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War, Wars, and Rumors of War! The U.S. Launches Major Military Operations Against Iran

March 5, 2026 – IRAN - "And you shall hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that ye be not troubled. For these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet." (Matthew 24:6 Douay–Rheims)

The United States and Israel launched massive air and naval strikes on the brutal Iranian regime, which has attacked Americans, Israel, and international shipping for 47 years. Iran has retaliated by launching missiles at U.S. bases.

As of press time, six U.S. service members have been killed since the war began on February 28, 2026. Most were killed in an Iranian drone strike on a tactical operations center in Kuwait, part of Iran's retaliation for U.S.–Israeli strikes. Several additional U.S. troops have been seriously wounded, with at least 18 reported injured.

The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed this morning in an Israeli air strike. President Donald J. Trump (R) announced the slaying on Truth Social, after the United States and Israel launched a major joint attack that overwhelmed Iranian air defenses.

"Khamenei, one of the most evil people in History, is dead," President Trump announced. "This is not only Justice for the people of a but for all Great Americans, and those people from many Countries throughout the World, that have been killed or mutilated by Khamenei and his gang of blood-thirsty THUGS. He was unable to avoid our Intelligence and Highly

Sophisticated Tracking Systems and, working closely with Israel, there was not a thing he, or the other leaders that have been killed along with him, could do."

To this point the U.S. has struck Iran over 2,000 times with cruise missiles, B2 bombers, F16s, F35s, F15s, and F/A-18s. The venerable B-52 bombers have also played a key role in Operation Epic Fury.

"American airpower remains unmatched," Central Command said on X. "The B-52 Stratofortress has been utilized in every major conflict since 1965. During the first 100 hours of Operation Epic Fury, B-52s struck Iranian ballistic missile and command and control posts."

Israel sent in a strike force of over 200 of its own aircraft – the largest aerial strike operation in its country's history.

"This is the single greatest chance for the Iranian people to take back their Country," said Trump. Trump is offering immunity to Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps, military officers, and regime assets that lay down their arms now.

"The heavy and pinpoint bombing, however, will continue, uninterrupted throughout the week or, as long as necessary to achieve our objective of PEACE THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AND, INDEED, THE WORLD!" Trump concluded.

Dozens of the top Iranian commanders of the regime have already been killed. Central Command said that U.S. military forces have attacked missile launchers, Iranian air defenses, and command and control for the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Israel and seven Arab countries have been hit by Iranian missile attacks.

The Pentagon described the operation as a response to what it called "imminent threats" posed by Iran's expanding missile program and its support for militant groups across the region. Iranian officials, however, condemned the attack as an act of aggression and vowed retaliation, setting the stage for a potentially prolonged conflict.

Iranian leaders condemned the strikes as a violation of international law and accused the United States of seeking to undermine Iran's sovereignty.

Central Command announced that Iran's naval presence in the Gulf of Oman has been completely eliminated, declaring that the Iranian regime went from 11 ships to none in just 48 hours.

"Two days ago, the Iranian regime had 11 ships in the Gulf of Oman, today they have ZERO," CENTCOM said on the X account. "The Iranian regime has harassed and attacked international shipping in the Gulf of Oman for decades. Those days are over. Freedom of maritime navigation has underpinned American and global economic prosperity for more than 80 years. U.S. forces will continue to defend it."

CENTCOM has stated that U.S. forces will continue to defend maritime navigation and respond to Iranian missile launches, which remain ongoing. The situation is fluid, and additional military actions or regional responses are possible as Operation Epic Fury continues.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has exerted heavy pressure on the 88-member Assembly of Experts to select Mojtaba Khamenei, age 56, as the country's next Supreme Leader.

Analysts and regional observers say the IRGC has taken an unusually assertive role in shaping the succession process following the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte told Newsmax on Wednesday there is "widespread support" among members of the alliance for President Donald Trump's campaign targeting Iran's nuclear and missile capabilities. Spain has been the most vocal critic of the ongoing combat operations.

F35s flown by British pilots have shot down several Iranian drones that were threatening the country of Jordan.

The Iranian regime killed 35,000 peaceful protestors in its own streets in January and February when they sought regime change. This brutal defiance of international norms and Iran's refusal to give up its quest to develop nuclear weapons convinced President Trump that Operation Epic Fury was necessary for the best interests of the United States and the peace of the world.

To comment or to ask a question email: brandonmreporter@gmail.com

"Wars and Rumors of Wars"

Matthew 24 [KJV]

2And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? Verily I say unto you, These shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

3And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?

4And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.

5For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

6And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

7For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.

8All these are the beginning of sorrows.

9Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

14And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.



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MARCH HOLIDAYS

8th - Spring Equinox
17th - St. Patricks Day
20th - 1st day of Spring
29th - Palm Sunday

A Tribute to John W. Giles:

A Statesman Whose Faith and Courage Helped Shape Alabama

Honoring a leader whose devotion to God, family, and the unborn transformed Alabama's moral and political landscape

Alabama lost a great man this month—a man whose leadership, convictions, and Christian faith helped shape the moral and political landscape of our state for decades.

To know John was to witness a man of purpose and discipline, anchored in Scripture and committed to serving God, his family, and the people of Alabama. His voice carried influence not because it was loud, but because it was principled—rooted in wisdom, humility, and charity.

A Life Chosen for Service, Not Wealth

John Giles possessed the intellect, business acumen, and leadership presence to lead major corporations and accumulate significant wealth. But he chose a different path—a life of service to Alabama that was grounded in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

His work, particularly in the pro-life movement, helped shape policy and raise up leaders who defended the unborn and supported women in crisis pregnancies. John and his wife, Deborah, were instrumental in building a culture to “Choose Life” in Alabama long before national tides shifted. Their efforts were part of the long, faithful march that ultimately led to overturning Roe v. Wade and life for millions of children yet unborn.

Faith as His Foundation

John's life was rooted in a deep, disciplined Christian faith. Scripture was not an accessory to his leadership—it was his compass. His decisions, conversations, and counsel were shaped by biblical truth and prayerful reflection. He occasionally reminded us that righteousness is not determined by polls and that truth does not rise or fall with public opinion. For him, faithfulness—not accolades—was the standard.

Champion of the Family

John believed the family was the cornerstone of both culture and citizenship. At a time when cultural norms shift with the wind, he stood firmly on the conviction that healthy families build a healthy Alabama. “Family values” were not talking points to him—they were sacred responsibilities. He spoke with parents, students, educators, and elected officials about raising children in truth, strengthening marriages, and building a foundation of faith for the next generation.

Servant Leadership in the Public Arena

John brought Servant Leadership into the public arena that had a meaningful lasting impact for Alabama. His service included running a noble campaign for Lieutenant Governor in 1994, serving as Alabama's Small Business Advocate and as Appointments Secretary for Governor Fob James, and leading the state's Existing Business and Industry Services under Governor Guy Hunt. As President of the Christian Coalition of Alabama, John's leadership was transformative. He created a legislative “report card” that helped citizens see clearly how their elected officials actually voted—not how they advertised themselves. That tool became a beacon of transparency in Alabama politics. Those who worked with him described him as a leader marked by humility, compassion, discernment, and the ability to speak truth in a way that healed rather than divided.



A Legacy That Lives On

Though John Giles has stepped into Glory, his legacy continues—measured not in titles or public acclaim but in the lives he touched. Here are some quotes that reflect the message of his calling:

- “The greatest legacy is a life that turns others toward Christ.”
- “A leader without Scripture is a ship without a compass.”
- “Strong families build strong communities.”
- “Alabama's greatness is the character of its people.”
- “A leader's job is not to echo the crowd but to elevate the conversation.”

John was a commentator whose newsletters and articles—including many published in *1819 News*—combined clarity with conviction, and truth with grace. His writings remain available online and continue to speak directly to Alabama's moral, civic, and spiritual challenges: *1819 News Articles*

John's newsletters remain available online and continue to be relevant for Alabama: *John W. Giles Newsletters* including these topics:

- *Who is driving Alabama's legislative priorities? Not You & Me!*
- *The “Gift” That Keeps on Giving ~ 20th Anniversary of Choose Life Tag*
- *Seven Pillars of Conservatism.*
- *A Quest for Truth ~ A Journey Home!*
- *I Could Have Done More!*
- *Battle for America ~ Fought on Seven Hills.*

A Christian Life That Shaped Alabama

John W. Giles did not simply live in Alabama—he shaped Alabama. He did not just advocate for Christian values—he embodied them. He was a gift from God to the state he loved and served faithfully. He will be deeply missed; however, his wonderful influence will continue for generations.

