

PRIMARY RUN-OFFS JUNE 21ST – Go VOTE!



“THE PEOPLE’S PAPER”

THE ALABAMA

Bazette



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A RESPONSE TO THE LATEST SHOOTING IN TEXAS

The Uvalde, Texas massacre is the latest in a string of senseless killings by someone inflicting the **EVIL** that erupts within a perverted and demented mind and soul. Nineteen school children and two adult teachers were slaughtered at the hands of a maniacal Salvador Ramos as he shouted “You’re all gonna die!”



some of strictest gun control laws in the United States while at the same time experiencing the highest homicide counts in the country:

Chicago	797 murders	pop: 2,700,000
Birmingham	213 murders	pop: 210,000
Los Angeles	397 murders	pop: 3,900,000
New York	485 murders	pop: 8,300,000
DC	227 murders	pop: 5,300,000
Montgomery	79 murders	pop: 199,000

Can the government really come to the rescue to stop this violence?

One need only look to Ukraine as a cautionary tale of what happens when you believe government’s comforting words of paternalism. Ukraine once commanded the world’s third largest stockpile of nuclear weapons, arguably a strong deterrent and defense against possible assaults from surrounding countries. But, the U.S negotiated with the its people

The debate rages as to whether it is society, genetics or pure evil that causes people to go on these rampages, to inflict harm and fear into some of the most vulnerable in our society. Here is a snapshot of the most severe:

1.	Oct. 1, 2017	Las Vegas, NV	60 murdered
2.	Jun 12, 2016	Orlando, FL	49 murdered
3.	May 31, 1921	Tulsa, OK	39 murdered
4.	April 16, 2007	Virginia Tech, VA	32 murdered
5.	Dec 14, 2012	Newtown, CT	26 murdered
6.	Nov 5, 2017	Southerland TX	25 murdered
7.	Aug 3, 2019	El Paso, TX	23 murdered
8.	May 24, 2022	Uvalde, TX	21 murdered

The recent wave can be traced to April 29, 1999, at Columbine High School in Littleton, CO. The profiles of these assassins varies as much as the locations, with many having warped manifestos, but others none.

Other infamous murderers include Ted Kaczynski, who began in the 1970s by using bombs while in 1982 in Chicago, the Tylenol murders, which remain unsolved, led to packaging security manufacturing across the world. Of course the 9/11/2001 hijacking and murders changed our “open” society forever, causing fear, vigilance and modifications to the point none have occurred in the united State since that awful day.

Both sides of the political spectrum turn toward the Second Amendment as the source of contention.

While reams of paper have been dedicated to the topic, the best source of meaning of the Second Amendment can be understood by the literal words of those who drafted it. For a detailed explanation of one view of the private right to bear arms see Stephen Hallbrook’s, JD, PhD, treatise on the linguistic meaning of the right to bear arms as intended by the founders at p 153 and following: <https://scholarship.law.duke.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=3830&context=lep>

If our society desires to alter the Second Amendment to reign in the terror of gun violence, we have a political mechanism to accomplish this goal. Some states and cities have attempted to do a work around with the result that places like Chicago, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles have

to relinquish its weapons with the assurance that our government would defend it should it be attacked (1994 Budapest Memorandum). Less than 30 years later, the country lies in ruins, millions of Ukrainians have become refugees, and the U.S. declines to get it hands bloody by fighting a proxy war with little hope of winning.

Gun violence is horrible. In 2021, over 21,000 people were murdered, and 24,000 people committed suicide. Compared to the total number of mass shootings (defined as four or more deaths), which included 702 murdered and 2,800 injured since first documented, one could surmise that mass shootings are so statistically insignificant so as not to warrant a sea of change in cultural and legal thinking.

However, in Daniel Khaneman’s book, *Thinking Fast and Slow*, he delves into our thinking mind that categorizes events and decision making into Systems 1 and 2. He explains how emotions (S1) often erroneously override facts (S2) when it comes to our understanding, actions and responses.

But, statistics do not heal wounds, mollify anger or solve problems. The pain inflicted from these callous acts can never be fully removed. We as a culture have changed dramatically in the last 50 years. I am old enough to remember Sears’ catalogues selling rifles. Most of my friends had hunting guns to use long before their 18th birthdays. For 60 or so years, no school, movie house, or church was ever targeted for such heinous behavior. So, what has changed? Is it that the sanctity of life has been maligned by, for example, *at-will* abortions (approximately 70 million since Roe v. Wade, 1973) Or is it inculcating malleable minors with harsh media in the form of slasher movies, brazen disregard for laws, or utter contempt for anyone not in agreement with selfish motives, whether it be breaking a grocery store line or road rage. **Or could one look toward the video game industry with such violent interactive products like Call of Duty, Grand Theft Auto, Diablo, or Fallout?** Could it be the multiple failures of the religious community ranging from materialism to hypocrisy to apathy? Could it be the disintegration of the nuclear family? Or is it something else? At its core this **EVIL** that surrounds us is no different than that found in the Bible spoken so long ago yet so clearly by the prophet Jeremiah in Chapter 2.

But through this temporal grief and despair, we have eternal hope found through prayer. Let us bow our heads, kneel, and pray. **As President Lincoln explained, “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.”**

~ Staff Writer

STATEWIDE – PRIMARY RUN-OFFS* – JUNE 21ST

Governor

Rep Kay Ivey (No Run-off)

Dem Yolanda Flowers

Dem Malika Sanders-Fortier

Lieutenant Governor (No Run-offs)

Rep Will Ainsworth

U.S. Senate

Rep Katie Britt

Rep Mo Brooks

Dem Will Boyd (No Run-off)

U.S. House of Representatives

3rd Congressional District (No Run-offs)

Rep Mike Rogers

Attorney General (No Run-offs)

Dem Wendell Major

Rep Steve Marshall

State Auditor

Rep Andrew Sorrell

Rep Stan Cooke

Secretary of State

Rep Wes Allen

Rep Jim Zeigler

Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, Place 5 (No Run-off)

Rep Greg Cook

Public Service Commission – Place 1



Rep Jeremy H. Oden

Rep Brent Woodall

Public Service Commission – Place 2

Rep Chip Beeker

Rep Robert L. McCollum



Circuit Court Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit, Place 2 (No Run-off)

Rep Joy Pace Booth

Agricultural Commissioner (No Opposition)

Rep Rick Pate

Voting is your right and freedom!

Voting is your responsibility!

* This is only a partial list of unofficial results. Please visit <https://www.sos.alabama.gov/> for more results.

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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

www.steveflowers.us

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

We Miss Shorty Price (aka: Also Rans)

The governor's races of bygone years were a lot more fun and colorful than today's. We would have 10 to 15 candidates. There would be three or four favorites, but we would have 10 others that would make an effort to crisscross the state and have fun and cut up a little bit to garner publicity. The "also rans" could not afford the expensive country music stars from Nashville like the George Wallace, Big Jim Folsom, Jimmy Faulkner frontrunners could to draw a crowd.

This year's gubernatorial race has not been interesting because a popular incumbent governor was running for re-election — although Kay Ivey did attract eight opponents. However, only two, Lindy Blanchard and Tim James, really mounted a campaign. The six others seem to not do anything, and nobody really knew who they were. The six no name candidates were Stacy Lee George, Dean Young, Dean Odle, Donald Trent Jones, Dave Thomas, and Lew Burdette.

When Burdette qualified, he looked like he had the potential to be a viable candidate but he seemed to never get out of the gate. If he was running a "getting acquainted" race, it was unsuccessful. He would probably have as much name identification as a baseball player from the 1960s, who had the same name. As a boy, I had a baseball card of Lou Burdette, who was a pretty good pitcher for the old Milwaukee Braves.

Donald Trent Jones probably was hoping that folks would think he was the golf course developer for our famous state links. Dave Thomas was maybe hoping that voters would think he was the Wendy's hamburgers founder.

Today, what we need in the "also ran" category or what I call "run for the fun of it" candidates is another Shorty Price. Most of you do not remember Shorty Price. Ole Shorty was the King of run-for-the-fun-of-it candidates. He ran for governor every time and really didn't care how many votes he got. He just ran for the fun of it and, boy, was he fun to watch and visit with. He brought new meaning to the word colorful.

Shorty was a native of Barbour County, which by the way is George Wallace's home county. In fact, Wallace and Shorty grew up together as contemporaries around Clio. Shorty would campaign vehemently and viciously against George Wallace, his nemesis, probably because he was jealous of Wallace's success as a politician. By the way, Barbour County is called the "Home of Governors" because

it has had more governors than any other county in our state's history.

Shorty was maybe the most colorful political clown to ever appear on the Alabama political stage. He not only ran for governor every time, he also ran for numerous offices every time there was an election. That is how he would make his living. He would travel from town-to-town, mostly in southeast Alabama and panhandle for contributions and soon after collecting the few dollars that folks would give him, he would convert his campaign contributions into a purchase of a Budweiser beer. In fact, one of his campaign slogans was "Smoke Tampa Nugget cigars, drink Budweiser beer and vote for Shorty Price."

In one of Shorty's campaigns for governor, his campaign speech contained this line, "If elected governor, I will reduce the governor's tenure from four years to two years. If you can't steal enough to last you the rest of your life in two years, you ain't got enough sense to have the office in the first place." Shorty would use recycled campaign signs to save money. He would just change the name of the office he was running for that year.

Ole Shorty usually got about two percent of the vote and usually finished last. He was really kind of proud of his usual last place finish. Indeed, one time the venerable political columnist, Bob Ingram, mistakenly stated that Shorty finished 13th out of 14th in a particular governor's race. Shorty blasted Ingram and said, "That's a blasphemous lie, I finished 14th out of 14."

As stated, Shorty hated George Wallace. One year he was one of many candidates running against Wallace. Shorty coined the slogan, "Shorty, Shorty he's our man, George Wallace belongs in a garbage can."

None of these six "also ran" gubernatorial candidates were nearly as good as Shorty. I bet if Shorty were still alive and running today, he would have beaten all six of them. I wish ole Shorty were alive and running in this governor's race. This governor's race would have been a lot more fun to watch.



This one copy of "I Ain't Nothing But a Loser" can be purchased from Amazon for \$110. Photo credit: Amazon.com



Justice Will Sellers

Hi-Five!

THE HISTORY BEHIND ...



May was an interesting month for our neighbors to the South. This year, Mexico commemorates the 200th anniversary of the coronation of Emperor Agustín I, and the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla.

These seemingly obscure events are vital to a complete understanding of the Mexican experience.

As a colony of Spain, the internal government of Colonial Mexico was dependent upon the competency of Spanish officials sent to govern in the name of the King. The absolute power of the King was never debated, and his representative reflected a dictatorial bent in governing the country.

But, as Spain liberalized under the limited influence of the Enlightenment, Mexico moved away from a central autocrat and, in a practical attempt at local government, divided the country into geographical territories resembling our states.

The revolutions in both America and France had an impact on Mexico in two ways. First, given the close proximity to the American Colonies, Mexico was well aware of independence gained from England and shared a similar mother country/colonist relationship with Spain that was neither warm nor appreciated. Second, with close ties to Spain and the various 19th century wars and dislocations in Europe, Spain was so completely distracted by continental concerns that governing Mexico became an afterthought.

Mexicans saw the possibilities of independence and the idea of freedom.

But, in as much as Spain might have been influenced by Enlightenment liberalization, Mexico as a culture and society had no basis to receive the fruits of these new liberties. So, when Mexico declared independence from Spain and actually became a sovereign country, that was a far as things went. It was a one-night stand with no long-term commitment.

Mexico had no historical memory of self-government and no real system to replace the representative of the King with an alternative. The rule of law was arbitrary and the structure for government as initially attempted never truly became anything close to a democracy, much less a republic.

So, in freeing Mexico from Spain, there was no model of past experience to guide the new nation. And while there were military men who lead by force, they were incapable of converting their military leadership to govern and build institutions for sustained self-government. In short, there was no George Washington.

There were only strong men who gained power by force while attempting to unify the country, but they ultimately found despotism easier than the niceties of collaboration. Thus, in the preliminary stages of Mexican independence, government emerged from a survival of the fittest contest, and the execution of political rivals was often considered to be much easier than campaigning or submitting to a vote.

Achieving independence was easy as Spain was distracted with its own internal issues. But, when the new government attempted to draft a constitution and establish a working government, discussions broke down, and factions buoyed with rational and enlightened ideas were unable to reach any consensus for a sustained period of time.

With only ideas and no experience in self-government, the initial government disintegrated. Two hundred years ago, into this void stepped Agustín de Iturbide. He had been a successful general and had the presence of mind to unify his command with opposition forces to form a governing coalition. With the frustration that any new country would face and without the experience of history to provide any guidance for independence, the coalition failed.

But there was one history lesson observed and that from Napoleon who crowned himself Emperor. Agustín de Iturbide followed suit and simply proclaimed himself Emperor Agustín I without any consent, approval, or other ratification. Truly an amazing feat and in reality, a turn away from any enlightenment reason to dictatorial hubris.

The Emperor's reign was short-lived. He abdicated and left the country for the safety of Europe. General Antonio López de Santa Anna, known by all Texas schoolchildren as the enemy of the Alamo, now started his rise to power.

While intending to unite the country under his leadership, Santa Anna was never able to fully control the country or provide a basis for continuity of government. He, too, would be forced into exile, and Mexico would again start the cycle of near anarchy resulting in military rule, quelling freedoms so anticipated by independence from Spain.

With significant natural resources even then, rampant corruption prevented any stable funding of a cohesive national government. Had a strong leader emerged with skills to create an effective government and pursue a viable constitution, outcomes might have been different.

