversaries!)

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Mary Elizabeth “Ebba” Kendall Dunn – March 01, 2020
James Owen Hall – March 03, 2020
Joyce M. Huggins – March 03, 2020
Steven Michael Gula – March 06, 2020
Mrs. Jerome Ingram – March 06, 2020
Effie Kathryn Dennison – March 07, 2020
Ella Y. McClain – March 11, 2020
Gudrun Hanson – March 12, 2020
William Loyd Mann – March 13, 2020
Kenneth Lyle Gilliland – March 13, 2020
Robert Harold Clackley – March 13, 2020
Jesse Eugene Dempsey – March 14, 2020
Charles Lester Wood – March 16, 2020
Dewey Ronald Sanders – March 17, 2020
John M. John M. "Jack" Rooks – March 17, 2020
Leona M “Deetsie” Rogers – March 17, 2020
Kathy Parrish Hagel – March 19, 2020
Charles “Dick” Windham – March 20, 2020
Chad Schryvers – March 25, 2020
Louise Estes Enslen – March 26, 2020
Janet Stark Welch – March 26, 2020

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears and Laughter: The Tissue Shortage of 2020

By Amanda Walker

While I do understand that the toilet tissue shortage has been caused by panic buying in response to the coronavirus, I can't help but to blame Auburn fans to some extent. How much tissue have y'all wasted on those trees at Toomer's Corner?

And now look at us.

I saw a couple of women on the news a few days ago who were tied up fighting over a 12-pack of Charmin.

That didn't worry me though. People having to be taught the proper way to wash their hands and all of the cancellations are freaking me out a little, but not the fighting. Women will fight over anything. That's not new. They will fight over ballgames, toys for their kids at Christmas, men, and their hair. But Mama calling to tell me Costco was out of tissue was new and concerning.



Immediately I went out, got in the car, and drove into Camden to check the local supply. I was happy to find the shelves picked over, but still stocked at Piggly Wiggly. I fear they won't be today though because that was before the news came out that Sam's Club had also sold out. Not just out. Completely out.

Now my husband – typically a sensible man – is also concerned. He asked if

he should start gathering corn cobs. I told him I didn't know, to use his own discretion, but that Tom Hanks and his wife had tested positive for coronavirus in Australia.

That is when I started thinking about how many times there have been stream after stream of Angel Soft and Quilted Northern Ultra Plush blowing in the wind there on Magnolia Avenue. And then I got to thinking deeper...like, who in the hell came up with the idea of celebrating by throwing toilet tissue up in trees?

Look at the influence that tradition has had on people. How many teachers have had the trees in their yard rolled? And at Halloween you know the kids stockpile the stuff. The good stuff. They don't want the cheap brands.

It was only a few short weeks ago, after Auburn's Elite Eight win over Kentucky, that the trees were draped with colored tissue ... like a rainbow. Gobs of the stuff in a full spectrum of colors, And now look at us, we are suffering a shortage.

People who are not prepared – those who haven't yet bought mass quantities – are going so far as to steal from public restrooms. Pretty soon they may be bargaining and begging. It is like the Parable of the Virgins.

Siri told me moss, hemp, old catalogs and certain leaves are also options. Certain leaves.

In other words you have to be careful because you could get a rash.

Of course a rash may not be as bad as COVID-19.

I think we may be panicking.

I hope we are all just overreacting.

Toilet tissue manufacturer Kimberly-Clark has started running its production lines 24 hours a day.

Now all we can do is wash our hands obsessively, swab our phones with alcohol ... and wait.



Trisston Wright Burrows
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Trisston's Tidbits ... “Live with Abandon”

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Recently, I was doing the dishes. Well, to be honest, my hands were doing the dishes but my mind was elsewhere. I was thinking about situations in life and how to proceed. It was in this moment a thought occurred to me ... a supernatural thought or message, if you will. Just as clear as day, God said, “***Live with Abandon.***”

I was reminded of Peter. When he was in the boat and looked out to see Jesus walking on water. ***Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you.”***

Jesus replied, “Yes, Come.” Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water, and came toward Jesus.” Matthew 14:29.