About the Author

Jim Burns has been a friend of John W. Giles for 30 years. They worked together on elections and voter education, pro-life campaigns, and in government service. Jim also served as John's “tech support” and mentor in computing and internet technology, sharing many hours of collaboration and friendship over three decades.

The Alabama Gazette shares in the loss of John. He was a contributing writer and supporter of the Gazette for many years. He will be greatly missed.

John W. Giles Obituary

Mr. John W. Giles, age 71, of Luverne, Alabama died peacefully on Saturday, January 17, 2026, at his home. Funeral Mass services was held on Monday, January 19, 2026, at The Church of the Holy Spirit. Prayer services was held 30 minutes prior to Mass. Services was officiated by Father James Dean and directed by Dunklin Funeral Home.

JOHN WALLER GILES

September 27, 1954 - January 17, 2026

Born in Orlando, FL, John was the second son of William Ollie Giles, Sr. and Mary Ella Waller Giles, brother William Ollie Giles, Jr. and son Micah Worthington Giles, all who preceded him in death.

John is survived by his wife of 53 years, Deborah Woodley Giles; children Zaviera Mendenhall Giles George (David George) of Mathews, AL, and Stephen Chadwick Giles (Melisa Quattlebaum Giles) of Eagle Mountain, Utah; twelve (12) Grandchildren Kendall Grace George Leoffler (Joe Leoffler), Rebekah Faith George, Elizabeth Hope George, Deborah Joy George, Seth David George, Anna Mercy George, Luke Stephen George, Oliver Simon George, Vivian Noble George, Victoria Elaine Giles, Felicity Marie Giles, and Carolina Bell Giles; two (2) Great Grandchildren Peter Joseph Leoffler and Maximilian George Leoffler; his sister, Caroline Giles Mixon (Delano Mixon) of Gainesville, GA, and brother Ted Wynn Giles (Donna Giles) of Birmingham, AL; nieces and nephews William Ollie (Trey) Giles III (Monica Duke Giles) and Allison Elizabeth Giles Lefevre (John Lefevre) of Guntersville, AL, Heather Perry McGee (Ross McGee) of Flowery Branch, GA, and Wynn Giles, Jr. (Alexis) of Birmingham, AL; and his Mother-in-law Ruth Woodley.

John was a lifelong resident of Montgomery, Alabama, and Honorville, AL. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, AL. John was in the family business, Giles Enterprises, Inc. of Montgomery, AL, for the first part of his career. He founded Peaches n' Clean, a carpet cleaning business still in business today. He then entered public life. He ran for Lieutenant Governor in 1994, served as the Small Business Advocate for the State of Alabama and Chief of Existing Business Industry Services under Governor Guy Hunt, and served as the Appointment Secretary for Governor Fob James. He then served as the President of the Christian Coalition of Alabama. In that role, he developed a voting “report card” for Alabama State House and Senate Legislators so constituents would know the voting records of their elected officials. He was a regular article contributor to the Alabama Gazette. He currently worked for First Citizens Bank of Luverne, AL.

His journey of faith led him to conversion to the Roman Catholic Church in 2004. He was a staunch advocate of the unborn. He served as the Chairman of the Choose Life License Plates for the State of Alabama.

John was bigger than life. He loved laughter. He was bold. He shared his faith and his time with all who called on him. His family is a testament to the love he had for his Sovereign God. John would not want you to look back and say, “what if.” Instead, he would say, “be bold, love and cherish each other.”

John adored his wife Deborah, was so proud of his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, and loved lending a helping hand to anyone who needed his help. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.



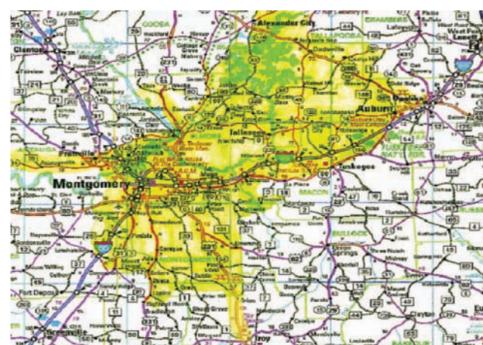
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The Gazette, (now *The Alabama Gazette*) was created in the year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication reaching over 20,000 readers monthly. Written comments, stories, advertisements, social and church events, as well as classifieds are always welcome. The publisher is not responsible for errors in text reprinted from other sources. Furthermore, this publication does not establish due diligence on authors or advertisers and cannot guarantee that their offerings or writings are correct or suitable. We assume no responsibility for errors or omissions. We reserve the right to print, edit or condense any and all contents submitted. The publisher reserves the right to refuse advertising and submissions at its own discretion. All articles, ads and photographs may be subject to copyright.

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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

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



Alabama Has a Rare Senate Seat Opening This Year

Folks, we are in for a doozy of a political year in the Heart of Dixie. We have a rare open U.S. Senate race.

A senate seat does not come open every year. It was expected, this time last year, that our first term Senator Tommy Tuberville would run for a second six-year term in 2026. However, Tuberville's decision to leave the U.S. Senate to run for Governor, left the barn door open for our second U.S. Senate seat.

The seat will be filled by a Republican. We are a solidly Republican State. Therefore, the GOP Primary on May 19 will be our election.

As the barn door closed for qualifying three weeks ago, the field, as expected, yielded five combatants: Alabama two-term Attorney General Steve Marshall, South Alabama Congressman Barry Moore, Navy Seal Jared Hudson, Trump and Tuberville staffer Morgan Murphy, and Lineville businessman Rodney Walker.



There are two distinctive roles that a U.S. Senator takes. One is to be an ideologue. Another is to be an effective facilitator and advocate and bring home the bacon for their state. Fortunately, for Alabama's sake, we had a facilitator and extremely effective U.S. Senator for 36 years in Senator Richard Shelby. It is because of Senator Shelby that UAB, Huntsville, and Mobile have become the beacons of economic growth and prosperity for our state.

For decades, we had a tandem in the Senate that were the ultimate gentlemen, powerful, facilitator senators in America. This duo of Lister Hill and John Sparkman were two of our greatest Senators in Alabama history. Senator Shelby joined them in rounding out our three greatest Senators. Shelby probably eclipsed the magnificent Hill and Sparkman.

John Sparkman was the Father of Huntsville's Redstone Arsenal. Lister Hill was the Father of the UAB Medical Center. Richard Shelby became the grandfather of these two Alabama economic gems. Shelby took Huntsville and UAB to unimaginable plateaus that Hill and Sparkman could not even imagine.

For almost two decades, we had a two-man tag team of effective statesmen, respected and feared U.S. Senators in Richard Shelby, and the amicable, colorful, witty, and quietly powerful Senator Judge Howell Heflin. Fortunately, for Alabama's sake, Shelby mentored and facilitated the election of his successor Katie Britt.

Senator Katie Boyd Britt has the makings of being one of the greatest U.S. Senators in Alabama history. She will join Shelby, Hill, and Sparkman in the annals of effectiveness. In fact, she has gotten off to a faster start than all three combined. She got there at a much earlier age and attained committee assignments never seen by any freshman senator in Alabama nor American history. It is unheard of for any state to have any of their senators on Appropriations, Rules, Banking, and Judiciary, much less a freshman senator.

At the beginning of the race, it looked like a two-man contest between Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall and Second District Congressman Barry Moore. However, with the endorsement of Congressman Barry Moore by President Donald Trump, coupled with Moore receiving the endorsement and total support of the deep pocketed, dark money, right-wing, Republican Club for Growth, this tandem makes Moore a prohibitive favorite.

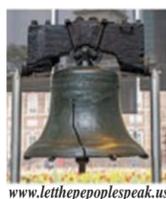
Prior to Trump's entry, it was developing as possibly an interesting contest for the open seat. Attorney General Steve Marshall was poised to give Moore a good race. He has been elected twice statewide and has some base of support. The three unknowns, Jared Hudson, Morgan Murphy, and Rodney Walker, are running spirited campaigns.

The Daddy Warbucks Club for Growth endorsement of Moore is important because the key to any senate primary election is who has the most campaign money to spend. Money is the mother's milk of politics. Money buys media. Media appearances equate into votes.

It is a given that whichever of these five GOP candidates wins, Katie Britt will be joined by an ideologue. So, it does not matter who of the five we send to Washington, they will see their role as being a right-wing, Fox news chasing, ineffective senator. Both Steve Marshall and Barry Moore have a proven track record that dictates that is their perception of their political role. They will neither one care nor have any interest in being effective for Alabama.

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at steve@steveflowers.us.