But given the abundant natural resources, dictators were able to obtain easy credit allowing a posh lifestyle for themselves and their supporters. Each extension of credit led to further debt renegotiations, until the government was unable to pay.

Collecting debts in our modern world is easy. There is a simple reliable system that deals with debtors and creditors in an equitable manner to sort out disputes and allow repayment. The rule of law acknowledges the importance of debt and its repayment, so we have courts to manage disagreements and even an entire system of bankruptcy laws to effectively compromise legal obligations.

Nations in the 19th century had no such system, so when Mexico's debts were so large and could not be repaid, the country simply stopped paying. While this gave initial relief, the long-term consequences were not good; in Mexico's case, the creditor nations, opting to collect by force, sent their armies across the Atlantic and invaded.

At first, the major European creditor countries united and were able to achieve some level of credit satisfaction, but the French remained chagrined, so they embarked on a crusade to not only collect debts owed to them, but also to conquer.

While marching on Mexico City, a far superior French Army was checked and defeated at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

Victory over a major European power was a significant and emotional victory for the Mexicans, and it offered ample cause and opportunity for celebration.

The anniversary of this battle is recognized as Cinco de Mayo; an important consequence of the Mexican experience now embraced internationally. With a history of more lows than highs, May 5th serves as a great excuse to reflect upon Mexican independence.

Will Sellers was appointed by Governor Kay Ivey to the Supreme Court of Alabama in 2017. He can be reached at jws@willsellers.com. The views of submitted editorials may not be the express views of The Alabama Gazette.



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ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

THE TRUTH AND THE LIE

Four years ago, I wrote the first part of this Robsevation. It doesn’t seem that long ago but it was. Not surprisingly, things have not even come close to changing. You might even say that things under the new administration are far worse. Why? Because they are. But I felt compelled to reiterate the first part of this and to add a couple of more items. The lie is still in force and like the Wizard of Oz, the alphabet networks are hellbent on not letting us look at the man behind the curtain. Here we go.

THE LIE

According to a 19th century legend, the Truth and the Lie met one sunny summer day. The Lie told the Truth, “It surely is a very beautiful day today, is it not?”

Truth looked around suspiciously and raised her eyes to heaven for the day was indeed really beautiful. “Indeed, it is,” she said. So, the two spent all day playing together until they happened upon a swimming hole. The Lie said, “Hey, Truth, it is so hot right now and the water appears to be very nice, let’s go swimming together!”

Truth, always suspicious of the Lie, tested the water with her toes. The water was deliciously refreshing, she agreed and the two quickly undressed and started swimming.

Suddenly the devious Lie rushed from the water, put on Truth’s clothes and scurried away. Furious at the Lie’s deception, Truth emerged from the water in order to expose the Lie and recover her own clothes. The world, ever watching however, seeing the Truth naked and uncovered turned its eyes with contempt, fear, horror and rage.

Truth, abandoned and dishonored, returned to the swimming hole and disappeared forever while hiding in her shame. Only occasionally does she make herself known but only to be quickly driven back into the depths of darkness.

Since that fateful day, the Lie has traveled the world over dressed as the Truth while satisfying the needs of deceived societies and a decadent world that does not want to see nor acknowledge the naked Truth.

Jean-Léon Gérôme, 1896.

August 20, 2018, snowflake and fascist ANTIFA types knocked down the Silent Sam statue on the UNC Chapel Hill campus. I am not here to defend Silent Sam or definitely not the guy who erected the statue, but anarchy is not my gig. When reading about this and other such statues being destroyed or taken down, I came across the biography of a truly evil guy but I cannot understand why people are not clamoring for his statue to be removed from a college campus. This guy was born way back in 1649 and served in several business capacities until his death in 1721.

Records show that this man participated in and profited greatly from a flourishing slave trade. In other words, he was not just a slave owner but a slave trader. The worst of the worst. For example, in today’s world he wouldn’t be the Crackhead but the guy who supplies Crack to little kids. He wouldn’t just lust over child pornography, but he would have made it and participated in it. This is the kind of guy he was. He also enforced a law that at least ten slaves should be carried on every ship bound for Europe. In his capacity as judge he also on several occasions sentenced so-called “black criminals” to whipping and enslavement. When the demand for slaves began to increase rapidly, in order to keep up with growing demands, he and other English merchants apparently even began to kidnap young children and deport them to distant parts of the world, very much against their will.

In addition to being a slave trader, kidnapper and all-around dirt bag, he was eventually fired in 1692 for his illegal profiteering in a myriad of business dealings. Nice guy, huh? Yet his statue remains prominently on the college campus that bears his name; Yale University.

Yeah, you heard it right. Elihu Yale. I find it amazing how so many people, especially those from the north, hate and denigrate all things southern and feel it acceptable and their right to destroy historical monuments down here while keeping their monuments to horrific people intact and relevant school names in place. Before we allow any more destruction and social re-engineering here, let’s all flood New Haven, Connecticut, rip down the statue of a ghastly man while forcing an acceptable name change. If it works for a Robert E. Lee high school, it should work equally well at Yale University. Yup the Lie is forever “at it.”

Let’s flash forward four years and see what the lie is up to now.

1. George Washington University: Ridiculousness at its best. One would think that after several years of this nonsensical push to remove all things American from within America, this foolishness would stop. But at the same time, why would anyone be so naïve as to think this? When there is never any legitimate pushback or standing up for oneself, the wannabe ruling class of socialists are going to keep pushing. Why wouldn’t they?

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

Recently, there was an Op Ed piece in the Washington Post that called for George Washington University to change its name because of course, George Washington owned slaves, was a bad man, blah, blah, blah. The way I look at it. It is time to tell people to simply shut up and move on. The most disturbing part of this article, and the irony should not be lost on anybody but here is a hint, “The Washington Post.” Am I the only one here seeing this? Where is Elihu Yale when you need him?

2. Biden Twitter Followers: In an audit by the software company Sparktoro, they determined that almost half (actually 41%) of all of President Biden’s Twitter followers, 14 out of 34 million, are either “bots” or inactive. Just saying.

3. We will comply: On April 26th, NBC reported that the Biden White House would comply with the US District judge’s ruling on the removal or keeping of Title 42. When Judge Robert Summerhays ruled that Title 42 must stay in place, the White House almost immediately said that they were going to appeal his ruling. Let’s talk about an egregious lie. You really cannot get a more in your face lie than this. I guess what the administration meant to say was, “We will fully comply with the District Judge’s ruling on Title 42 as long as he bows down to our demands, sacrifices the rule of law and becomes one of the many pawns in our continuing power grabbing efforts to destroy America. As long as he kisses the ring on my crooked finger, we will comply. If not, bugger off.” *The Lie is smiling.*

4. Just this morning, while in Asia, it appears that President Biden made yet another gaff when going off script. When asked if the United States would intervene militarily if China invades Taiwan, the President’s answer was a simple, unequivocal. “Yes.” We are not talking about aid but it was quite clear that the President said and invasion would involve American forces in direct confrontation with Chinese forces half a world away. This does translate into American blood. So significant was this statement that the White House immediately, like I mentioned in my last Robsevation, started to “walk back” this statement. At first, they intimated that they did not hear what the President actually said and then fully came out and said there has been no policy shift concerning China. “Ignore the man behind the curtain!”

To be clear here, there is NO mutual Taiwan defense treaty. None. Zero. Zip. We are not obligated to direct military intervention as in Article 5 of the NATO Treaty. Whether he meant to or not, Biden’s own words signified a shift in our policy; or whatever was going on in his head at the time. He said, clear as a bell, that AMERICA WOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY IF CHINA INVADED TAIWAN. Dance around it, ignore it, pretend it was never said but he said it and the whole world is left wondering what the heck he really meant. And yes, this goes back to my last Robsevation in discussing his cognitive state right now. There is a never-ending scramble with White House officials almost anytime the man opens his mouth, leading us to question, “Who is really in charge?”

5. By the Numbers Only – April 2022; But They Only Want a Better Life.

- 234,000 – Number of encounters along our southern border.
- 97,000 – Those expelled under Title 42 health authority.
- 110,000 – Those released into the U.S.
- 5.8% – increase over the 221,303 in March.
- 203% – Border Patrol facilities over capacity.
- 157,555 – Unique encounters.
- 166,814 – Of all unique encounters, these were single adults.

Mostly men.

54,773 – Number of family units encountered. Up 45%.

I could write on this all day and still not get anywhere with it. Let’s just understand one thing. The administration has no idea what it is doing on the border. None. The fact that thousands of people are pouring across our border from dozens of countries from all around the world is all you need to know. Many of the people invading our country, yes, it is an invasion, have shown they care absolutely nothing about our country, our laws or our way of life. Their actions speak louder than any of their words and crocodile tears. Like I said, I could write all day on this but am out of space. But simply think about the reality here. At this rate, in just two months, more people will be admitted into the US greater than the population of Montgomery. And some estimate that if Title 42 is lifted, the number of encounters will grow to 18,000 per day. Per day, people. Our country cannot sustain this. I cannot for the life of me see how people simply cannot see this.

In one way I fully understand the heart to help. But the do-gooder heart is a different animal. To help others and the expense of your nation’s safety, culture and prosperity is not admirable. I just read the other day for example where a lot of Germans are fleeing Germany and moving to, you guessed it, South America because of the situation in their country. Instead of fighting for the culture they created, they have turned it over, in part, to people who will have absolutely no value of those same things. That in my book is shameful and unfortunately, we are beginning to do the same thing here. Immigration? Yes. Illegal immigration? No.

More to follow.

DID YOU KNOW?

Ninth in a Series

The Morrill Tariff called for a 70% increase in tariff rates on dutiable imports; the rates on goods imported by Southerners were higher than rates on goods imported in the North. It passed the House on May 10, 1860, and the Senate on February 20, 1861. It was strongly supported by Abraham Lincoln and opposed strongly in the South.

In his First Inaugural Address, President Lincoln said he would use force to collect the tariff.

"The power confided in me will be used to hold, occupy, and possess the property and places belonging to the Government and to collect the duties and imposts; but beyond what is necessary for these objects, there will be no invasion, no using of force among the people anywhere." ¶ 30

In his April 19, 1861 proclamation announcing the blockade of the Southern ports, President Lincoln said his reason for doing so was the collection of revenue.

"Whereas, an insurrection against the Government of the United States has broken out and the laws of the United States for collection of the revenue cannot be effectually executed therein . . ."

Addressing a joint session of Congress on July 4, 1861, President Lincoln said the purpose of his policy was only to collect revenue.

"My policy . . . sought only to hold onto the public places and property of the Government and to collect the revenue."

Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002
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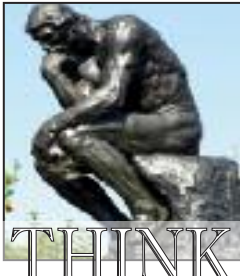
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John Sophocleus

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2022 Primary Retrospective: No Ad too Dumb for a Dumb Ad!



With all due respect to Gov. Ivey’s high-steppin’ through the bovine (dare I type BCA?) excrement, my beautiful bride took a sigh of relief as all the *Dumb Ads* disappeared Wednesday after the 5/24 primary. Still clueless what “No step too high for a high-stepper,” means, but it didn’t win my most **Dumb Ad** award. It was nonetheless a good political ‘weapon of mass distraction’ by this BCA incumbent’s handlers. More on that later...

In spite of challenger ads touting Kay’s snubbing of ‘Don and the MAGAts’ show, Ivey won the primary without a run-off. Too bad candidate James didn’t put together a coalition of small govt. conservatives instead of consorting with Bill Armistead and other Felon Hubbard types to more likely get this block of conservative voters’ support. No Ivey run-off may help small govt. candidates (**non**-ACCA, BCA, et al alphabet soup of political theft organisations in Alabama) who do not champion tax increases without votes, more command and control mandates, etc. Reduced propensity of big govt. voters to show for the June 21st runoff, now without worries of reinstalling BCA Kay, may help candidates like Allen, Brooks, et al to make the November general election ballot.

In Georgia, Kemp won **big** in spite of Trump’s endorsement of the opponent [Perdue] and Sect. Raffensperger (also maligned by MAGAt minions) won without a run-off suggesting the Trumpster fire is also burning itself out in our sister State to the east. It appears Trump’s MAGAt endorsement ceiling is losing altitude as what ‘Trump Republican’ actually means (a big govt. NY Democrat, now ‘donning’ the red jersey) becomes more ambiguous, beyond great fodder for *Dumb Ads*.

The Brooks comeback (polled down to 12% after Trump spoke out against Mo and yanked his endorsement when it became clear Brooks would not be the outright winner) after distancing himself from the Trumspter smoke and mirror show was something to behold. The more BCA Britt ran ads with “Cash-register” Shelby’s money showing Mo saying you can’t trust anything Trump says, the more Mo climbed to almost 30% and rising. Great job team Katie! Election night, candidate Durant [23%] asked his supporters to vote for Mo [29%] in the June 21st runoff. Combined, 52% well exceeds Britt’s 45% primary result, but much comes down to who will show for an even **LOWER** runoff turnout ... if history is any guide.

As for Statewide **primary** turnout, it was only 23.4%. Poor sampling for a Statewide Amendment which I pray our legislators would have the integrity to only allow on **general** elections likely to have higher turnout - *i.e.*, greater sampling to include more non-duopoly voters. In Lee County, still one of the hubs of corruption in our State where Felon Hubbard minions are alive and very active, turnout was only 16.9%. Easy to imagine as real representation has decayed, more eligible voters find little reason to vote between two inferior candidates in primary **or** general elections.