Jesus' call was more than an interruption ... it was an invitation. It was an invitation to abandon our past and move toward an abundant life. With tears streaming down my face, this message truly spoke to me ... and perhaps this message will speak to you, too.



I think all of us want to make a difference and live with abandon. I know I do ... always have really. Living life with abandon doesn't mean living recklessly but rather living life without fear. It's deciding that no matter what comes our way we are going to enjoy everything and be grateful for all things ... the good as well as the not so good. That's right folks ... be grateful for the difficult times, too. Afterall, it's during life's challenging times that we have the opportunity to learn and grow the most. And, when change is warranted, we proceed without fear.

Friends, trust that God is holding your hand, guiding you so that you, too, may walk on water ... living with abandon.

Many Blessings!

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Coronavirus and Diabetes: Knowing Your Risk

Many people are concerned about their risk for contracting this novel coronavirus, COVID-19.¹ And for good reason.

For people with diabetes, we are being consistently told we are high-risk.² Questions are flying around the internet with people trying to comprehend just how “high-risk” they are, given their specific type of chronic illness.

While everyone (globally) is still assessing the life cycle and repercussions of COVID-19, we do have some early data to help us assess individual risk with this novel coronavirus for people with diabetes.



[For links to the activities in this article, visit the original article link at no. 5 in the Endnotes]

Most importantly, if you have diabetes during this COVID-19 outbreak, do not be worried. Be smart.

Regardless of personal risk level of a severe case, we should all be protecting each other by helping cut down and reduce transmission.

If we can bide time for those that need it (those that do contract a severe COVID-19 case and need hospital care) by staying at home, the more lives we will save. This is a shared responsibility. We can stop

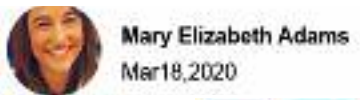
this coronavirus in its tracks, reduce our personal diabetes risk, and give our healthcare system the time it needs to catch up.

Be smart. Stay vigilant. Help others.

Article Endnotes for more resources.

- <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fspecific-groups%2Fhigh-risk-complications.html
- <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/hazard-ratio>
- <http://weekly.chinacdc.cn/en/article/id/e53946e2-c6c4-41e9-9a9b-fea8db1a8f51>
- https://onedrop.today/blogs/blog/coronavirus-and-diabetes-know-your-risk-type-1-diabetes-type-2-diabetes?fbclid=IwAR2mYHeVo9JiL6Cxih-HqKfhSM-R-zGH2lim7tuMn1WkvvNctPc7gV8tksAE#utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=corona-risk

The Alabama Gazette *extends its appreciation to Mary Elizabeth Adams for allowing us to share and reprint this very informative article during this pandemic surrounding the Coronavirus-19.*



Please be sure to follow The Alabama Gazette on Facebook or Twitter to stay informed!



SOURCE: <https://onedrop.today>

If You Have Animals

from the Center for Disease Control



Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some coronaviruses cause cold-like illnesses in people, while others cause illness in certain types of animals, such as cattle, camels, and bats. Some coronaviruses, such as canine and feline coronaviruses, only infect

animals and do not infect humans.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) play distinct but complementary roles in regulating the importation of live animals and animal products into the United States. CDC regulates animals and animal products that pose a threat to human health; USDA regulates animals and animal products that pose a threat to agriculture; and FWS regulates importation of endangered species and wildlife that can harm the health and welfare of humans, the interests of agriculture, horticulture, or forestry, and the welfare and survival of wildlife resources.

Risk to people

Some coronaviruses that infect animals have become able to infect humans and then spread between people, but this is rare. Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) are examples of diseases caused by coronaviruses that originated in animals and spread to people. This is what is suspected to have happened with the virus that caused the current outbreak of COVID-19. However, we do not know the exact source of this virus. Public health officials and partners are working hard to identify the source of COVID-19. The first infections were linked to a live animal market, but the virus is now spreading from person to person. The coronavirus most similar to the virus causing COVID-19 is the one that causes SARS.

At this time, there is no evidence that companion animals, including pets, can spread COVID-19 or that they might be a source of infection in the United States.

Risk from imported animals and animal products

CDC does not have evidence to suggest that imported animals or animal products pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 in the United States.