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



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

*Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee*



New Golden Age Real Results; President Trump's Message Left Democrats Speechless

Across Alabama, families know what inflation feels like. It isn't an academic debate. It is the extra money at the grocery store. It is the gas pump climbing higher than it should. It is the uneasy realization that your paycheck simply does not stretch as far as it once did. For two years under the previous administration, that pressure was constant. Inflation hit 40-year highs. Retirement accounts dipped. Small businesses absorbed rising input costs. Working families carried the burden.

That is the backdrop against which President Trump delivered his 2026 State of the Union address, and it is why the speech resonated far beyond Washington.

As Louisiana Senator John Kennedy put it, *"When moms and dads lie down to sleep at night and can't, they're worried about the cost of living. President Trump's making it clear tonight: tackling this issue is his top priority."*

Sen. Tommy Tuberville brought the kind of coach-style clarity Alabama voters appreciate. *"We have HUGE tax cuts, a secure border, manufacturing coming home, and our armed forces once again rebuilt, refocused, and ready to defend American interests anywhere in the world. America is STRONG, and we can't stop winning."* The key word in that sentence is winning. Because this speech was not built on promises. It was built on results. Inflation has cooled dramatically from its peak. Real wages are rising again.

When President Trump declared this the **"golden age of America,"** critics scoffed. But golden compared to what? Compared to nine percent inflation? Compared to border chaos? Compared to energy dependence and supply chain breakdowns? Contrast gives clarity. And the contrast this year is unmistakable.

The centerpiece of the speech was the One Big Beautiful Bill, which permanently locks in the 2017 tax cuts and blocks what would have been a \$4.3 trillion tax hike. Kennedy laid it out plainly: the average tax filer will see a \$3,750 tax cut in 2026. That is not theory. That is groceries, braces for a teenager, vehicle repairs, savings.

More importantly for working Alabamians, the bill delivers targeted relief that speaks directly to the middle class: no tax on tips, no tax on overtime, and no tax on Social Security benefits. Tuberville called them "For waitresses in Hoover, welders in Prattville, nurses in Daphne, retirees in Enterprise, that relief is tangible.

This is how economic growth compounds. Families keep more of their own money. Businesses reinvest. Hiring expands. Confidence rises. It is real bottom-up momentum rather than Government top-down redistribution.

But if the economic message was strong, the emotional contrast of the night may have been even stronger. How do you not stand when the gallery is filled with families whose loved ones

were violently murdered by illegal aliens? How do you remain seated when military heroes are honored? When members of the USA Hockey team are recognized? When grieving parents are acknowledged in front of the entire nation?

You do not have to agree with every policy. You do not have to applaud every line. But when American families who have buried their children are being recognized, basic human decency should not be partisan. That moment said more than any protest ever could.

It may well have been the strongest State of the Union address since Ronald Reagan - clear in purpose, confident in delivery, and unapologetic about putting American citizens first.

President Trump asked every Congressman and Senator to stand for Americans over illegal immigrants. Not one Democrat stood. That was not about legislative nuance. It was about alignment. And the visual told its own story.



(L-R) Vice President J.D. Vance, President Donald J. Trump, and Speaker of the House Mike Johnson

The border turnaround underscores that alignment. For nine consecutive months, Border Patrol has released zero illegal aliens into the interior of the United States. That is not symbolism. That is operational control. Border security is public safety. It is drug interdiction. It is restoring federal authority. Senator Tuberville said it plainly: **"Border security is national security."**

Tariffs are again being used as leverage, and manufacturing is returning because the playing field is no longer tilted against American

workers. That shift does not happen overnight, but it begins with clarity and enforcement.

Meanwhile, many Democrats chose boycott, protest, or visible silence. Elections are rarely decided by a single speech. But they are shaped by contrasts. On one side: permanent tax relief, border enforcement, energy expansion, economic resurgence. On the other: resistance to the very policies now producing measurable stabilization.

With midterms approaching, control of Congress will determine whether tax relief remains permanent, whether border enforcement continues, and whether economic momentum accelerates or stalls. Those stakes are not abstract. They determine paychecks, security, and growth.

Championship teams do not coast when they have the lead. They press the advantage. They finish strong. The golden age is not a slogan. It is a direction. And for the first time in several years, that direction feels unmistakably upward.

Perry O. Hooper Jr. is a former state representative, a current member of the Alabama Republican State Executive Committee, the 2016 Trump Victory Chair, and a widely published columnist on politics and current affairs.

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



**Ronald A.
Holtsford**

ways that “machine learning” has not yet achieved and **Three**, there are too many bad people out there that figure out how to misuse the technology.

The items I discuss here are not meant to create panic or to imply that AI will do away with jobs. Everything that I discuss requires human input and human oversight. You will note from several of the examples that I use that human scrutiny would have often prevented AI generated errors by not taking in faith what AI reports. In December, I had advocated for one word- **CAUTION!**



AI's flaws have become evident for instance in law, medicine and research among many other uses. AI has misidentified structures in imaging modalities, placing them in wrong locations. I have seen many tools over decades that attempted to provide the outlining of internal body structures. The original tools used libraries which were full of physician expert identified and contoured normal structures. But all of these products failed in a way that medical professionals needing to use these as tools lost faith in the years of promises with very slow progress. Then came AI and the accuracy significantly increased. But to a fault, in that some medical professionals needing contoured organs revealed in medical imaging took too much faith in the tools. Fortunately, the faith in tools was usually greater in less important organs and human attention played a larger part in the identification and contouring of the organs more relevant to normal or diseased organs.

Johnson and Johnson, subcompany Accelerant touted in 2021 an AI based software for its TruDi Navigation system for ENT surgeries. Over the next four years, there were at least ten patients injured mostly because the navigational system misidentified appropriate locations inside ENT connected areas. The base of one patient's skull was punctured, another had a cerebrospinal fluid leak caused by the device, and in two patients a major artery was damaged causing a stroke in each of the two patients. While the two stroke patients both filed suit asserting the cause from AI use, the investigations have not yet confirmed or ruled that out. In addition to this device, there are over 1,300 other devices. It was reported that one AI heart monitor device misidentified abnormal heartbeats and a diagnostic ultrasound device also using AI software misidentified body parts of an unborn child.

There are reports of many individuals seeking to self-diagnose by utilizing a chatbot. The braver souls learn from the chat bot and use the information to either challenge their physician or engage more deeply in the discussion of their own care. I learned long ago that people need health care advocates whether it is the patient or an individual that will champion their health.

Are there other areas where AI has created cause for concern?

I believe you just answered a question on AI (artificial intelligence) relative to the legal field in December 2025. Are there other areas where AI has created cause for concern?

AI, as I said in December is a hot topic. Technology has the ability to be so useful to humans. But three things often happen. Number **One**, its limitation may not be readily discernable, **Two**, it may be used in

In December, of course I had discussed AI in law and pointed out the many cases now referred to as hallucinations that never existed and were made up by AI. Hallucinations describe AI made up cases to support the legal theories of a lawyer whether they be for the plaintiff, the prosecution or the defendant either in civil or criminal trials or appeals. Several attorneys have already received harsh tongue lashings from the bench to include sanctions that for the most part are intended to hurt financially. The Alabama Supreme Court has become involved in the oversight of this technology when misuse or misapplication has reared its ugly head.



Finally, one more area of AI use that I pretty much bet each of you have engaged in has to do with the AI overview summary that you probably review each time you “google” a subject. I am as guilty as the rest of you. Within this article I have discussed AI hallucinations which in the legal world are made up legal cases. I would say that anything that you research has an opportunity to include one or more hallucinations. I think its okay that you read the AI overview or summary but don't take those results as the gospel. I would advocate looking further down at the results and read text from reputable sourced, non AI generated websites. Read them for yourself and not just one source at the top because you need to have a good understanding of what you seek to know and not from a single source.

In connection with the above paragraph, came a warning via an article available online from Wired magazine. Looking back to the AI generated overview, look to see if hyperlinks have been generated especially if it is related to a product or service you wish to pay for. The Wired magazine article suggests that AI may generate a scam hyperlink within the article. AI gathers information from multiple web sites, not looking to see nor understanding if the link to a company is legitimate or not. Those that may seek to scam you may have multiple sites on the internet with scam links to hopefully take your money. After all, if you get an email for instance that claims your subscription to an internet security service has expired and gives you an easy link through which you can pay do you blindly follow that link and pay? If I question the need to renew a subscription, I will find the legitimate web site and sign in to my account to determine if my subscription has really expired. Usually, I find it has not expired. But if it has expired, I can use a link in the recognized legitimate web site to take care of business. When AI is gathering information for its overview it will tend to gather the most information even if that information is from un reputable web sites. There are reports of people calling telephone numbers linked to the overview and having the individual on the other end answer as if they are in customer service for that company. They will gladly take your information and payment. Your money and information may now be in the hands of a scammer.