An illustration of this was the AL Senate Dist. 27 race between candidate Hovey and incumbent Sen. Whatley. The unofficial SoS tally has Hovey up by 4 votes with **88** (67 Lee Co., 14 Tallapoosa Co., 6 Russell Co. and one overseas military) provisional ballots to reconcile. As for the *Dumb Ads* theme, Whatley’s psychedelic liberal ad showing Hovey in a tie dye shirt was a last minute turning point to make fun of this *Dumb Ad*. Whatley had tried so hard to get along with the Felon Hubbard minions, *esp.* Hubbard’s anointed/installed replacement Rep. Lovvorn and bankers who subsidize most corrupt attorneys, board members, developers, politicians etc. in Lee County that voters (with good reason) saw this incumbent Senator as part of the problem. Sen. Whatley came a long way



from leading the way to get rid of ‘public servant’ Lowder when first elected to more recently aiding and abetting AU President “Crash” Leath’s \$5 mil. hush-money.

Sadly, it appears the Felon Hubbard machine will carry the day once again. Indeed Whatley is not a good fit, more of a ‘fly-over country’ good ole boy who just can’t bring himself to be another big hog at Lee County political sloppin’ trough. Time to adjust State Representative and Senator ranks to keep up with the over-subsidized/cancerous growth. Just notch out Auburn/Opelika to the northern Chambers County border to form a new county so those who want the Hubbard authoritarian result and Fuller’s Gig City type soviet debacles can be more contained to their own parasitism.

Whatley’s ‘*psychedelic liberal*’ was my runner-up for this primary cycle’s top *Dumb Ad*. The winner was the Debra Jones slobbering over Trump ad shooting a pistol target saying the liberals wouldn’t allow her to put a convict under the prison. The sad thing is Judge Jones was running a much better ad and she was the superior candidate to her BCA sycophant opponent. Jones appeared to be closing the gap and gaining momentum for the win until the *Dumb Ad* kicked in. I sometimes wonder who is giving political advice to sabotage some of our best candidates. Clearly some candidates, like Judge Tickal and Micah Messer can run outstanding campaigns in Lee County. Perhaps most notable is Candidate Tony Langley who has our most corrupt Lee County commissioner in a runoff, offering real hope to remove this 12-year political thief from our midst.

In closing, another duopoly party fundraiser has come to a close. Candidates pay to be put on primary ballots on the taxpayers’ purse. The moneys are not sent to the Alabama Treasury to help offset the cost of these primary elections taxpayers are NOT obliged to provide; we must provide **general** elections to insure our republican form of government guaranteed in our US Constitution. Worse still taxpayers pay for **BOTH** ballots, but can only give input on one of the duopoly party choices. Let parties pay for their own primaries, conventions, etc. to determine their own **party** candidates and charge uniform marginal cost for **any** candidate to be placed on general election ballots.

Postscript: Unofficial word from the Secretary of State is the Libertarian Party of Alabama [LPA] will be notified of ballot access for the November general election. If so, I’ve been drafted as the LPA’s US Senate candidate and will be reluctant/find it inappropriate to write further on this race in *The Alabama Gazette* if indeed a candidate. For over a dozen years it has been an honour and blessing to be a *Gazette* writer. It will be a delight to write more about economics, faith, *etc.* until November as a little respite from the unpleasantness likely to come these next five months if a candidate.



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

Jefferson Davis: Is Government by Consent a Lost Cause?

The birthday of Jefferson Finis Davis is on June 3rd. Although it is a State Holiday in Alabama there will likely be little recognition from most circles. Davis, a Jeffersonian and a Christian (Episcopalian) who served as the only President of the Confederate States of America, certainly has many detractors in modern statist America, especially the Orwellian Thought Police (largely modern Bolsheviks) who typically despise Jeffersonians, Christians, and the Confederacy--Davis managed to accomplish the proverbial “hat trick.” Another strike against Davis is his uncompromising belief in voluntary, consensual government. Today’s tendency to blindly submit to the status quo would be antithetical to Davis’ philosophy.



Photo credit: [en.wikipedia.org](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Jefferson_Davis.jpg) / Mathew B. Brady (original)

Davis described what the South was fighting for *ad nauseum*—it was *government by consent* or what some call “The Lost Cause.” Davis opposed secession; however, once his State (Mississippi) decided to leave the union, he was duty-bound to follow. Possessing in-depth knowledge of American history, constitutional republicanism, federalism, and State sovereignty, Davis identified the nature and characteristics of legitimate government: “Governments rest on the consent of the governed, and that it is the right of the people to alter or abolish them at will whenever they become destructive of the ends for which they were established.” This is the antithesis of the “Soviet-styled” belief that the federal government is essentially the overlord of the States—a common belief among collectivists who advocate top-down, centrally planned, “command and control” government. This centralized government philosophy is similar to what was advocated by Alexander Hamilton and the Federalists during the Constitutional Convention. Robert Yates recorded the proceedings of the convention and John Taylor of Caroline County, Virginia, expounded on Yates’ notes in his 1823 book, *New Views of the Constitution of the United States*. The “nationalists” did not get their way during the convention but Abraham Lincoln later implemented many parts of their agenda while working overtime to deny Southern Independence.

In 1846, Davis explained the only legitimate powers of the Federal government: “*I answer, it is the creature of the States; as such it could have no inherent*

power, all it possesses was delegated by the States.” These delegated powers are found in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution. All “undelegated” powers remain with the States (i.e., the people of the States). Davis was somewhat bewildered that Americans would question which government a State preferred to be associated with: “*The withdrawal of a State from a league has no revolutionary or insurrectionary characteristic. The government of the State remains unchanged as to all internal affairs. It is only its external or confederate relations that are altered. To term this action of a Sovereign a ‘rebellion’ is a gross abuse of language.*”

On August 2, 1864, while conversing with a Yankee spy named Edward Kirk, Davis explained, “*We are not fighting for slavery; we are fighting for independence.*” What would happen to a teacher who referenced this quote in a modern high school or college, i.e., a quote that does not fit the propaganda narrative? Would they be fired, reprimanded, or sent to some type of “re-education” class? Although it sounds like something out of the satirical Babylon Bee, there is nothing too absurd for the “Woke Bolsheviks.”

Davis also noted the fallacy (insanity) of “might makes right” — the mantra of every tinhorn dictator throughout history when he said, “*A question settled by violence, or in disregard of law, must remain unsettled forever.*” However, he did offer some insight and a ray of hope for the future by observing, “*The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it may be at another time and in another form.*”

Despite the level of suffering, Davis insisted the effort to gain Southern Independence was worth it and he would follow the same course again. Davis contended the South was correct constitutionally and in principle: “*Our cause was so just, so sacred, that had I known all that has come to pass, that had I known what was to be inflicted upon me, all that my country was to suffer, all that our posterity was to endure, I would do it all over again.*”

H.L. Mencken noted, “*Nobody ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American public.*” As cynical as Mencken was, history indeed shows people take only so much abuse before they demand a change. Jefferson Davis had his faults like any man but he never backed down from his belief in voluntary and representative government. As we witness the collapse of America, one has to wonder when Davis’ prediction comes to fruition and the demand for representative government reasserts itself.

Sources: “Teaching American History,” at: <https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/we-are-fighting-for-independence-not-slavery/>; AZQuotes, at: www.azquotes.com/author/3716-Jefferson_Davis; *Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation*, by John M. Taylor.



Ronald A. Holtsford

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I have read a little about a Qui tam action but why does a “whistleblower” need a lawyer?



report the wrongful action and if found to be legitimate, a private attorney and possibly Government inclusion (intervention) may pursue the wrongful gains for a recovery. In addition to wrongful gains, the actions by those that have defrauded the government may even cause harm to patients having insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid and Tricare or harm to military personnel. For the “whistleblower” it may well include monetary compensation for reporting the wrongful action.

The False Claims Act was passed in 1862 during the War Between the States and is sometimes called the Lincoln Law. Originally the “whistleblower’s” reward was 50% plus \$2,000.00. In the 1940’s the reward was significantly reduced. *Qui tam* actions were significantly reduced as a result. When reports in the 1980’s of \$400 hammers and \$600 toilet seats surfaced, Congress looked again at the False Claims Act. Congress decided that the wrongdoer should be fined triple the actual damages to the government. Amendments in 2009 addressed judicial interpretations that did not fall in line with original Congressional intent and amended in 2010 under the Patient Protection Act and the Affordable Care Act.

The “whistleblower,” dubbed a relator under these cases is generally an employee, an ex-employee, a contractor or subcontractor or even a competitor. If the relator is an employee then protection is extended to the relator in that the relator cannot be terminated from employment because they have turned in their employee.

Rewards to relators can fall between 10% and 30% of the penalty. Where most of the facts are publicly known a relator’s recovery is 10%. When the government is included, the relator’s recovery falls between 15% and 25%.



Photo credit: brokenarts / freeimages.com

When the government does not intervene the relator’s recovery falls between 25% and 30%

As an example I have met an individual that saw an irregularity within the company that the individual worked for. My description is purposely vague to protect the person’s identity even though it is publicly available. My understanding is that this person objected to the practice

and ultimately left the company. At some point the individual contacted an attorney and the government did become involved. When the case was resolved the company was fined several million dollars and the individual received a very handsome reward. Though still significant, after taxes and attorney fees that amount becomes significantly less.

In answering the original question let’s consider what we have discussed thus far. Number one, the government does not always intervene so attempting to bring such an action without being an attorney and even specializing in *qui tam* actions would be at a significant disadvantage. Number two the government does not per se represent the individual so there would be no protective counsel from a private attorney. Even though a current employer cannot retaliate against a relator one must consider that professional harm might come once an individual is identified. I would guess that future employers may well be concerned that they might become the subject of a False Claims Act investigation even if they always attempt to do everything within the law. With an investigation a company could end up settling a claim and should they end up with multiple claims for different issues it could be financially difficult.

If you have determined that a company is defrauding the government and feel you should “do the right thing” you should contact an attorney that specializes in *qui tam* actions.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist. “No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers.” As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

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Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative

Biden on a Mission to Destroy American Economy

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Alabama State Republican Executive Committee
Alabama Trump Victory Chairman 2016

Alabama Trump Elector 2016
Alabama Trump Team Leader 2020

Elon Musk is not a Republican. He was a registered Independent when he voted in California. He is not a conservative. His past political donations have included Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and California’s super liberal Governor Gavin Newson.

Once big fans of the CEO of Tesla and his electric cars left wing liberal elites in technology, the media, and government now claim Musk is a supervillain in a class with their arch enemy Donald Trump. Why? It’s simple: He wants free speech; they don’t.

In Elon Musk’s own words, “Free speech is the bedrock of a functioning democracy, and Twitter is the digital town square where matters vital to the future of humanity are debated.” In other words, Twitter will no longer censor views and opinions that do not fit the liberal Democrat agenda. As Elon Musk wrote, “Suspending the Twitter account of a major news organization for publishing a truthful story was obviously incredibly inappropriate.” Translation: The Hunter Biden Laptop story let’s all talk about in the weeks leading up to the election. Are vaccines effective? We need to discuss all sides of the issue and look at the data, not just take the word of lord Fauci as gospel and ban anybody who questions the effectiveness of the vaccine.

The list goes on and on and the left is horrified. They demand to control the narrative. As former Trump Advisor Larry Kudlow stated: “Elon Musk has unleashed a political earthquake 7 months before the midterms.”

When left wing liberal founder of Amazon Billionaire Jeff Bezos bought the Washington Post, great news for the cause. When Steve Job’s Billionaire window bought controlling interest in Atlantic Media, it was great – she’s one of us. When Tech Oligarch Billionaire Marc Benioff, and current Twitter Board Chairman, bought Time Magazine, he was a white knight saving it from extinction.

Now a self-proclaimed free speech absolutist Billionaire Elon Musk buys Twitter – it’s the end of the world. We are now told by the aforementioned billionaires and their minions that Musk, who explicitly opposes censorship, is going to silence all of his critics. This is from the crowd who de-platformed a sitting President. This would be laughable if it were not so serious.

Last week, even former President Obama sprang into action. He flew to Stanford University and delivered an hour-long speech on the dangers of social media. Obama openly spoke of the concept of government needing to intervene on our speech platforms. The rules he would consider were very vague but included anything that “helped his vision of democracy and protected the rights, freedoms, and dignity of all citizens.” Of course, to achieve the goals of the far left, almost any draconian censorship can be justified.

Obama’s tactics here are of a kind we’ve seen from media and government for the last five years as Mike Solana stated on Bari Weis’s website, “No laws were plainly proposed, because no law concerning the regulation of speech can be easily enacted—it’s that pesky Constitution. “ You remember Bari, she was chased from the New York Times for her support of the Second Amendment.

In terms of new policies and new features for Twitter, it’s unclear what Musk will do.

But as Mike Solana so eloquently stated, “Thank you, Elon. If you screw this up, we’re probably all doomed. No pressure.”



Photo by: Debbie Rowe / commons.wikimedia.org



Orrin (Skip) Ames, III

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Business Ethics: Moral Leaders Must Create Moral Spaces Where Followers Can Exercise Their Moral Courage

have proliferated in schools of business. For instance, Troy has two stand-alone courses focused on business ethics. One is Business and Society, at the undergraduate level, and Ethical Management and Leadership, at the graduate level. I personally teach both courses.

In both courses, I focus on teaching future business leaders to understand themselves better by focusing on what Psychologists refer to as one’s “moral identity,” how to recognize ethical issues, and how make ethical decisions both in their personal lives and in their business lives as both followers and leaders. Since business involves communities, just like other communities i.e. civic communities, etc., I focus on the ethical functioning of future business leaders in their organizational structures. This focus involves orienting students to their ethical responsibilities to create ethically healthy organizations.