How to stay healthy around animals

In the United States, there is no evidence to suggest that any animals, including pets, livestock, or wildlife, might be a source of COVID-19 infection at this time. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals.

Wash your hands after handling animals, their food, waste, or supplies. Practice good pet hygiene and clean up after pets properly.

Take pets to the veterinarian regularly and talk to your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet's health.

For more information, visit CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website.

Risk to pets

CDC has not received any reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19. Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19.

How to protect pets if you are sick

If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed), you should restrict contact with pets and other animals, just like you would around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus. This can help ensure both you and your animals stay healthy.

When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. Avoid contact with your pet including, petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with them. For more information visit: *What to Do if You are Sick*, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>

How to Assess Individual Diabetes Risk for COVID-19

As of March 2020, we have 3 particularly important pieces of information, gathered from preliminary studies (not yet peer-reviewed) based on the patient and comorbidity rate of people in China with COVID-19:

- Death rates by age groups
- Death rates by comorbidity
- Hazard ratio for 1 or 2 comorbidities that is a ratio of risk for hospitalization, ventilation, and/or death

To date (March 18, 2020), these are some of the most comprehensive studies we have – globally – from the source of first impact.

The key piece of information in assessing your personal risk is the hazard ratio.³

While we still need more (and better) data surrounding COVID-19, we can use the available data (especially the hazard ratio for a severe case based on number/type of comorbidity) to better understand individual risk.

Why Is Hazard Ratio Important?

The hazard ratio provides us with a broader piece of information about the risk of a severe case or outcome due to coronavirus. While this particular hazard ratio is only the first (and will be adjusted over time based on the more COVID-19 data received), it gives us an applicable approximation for now.

To assess individual risk of a *severe outcome* with COVID-19, look at:

- Age group risk of death, originally determined in this previous study
- Hazard ratio according to comorbidity/(ies), located at the bottom of the page

Take your age group risk of death (#1) – which you can find [no. 4 in the Endnotes of this article] in the Chinese CDC's initial coronavirus report from February 2020,⁴ in the Case Fatality Rate column in Table 1 – and multiply it by the hazard ratio according to your comorbidity – none, one, or multiple (#2).

Here is my personal example.

At age 30, I fall in the 30-39 age bracket, which has a 0.2% mortality rate. Then, I multiply mortality rate by hazard ratio for 1 comorbidity, which is (specifically) diabetes.

Based on Figure 1 at the end of this study, that hazard ratio is 1.59%.

Consequently, 0.2% x 1.59% is 0.3%. Therefore, my risk of having severe complications due to COVID-19 is 0.3%.

Not too bad. Not bad at all, really, when considering the hazard ratio for people in my same age group (with no comorbidities) is 0.2% (see Table 1, Case Fatality Rate here – [found in original article]).

What Does My Coronavirus Risk Assessment Mean?

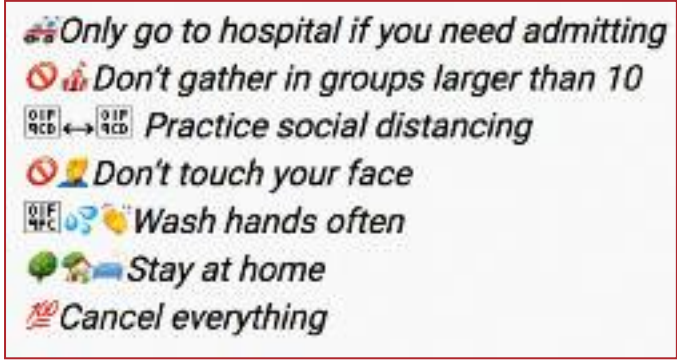
Technically, all of us with diabetes (type 1 diabetes and type 2 diabetes) are high-risk at this time. We can contract COVID-19 just easily as someone else who gets it, or someone else who doesn't.

But it's not just about us right now. Maybe you have a higher risk-assessment, maybe yours is lower. Wherever you fall on the spectrum, the best and easiest way to stop this thing in its tracks (and from harming any of us) is to give our healthcare systems room to breathe.

Up to 70% of the United States' population could eventually contract COVID-19.

While the majority of those cases would, likely, not result in severe complications, overrun hospitals and healthcare workers could turn mild cases (think: flu, pneumonia) into severe ones, due to an overwhelmed healthcare system.