AI can be a good tool, but use the common sense that God gave you. The Bible contains the gospel truth, don't take AI blindly as the gospel.

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.

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GOD BLESS AMERICA!



COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA

Taking Back the American Dream

Americans across the country are preparing for tax season as W-2s make their way to everyone's mailboxes. People often compare filling out their tax forms to learning a new language because of how stressful and confusing it can be. However, this year, I'm proud to say that Alabamians will be bringing home more money than ever thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts — formerly known as the One Big Beautiful Bill. From Marshall to Baldwin County, Alabamians in EVERY county will get to keep more of their hard-earned money this year. We have finally done something about the affordability crisis Americans are facing rather than spewing talking points in the face of working-class Americans who are looking for answers.

On July 4, 2025, President Trump gave our nation's birthday yet another reason to be celebrated when he signed into law the most historic tax cuts of my lifetime. Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts, the average American will see a \$3,752 tax cut in 2026, combining to a total of \$50 billion more in tax returns this year. We not only prevented the largest tax hike in history, but we cemented into law CRITICAL pro-growth tax provisions that are already delivering for Alabamians. For the first time in decades, forgotten Americans have been remembered. Blue-collar workers, who make our country go round, are finally getting the recognition they deserve. Nearly 50% of Alabamians will benefit from this bill — especially our seniors and service industry workers

No Tax on Overtime

One of the provisions I'm most proud of is No Tax on Overtime, which I was proud to lead in the U.S. Senate. Thousands of Alabamians put in well over 40 hours a week so they can save for retirement, put their kids through college, and keep our state running. The idea that these extra hours would be punished in their tax filings is a disgrace to the American dream of hard work and achievement. Thankfully, paying taxes on overtime is now a thing of the past. Removing taxes on overtime pay is also a huge win for our brave law enforcement officers who often serve long hours keeping us safe. Now more than ever, we empower those who are putting themselves in harm's way to protect our communities. Police, construction workers, truck drivers, first responders, and many more will see the fruit of their labor in a new way come April. It is past time that their hard-earned time and money should be felt in their wallets.

No Tax On Tips

No Tax on Tips is another example of keeping hard-earned money in taxpayers'

accounts instead of giving our bloated government more money to waste. We expect the best hospitality and service from many workers who are in customer-oriented roles. When customers tip them, we have been falsely led to believe the whole amount will be kept by the employee we are gifting a tip to. I'd like to think giving a tip would mean something to the worker — a tangible expression of gratitude from their customer. Unfortunately, those tips have been taxed, and those workers haven't been rewarded the whole amount they are given. The Fed has long been scavenging the service industry, but not anymore. Now, regularly tipped workers can claim up to \$25,000 for deductions. This is huge win for the people who we trust to meet the everyday needs so many of us take for granted.

Nearly 143,000 Alabamians received Social Security checks in 2024. Seniors work the majority of their adult lives so that they can retire comfortably. But, since the 80s, the government has been double taxing these benefits. We spend our entire adult lives paying taxes on the income we earn during of our careers, and up until now, retirees have been taxed AGAIN on their Social Security benefits. Not only do these historical tax cuts end that practice, but my bill, the Senior Citizens Tax Elimination Act, would do so too. Our seniors shouldn't have to get to the end of their careers and then get hit with yet another tax. Thanks to President Trump's leadership with the Working Families Tax Cuts, we are finally putting American taxpayers FIRST. The No Tax on Social Security provision is a rare and welcome victory for adults 65 and older who should rightfully reap the reward of their years of labor.

The great Charlie Kirk famously charged Americans to, “get married and have kids,” any chance he could. America is staring a population decline dead in the face as a result of the affordability crisis that has gone unaddressed for TOO LONG. Too many people tell me they feel that their work is for nothing. Our Founding Fathers would be ashamed of how we've used our own government to destroy the American Dream. It is the least we can do to honor Charlie's legacy by making the American Dream within reach to anyone who wants it. The Working Families Tax Cuts gives Americans the chance to take their lives back into their own hands and feel like their work is NOT in vain. Whether it is through Trump Accounts, empowering small businesses by job creation and tax deduction, direct tax-free K-12 education scholarships, ridding fraud from the health care system, defunding large abortion providers, empowering law enforcement and securing our border, or eliminating costly regulations on automakers and farmers, EVERY working family will have new avenues to SAVE their money and THRIVE. Tax season should be a stepping stool into helping Alabama's working families plan their future, and these tax cuts will do just that.

KATIE BRITT

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



Senator Katie Britt discusses Trump's State of the Union Address and ongoing DHS Appropriations Negotiations with Major Garrett on CBS News.

On President Trump's State of the Union and his revitalization of hope for the country:

"I think that this was the best State of the Union ... that we have seen in modern history. The reason I say that is President Trump did an outstanding job of reminding Americans where we were over the last four years in the Biden administration. Borders that had illegal immigrants flowing over, unsafe streets, costs that were out of reach, making the American dream further and further away for so many people who had hoped to achieve it, and obviously, complete and total chaos abroad. President Trump succinctly came back and said, let me remind you ... where we are now. He talked about the things he has done closing our border ... He talked about crime being at a ... 125-year low when it came to murder rates and crime in large cities ... He talked about making good on the promises he put in front of the American people..."

"President Trump also revitalized a spirit of America and patriotism that people have been longing for. People want to see a leader that is excited about the country they lead, and that believes that its best days are ahead and that are committed to doing everything possible to achieving that. That's what they saw in the president. And in addition to all of that, I think we had a moment as Americans to remember

the sacrifice of our servicemen and women. And so seeing each of these people, whether it's first responders or men and women in uniform from the Coast Guard to those who have done the most complex missions, Americans got a chance to say thank you alongside the President of the United States and to realize all that they put on the line for the freedoms of the country that we love ... And I think there is also an optimism that we finally have a leader that campaigns on something on the campaign trail and then makes good on it. And he certainly laid that out in stark contrast to what we saw in the Biden administration."

On the current state of DHS appropriations negotiations and engaging with her Senate Democratic colleagues:

"I have re-engaged in conversations ... with our Democratic colleagues, and I am hopeful we can find a pathway forward. Look, I think what people have to remember here is that this encompasses so many things that are important to Americans right now, obviously at TSA, but also FEMA ... We're looking at the disaster relief fund being depleted, getting that money out the door, and knowing that Americans need that moving forward. It's important that we keep the Department of Homeland Security funded ... We need to reach a result because those paychecks will stop on March 5."

On Democrats placating to their far-Left base instead of coming to the negotiating table:

"And what Democrats know is that the people of CBP and ICE are going to continue to operate. So them dragging their feet, Major, does absolutely nothing because we are still operating in this space. So you cannot tell me that you are concerned about what they're doing, but yet not be at the table right now for solutions. So walking away is literally political theater. They feel like they have an issue. They're placating to their base instead of coming forward and trying to find solutions, trying to find some incremental adjustments or changes that can be made ... Half of where we are right now has to do with sanctuary city policies so, if we're going to talk about legislative action, Major, then those things are going to be on the table. And I guarantee you that people do not want taxpayer dollars going to fund cities that do not cooperate with law enforcement."

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John Martin

The Population Bombs Explode

Back in 1968, former Stanford University Professor Paul R. Ehrlich wrote a controversial book titled "The Population Bomb." Due to rapid worldwide population growth, many people were encouraged to bear fewer children and have smaller families to prevent catastrophic overcrowding and shortages of everything from food to living space.

Since the book's publication, fertility rates worldwide have actually dropped. People started to display signs of relief. But the drop has not been equal. It has been concentrated in the responsible first world countries—mostly Europe and North America. The destitute third world countries showed some declines, but their population growth rates are still reckless.

In 1979, China, already with a billion people, implemented its one child policy to restrain its rapid growth. With that limit, many families striving to have at least one son to sustain their family names, aborted their female births. The one child limit continued until 2015, and China's growth did slow down. By 2020, China's birth rate had dropped down to its death rate, but its population had still grown to 1.4 billion. Although the one child limit was severe, China at least avoided disaster with rampant population growth.

Impoverished and overcrowded India and parts of Latin America are also lowering their fertility rates, but their populations are already so high, recovery to acceptable carrying capacities will take decades.

What most people don't understand is that in third world countries, their population bombs have already detonated. Reckless breeding has continued and is still rampant. Here is where dangerous people multiply and spread like malignant cancers.

In other words, Ehrlich's prediction of simple overcrowding in the civilized world was fundamentally WRONG. The civilized nations have heeded his warning and have arrested their population growth. Instead, we are suffering a CATASTROPHIC INVASION from the world's most dangerous people.

Chronic offenders include corrupt nations like Haiti, Venezuela, Iran, Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, and Gaza.