This focus not only allows them to examine themselves as ethical persons, ethical role models, and ethical leaders, but to focus on what management scholars refer to as “followers” in leaders’ organizations. When looking at ethical leaders and the ethics of followers, and when exploring the processes of ethical decision-making, we focus on the research done by Psychologists that emphasizes a cognitive process of ethical decision-making that involves being able to recognize the ethical and moral components of issues that are faced by them as leaders; understanding the various models of ethical decision-making; applying those models to the problem facing them; recognizing that the different models of ethical decision-making might produce different ethical solutions; making a choice among those potential ethical solutions as to which one is “right;” and having the moral courage to pursue or implement the chosen ethical solution.

It is the relationship of moral courage to a leader’s organization that will make the difference between an at-risk organizational culture and an ethically

healthy one because unless the leader himself or herself, those in other leadership positions in an organization, and the employees in the organization have the moral courage to step up and express problematic ethical activities that they see or problematic ethical decisions that are being made by leaders, then no matter how well a person can analyze ethical dilemmas, it is all academic unless leaders and followers have the moral courage to stand up and be heard.

That brings into focus the ethical obligation of leaders to create what Psychologists call “moral spaces” in their organizations in which leaders and followers alike can exercise their own independent critical thinking and to feel actively engaged in their organizations so that all members, leaders and followers alike, can feel like active participants in their organizations. This type of moral space diminishes the tendency of people to remain silent when unethical activities are taking place around them and to have the moral courage to speak up. Unless a leader creates an organization with moral space for other leaders and followers so that there is a “speak up” culture, unethical conduct rots the soul of an organization and eventually leads to its downfall.

Creating moral space for other leaders and followers where individual moral thinking and moral courage are nurtured by a leader is clearly the responsibility of a leader to create an ethically healthy organization. Therefore, in ethics courses in business schools there should not only be a focus on recognizing moral dilemmas, understanding a process to resolve those moral dilemmas, but equally important there must be an inculcation of a clear sense of responsibility in future business leaders of their ethical responsibility to create and nurture organizations that have moral spaces where other leaders and followers feel free to exercise their own senses of morality, to critically evaluate the corporate culture in which they find themselves, to identify ethically problematic activity taking place, and to exercise their moral courage to speak up. This focus should be central to an organizational leader if he or she is going to be an ethical role model and a moral agent for his or her organization.

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John Martin

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Copyrights and Copywrongs

Editor’s note: This article discusses the copyright issues that the Alabama Gazette and other publishers might encounter that is very important, especially in today’s easy access to the world wide web. It is so simple to snag a picture here and there seemingly floating around on the internet. And everybody does it, so why not? It won’t hurt anyone, right? Well, it’s best to live by the old adage: “Just because you can, doesn’t mean you should.” In the case of copyright infringement, it is a situation

where it is NOT better to ask forgiveness than permission as it can be costly. There are ways to obtain consent for use of information and images, and we always do our best to make sure we are in compliance. To go straight to the source, visit: <https://copyright.gov/>

People frequently hire lawyers to search the web and published material to specifically look for copyright violations. This can be rational when violations of well-known artists and writers are numerous enough to cause financial losses. But scammers can copyright ordinary photos, drawings, or whatever and publish them on web sites like Facebook and Instagram where millions of people post and share routine uncopyrighted material. The scammers intentionally give no hint of any copyright notices, wait for people to “violate” their “work,” and hire less than ethical lawyers to search for those who have taken their bait. When a lawyer spots a hit, he concocts a stiff fine—enough for his client and his own fee for the lengthy and boring job of searching and collecting.

Before 1989, the United States required copyright notices on all published materials to inform would be violators, and if such notices are not given, the copyright owners shall not be able to prosecute or collect any penalties. Any lawyers attempting to usurp it would be guilty of malpractice.

But in 1989, our copyright law adopted the Berne Convention Implementation Act, which rendered copyright notices optional. This opened the door for scammers and crooked lawyers to create “infringements” that generate heavy fines and penalties.

Copyright abuses like this must be ended. The current law makes it too easy for scammers to fleece innocent people with contrived violations. The mandate for notices must be restored to protect everybody from traps like this. Victims should notify law enforcement.

Several years ago, many restaurants and other places that routinely celebrate clients’ birthdays refused to use the classic tune “Happy Birthday to You” for fear of violating a dubious copyright, never mind that it is well over a century old, and if it ever had a legitimate copyright, it had long expired. Its authorship has been attributed to American sisters Patty and Mildred J. Hill in 1893, but whether they actually composed the tune is disputed. Early copies of the lyric contained no credits or copyright notices, but in 1935, the Summy Company registered a copyright and claimed Preston Ware Orem and Mrs. R. R. Forman as authors. In 1988, Warner / Chappell Music purchased the company for 25 million dollars and estimated the value of “Happy Birthday” at \$5 million. Warner / Chappell collected licensing fees until 2015. Then a federal judge declared the copyright invalid and ordered a payback of \$14 million.

“Happy Birthday to You” is now officially in the public domain.

There is no question our copyright laws need to be reformed and greatly simplified. For starters, the lengths of copyrights are far too long. Like patents, a copyright gives the creator exclusive rights to his work for a limited time. Then it becomes public domain. Like a patent, a copyright grants a temporary monopoly in exchange for it to later be available to everybody.

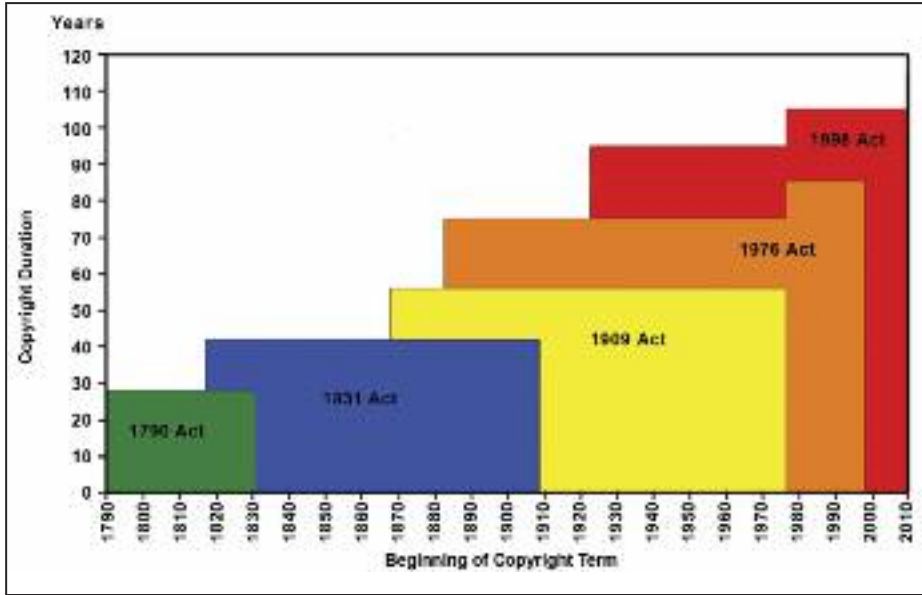
The length of copyrights could be different depending on the materials and the need for the public to have access to them. For works like music compositions, art, novels and other fiction, 40 years is ample for anybody. That should be the maximum for anything. That includes NO renewals. The one and only exception would be trademarks. They would be allowed to last for the life of the corporations.

Other works deserve shorter times. News stories, photos and videos—daily, weekly and monthly publications—are essential to be readily available to the public in a timely manner. Copyrights for these should be short—perhaps a year—certainly no more than five. Other nonfiction works can also have essential properties. Ten to 30 years might be right for most of these.

A special case could be made for software. Since it evolves and becomes obsolete very rapidly, lengthy copyrights are essentially useless anyway. But they can be burdensome to people developing new software if it must incorporate portions of older versions. A good example was when Bill Gates bought the rights to DOS for pennies on the dollar and then monopolized it. Software copyrights should last NO MORE than ten years.

Another problem with ridiculous copyright time spans is potential censorship. They can be used to restrict all kinds of “politically incorrect” literature, photos, videos, sound recordings, art, and whatever else. Our founding fathers had a good reason to specify 28 years. That is ample time for any monopoly.

Another reform we need is to avoid treaties with other nations that demand unreasonable copyright laws in our country. Any items like this already in effect should be nullified ASAP.



Look at the chart above. Beginning in 1790, copyrights in the U. S. lasted a reasonable 28 years and could be renewed (if needed) one time for another 28. In 1831, the time jumped to 42 years, retroactive to 1817. In 1910, it rose to 56 years and retroactive to 1867. In 1978, it went to 85 years and retroactive all the way back to 1906 at 75 years.

The latest revision is the infamous “Sonny Bono Act,” bulldozed through Congress by (obviously) Congressman Sonny Bono in 1998. At this time, many Disney copyrights were about to expire, and the Disney empire colluded with Bono and the rest of Congress to push copyright limits beyond human life spans—all the way up to 105 years and retroactive all the way back to 1922 at 95 years. Disney has a reputation of clinging to its intellectual property with a vengeance upon anybody who even lightly treads onto it. It pulled out every stop to keep any of it from becoming public domain for a very long time.

A good example was when a mother asked a local monument maker in Montgomery to create a Mickey Mouse tombstone for her deceased little daughter. The CEO contacted the Disney people. They initially refused to allow it, stating that their property, including their characters, were protected by very strict copyright laws and that violations would not be tolerated. The mother told them that her daughter was very fond of everything Disney and that she really loved Mickey Mouse. After some lengthy discussion, Disney relented and allowed the monument company to make one—but only one—not any more—ever.

Back in the day, Walt Disney and his company were loved by everybody, especially children. It was family oriented for people of all ages. But in later years, after Walt’s death and spectacular growth, the company began getting greedy. In recent years, the prices for everything at Florida’s Disney World—admission, lodging, food, events, souvenirs, and everything else have skyrocketed well beyond affordability for many people.

Recently, Disney decided that it could dictate how children should be taught about sexual orientation between kindergarten and the third grade in primary school.

That was the last straw. Florida’s Governor, Ron DeSantis, announced that Disney’s generous package of corporate welfare, special districts, tax breaks, and other perks financed on the backs of the taxpayers will be coming to an end.

On April 22, 2022, DeSantis signed a bill to dissolve Disney World’s self-governing status in the state and eliminate Disney’s Reedy Creek Improvement District. He said, “You’re a corporation based in Burbank, California, and you’re gonna marshal your economic might to attack the parents of my state? We view that as a provocation, and we’re going to fight back against that.”

Disney’s special district is scheduled to be dissolved by June 1, 2023.

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What Tax Issues Face a Non-profit Organization?

A non-profit organization, also known as a non-business entity, not-for-profit organization, or non-profit institution, is a legal entity organized and operated for a collective, civic or social benefit, in contrast with an entity that operates as a business aiming to generate a profit for its owners. A non-profit is subject to the non-distribution constraint: any revenues that exceed expenses must be committed to the organization's purpose, not taken by private parties. An array of organizations are non-profit, including some political organizations, schools, business associations, churches, socially concerned groups, philanthropic and consumer cooperatives. Non-profit entities may seek approval from governments to be tax-exempt, and some may also qualify to receive tax-deductible contributions, but an entity may incorporate as a non-profit entity without securing tax-exempt status.

Non-profit regulation in Alabama involves a complex set of rules that govern non- profit organizations and charitable giving throughout the state. Major issues surrounding nonprofit regulation nationwide include the following:

- contribution limits
- donor disclosure
- the redefinition of issue advocacy.

There’s a lot of confusion around whether non-profits can participate in advocacy activities without jeopardizing their 501c3 tax-exempt status. Many organizations shy away from important advocacy opportunities because of the fear that it may land them in hot water—and instead choose to distance themselves to avoid the risk altogether, oftentimes at great disadvantage to their own impact. Alabama is one of 39 states that require charitable organizations, and those intending to solicit on their behalf, to register with the state in order to solicit contributions, whether they are an Alabama organization or based out-of-state. In Alabama a large number of groups and organizations are exempt from registration. These groups, however, must still apply with the state for that exemption; it is not automatic.

Non-profits are not immune from damage that can be caused by unscrupulous and fraudulent solicitors, financial improprieties, and executives and board members who care more about their own financial welfare than the mission of the organization. Problems, when they do arise, are particularly disturbing because of the nature of nonprofits themselves — organizations created to provide public benefit.

Each year the Internal Revenue requires most tax-exempt organizations to submit the Form 990 and its relations, including the following items:

- Income Statement with specific revenue and expense categories like donations, salaries, postage, rent, etc.
- Balance sheet with specific categories like cash, accounts receivable, accounts payable, etc.
- Functional Expense Statement with all expenses allocated to either program services, fundraising or operations.
- Individual Program Expense Statement that reports all of the expenses for each



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

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County AL Sheriff"

OR

- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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



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Firearms Familiarization Course

We know that learning how to protect yourself is very important in today's world. The class is held at our Sheriff D.T. Marshall Firearms Training Center and is FREE to Montgomery County residents! The morning session is classroom instruction on firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows citizens to practice shooting on our Firing Range for the remainder of the class (if you would like). All classes are under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master.

Class participants must obtain a Montgomery County pistol permit prior to taking the class. Applications are made in our Legal Services Division at the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, 100 South Lawrence Street in Montgomery on the second floor.

Please keep in mind that pistol permit applications can be processed within minutes.

Future Class Date: June 25

For more info, please call
334-832-1339.