Regardless of your risk assessment for COVID-19, it's vital that we support each other right now. This is about saving us all! And we can do it very easily:



These are small, but infinitely powerful steps all of us can take to keep this virus from spreading (if you're into math, you can see the full logic here). It truly is that simple! And things all of us can do.

While you're busy implementing these marvelous societal practices to curb the pandemic, be sure to enjoy things like:⁵

- Watching Edward and Annie roam the Shedd Aquarium
- Live streaming a concert
- Binging Broadway shows for free
- Learning about anything you've ever wanted to from over 1,500 free online courses
- Attending a virtual Happy Hour with your coworkers
- Deep-diving into this COVID-19 Mutual Aid & Advocacy Resource Pack
- Playing with your dog, hiking with your dog, petting your dog, looking at your dog
- Learning the science of well-being for free, from Yale
- Donating to this distillery making hand sanitizer for those in need
- Taking a virtual tour of your favorite museum
- Joining Chef José Andrés and his kitchens by helping to feed those in need
- Working out. Everyday. From the comfort of your home

CARES ACT FACTS ...

What Happens to Your Employment, Money, Retirement Now?

The 2.2 trillion dollar relief law will send money directly to Americans, greatly expand unemployment coverage and make a number of other changes.

Now that the Stimulus package has become law what does it mean to you?

Here are some Q&As that might help you. If you have a question, call The Gazette at 334-356-6700 with answers or post it in the comments section and we will answer as soon as possible.

Q. Who gets a stimulus payment?
A. Most single persons making under \$75,000 will receive \$1,200 or for a couple \$150,000, \$2,400. There is a gradual decrease until \$99,000 or \$198,000 when the cut off occurs.

Q. What about children?
A. If you dependent children 16 and under you will receive an additional \$500 per child, but if someone has listed you as a dependent, you receive nothing regardless of age.

Q. Do I apply for the money?
A. No, it will be sent directly to you checking account listed on your previous IRS return. If it has changed you will need to go to the IRS web site.

Q. When will the payments be made?
A. More than likely on or around April 21st, but in some cases there may be a slight delay.

Q. Will people who are on Social Security or Disability or are veterans get a stimulus payment?
A. Yes, as well as those unemployed and those living abroad.

Q. Do I have to pay income tax on the amount received?
A. No. This payment will not be subject to garnishment.

Q. How are unemployment benefits effected?
A. This payment will include a broad spectrum of people including self employed and part time workers. those with COVID 19 related issues are more likely to receive them. How much will depend on your state. On the average, it will help supplement the shortfall.

Q. How long will unemployment benefits last?
A. It will usually be 26 weeks but under some circumstances may last as long as 39 weeks.