The most massive invasions come from Africa, especially the sub-Saharan regions. The entire chronically overcrowded continent has a 50% poverty rate and an explosive fertility rate of 4.1—double the replacement rate. In 2024 alone, Africa produced 46 million mostly feral babies.

One really nasty country, SOMALIA (the land of pirates), has a fertility rate of 6.13. Its existing density of well over double its carrying capacity forecasts decades of continued unrest, war and starvation—until the surplus masses can eventually die off or get killed.

Another deadly country is NIGERIA, the world's scam capital, and the most populous country in Africa. It has a 70% poverty rate and the highest number of poor and homeless people in the world. Its fertility rate is 4.8, only a bit less than Somalia, but its massive population has doubled in only 26 years. With a base population of 236 million and an estimated output of 7.5 to 9 million feral births annually—more than the European Union and the United States combined—it is a NUCLEAR population bomb.

Furthermore, these people have been diluting the world's intelligence—EN MASSE. International studies of mathematics, science, and reading reveal an average sub-Saharan African IQ of 66. Continued breeding and spreading will lead to catastrophic worldwide "dumbing down."

Africa has also suffered an economic catastrophe with the collapse of South Africa—the only first-world nation on the continent. The black people even had their little independent nations within where they enjoyed their own cultures and local laws. When apartheid was abolished in 1994, black rebels ran many of the whites out—a fate that devastated Zimbabwe in earlier years. Today, South Africa is in turmoil and on the verge of collapse. According to some sources, it has become the rape capital of the world.

South Africa has phenomenal mineral wealth—diamonds, nickel, cobalt, chromium, manganese, rare earth elements, platinum metals, and of course the biggest and deepest (2.5 miles) gold mine in the world. How much are these mines producing today? How much longer will they last after the last white engineers have either fled or been killed? How long will it hold white farmers hostage before they commit suicide or get killed fleeing?

Meanwhile in the civilized world—primarily North America, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, and parts of Asia, their native populations are declining slightly. That itself is not a serious problem. Just a little more elbow room. However, the invaders have consumed that tidbit and a great deal more.

In spite of responsible fertility rates, these countries risk being consumed from the outside population bombs. Their reckless masses have overwhelmed their

own countries and are now spreading war and genocide around the world.

Back in the 1960's and '70's, the United States and much of Europe felt sorry for the world's impoverished masses. After all, their own nations were largely built with immigrants. But sadly, many of today's immigrants are very different with lifestyles and cultures that don't mix well. Instead of seeking freedom, independence, and opportunity, they often strive to freeload on public assistance and convert our religious and moral values, which is repugnant to Christian Americans and Europeans. People who worship violence, revenge, and "getting even" are just not welcome.

This spillover of cultural invaders has now become intolerable. The hordes are so massive that law enforcement officers and even military defenders are overwhelmed and are unable to hold them at bay. Riots are frequent and often deadly. Their incompatible mindsets are poisoning the world. Their huge numbers can literally destroy civilized societies. Since the Gaza terrorist attack of Oct. 7, 2023, where hostages were kidnapped, tortured and killed and babies were cooked alive in ovens, Gaza refugees have become so detested that almost nobody will even consider them.

Several European countries are regretting having been lenient to recent immigrants from war-torn and destitute parts of the world. Once they have observed mobs blocking streets and making demands, they finally declared that their generosity can take no more. Some are striving to deport the ones that had already been admitted.

Sadly, the Obama and Biden regimes became dangerously lenient in bringing these troublemakers into our country. From 2009 to 2017, Obama brought in roughly 600,000, mostly from the DRC and Syria. From 2021 through 2024, Biden brought in an estimated 197,000 to 233,000, mostly from the DRC, Syria, Afghanistan, and Venezuela. We now regret it. Can we prevent more of it in the future? Why weren't these two traitors charged with high treason?

In addition, we also suffer 11 to 12 million illegal immigrants.

Nearly every country that has accepted any of these deadly insurgents is quickly regretting its action. These people are not like their European counterparts. Their alien mindsets severely clash with ethnic Europeans. They often consider violence and revenge to be justifiable. Some are dangerous criminals. Large crowds erupt into deadly riots.

Here in America, Donald Trump and ICE are faced with frightening crime sprees from these imported troublemakers. We now suffer deadly mayhem with everything from Venezuelans terrorizing and taking over apartment complexes in Chicago to 20,000 Haitians in Springfield, Ohio killing and eating pets and killing school children.

What is the solution? In their home countries, we must stop the pipe dream of feeding hungry children, which enhances their reckless breeding. Instead, we must employ massive contraception, sufficient to bring the fertility rate WELL BELOW the replacement rate of 2.1, until their populations can fit below their nations' carrying capacities.

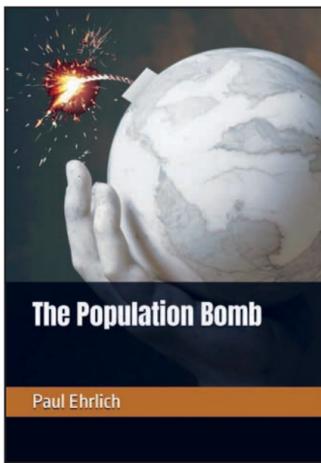
In the invaded countries, including the USA (of course), we can't just let them come in and breed. And besides breeding, they continue to poison our society with toxic moral values. To avoid contaminating the world, and other than just killing them, the only rational solution is to deport them from the civilized nations and contain them within the places they have already corrupted. If that proves to be unworkable, executing them outright might be the only option to save the world.

Yes, Ehrlich's fear of overcrowding was essentially correct, but it was over-simplified, and its magnitude was under-estimated. It is actually much more serious, and possibly deadly. The danger is not just overcrowding. The really deadly problem is the rapid breeding of dangerous, largely violent people outnumbering the peaceful civilized ones. If the hostiles continue to breed and multiply, civilization itself could literally disappear.

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Col John Eidsmoe

JOHN TYLER: OUR GREATEST PRESIDENT?

As Presidents Day approaches, we often ask, who was our greatest President? Perhaps we should ask a deeper question: by what criteria should our presidents be rated?

Historians often rank the presidents, but being mostly left of center, they usually rate the based upon how much they expanded the scope of government, how many new government programs they ushered in, what social changes they forced upon the nation, and how many wars they brought us through.

But are these the criteria that make a great president? I don't think so. The greatest presidents, in my opinion, are those who respected the limits the Constitution places upon government and especially upon the executive branch, those who refrained from social engineering, and those who, insofar as possible, kept the nation out of wars.

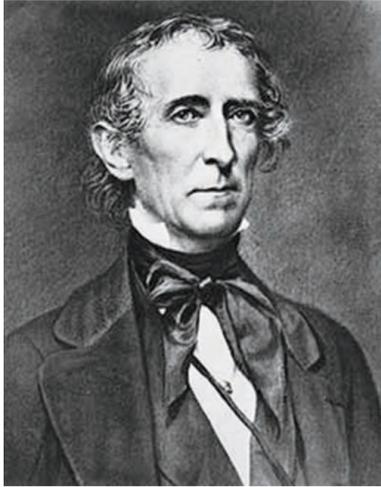
My nomination for Great President? John Tyler.

John who?

That's right, John Tyler (1790-1862), our 10th president.

A rising star in the Virginia Democratic Party, Tyler served as a state legislator, governor, congressman, and U.S. Senator. He began his career as a Jacksonian Democrat, but he soon broke from Andrew Jackson because he believed Jackson's policies infringed upon states' rights. So when General William Henry Harrison ran for president in 1840 as a Whig, Tyler became his running mate, and they ran together as "**Tippecanoe and Tyler Too.**" Harrison died after serving only one month in office, and a constitutional crisis emerged. Some believed the vice-president did not actually become president when the president died but merely assumed the president's duties. But Tyler immediately took the oath of office and was proclaimed as president, establishing what was called the Tyler Precedent.

President Tyler strongly believed the Constitution should be interpreted strictly according to the intent of its Framers. His states' rights policies soon put him at odds with the Whig establishment. He vetoed the Whigs' bills to create a national bank and to raise tariff rates, and he was the first president to see a veto overridden by Congress. He vetoed domestic improvements bills because he believed them to be unconstitutional, and he so angered the Whig establishment that the Whigs



John Tyler, tenth President of the United States (1841-1845)

expelled him from their party. In 1840 he at first ran for reelection on the John Tyler Party but withdrew from the race, supporting Democrat James Knox Polk.

Tyler retired to his plantation, which he named Sherwood Forest because he, like Robin Hood, had been declared an outlaw. But he remained active in Virginia political affairs, and after the election of President Lincoln in 1861, he chaired the Washington Peace Conference to avert the War Between the States. When that failed, Tyler remained loyal to his home state of Virginia. Virginians elected him to the Confederate Congress in 1862, but he died before taking his seat. Jefferson Davis organized and attended his funeral, and a Confederate flag draped his coffin.