Camp Show-N-Tell

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for our annual **FREE Camp Show-N-Tell** summer camp held at YMCA's Camp Chandler, August 1-5, 2022. Activities include canoeing, archery, arts and crafts, swimming, outdoor survival skills and a big dance. Applications are available by visiting our agency at 100 S. Lawrence Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 or you may call 334-832-2515 to request an application by fax, email or mail. For more information, please call MCSO Support Services at 334-832-2515.

**Application
Deadline: June 30**



Junior Fishing Rodeo



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office would like to invite the youth of Montgomery County to grab their fishing rods, bait, and tackle and join us for our annual **FREE Youth Fishing Rodeo** on **Saturday, June 11, 2022**, from 6 am - noon. The event will take place at the Montgomery County Ponds on 231 South (Troy Hwy.), which is across the Meriwether Road and Sweet Creek Farmer's Market. Questions? Contact MCSO Support Services Division at 334-832-2515. We hope to see you there!



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Honoring Our Heroes



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Master Chief Petty Officer Marion Lee Hornsby: Age 88

Master Chief Petty Officer (MCPO) Marion Lee Hornsby served 21 years in the United States Navy. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Boiler Technician Chief Master. He received the following decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Vietnam Service Medal, China Service Medal, National Defense Medal and five Good Conduct Medals.

MCPO Hornsby was born August 11, 1933 to his parents, Luther and Irene Hornsby, in Tallassee, AL, where he was reared and graduated from Tallassee High School in 1952. MCPO Hornsby worked as a cotton inspector in a cotton mill in Opelika, AL, for two years.

MCPO Hornsby volunteered and enlisted in the U.S. Navy July 27, 1954. He received Basic Training at San Diego, CA, where he was assigned to work in the engine rooms of ships operating the generators and boilers. He was assigned to serve at the North Island Naval Shipyard, San Francisco, CA, where he worked with fuel oil tankers for two years. He was then transferred to an ammunition ship, USS Vesuvius, at Port Chicago, CA. He left the Navy for two months and then reenlisted. He was sent to the Navy’s boiler technician school at the Philadelphia Naval Yard and the Naval Leadership and Ethics Center at the Naval Station, RI. He was then sent to serve on the USS Catamount, a Casa Grande-ship, for 52 months where he sailed back and forth across the Pacific Ocean. This included bringing supplies to U.S. military in South Vietnam. He then was promoted to Chief Petty Officer for a temporary assignment to the Philadelphia Naval Yard in anticipation of the launching of the USS Dale, a Leahy-class cruiser. Next, he served on the USS Martin, an Evarts-class destroyer for two years followed by service on a cargo ship. In 1962, he was transferred to San Diego where he worked at the Naval Boot Camp for three years followed by service in Naval ship maintenance at the Philadelphia Naval Yard. He then served as an inspector and supervisor of the generator plant on the USS Shenandoah, a Yellowstone-class destroyer and the USS Forrestal, a super carrier. He last served as a boiler inspector at the Norfolk Naval Station, VA, for two years where he retired August 27, 1974.

MCPO Hornsby and his wife, Barbara, were married 48 years before she passed away, and they had six children, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. For many years, they enjoyed towing a camper visiting 45 states including Key West, FL. He is a member of Providence Primitive Baptist Church at Kent, AL.

After his military retirement, MCPO Hornsby completed training in vehicle electrical maintenance at the John Patterson Technical College in Montgomery, AL., and he then drove a cement truck with the Robertson & Son Builders Supply Inc. in Tallassee, AL, for six months. Next, he worked as the labor foreman at Auburn University for six months. He worked for 20 years at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL as the plant energy foreman until 1995. He drove vehicles for Capitol Chevrolet and Jack Ingram Motors, Inc. in Montgomery, AL, where he retired from all employment in 1998.

Hornsby’s conclusions about his military service are, “I enjoyed it. I had a few bad days but a lot of more good days and years. I did not want to retire as I wanted to serve 25 years.” He would like future generations to remember him as being a good guy who worked hard.



Staff Sergeant Morris F. Kendrick: Age 90

Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Morris F. Kendrick served four years in the U.S. Air Force, including service during the Korean War. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Inventory Clerk. His military decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons included: Korean Service Medal, U. N. Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

SSgt Morris F. Kendrick was born September 9, 1931 in Centerville, AL to his parents, Elmer and Lila Kendrick. He was reared there and graduated from Suttle High School in 1949.

SSgt Kendrick volunteered for military service and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force October 10, 1950. He completed Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (A.F.B.), TX. His first assignment was at Hill A.F.B., UT, where he received training for Inventory Clerk in supply which was followed by deployment to Korea for one year, eight months and 22 days. He was involved in combat operations near Kaesong, Korea. He was honorably discharged from military service October 10, 1954 at Maxwell A.F.B., AL.

After military service, SSgt Kendrick went to Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) on the GI Bill and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration in 1958. After graduation, SSgt Kendrick went to work as an auditor for the Alabama Department of Revenue in Demopolis, AL. He then moved to the purchasing department at Vanity Fair, in Demopolis, AL. After moving to Montgomery, AL, he returned to the Alabama Department of Revenue in the Montgomery office. He left the Revenue Department again when a position was created for him as Chief Auditor at the Alcohol Beverage Control Board. In 1994, he retired after 39 years of state service.

SSgt Kendrick and his wife, Peggy, have been married for 62 years, and they have two children, seven grandchildren and five great- grandchildren. They are members of Eastern Hills Baptist Church of Montgomery where he has served as a Sunday School teacher, worked with the Royal Ambassadors and served with Carpenters for Christ. In his free time, he enjoyed gardening and raising vegetables.

SSgt. Kendrick reflects upon his military service saying, “I enjoyed serving in the military because it was a full filling job. It was an honorable feeling. I would also like future generations to remember me that I was involved with my family on day to day activities as my family is an important part of my life.” # end #



Veterans love reading *The Gazette!*



**Lieutenant Colonel
Harold Howell**
(U.S. Navy and
U.S. Air Force)



**Master Sergeant
David Gordon
Stainback**
(U.S. Air Force)

100-yr-old Veteran PO1 Jinks Passes Away

The veteran, Petty Officer 1st Class **Lynn W. Jinks Jr.**, passed away on May 30, 2022. PO1 Jinks was born January 10, 1922 in Union Springs, AL, and graduated from Union Springs High School in 1939. He served in the U.S. Navy. His article was published in the January 2022 *Alabama Gazette*.

James Manley: Battle of the Bulge Hero

The veteran, James Manley, passed away March 15, 2022 at the age of 94. His article was published in the April 2019 *Alabama Gazette*.

James “Jim” Manley served in the United States Army from 1944-1947, seeing action in the Italian Campaign during WWII. The Allied troops suffered 320,000 casualties and the Germans’ figure was over 330,000. No other campaign cost more lives and wounds by infantry forces on both sides, yet Jim came through unscathed.

Born in Double Springs, AL, after his discharge, Jim returned to Alabama and then went to TX where he worked on a pipeline. His parents moved to Montgomery, and Jim came to Montgomery where he met his wife, Ann Brown. The couple were married 67 years at the time of his death and they have three children including two daughters and one son, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Julie Martin Harris: June 3	Ronald Urquhart: June 23
Eugene Thomas Beasley: June 7	John M. Vickery: June 24
Pete “Jiggs” Bowdoin: June 7	James Manley: June 29
Marvin Kent Speigner: June 10	William Joseph Heath: June 30
Maxine Mullins: June 10	

National Center for PTSD / 855-948-2311 / [ptsd.va.gov](https://www.ptsd.va.gov)
Veterans Crisis Line www.veteranscrisisline.net

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Master Sergeant Neal R. Schultz: Age 85

Master Sergeant (MSgt) Neal R. Schultz served 20 years in the United States Air Force. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Navigation, Bombing, Tactics Trainer technician. He received the following decorations, medals, citations and ribbons: National Defense Service Medal (two), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Longevity Service Award with four oak leaf clusters and the Good Conduct Medal with one bronze oak leaf cluster.

MSgt Schultz was born in Pontic, Michigan August 20, 1936 to his parents, Frank and Eva Schultz. After dropping out of high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force January 27, 1954 and began his successful military service.

MSgt Schultz served at 10 state side bases and had two overseas tours as a radar navigation and flight simulator technician. He began service at Samson Air Force Base (AFB), NY, with the 3650 Military Training Wing. He completed technical training at Chanute AFB, IL with the 3345th Technical Training Wing and was sent to Craig AFB, AL with the HQ 3615th Flight Training Group ATC. Next, he served with the 3501 Support Squadron at James Connally AFB, TX, followed by service with the 2266th Pers Proc Squadron (CONAC) at Manhattan Beach AFS. This was followed by service at the 1608th Air Terminal Squadron (MATS) at Charleston AFB, SC. He then served with the HQ 1604RH Air Base Squadron in Bermuda, followed by service at Headquarter A.F. Special Weapons Center at Kirtland AFB, NM, followed by service at HQ Electronic System Division at L.G. Hanscom Field, MA. After this, he served with the combat crew Training Wing at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, followed by service with the 27 TAC Recon Wing at Cannon AFB, NM. His next two assignments were with the 4453rd Combat Crew Training Wing at Davis Monthan AFB, AZ, and with the 81st TAC FTR Wing in England. His last assignment was with the 509th Combat Support Wing at Pease AFB, NH, where he retired January 31, 1974.

Following his military service retirement, MSgt Schultz worked in retails sales selling cars in AZ and AL for eight years and then worked as a supervisor with Service Master, a company that provided inspection controls for hospitals, and he was a leader opening a hospital in Centre, AL. While working in retail sales, he used the G.I. Bill and attended Snead Junior College in Boaz, AL where he earned an Associate Degree in Applied Science in Real Estate Law. He then attended Alabama A.& M. University and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a B.S. Degree in General Business in 1985.

MSgt Schultz was selected as a Palace Acquire Intern in the U.S. Air Force Commissary Program and completed two years of training with one year at Columbus AFB, MS and the other year at Maxwell AFB, AL. He served as a Commissary Management Specialist, Deputy Commissary and Commissary Officer at six different state side locations and one overseas tour. He worked as a civilian in military commissaries including working as a commissary officer at England AFB at LA, for three years, at Hurlbert Field, FL, as TDY for three months, at Howard A.F.B. in Panama for 1.5 years, at Fort Polk, LA, and then as deputy commissary officer at Maxwell AFB, AL, where he retired from 12 years of civil service in 1998.

MSgt Schultz has continued to serve his country as he is a Life Member of the Disabled American Veterans in which he has held membership for more than 45 years and had held numerous states offices and committee positions including National Deputy Chief of Staff for three years and AL Budget and Finance Director, Chapter Commander at Guntersville, AL, Chapter 23 and at Montgomery, AL Chapter 12. He is a Life Member of Vietnam Veterans of America. He has served as PTA president and served on numerous school committees. He has served as Cub Scout master for 10 years serving youth. He has served on the Board of Directors of the AL Department of Veterans Affairs for four years, and he is a life member of the Air Force Sergeant Association and the National Order of Trench Rats, a fraternal and honor organization. In addition, he is also a Third Degree Mason and a member of Knight Templar in the York Rites.

MSgt Schultz and his wife, Billie, have been married 66 years, and they have five children, 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

MSgt Schultz’s concludes about his military service are, “I served my country with my whole heart.”



Command Sergeant Major Anthony Edward Sharpston: Age 60

Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Anthony Sharpston served 14 years in the United States Army. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Cannon Crewman. He received the following medals, citations, awards, badges and ribbons: Bronze Star (two), Purple Heart (two), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (three), Army Combat Medal, Defense Service Medal, Southeast Asia Medal with two service stars, Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, Arm Service Ribbon, Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle, Arms (expert), Marksmanship with Grenade Badge, Parachutist Badge, Arm Assault Badge, Driver and Mechanics Badge and Officer Driver Badge.

CSM Sharpston was born October 5, 1961 in Littleville, AL, to his parents, Henry Edward Sharpston and Juanita Sharpston. His father served in the military in the Korean War. He was reared in Littleville and graduated from Bradshaw High School in 1980. He attended college in IL for one year and volunteered and enlisted in the United States Army March 4, 1984.

CSM Sharpston reported for duty at Fort Campbell, KY, where he qualified as a Cannon Crewman. The cannon crewmembers work the howitzer cannons that support infantry and tank units during combat and play crucial roles in the Army’s success on the battlefield. Their job duties include communicating over wire and radio. identifying target locations and operating self-propelled howitzers, ammunition trucks and other vehicles. He went to Fort Benning, GA, where he completed parachutist and Ranger training. He made 19 jumps in combat zones during his service.

Next, he completed training in Special Forces at Fort Bragg, NC. CSM Sharpston served 32 months in Desert Shield and 22 months in Desert Storm in Iraq. Twice he was seriously wounded and received two Purple Hearts. He was treated at the U.S. Army’s Landstuhl Regional Medical Center at Frankfurt, Germany, for nine months. He was transferred to the hospital at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, where he was treated, and he was discharged from military service there January 12, 1998.

After recovering and returning to civilian life, CSM Sharpston was employed with the W. S. Newell & Sons, a construction company in Montgomery, AL, dealing with heavy construction, mass grading and site development where he worked as a welder and frabricator for 12 years retiring in1995. He and his wife, Rhonda Denise Ray, were married for three years. He and his wife, Martha, were married for eight years. He rebuilds antique cars and gives them to others. He enjoys making toys from scrap lumber which he gives to children in his neighborhood. He has held membership in the VFW and the American Legion. He attends services at Baptist churches in Montgomery, AL.