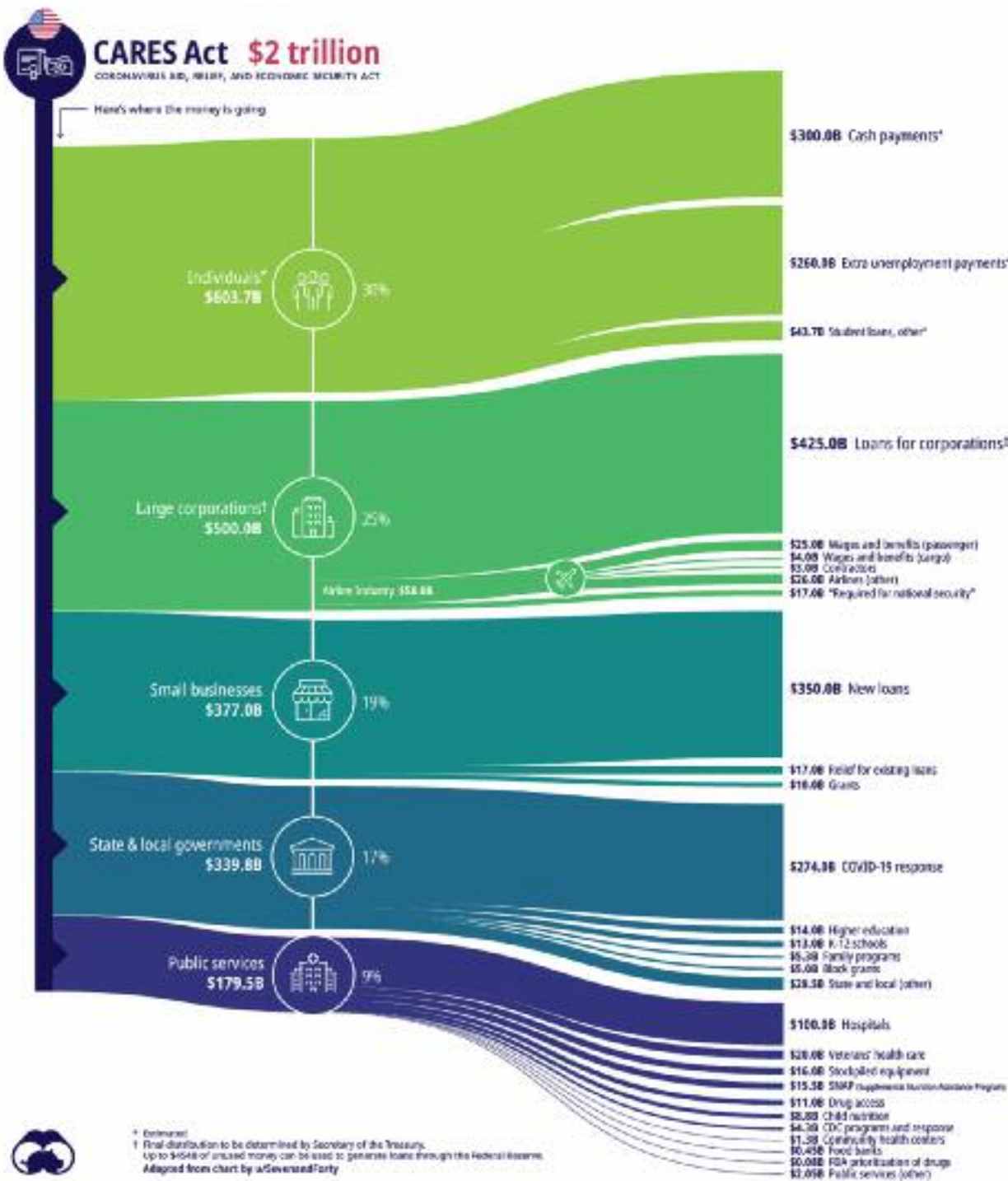
Q. Do I need to pay a student loan?
A. No, that payment has been waived for at least two months.

Q. Will one have to sell IRA assets to make required disbursements?
A. No, for the year 2020 no one will have to make a "required" disbursement. This way some of your investments will be given time to recover some of the losses.

Q. If one wishes to donate to help others are those gifts deductible?
A. Yes, the amounts have been increased, but donations must go to a public charity to receive the full deductibility in most circumstances.

Q. How can one find out more information about this payment or have other unanswered questions?
A. For more information, please go to IRS.gov/coronavirus

Q. Where does all of the money go?
A. The chart on this page shows the breakdown of the entire CARES Act. CARES stands for Coronavirus, Aid and Relief and Economic Security Act



Coming to a mailbox soon ... Coronavirus Info from the Government



EVEN IF YOU ARE YOUNG, OR OTHERWISE HEALTHY, YOU ARE AT RISK AND YOUR ACTIVITIES CAN INCREASE THE RISK FOR OTHERS. IT IS CRITICAL THAT YOU DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS.

- Listen and follow the directions of your STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES
- IF YOU FEEL SICK, stay home. Do not go to work.
- IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK, keep them at home. Contact your medical provider.
- IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, or have a serious underlying health condition, stay home and away from other people.
- If someone in your household has TESTED POSITIVE, keep the entire household at home.
- Work or study FROM HOME whenever possible.
- AVOID SOCIAL GATHERING in groups or more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating or drinking at bars or restaurants - USE PICKUP OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.
- AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL, shopping trips, and social visits.
- DO NOT VISIT nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

ALWAYS PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially touching only frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible

IN THE MIDST OF THIS PANDEMIC, WE COULD ALL USE A LITTLE HUMOR!

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