I feel a personal tie with John Tyler, because I knew his grandson.

How could I have known the grandson of a president who served 1841-45? That's quite a story.

Tyler was married in the White House, and when he was 63; he and his wife had a son named Lyon Gardiner Tyler. Lyon's first wife died in 1921. He then married Susan Harison Ruffin in 1923; their son Harrison Ruffin Tyler (John Tyler's grandson, named after William Henry Harrison) was born in 1928 and died only last year at age 96. After a successful career as a chemical engineer, he retired to his ancestral Sherwood Forest and devoted himself to preserving historic sites.

I met Harrison Tyler at a conference in Jamestown, VA, in 2007 and had an engaging conversation with him about American history and politics. He was a fine Virginian and a fine American, and the grandson of a great President who followed the Constitution.

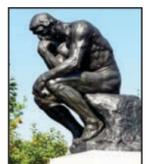
Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu), as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org), and as Chairman of the Board of the Plymouth Rock Foundation (plymrock.org). He and his wife Marleen reside in rural Pike Road, Alabama. He may be contacted for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com.

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John Sophocleus

SCotUS: Trump Tariff Ruling



THINK

Amy Howe's **Supreme Court strikes down tariffs**, SCOTUSblog (Feb. 20, 2026, 11:00 AM), <https://www.scotusblog.com/2026/02/supreme-court-strikes-down-tariffs/> was among the first to report on the SCotUS ruling on Trump tariffs, widely viewed as unconstitutional by those with a fundamental understanding US tariff history. In their ruling on presidential power, the Supreme Court struck down disuniform tariffs President Trump wrongfully imposed via executive orders. The 6-3 vote asserted these tariffs exceed powers abdicated to the president by Congress under a 1977 law [also unconstitutional along with FDR's Most Favored Nation bomination, *etc.*] providing executive authority to regulate commerce during national emergencies created by foreign threats.

The Court didn't rule on federal refunds to importers, estimated to have paid more than \$200 billion in tariffs last year. Continued wrongful collection of these disuniform, unauthorized tariffs was allowed until the Court's decision. These Justices display as much ignorance on economics (*i.e.*, elasticity of Supply and Demand determines who bears a tax) as big government, modern Biden/Trump Democrats... yes, I know Comrade Trump currently 'dons' the Red soviet jersey these past years. This is what happens when rigged, uncompetitive elections keep installing command and control candidates advanced by over-degreed, under-educated politburo members like Stephen Miller, Peter Navarro, Larry Summers, *et al* types destroying our nation.

The unconstitutional law addressed is the International Emergency Economic Powers Act [IEEPA] wrongfully authorizing the president "to deal with any unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States, if the president declares a national emergency with respect to such threat." Howe further cited a separate provision of the law when there is a national emergency, the president may "regulate ... importation or exportation" of "property in which any foreign country or a national thereof has any interest." Sadly, most do not understand this (like war powers) is authorized to Congress, not the executive. To correctly reallocate these powers, the Constitution must be amended to give war powers, disuniform MFN authority, *etc.* to the executive, just as imposing the 435 limit in 1929 making Congress increasingly more oligarchic/less representative without amendment.

SCotUS agreed with plaintiff filings IEEPA did not give Trump the power to impose the tariffs... sadly not striking down this 1977 'Moscow on the Potomac' abomination. Some column readers may recall past writings on Prof. Taussig's economic history on the 20% 'benchmark rate' on tariffs before markets (if allowed) react to them excessive. Historical lessons of Jackson, Lincoln, McKinley, Wilson, FDR, DJT, *et al* are rarely taught (*esp.* to our modern, soviet trained economists) so a command and control economy result picking winners and losers - over a uniform 'user fee' as tariffs were designed -- is beyond their understanding. The Court failed, led by Chief Justice Roberts, to stop overreaching with the "O'Romney Care" tax destroying healthcare in our nation, perhaps this ruling signals a 'sea change' to undo similarly poor SCotUS decisions on the power to tax.

Justice Kavanaugh penned the dissenting opinion with babble Justices Thomas and Alito joined, asserting Trump had the authority under IEEPA to impose the tariffs because they "*are a traditional and common tool to regulate importation,*" in Amy Howe's report; also citing Kavanaugh with, "*I firmly disagree with the Court's holding today, the decision might not substantially constrain a President's ability to order tariffs going forward ... because*

numerous other federal statutes authorize the President to impose tariffs and might justify most (if not all) of the tariffs at issue in this case."

As one of the biggest command and control, big government conservatives on the Court, Kavanaugh continues to display poor understanding the commerce clause is designed to keep trade regular between States **and** other nations' trade with our coalition States; now a **forced** coalition of once sovereign states. The party which put us on our soviet path militarily imposed excessive, disuniform tariffs when political muscle failed.



United States Supreme Court Building

I ask folks to (re)read [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2018/02/01/opinion/toward-a-more-rational-constitutional-immigration-policy/1275.html>] on moving forward toward the rational, common sense vision put forth in our Constitution on tariffs/immigration, well steeped in the Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 design of uniformity. Along with tariffs, immigration and naturalisation are indeed among the few things the federal government is authorised to address. I suspect many would be amazed at how much the 'GENERAL welfare' would improve if the federal government only did those few enumerated powers really well instead of unconstitutional programs and policies designed to benefit the SPECIFIC welfare of special interests. My definition of an extremist politician is clear and simple... bureaucrats, executives, judges, lawmakers, *et al* adhere to what they're authorised to address and hold to their oath, OR they exceed their authority and are extremist. To understand the more generic consternation about immigration, one must make the connection to the labour issue... distortions of competitive forces in labour markets are nothing new.

In closing, the loudest complainers about trade and immigration are those most quiet on offering alternatives. Sound proposals require understanding of how our federal government was designed to operate and be advanced by those who have the courage to put forth simple, rational, Constitutionally correct policies instead of more politically correct, command and control outcomes designed to further empower the federal government and redistribute wealth to corporate and social welfare queens. Undoubtedly some swoon at letting anyone, from any country of origin be eligible for a work visa and/or citizenship provided they pay the uniform tariff and are well vetted. It is easy to be welcoming to cheap goods and imported labour where cost of trade, infrastructure, enforcement, *etc.* are **not** incorporated in the exchange, but this doesn't escape the reality of these costs.

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The Supreme Court is the highest tribunal in the U.S., acting as the final arbiter of law, guardian of the Constitution, and the court of last resort. Its core purpose is to interpret the Constitution, ensure equal justice under law, and exercise judicial review to invalidate laws or executive acts that violate the Constitution.

Chief Justice: John G. Roberts, Jr. **Associate Justices:** Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito, Jr., Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Elena Kagan,, Neil M. Gorsuch, Brett M. Kavanaugh, Amy Coney Barrett, Ketanji Brown Jackson

HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

General Washington's Integrated Army

In 1776 - 250 years ago - General George Washington made a decision that was both pragmatic and radical for its time when he integrated the Continental Army, allowing free Black men and later some formerly enslaved men to serve alongside white soldiers.

But rather than being driven by enlightened ideas or progressive principles, Washington's command decision reflected practical military necessity, political calculation, and an evolving understanding of liberty.

Before the Revolution, Black military service in the colonies was not unprecedented. Enslaved and free Black men fought in colonial militias during conflicts but more often serving in segregated or auxiliary roles. These arrangements, though, were inconsistent and heavily influenced by local laws and racial attitudes. Fearing that armed Black men could challenge the institution of slavery or inspire rebellion, many colonies restricted or discouraged Black enlistment.

When Washington took command of the Continental Army in 1775, these anxieties were widespread, and while some northern colonies were more open to Black enlistment, Southern colonies opposed it. Reflecting his background as a Virginia planter, Washington initially supported a policy barring Black men from enlisting, which aligned with both the prevailing racial prejudice of the era and the political need to maintain unity among slaveholding colonies.

But circumstances changed.

In November 1775, the Royal Governor of Virginia, issued a proclamation offering freedom to enslaved men who fled patriot masters and joined British forces. This policy transformed the war into a direct threat to slavery and exposed a serious vulnerability in the patriot cause. Seeking freedom and protection, thousands of enslaved people fled to the Loyalist side.

This proclamation forced Washington and the Continental Congress to reconsider. Preventing Black enlistment no longer preserved social order but actively weakened the patriot war effort by pushing potential soldiers into British units. Washington reversed his position and allowed free Black men to enlist and fight for liberty. As Black soldiers proved their worth in combat, some states, particularly in New England, permitted enslaved men to enlist in exchange for emancipation.