CSM Sharpston personifies true heroism, and his conclusions about his devotion to military service are, “It was my whole life. I’m sorry that I am out. I would still be in it if they would let me. I got to go all over the world. I miss it. I highly recommend it. It was the greatest thing that I ever did with my life.”




end

DAR Serves America’s Military

One of the purposes of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution is the encouragement of patriotic endeavor. At the May 21, 2022 meeting of Atagi Chapter of DAR in Prattville, AL, a Quilt of Valor created by Atagi Chapter member, Betsy Skelton, was displayed at the meeting. It was made for her father-in-law, Francis E. Skelton, Sr., who served in three branches of the U. S. military, namely, Navy, Army and Air Force, during WWII and the Korean War, and he was a prisoner of war during the Korean War. In addition, a Battlefield Soldier’s Cross was presented to the group.

The quilt and the cross will be displayed at Fat Boys Bar-B-Que Ranch in Prattville, AL.





Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!
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or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugler, and provide date, location and time of internment.



DAR Honors Gold Star Wife: Sandra Lee Meadows Robertson



Sandra Lee Meadows Robertson was recognized by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Alabama Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution with Certificates of Award for Women in American History accompanied by the organization’s Women in American History Medallion and patriotic ribbon. The presentation was made by the DAR Atagi Chapter Regent, Kathleen Clements, in Prattville, AL, May 21, 2022.

The national award is given to women who have made a contribution or a difference in their communities. Sandra’s husband, Major Pierce I. Robertson, who was serving as a Rotary Wing Aviation Unit Commander, 227th Assault Helicopter Battalion, 1st Calvary Division, was killed October 9, 1966 during the Vietnam War, leaving her a widow with a two month-old son. Sandra became a member of the Gold Star Wives of America in 1969, and she served as the National President 1979-1981 and as Treasurer 1984-2008. She continues to serve on committees of the national board, and she continues to assist surviving spouses and veterans with benefits issues. The Gold Star Wives of America is a Congressionally

chartered non-profit service organization that provides assistance and friendship to those who have lost their spouses to a military related cause of death

In addition, Robertson has served as a volunteer with the Central AL Veterans Health Care System for the past nineteen years. Robertson has served in many other capacities in the AL community including volunteering in Digital Assets at the AL Department of Archives and History. She has current memberships in the AL American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 911, Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. (AL), Daughters of the American Revolution, Atagi Chapter, Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Montgomery Area Chapter - MOAA (Maxwell AFB, AL, Marine Corps League, Townsend Detachment #920, Montgomery, AL, Retired Officers’ Wives Club, Montgomery, AL, and Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery, Montevallo, AL.

Robertson was employed for 30 years, and her professional career included Pacific Bell Telephone, Southern Bell Telephone, American Airlines, Hayes International Corporation, Paige Aircraft Company, Alabama Hospital Association Credit Union Manager, and Max Credit Union serving in Customer Service, Accounting Departments, Credit Union Manager/Bookkeeper, all aspects of collections to include fraud and bankruptcy litigation. She has attended many seminars and classes to further her expertise in all financial aspects, to include Business Law courses. She has held professional membership in International Association of Credit Card Investigators, Credit Professionals International (CPI), CPI Capitol City Association as President, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian; CPI 25 Year Career Club President, CPI of AL President (2001) and Parliamentarian (2003).

Robertson’s conclusions about receiving the DAR Women in American History Medallion are, “I was not expecting the award and was over come with emotion. I have been a supporter of veterans and surviving spouses because I found as a widow with a two month-old child in 1966 there were no support groups for widows other than my immediate family and friends plus the excellent military assistance helping me through a difficult transition. The only organized group was Gold Star Wives of America, Inc., and through this group, I found my purpose which is to assist other veterans and spouses. I do this in remembrance of my husband and his service to God and his country.”



Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor
St. James United Methodist Church
9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL

Soul Searching

SOME OF MY PERCEPTIONS

Here are three of my favorite reflections taken from my book: *Perceptions, Collection of Favorites, Volume 2*.

Complain, Complain

A certain monastery enforced a vow of silence. Each monk could utter only two words every five years, and those two words had to be spoken in the presence of the abbot. One of the monks, when given his opportunity to speak, said, “Bad food!” Five years later, his two words were, “Bed hard!” When given his third opportunity to speak five years later, he said, “I quit!”

“Well,” said the abbot, “you might as well quit. All you’ve done since you’ve been here is complain!”

While I’m not sure I would call this monk a heavy complainer, I know that complaining seems to be a part of human nature. We all tend to want what we want when we want it. And when our needs aren’t met on our time schedule, we tend to complain.

Gratitude for and awareness of one’s blessings is the best remedy I know of for a serious case of chronic complaining. Gratitude leads to a change of attitude.

Gossip

My name is Gossip. I have no respect for justice, I maim without killing. I break hearts and ruin lives. I am cunning and malicious and gather strength with age. The more I am quoted, the more I am believed. I flourish at every level of society.

My victims are helpless. They cannot protect themselves against me because I have no face.

To track me down is impossible. The harder you try, the more elusive I become.

I am nobody’s friend.

Once I tarnish a reputation, it is never the same. I topple governments, wreck marriages and ruin careers – I cause sleepless nights, heartaches, and indigestion. I spawn suspicion and generate grief.

I make innocent people cry in their pillows.

Even my own name hisses...

I make headlines and headaches.

Before you repeat a story, ask yourself, is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary?

If not – don’t repeat it.



Photo credit: Krappweis / freemages.com

10 Commandments for Relating to Others

1. **Speak to people.** There is nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. **Smile at people.** It takes seventy-two muscles to frown, only fourteen to smile.
3. **Call people by name.** The sweetest music to anyone’s ears is the sound of his or her own name.
4. **Be friendly and helpful.**
5. **Be cordial.** Let’s speak and act as though we are grateful people.
6. **Be genuinely interested in people.** If we try, we can like almost everyone.
7. **Be generous with praise** – cautious with criticism.
8. **Be considerate with the feelings of others.** There are usually three sides to a controversy: ours, the other persons, and the right one.
9. **Be alert to give service.** What counts most in life is what we do for others.
10. **Add to this a good sense of humor, a big dose of patience and a dash of humility, and you will be rewarded many fold!**

Blessings,

Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor, Saint James Church

Note: If you enjoyed these and want to read more, contact amanda@sjlife.com to order your copy of *Perceptions, A Collection of Favorites, Volume 2*. (c) Durham, Inc.

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



Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning
8:00 – Outdoor Cafe
10:00 – Contemp service
11:00 – Traditional service
9 - 9:30 – Open Communion

Autauga County World War II Veterans Honored at V-E Day Commemoration

Four WWII veterans were honored at a **V-E Day Commemoration at Fat Boys’ Bar-B-Que Ranch** on May 5, 2022. The special event was coordinated by members of **Atagi Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution**. **Kathy Clements**, Regent of Atagi Chapter, emceed the program, and she described the heroic military service and the personal civilian life of each veteran. The four WWII veterans included **Air Force Lt. Col Melvin Cooper**, **Air Force Lt. Col Harold Howell**, **Army Captain Robert Shafton Kohn** and **Navy Captain Marvin G. “Jack” Smith**. One veteran is now 100 years old. Two veterans are 99 years old, and one veteran is 94 years old. Greetings were read from **Senator Clyde Chambliss, Jr.**, and **Prattville Mayor William Gillespie, Jr.**, addressed the 45 people in attendance describing the patriotic war effort in Prattville during WWII, thanking the veterans for their service as members of America’s Greatest Generation and presented City of Prattville Appreciation Coins. Governor Kay Ivey sent Certificates of Recognition. Atagi Chapter presented Certificates of Valor and DAR Challenge Coins. Martha Poole Simmons, American Red Cross volunteer, gave each veteran a Red Cross insulated mug and a Red Cross bag of toiletry items. She saluted the veterans thanking them for their service to America on behalf of a grateful nation, the American Red Cross and her, a mother of a U.S. Marine. A large evergreen tree was decorated with photographs of WWII veterans who have served in Autauga County or of relatives of members of Atagi Chapter of DAR who served in WWII.



(above) Veterans Smith, Kohn, Howell and Cooper pictured with Kathy Clements and Martha Poole-Simmons. (background right) Vic-Tree (Victory Tree) Honors WWII Veterans with Branches and Roots in Our Community.

Memorial Day Service: May 27, 2022

The Central AL Veterans Health Care System had an inter-faith Memorial Day service at the Perryhill campus in Montgomery on May 27, 2022. VA Chaplains John Bailey Jeffry Dephouse presided. Messages and prayers were delivered by representatives of the Christian, Jewish Muslim and Buddhist faiths. Eric Perkins played patriotic music. Names of deceased veterans were read aloud. The American Red Cross was represented by SAF volunteers, Andy and Cheryl Grinstead and Martha Poole Simmons and SAF Specialist Darryl Woods.



WWII Veteran Charlie Lynn Celebrates 97th Birthday!

Charles E. Lynn (known as Charlie) celebrated his 97th birthday at the Crump Senior Center on his birthday, May 23, 2022. Lynn served in the U.S. Army Air Corps as a ball turret gunner flying 35 missions from England to Germany in the B-17 Flying Fortress. The event was sponsored by the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross. Dr. Kenny Hoopes, Minister of Senior Adults of First Baptist Church of Montgomery gave the invocation which was followed by an introduction of Charlie’s relatives which included three generations. Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces Specialist, Darryl Woods, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag followed by the singing of the National Anthem led by Dr. John Kline.

Framed commendations were presented by the following: (1) retired U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Lawrence Stevenson presented a commendation from AL Governor Kay Ivey and a commendation from Admiral Kent Davis, Commissioner of the AL Department of Veterans Affairs. (2) Mr. Ed Grimes, Montgomery City Councilman, presented a proclamation from Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed in which Mayor Reed declared May 23, 2022 to be Charles Lynn Day in Montgomery. (3) Central AL Veterans Health Care System Director Amir Farooqi presented a commendation from this organization that serves veterans. (4) Tim Watson, USAF representative from the USAF Enlisted Heritage Hall at Maxwell Air Force Base Gunter Annex, presented a commendation. (5) Kelly Hodges, Director of the Central-East AL Chapter of the American Red Cross, presented a Red Cross bag, Tote of Hope, containing toilet articles and a Red Cross mug.

The patriotic birthday celebration concluded by the singing of “God Bless America” and “Happy Birthday” led by Dr. John Kline. A time of fellowship followed with greetings to Charlie and traditional refreshments. Lynn’s article was published in the April 2019 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



Memorial Day Ceremony: May 30, 2022

Members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 607 and the American Legion Pike Road Centennial Post 2019 conducted a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans of America Memorial Garden in Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery, AL, May 30, 2022. Retired USAF Col John A. Eidsmoe served as Master of Ceremonies. Jessie Donaldson, President of Chapter 607 VVA, described the real meaning of Memorial Day. Names of deceased local Vietnam War military were read aloud. A ceremonial folding of the United States flag was conducted followed by a Missing Man Ceremony. After a three-gun salute, there was an echo playing of Taps.

(pictured right) Col John Eidsmoe, Commander of American Legion Pike Road Centennial Post 2019; Teresa Dotherow, Regent of Peter Forney Chapter of DAR; Martha Poole Simmons; Jessie Donaldson, President of Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America



Southern Gardening

Potpourri for June

Although gas prices have become a topic of discussion with their ever-increasing prices, June could bring a surge in travel. For gardeners, this is a great opportunity to view botanical gardens or other plantings around our state or out of state. If you are in Fairhope, just look around the downtown area to be amazed at their municipal plantings. From hanging baskets to bedding plants, the color combinations and variety of flowers cannot be matched. The extensive rose garden near the municipal pier showcases hundreds of roses, which gives off a lovely fragrance. Make a record of the good ideas with either a pen and notebook or, better yet, the camera on your cell phone since a picture is worth a thousand words. I have done this over the years and have drawn good ideas for my personal garden. Other garden venues, which are within easy driving reach of this area, would be the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, the Athens Georgia Botanical Gardens, and Bellingrath Gardens in Mobile.

What to do now in the garden? First of all, eradicate all weeds in the beds. Pulling these out can be onerous, but still needs to be done. If there are areas that have not been planted and are simply weedy patches, carefully use RoundUp or glyphosate to spray the area and wait about a week to ten days before over planting or sowing seed. When using this chemical, always wear gloves and garden goggles. June should see all the daffodil and tulip leaves turning yellow or brown. It is now time to clip them off and leave daffodils in the ground. In the south, tulips need to be dug up and saved for planting next year. Place them in a brown paper bag, lightly dust with Sevin to prevent mite or bug infestation and place them on a shelf in a dry shed or garage for future use. I have found that the blooms are not as large, but great for cut flowers. The month of June is ideal for planting caladium bulbs. Caladiums are finicky about soil temperatures. Even if you plant them early such as in March, unless the soil reaches about 60 degrees, no way are they shooting up out of the ground. Of course they require lots of water to get them up out of the ground, so you risk bulb rot if they are planted too early. Usually I plant all one variety for a uniform appearance, but I have an area that has an open spot in between white impatiens, so I am trying a mix of different varieties. Before the era of the landscape begonias, begonias had to be in the ground around March 15th to thrive. But now, most begonias can be planted in the heat of the summer and should thrive with proper watering and Osmocote or other time-release fertilizers. Never sprinkle commercial fertilizer on begonia leaves as they will surely die. If this type is all you have, immediately shake any fertilizer off the leaves, and water the leaves and plants well. The advantages of the large begonias are that they shade out weeds, drop their dead heads, and bloom continuously through frost. What a great bang for the buck. June is also the perfect month to sow zinnias, cleome, and cosmos. In fact these can be sown anytime, and you could pull out one crop in July or August, and sow another crop for fall.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: CROCUS SATIVUS

Common Name for Saffron Crocus or Autumn Crocus

Source: www.growveg.com



This species of flowering plant is in the iris family, iridaceae and its claim to fame is the production of Saffron. The thin filaments or stigmas inside of the crocus bloom head are harvested and dried for mostly culinary uses, but also used as dyes. The corms must be planted in summer 4-6 inches deep or 3 months before frost. They are hardy in our Zone 8 and require soil with a pH of 5.8 to 7.8, which is neutral to alkaline as acid pH is less than 6.5. Soil must not be a heavy clay, such as we are cursed with in the Montgomery area, but well drained. Also, saffron requires at least 8 inches deep of good soil. Please note that the corms are poisonous. While the saffron corms or bulbs cost about \$1.00 per bulb, the filaments sell on the open market for between \$1,500 and \$5,000 per pound. In areas of the south where the summers are dry, they can be grown as perennials, and left in the ground. Note that it is necessary to dig them up and remove to another area once every 4-5 years.