As commander of the Continental Army, Washington oversaw a coalition of militias more loyal to their colonial leaders than to him or the Continental Congress. To avoid alienating colonial sensibilities, Washington was required to balance a variety of factors so he could field an effective fighting force. In desperate need of manpower, Washington had to prevent Britain from exploiting racial division and undermining the Revolution.

The Continental Army suffered chronic shortages of troops, supplies, and training throughout the war. Desertion was common, enlistments were short-term, and morale often faltered. Black soldiers helped fill critical gaps, especially during difficult periods, such as the winter at Valley Forge.

Most importantly, integrated units proved effective in combat. Black and white soldiers served seamlessly in artillery units, infantry regiments, and support roles. Contemporary accounts from officers and foreign observers noted the discipline and bravery of these troops, undermining claims that Black soldiers were only useful in auxiliary functions.

For Washington, effectiveness mattered more than ideology. He judged soldiers by the content of their character, their ability to fight, endure hardship, and follow orders. Integration, while controversial, worked and paved the way for victory at

Yorktown. The Continental Army became one of the first integrated military forces in the Western world, decades before similar policies appeared elsewhere.

Washington's move toward a racially integrated army exposed him and the colonial leadership to the reality of Black competence, courage, and loyalty. While his decision was made primarily out of necessity rather than principle, the immediate result strengthened the war effort and helped secure independence. The broader implications were more ambiguous as integration challenged racial assumptions and opened pathways to freedom for some while also failing to dismantle the broader system of slavery based on race and institutional inequality.

Washington chose effectiveness over racism, and he set aside prejudice for practicality. Commanding Black soldiers contributed to his evolving views on slavery, prompting him to privately express misgivings about the institution and leading him to free his enslaved people in his will.

Washington's actions illustrate one tension of the American Revolution: a fight for liberty conducted within a society that denied freedom to some. Integration did not resolve this contradiction, but it made it impossible to ignore.

The integration of the Continental Army had significant repercussions during and after the war. For Black veterans, military service became a powerful argument for freedom and citizenship. Many who served successfully petitioned for emancipation, pensions, or land grants. In the northern states, the contributions of Black soldiers helped accelerate gradual abolition movements in the postwar period.

These gains, however, were uneven and precarious. In the South, most enslaved veterans did not receive lasting freedom, and racial restrictions hardened after the war. Despite their service, Black Americans were largely excluded from the political rights promised by independence. Integration during wartime did not translate into equality in peacetime.

Institutionally, the U.S. military did not continue Washington's precedent. After the Revolution, Black enlistment declined, and by the early nineteenth century, U.S. armed forces segregated troops. This regression underscores the exceptionalism of Washington's wartime integration and highlights its necessity in defeating the British.



A watercolor titled "Soldiers in Uniform" by Jean Baptiste Antoine de Verger, a French officer who fought in the American Revolution War (1762-1851)

While Washington challenged deeply rooted racial assumptions by demonstrating that integrated forces could function effectively, the failure to institutionalize integration of the military reflected the nation's unwillingness to directly confront slavery and racism.

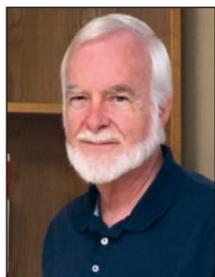
When President Harry Truman desegregated the military in 1948, advocates pointed to Washington's integration of the Continental Army. His example provided precedent and historical evidence that integration was not radical or untested, but part of the nation's earliest military tradition in fielding effective combat units, regardless of race.

Washington's decision stands as a reminder that progress often emerges from practical choices made under pressure, not purely moral rectitude. Still, those choices can carry consequences far beyond their original intent.

By integrating the Continental Army, Washington helped plant a seed of equality that would take time and immense struggle to germinate and bear the fruit of liberty and justice for all.

Will Sellers is a graduate of Hillsdale College and is an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at jws@willsellers.com

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



John Taylor

Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address

After his presidential election as a sectional candidate in November 1860, Abraham Lincoln faced considerable resistance. The fledgling Republican Party, heavily influenced by protectionists from the defunct Whig Party, was seen as an economic threat to the agricultural South. [Protectionism—what Frederic Bastiat called "legal plunder" -- is detrimental to agriculture and high tariffs are paid primarily by consumers.] Many Republicans, closely connected to influential corporations, e.g., railroads, steel manufacturers, etc., advocated central banking and

protectionism similar to British mercantilism, where the government picks winners and losers.

One plank of the 1860 Republican Party Platform was opposition to slavery extension. What is typically omitted is that members, including Lincoln, stated publicly and privately that they wanted the West to be settled by Whites—Republicans preferred to confine Blacks to the Southern and Border States.

Between Lincoln's election and his First Inaugural Address several unsuccessful peace efforts were made. Also, prior to Lincoln taking office, there was a near disastrous conflict after President James Buchanan sent the Star of the West with supplies and troops to resupply Fort Sumter. Warning shots fired from Morris Island on January 9, 1861, inspired the ship to reverse course. Additionally, on March 2, 1861, Buchanan, the outgoing Democrat from protectionist Pennsylvania, signed the Morrill Tariff into law. This legislation was essentially an economic weapon against the agricultural South.

On March 4, 1861, Lincoln delivered his First Inaugural Address, covering several significant topics. In an early section of the speech, Lincoln noted there was fear within some of the Southern (and Border) States that the slave labor system would be suddenly ended through federal actions. Lincoln stressed that this would not happen and that he had neither the inclination nor the authority to push such an agenda. He specifically referenced "an amendment" that would remove federal involvement in slavery in perpetuity (the Corwin Amendment). Lincoln "scholar" Doris Kearns Goodwin claims Lincoln not only supported the amendment but he essentially wrote it. Lincoln also voiced his support for enforcement of the Fugitive Slave Law (which was part of the constitution).

Lincoln then stated his opinion that the Union under the Constitution is perpetual. He made this contention although the States literally seceded from The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union—perpetual in that there was no predetermined expiration date. He went on to claim that one party to the constitution cannot leave on its own, essentially saying the States lacked the sovereign power of self-government and individual States are at the mercy of the collective. It is in this section that he makes the ahistorical claim that the Union began with the 1774 Articles of Association, where the colonies joined together in a boycott of British imports. Furthermore, Lincoln fallaciously refers to the

"National Constitution" when it is actually a "Federal Constitution."

Sticking to his claim that the Union is unbroken—although seven States voted to leave it—Lincoln then focused on the central issue, stating "the only reason for invasion" would be to recapture the forts in order to collect import revenue. At the time, the federal government received 90-95% of its revenue from tariffs with the balance coming mainly from land sales and excise taxes. The fear of lost revenue prominently surfaced in three April 1861 meetings where Southern representatives tried to discourage Lincoln from pursuing war. It was also mentioned as the pivotal reason for war by Lyon Tyler, son of President John Tyler, in multiple places, including *A Confederate Catechism*.

Later in the speech, Lincoln claimed that secession is nothing but "anarchy." Since anarchy is the absence of a defined government or control system this assertion is completely false. The Southern States through the Confederate Constitution not only had a defined government, they created a constitution that promoted "free trade" and removed the temptation for regional and corporate bias—not allowing the promotion of one section over another. The U.S. Constitution had been used to negatively impact the South on more than one occasion. Furthermore, some would argue that the Confederate Constitution is superior to the U.S. Constitution.

Although States are defined geographical entities, Lincoln argued they could not literally separate, essentially saying that uniquely distinct States cannot claim their individuality. He also erroneously alluded to the likelihood of reopening the international slave trade which the Confederate Constitution specifically outlawed in Article 1, Section 9.1.

Lincoln mentioned the amendment process to address grievances, implying that somehow if several States seceded, the Union would be destroyed. In reality, the Union would simply be composed of fewer States. Toward the end of the speech, Lincoln supposedly sought peace and contended the South would be at fault if conflict arose. This is the same Lincoln who steadfastly refused to negotiate with Southern representatives who sought peace between November 1860 and March 1861.

Sources: First Inaugural Address of Abraham Lincoln, Monday, March 4, 1861, The Avalon Project, Lilian Goldman Project, Yale Law School, at: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/19th_century/lincoln1.asp; Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861, LewRockwell.com at: <https://www.lewrockwell.com/political-theatre/abraham-lincolns-first-inaugural-address-march-4th-1861/>; 'Lincoln's Tyrannical, Tax-Loving Nature,' by Thomas DiLorenzo, at, LewRockwell.com at: <https://www.lewrockwell.com/political-theatre/abraham-lincolns-first-inaugural-address-march-4th-1861/>; *A Confederate Catechism: The War for Southern Self-Government*, by Lyon Gardiner Tyler; *The Law*, by Frederic Bastiat; and *Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation*, by John M. Taylor. Note: The Corwin Amendment—the Original Thirteenth Amendment—was passed with mostly Northern support since many of the Southern States had already left the Union. Also, Lincoln only received 39.8% of the vote in 1860.