Happy Gardening!

OUTDOOR Truths

He said I could come ...



By Gary Miller

One of the obstacles most hunters and fishermen dread is the wind. A light wind is not a factor – it's even helpful, but a windy day is burdensome to the fishermen and causes most game to stay out of sight. Most of the time, I complain about the wind like everyone else. But there are a few circumstances where the wind adds excitement to the hunt and gives me the edge. One of those circumstances is when I'm turkey hunting. As turkey hunters know, this particular bird has excellent sight and can distinguish colors as well. The least movement will turn an otherwise successful hunt into a what-if story. When the wind is still, I'm still, but when the wind blows, I use the opportunity to do a little stalking. I can remember one morning be able to crawl within fifteen yards of nine jakes without ever calling. And after they recognized something was not right, they came closer for some investigation. I could almost touch them with the end of my gun. Now that was exciting!

Many times, we assume the worst when the wind is involved. We use clichés like the “winds of change,” or we offer encouragement by saying “keep the wind to your back,” as if a head-wind is a negative thing. The truth is most of our growth happens when the winds are against us.

These gusts challenge our normal and comfortable way of doing things. They make us decide whether we will curse our circumstances or use them to find another way. They reveal to us our fears and our ability to adapt and overcome. They show us who or what is controlling our life. Perhaps the winds of difficulty are blowing against you right now. Perhaps it seems they are so strong that your boat is standing still. It may be God is simply causing you to move in another direction, or it might be He is using these gusts to reveal to you a fear you need to relinquish. The wind can be your friend if you will always remember God is at its helm. He will determine its length and strength. He will use it to bring you new successes in different ways. And in doing this, He will cause you to have a greater trust in Him.

Get Gary to come speak at your next wild game dinner or men's event!

Contact Gary at gary@outdoortruths.org.



Source: www.freeimages.com

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Quilt of Valor Presented to Veteran Captain Marvin G. Smith: Age 99

The 99-year-old U. S. Navy veteran, Captain Marvin G. Smith, was presented a Quilt of Valor at First Methodist Church of Prattville, AL, May 4, 2022. The quilt was created by Nancy Billingslea, a member of the Peter Forney Chapter of DAR. It represented over 145 hours of labor creating the quilt. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit group of quilters from all across the United States whose mission is to cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting, healing quilts. It is given to honor people for their service for leaving all that they hold dear to stand in harm's way in a time of crisis, protecting American citizens from the effects of war. Quilters know that freedom is not free, and this act of love provides a way to thank people for their sacrifices and to bring comfort and healing. The patriotic program consisted of the presentation of the quilt and the presentation of a commendation from Admiral Kent Davis, Commissioner of the AL Department of Veterans Affairs.

Captain Marvin G. Smith served 38 years in the U.S. Navy during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. His article was published in the December 2019 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.

(Photo) Captain Marvin G. Smith, 99, standing in front of the Quilt of Valor presented to him at First Methodist Church in Prattville. Inset: Created by Nancy Billingslea the Quilt was presented to Captain Smith by Billingslea (right) and Kathleen Arant (left), two of the members of the Peter Forney Chapter.



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 (334) 272-7630 – Fax



Social Security Services

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



Fact Sheets Added to YOUR Social Security Statement

Your Social Security Statement (Statement) tells you how much you or your family can expect to receive in disability, survivors, and retirement benefits. It also provides a record of your most recent earnings history and other valuable information.

We also give you fact sheets with your online Statement. The fact sheets provide clear and useful information, based on your

age group and earnings situation. They can help you better understand Social Security programs and benefits.

The **Statement** fact sheets cover the following topics:

- Retirement readiness for workers in four age groups.
- Workers with non-covered earnings who may be subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset.
- Social Security basics for new workers.
- How people become eligible for benefits (for people who have not earned enough work credits).
- How additional work can increase your future benefits.
- Medicare readiness for workers aged 62 and up.

We recently released a new fact sheet specifically for people with limited earnings. The new fact sheet covers how they and their family members may qualify for benefits, including:

- Supplemental Security Income.
- Social Security retirement benefits.
- Children's benefits.
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- Help with health care costs – including Medicare, Medicare Savings Programs, Extra Help with Medicare prescription drug costs, and Medicaid.

The best way to get access to your **Statement** and the new fact sheets is by using your personal **my Social Security** account. If you don't have a personal **my Social Security** account, be sure to create one at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can even view your full earnings history there.

To learn more, visit our **Social Security Statement** webpage at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/statement.html. Please share these resources with your friends and family.

Faster Processing of Disability Claims for People with Alzheimer's Disease

Currently, more than five million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Since the onset of Alzheimer's can occur in people before they retire, it may strike during an individual's working years, preventing gainful employment as the disease progresses.

As a result, people with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers must figure out how they'll pay for care. Our benefits and services are vital to people with early-onset Alzheimer's who are unable to work and have no other source of income.

For more than a decade, Social Security has included early-onset Alzheimer's disease in our list of Compassionate Allowances program. The program identifies debilitating diseases and medical conditions so severe they meet our disability standards. Compassionate Allowances allow for faster processing of disability claims for individuals with early-onset Alzheimer's disease and several other neurodegenerative disorders.

You can read more about our Compassionate Allowances program at www.ssa.gov/compassionateallowances. To learn more about how Social Security disability insurance works and to apply for benefits, visit our disability page at www.ssa.gov/disability. Please share these resources with friends and family.



Photo by: DirectMedia / FreeRangeStock

Five Social Security Resources that can Protect Elders from Scams

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is on June 15. On this day, communities, seniors, caregivers, governments, organizations, and the private sector unite to prevent the mistreatment of and violence against older people.

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

Here are five easy-to-use resources to prevent Social Security fraud:

- Check out our Fraud Prevention and Reporting page to learn about Social Security fraud – and how we fight scammers at www.ssa.gov/fraud.
- Read our *Scam Alert* fact sheet to learn what tactics scammers use and how to protect yourself at www.ssa.gov/fraud/assets/materials/EN-05-10597.pdf.
- Create your own personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to stay one step ahead of scammers. Please read our blog post at blog.ssa.gov/my-social-security-what-to-know-about-signing-up-or-signing-in for more information about creating or signing in to your personal **my Social Security** account.
- Learn about other types of fraud on our Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Scam Awareness page at oig.ssa.gov/scam-awareness/scam-alert. You'll also see how to report these scams to our OIG and other government agencies.
- Read our blog post to learn how to guard your Social Security card – and protect your personal information at blog.ssa.gov/guard-your-card-protect-whats-important-to-you/.

Please share this information with your friends and family to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

Use **my Social Security** to Instantly Check the Status of Your Benefits Claim



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

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

Use your personal **my Social Security** account to instantly check the status of your application or appeal at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

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

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Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist: kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER: Your Wallet, Your Voice, Your Vote

Nina Jankowicz, the executive director of the Disinformation Governance Board resigned Wednesday. She explained in her resignation letter that it was because the future of the board was uncertain.

Later the same day, the new White House press secretary, Karine Jean-Pierre – widely touted as being the first gay Black White House press secretary – read the statement from the Department of Homeland Security saying plans for the Disinformation Governance Board have been placed on pause due to the board being intentionally mischaracterized.

The board was created by Homeland Security, and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas had insisted the Disinformation Governance Board was only concerned with disinformation from Russia, China, Iran, and the cartels. He seemed confused as to why there was criticism toward the board.

There was criticism because a lot of people did not feel a disinformation board was necessary in American where we have a free press. Also, many Americans take pride in being woke enough to think for themselves.

Foreign disinformation was not how Nina Jankowicz described the mission of the board. Her definition of the board's responsibilities included gendered and sexualized disinformation.

She issued a report, which was then shared by Secretary Mayorkas and the White House, stating that Russia, China, and Iran exploit "these American made narratives."

It appeared Jankowicz's self-described job description was to track these narratives on social media. In her shared report she wrote that social media companies should "create a cross-platform consortium to track and respond to online misogyny, similar to existing consortiums which counter terrorism and extremism."

Her controversial report was written during her reign as the former global fellow of the Wilson Center – an independent forum for independent research, open dialogue, and actionable ideas. In short, it's a think tank.

Her report wasn't what caught everybody's attention though. It wasn't her saying Hunter Biden's laptop was a Trump campaign tool either. No. It was her performance as Mary Poppins in a TikTok video she made singing about disinformation that pulled the eye and hurt the ears. Wearing bright red she bolted out, "They're laundering disinfo, and we really should take note!"

Ms. Jankowicz is much more of a Disney fan than I am for sure, but there was one line in her jingle I took note of and I really liked. The line came after she sang "disinformation is how you hide a little lie" and repeated it several times.

She sang us a sentence of value we can all agree with and support. A pearl of wisdom from a partisan woman assumed to have none. She basically said don't support these people you don't agree with – who are spreading these lies disguised as disinformation. She sang we should not support them with "our wallet, voice, or vote."

Those are words everyone should live by in this new Biden economy. In this time of inflation and supply line issues, do not spend your money with people or companies who are not in line with your views and values. If like attracts like and only the strongest survive ... let's roll the dice. We are already gambling with our investments and our country's future.

Amanda Walker is a columnist and contributor with *AL.com*, *The Birmingham News*, *Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *The Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at Walkerworld77@msn.com or at www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist.



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Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"It is Well"

"When peace like a river, attendeth my way... It is well, it is well, with my soul."

Ever since I was a little girl, I have loved the hymn "It Is Well." There was something about those lyrics that brought a sense of peace.

Horatio G. Spafford, the man who penned that hymn, experienced profound tragedy with the death of his son to sickness, the loss of most of his real estate investments in the Great Chicago Fire, and then later the news that all four of his daughters had perished at sea in a shipwreck.

How did Horatio find peace in the face of so much tragedy? He was rooted in his faith and he understood peace in his soul.

Though fear and uncertainty may grip us at times, God continued to give us surprising peace in the midst of our storm. Peace is certainly not a formula or a 5-step process. We often think of the word peace as the absence of fighting and chaos. Jesus gave peace as a gift to us in the midst of turbulent situations. His definition of peace was different from world peace. He cared most deeply about peace in our hearts.

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

In this chapter, Jesus was talking about the gift of the Holy Spirit. He explained that He would be going away to heaven, but he was leaving the Holy Spirit to personally guide and give us peace.

Friends, remember you are not alone. We all face unexpected trials. God promises to offer peace and comfort if we continually seek Him.

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all." 2 Thessalonians 3:16

Many Blessings!



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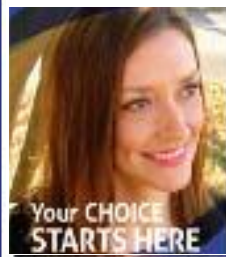
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WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

Wednesday, June 15, 2022
10:00am

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- Alabama Attorney General's Office
- AL Dept. of Human Resources
- AL Dept. of Insurance
- AL Securities Commission
- Montgomery County District Attorney's Office

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**Montgomery Area
Down Syndrome
Outreach Group**



What is the Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group?

The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is an affiliate of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The group consists of parents, family members and friends of individuals with Down syndrome. The group meets the second Friday of every month at Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery.



The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is definitely making strides in spreading awareness in the Montgomery area! Through the annual Buddy Walk, the group has been able to raise enough funds to purchase books to donate to local libraries, schools and teachers in the tri-county area, distribute gift baskets to new parents of babies born with Down syndrome in all Montgomery hospitals, provide educational speakers during our monthly meetings, host play dates, group outings and so much more!

www.montgomeryareadownsyndrome.org

montgomeryareadownsyndrome@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/MADSOGPublic



Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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

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



June Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Christian Grant | 14 Kerry Brown |
| Amber Holbrook | Julie Echols |
| Pat Moseley (83) | Kelly Kilgore |
| Mike Moseley (83) | 15 Angie Ashurst |
| Barbara White | Greyson James Looney |
| 3 Margie Johnson | Caty Jane Turnipseed |
| Kade Wallace | 16 Saralu Belkofer |
| 4 Denver Taylor Moore (3) | David Morrow |
| 5 Braden Crowe | Terri Ratliff Taylor |
| Michelle Crowe | Carson Tucker |
| Lane Carter Johnson | Garrett Tucker |
| Maggie Mills | Anna Shay Wasden |
| Johnny Rush | 17 Susan McGuire |
| 6 John Michael Higgins | 18 Jonathan Lowe |
| Kathryn Meredith Hilton | James “Hotshot” McGuinty (89) |
| 7 Jeannie Handey | 19 David Vinson |
| Frank Litchfield | 20 Linda Reynolds |
| James Stanley | Michael Taylor |
| 8 Georgie Harris | 21 Mary Raley |
| 9 Faye Boyd (65) | 22 Nita Tidwell (99) |
| Laura Smith | 23 Thomas Berrey |
| 10 Chelese Beck | 24 Alice Ivey |
| Juanita Beckman | Joe Sedinger |
| Jeffery Horton | 25 Janet Treat |
| Seth Lumley | 26 Jan Morris |
| Justin Manning | 27 John Donahey |
| Melinda Newell | 28 Paul Hanson |
| 11 Betty Gentry Holmes (66) | Tricia Norris |
| David Livingston | 29 Ansley Brown |
| Ashley Owens | Lauren Moffitt |
| 12 Gary Crowe | Dot Rebre |
| Charlotte Gaston | 30 Kathy Blount |
| Beverly Ming | Gordon Davis |
| Mackenzie Richardson (14) | Wyatt Echols |
| Madilyn Sellars (14) | Jonathan Killough |
| 13 Rachel Miller | |



The Pike Road Civic Club met on May 12 at the Mark’s House in Pike Road. Paula Lansdon accepted the Citizen of the Year Award and Foy and Rhonda Tatum received the Old Brick Award.



For more information, visit:
pws.shaklee.com/acole

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Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (66th) | 15 Tim & Stacy Nester |
| 2 Tony & Kate Smith | 18 Lera & Kim Evans |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb |
| Rick & Ann Pascal | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes |
| Jim & Joy Fleming | Matt & Melanie Smith |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes | Dan & Marcelle Thompson |
| Johnny & Jean Sport (66th) | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (60th) |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (53rd) |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion | |

Glenda & Lamar Boyd Celebrate 50th!



Glenda and Lamar Boyd were married 50 years ago on April 22, 1972. Their children, Cliff and Tim, hosted a party for them on Saturday, April 30, 2022, at the Kick Back Ranch, Ramer, Alabama. A delicious dinner and wedding cake was catered by Ashlyn’s



Cake Cottage in Millbrook, Alabama. A large number of family and friends also enjoyed music by Richard Hanel and Guy Johnson.

Jan and Wayne Morris Celebrate 50th!



Jan and Wayne Morris were married on April 22, 1972, at Capitol Heights Baptist Church in Montgomery.



On May 8, 2022, the fishing community lost a local legend in Ray Scott (88), founder of B.A.S.S., who passed at his home of natural causes. He was known for initiating “catch and release” for fishing and “kill switches” in boats, among other things. Our condolences to his family and friends. Ray Scott will be remembered and missed by so many.

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

Koterba, Ashlie Ann Hall (53)	April 26
Naïve, James “Jim” F. (92)	April 26
Hall, Martha Lee Williford (79)	April 27
Carmichael, Mary “Virginia” Lynn (86)	April 29
Nichols, Eloise “Sissy” Stakely Virgin (82)	April 29
Carter, Sybil Davis (84)	April 30
Mitchell, Eddie Ray (73)	May 1
Grace, Zara Cantley (105)	May 2
King, Loretta Lynn Edwards (53)	May 6
Ausbon, Juanita West (73)	May 8
Lynch, Byron Eugene (59)	May 8
Scott, Jr., Ray Wilson (88)	May 8
Winkles, Annie Doris Tatum (92)	May 8
Kennington, Pamela F.	May 10
Green, Vivian JoAnn (83)	May 11
Jaworski, Ronald “Ron” David (86)	May 13
Lauer, Jr., John “Jack” Carroll (89)	May 13
Hughes, Ernestine “Tennie” Alford (92)	May 14
Durden, Patricia Taylor (81)	May 15
Hallford, Charles Kenneth “Ken” (75)	May 15
Hammond, Peggy Newbern	May 16
Ward, Edsel “Ed” Rayner (90)	May 16
Marshall, Everett Robinson (72)	May 17
Combs, Mildred “Mimi” Johnson (88)	May 18
Joseph, Jr., William “Bill” Francis (92)	May 20
McKeen, Janet Belcher (80)	May 20
McLaney, Lorraine Dawson (73)	May 27
Mount, Sr., Parker Gray (90)	May 29

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Gassett Funeral Home and Crematory, LLC

FUNERALS ~ CREMATIONS ~ PRE-ARRANGEMENTS ~ MONUMENTS



Front – Felecia Gassett Shockley, Glenda Gassett Terrell, Michele Gassett Henderson, Donna Boutwell. Back – Eddie Taylor, Dan Shockley, Alex Shockley, Joe Hooks, Mike Colquitt.

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In Memory Of

JoAnn Hood Baker	May 28
Charles Lee Brown	May 25
Dorothy Virginia Thurston Whitt Bass	May 25
Annie Faye Brigance Barrett	May 24
Terry Von Fitzgerald	May 23
Jerry Mitchell Addison	May 22
Charles L. Bailey	May 20
SMSgt James Wilburn Brown	May 19
Cora Sue Moody	May 17
Karey L. McDougald	May 16
Tammie Taylor Thigpen	May 12
James Walter Hall	May 8
Ronald James Kempter	May 7
Michael Knighten	May 6
Cynthia Sullivan	May 4
Margaret Graves	May 4
Jaxon Alvin Brown	May 3



Southern Cuisine

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

I just saw what the inflation rate is and what the rate is expected to rise to before the year is over. I did not have to read the newspaper or watch the news to tell me that everything is getting more expensive. I went to the grocery store to buy food to buy gas. I have not received a pay raise that would cover the extra that I must shell out to make up for the additional costs. But I do have a few tips that will ease the pain of higher costs. I have mentioned it before in other articles. The first tip is to vote out everyone who is responsible for the mismanagement of the economy. So far that would mean voting out almost everyone who is running this country now. That is not a quick fix since the next election is not until November 8. So, in the meantime look at where you spend most of your money and change your buying habits.

I am a shopper. I will go up every aisle of a grocery store and compare prices. Even to the point where I will look at the weight of similar items and pull out my phone and calculate some items down to the cost per ounce. Just because you always hear that the larger packaging has the lower the cost per ounce does not always hold true. Now, just because an item comes in at a lower price per ounce, does not mean I will always buy that item. Mayonnaise is such an item. I will only buy DUKE'S, even if there is a cheaper alternative. Even though on my list of fifty ways to save money on groceries, says at number two, don't be afraid to buy store brands.

I have also talked about my garden. An easy way to save money is to grow your own. Another cost saver is to use coupons. Lesser noticeable ways to say money is to check your receipts. Cashiers are only human and sometimes they make mistakes. Usually the mistakes I find are not the cashier's mistake, but the cash register will ring up the wrong price. If you want to save money stock up on sale items. Just make sure you check the expiration date on some items to make sure you will not be throwing some items away sooner than you expected. I have friends that will throw away leftovers. What a waste! Use your cooking skills and figure out how to make different dishes out of your leftovers. Shop at your local farmers market for the freshest and most abundant items to cook from scratch. The less an item is handled at the store or in a factory, the less you must pay for the extra labor to package the item. If you want to save gas, plan your shopping and try to make the most of your trip to town.

Just because some items seem pricey, they may not be healthier for you than other items. I had cut back on my purchases of avocados for that reason. I thought they were too expensive until I realized that I was losing out of my bodies need for potassium. I cut back on chocolate, not realizing that the cheap chocolate was full of sugar and lacked iron and magnesium. Did I mention that eggs are not based on how good they are for you because of color? In most people eggs do not negatively affect your cholesterol. Just because the egg is brown does not mean it is better for you.

The following recipes were prepared for my birthday. The items listed for my birthday dinner are some of my favorite for a birthday meal. I have been a fan of orzo ever since I worked as a Banquet Chef. It was colorful, easy to cook and was easy to serve and could replace any type of pasta you wanted to change. The next recipe is my favorite pasta salad. Colorful and easily adapted to what ever salad ingredients you had on hand.

Orzo Salad

INGREDIENTS:

- Dressing:**
2 tsp lemon zest (1 lemon)
6 Tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice (2 to 3 lemons)
1 medium clove garlic, grated
½ cup extra-virgin olive oil, plus more as needed
2 tsp kosher salt
1 tsp freshly ground black pepper



- Salad:**
1 lg red, yellow or orange bell pepper, diced
½ lg seedless English cucumber, watery pulp scooped out & discarded, diced (about 1½ cups)
½ medium red onion, finely chopped (about ¾ cup)
1 (15.5-oz) can chickpeas (garbanzo beans), rinsed & drained
1 cup pitted & halved Kalamata olives
1 cup roughly chopped walnuts
¼ cup finely chopped fresh mint
3 Tbsp finely chopped fresh Italian flat-leaf parsley
3 Tbsp kosher salt
1 lb dried orzo
6 ozs brine-packed Greek feta, crumbled (optional)

METHOD:

1. To make the dressing, in a small mixing bowl, whisk together the lemon zest and juice, garlic, 1/2 cup olive oil, 2 tsp of salt and 1 tsp of pepper. Set the dressing aside.
2. To make the salad, combine the bell pepper, cucumber, onion, chickpeas, olives, walnuts, mint and parsley in a large mixing bowl.
3. Meanwhile, bring a large pot of water to a boil. Stir in 3 Tbsp of salt and a small splash of olive oil.
4. Add the orzo and cook for 7 to 9 minutes, or according to the directions on the package.
5. Drain the orzo in a colander, and then add it to the vegetable mixture while the orzo is still hot.
6. Immediately pour the dressing onto the orzo and vegetables, and stir to combine. The hot orzo will readily absorb the dressing. Add a splash more olive oil if the salad seems too dry.
7. Allow the salad to cool to room temperature, and add the feta, if desired. Cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 hours.

I love seafood. My favorite response for answering a question about what I want to eat is Lobster. But I have been spoiled having visited Maine during the summer and having the rule that you have to eat lobster everyday. But shrimp and scallops are always good substitutes. And if they are in a creamy casserole, I will have better luck having someone share the meal with me.

Tuscan Shrimp and Scallops

INGREDIENTS:

- ½ lb shrimp raw, peeled, and deveined
½ lb sea scallops
1 cup spinach fresh
½ shallot finely diced
3 garlic cloves finely minced
1 cup heavy cream
2 Tbsp sun-dried tomatoes
2 Tbsp parmesan cheese freshly grated
1 tbsp butter
Red crushed pepper to taste optional
Salt and pepper to taste
Oil



METHOD:

1. Season the shrimp and scallops on both sides with salt and pepper. Heat some oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat.
2. Cook the scallops for 2-3 minutes on each side, and then remove them from the skillet. Add some butter and shallots to the skillet and cook for 1 minute.
3. Stir in the spinach and red crushed pepper, season with salt and pepper. Cover and cook for 1-2 minutes.
4. Stir in the fresh garlic and cook until fragrant. Add the heavy cream and parmesan cheese. Once the sauce thickens slightly, add the shrimp and cover. Cook the shrimp for 1-2 minutes or until the shrimp is cooked through. Be careful not to overcook the shrimp or the shrimp will get chewy.
5. Place the scallops back into the skillet and cook for an additional 10-20 seconds.
6. Serve on rice.



Next is my favorite birthday cake. It is actually the only cake I want for my birthday. I have this same cake every year and have had it ever since I can remember. I am not a fan of vanilla but I love the smell and taste of coffee. I always wanted an icing that had a taste of coffee. I never cared about the shape of the cake, either a loaf or round, just the taste of the coffee.

Angel Food Cake w/Mocha Coffee Icing

INGREDIENTS:

- Cake:**
2 cups egg whites (from about 16 lg eggs)
2 tsp cream of tartar
½ tsp salt
3 cups sugar
2 cups cake flour
1 tsp pure vanilla extract
1 tsp pure almond extract



- Buttercream Icing:**
1½ cups butter at room temp
4 cups powdered sugar
¾ cup cocoa powder
4 Tbsp heavy whipping cream
2 tsp vanilla extract
Pinch salt
3 tsp instant coffee powder dissolved in the cream

METHOD for CAKE:

1. Preheat the oven to 325°. In a standing electric mixer, beat the egg whites at medium speed until foamy. Add the cream of tartar and salt and beat until stiff peaks form. Beat in 2 1/2 cups of the sugar, a few Tbsp at a time, until smooth and glossy, about 4 minutes.
2. Transfer the egg whites to a large, wide bowl. Using a fine sieve, gradually sift the flour over the egg whites, gently folding in the flour with a spatula. Fold in the vanilla and almond extracts. Scrape the cake batter into a 10-inch angel food cake pan. Using a table knife, slice through the cake batter several times to release any air bubbles. Tap the cake pan once or twice on a flat surface.
3. Bake the cake in the center of the oven for 20 minutes. Increase the oven temperature to 350° and bake the cake for about 35 minutes longer, until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Invert the pan onto the neck of a wine bottle and let the cake cool completely.
4. To loosen the cake, run a thin-bladed knife around the side and tube of the pan. Unmold the cake and transfer to a platter.

METHOD for MOCHA BUTTERCREAM ICING:

1. In the bowl of your mixer beat the butter on medium speed until nice and creamy.
2. Turn the mixer down to the lowest setting and slowly incorporate the powdered sugar and cocoa powder into the butter.
3. Once you have added all the sugar to the mix add the heavy cream with instant coffee, vanilla, and salt.
4. Turn the mixer up to medium-high speed and continue mixing for 10 minutes until light and fluffy.
5. Cover the cake and enjoy. Candles are optional.

**A birthday means that you are a year older,
but a birthday party means you get to act
10 years younger. Enjoy the party!**

**Work hard. Play hard. Eat lots
of cake. That's a good motto
for your birthday and for life.**

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