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Rob Tate

Robservations...

We Are Not the Same

As I sit here having just completed my 65th trip around the sun, I get the opportunity to relax and reflect a lot. Because of age discrimination, once turning 65, me and hundreds of other guys around the country are forced to retire from the airlines and give up our flying careers to serve in the same capacity. Yes, many could go on to other flying gigs but most do not bother. Rehiring, retraining, requalifying, etc. "But Rob. At 65, you should be forced to retire. You are too old to fly airplanes. You have people's lives in your hands." And yet we have politicians who can barely walk around without help and babble incessantly because they are 75-90 years old. If pilots have to step down, they should be forced to retire as well. But that is for another day. As for the inane argument that I have a couple hundred people's lives in my hand, some of these politicians have millions of people's lives in their hands. Leave me alone.

As I sit here looking at the world around us, I cannot say I have come to a new conclusion, but rather, everything I see points to one inevitable conclusion: We Are Not the Same. People like to sound "woke" and embracing by saying we are all the same but that is a lie from the pit of hell. Yes, we may all share almost identical DNA, we may often share similar hopes and dreams and God loves each of us the same. But at the end of the day, in many cases, this is where the similarities end. Human; check. Brain; check. Body; check. We are the same; nope.

From 1993-1995, I spent two years flying with the Royal Saudi Air Force as an instructor pilot. From 1987-1993, for six wonderful years, I spent flying for NATO. So, in addition to all the Americans I have flown with in my day, 800+ in the airline world, I have flown with Canadians, Brits, Dutch, Danes, Belgians, Germans, Norwegians, Greeks, Turks, Italians, Saudi Arabians, and Portuguese. I am here to tell you that we are not all the same. I hate to break it to some of you but we are not. What might easily anger a Saudi, usually was laughed off by northern Europeans. As an American, we would say some pretty dicey things to each other in the cockpit. You would not dare say such a thing to someone from let's say, Portugal. I don't mean sexual things but things about their flying or lack of flying skills. We made a game of it. Chastise, harangue, but always in good fun. Things a Greek would do might leave German shaking their head.

I remember when I first started flying with the Saudis, the first thing that struck me as how sensitive they are. To an American, German, Canadian, Brit, Norwegian, for example, you could say the same thing, laugh at each other and move on. A Saudi on the other had would immediately shut down. I would just have to get him out of the seat and get another guy in. I would actually feel terrible because I never wanted to hurt another guy's feelings in the jet. So, I came up with an idea. You know how in Saudi Arabia, if you commit a certain crime, they lob off your hand, well I bought this rubber hand with the bones sticking out and blood all over it. I actually still have it. Whenever my student would mess up, I would just take out the hand and place it on the throttle quadrant and let it sit there. I would not say anything. He would eventually look down and see the hand. "Oh, no. Captain Tate, what did I do?" Now all the guys in the cockpit are laughing. I would take the jet and tell him, the flight engineer and navigator to figure it out. Plus, I got to fly the jet some more while they talked. Everybody won. As stupid as this may seem, this was actually pivotal in my really understanding that all of us on this big blue marble are not the same.

I remember when the Gulf War kicked off. We had members from one country who refused to participate in our air operations. I would ask them why not and they would say their union wouldn't let them. The conversation would go something like this.

Me: So, are you going to deploy with us or not?

Gert: No.

Me: Why?

Gert: Our union forbids it.

Me: Yet you are flying here with us in NATO?

Gert: Yes.

Me: Getting paid?

Gert: Yes.

Me: But you won't deploy?

Gert: Nope.

Me: You don't feel bad about us going and you staying home watching television?

Gert: Nope.



Photo provided by Rob Tate

Eventually things got straightened out, but no, we are not the same. I remember sitting around the squadron with a group of my Saudi pilots and I asked them the forbidden question. This was a subject we were instructed never to broach but after being there as long as I was, I didn't care and besides, I got along well with all the Saudis. But I asked one of my guys, "Tell me. If old Hoobastank over here converted to Christianity tomorrow, what would you do?" Without batting an eye, they said, to a man, "We would kill him." Now, keep in mind, this was not told to me be a friend of a friend of a cousin of a father of a mother of an uncle of a babysitter. This was MY conversation.

"So, you guys would just up and kill ole Hoobastank. No mercy. Nothing?" They responded with, "Well, we would give him an opportunity to change his mind." "And if he said no, then you would kill him?" "Yup." "But he is your friend." "Doesn't matter." "Would you at least bury him?" "?" "Crap. Okay then, let's brief tomorrow's flight." No, we are not the same.

TODAY: NO, WE ARE STILL NOT THE SAME

I watched a news report about two to three years ago. Current internet searches show the same thing. 44-60% of Gen Z hold favorable views for communism. Many of those prefer communism to capitalism. Of course, they say this as they are holding their \$1200 iPhone and sipping their \$6 coffee. At the same time, of those who are 18-29 years of age, 34% hold favorable views of communism. **I have to sit back and ask what in the heck has our school system been teaching our kids?** It seems as though after the Department of Education was founded in 1979, thank you Jimmy Carter, our country has done a wonderful job of raising now a second generation of little America hating commies.

When I graduated high school in 1979, if you asked that question, what answer do you think you would have gotten? When I flew for Strategic Air Command (SAC), we knew what I still believe to be the correct world order. We knew who the enemy was then and unless that enemy has changed their doctrine, which they haven't, they are still the enemy. Unfortunately, so many of our young kids are wanting to model themselves after the other side. They have learned well. They have learned from the best. Whether it be Goebbels, Tung, Marx, Lenin, these little communist running amok in our country are using the Nazi, Fascist playbook to the tee.

Don't get what you want. Protest. That doesn't work, violence. Burn, fight, destroy, rip apart, and then accuse the other side of being and doing exactly what you are doing. No, we are not the same. These people disparage America, and for what? Please tell me why in the heck you are fighting ice when all they are doing is trying to get the bad guys out of our country. If the local police would just turn over these guys, often already sitting in jail, then all would be fine. But why are they fighting to keep these guys in the country? I saw several idiot people who said, "Yeah, but only 14% of the people arrested were violent criminals." They do realize that 14% of the 400,000 arrested is 56,000 murders, rapist, and those causing assault, off the streets. Also, it has been reported that even if it is known that a person committed a violent crime in their home country but not here, that record does not count in this statistic. Also, crimes like human trafficking, fraud, burglary, shoplifting, prostitution are not counted in this group. How can any American fight law enforcement in an attempt to keep known murderers, rapists, pedophiles, drunk drivers, and the like in our country? No, we are not the same. By the way, how long did the illegal aliens last in Martha's Vineyard?

And one more. I wrote our Senator Katy Britt a letter saying it is high time we give the death penalty to rapists. I truly believe it. Especially the rape of a little girl and of course with the influx of weirdos from other countries, the rape of little boys. I am done with it. Yet Governor Spanberger wants to do away with mandatory sentences for rape. What? No, we are not the same.

- Dems want boys to compete with girls in sports. No, we are not the same.

- Dems want men to be able to use women's and girls' restrooms and locker rooms. No, not the same.

- One dem lawmaker says we should not have dogs in our houses because it keeps blessings and angels away. No, we are not the same.

There will be more of this to come. Cheers for now. T8er

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Alabama Congressional Republicans Applaud Trump's State of the Union Address

President Donald J. Trump (R) made his State of the Union Address on Tuesday night, February 24, 2026 before a joint session of the Congress at the U.S. Capitol Building. The five Republican House members in Alabama's Congressional delegation praised the President's address.

"Last night's speech displayed to the American people that, thanks to President Trump's leadership, America is strong and getting stronger," said Congressman Gary Palmer (R-AL06).

Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-AL04) said in a statement, "Tonight, President Trump delivered a strong and inspiring State of the Union address to Congress. As the President said, America is strong, prosperous, and resected as our nation celebrates its 250th anniversary."

"Under President Trump's leadership, we are restoring peace through strength, defending our border, growing American manufacturing, and putting American families first," Rep. Aderholt continued. "I stand beside the President in full support and will continue to deliver on his agenda and deliver real results for the American people. I commend the President for securing the border and making it a top priority to ensure that our American cities and communities are safe. This commitment has led to record low illegal border crossings, with nine straight months of no illegal aliens released into the United States."

Congressman Mike Rogers (R-AL03) said, "As President Trump made clear tonight, America is safer because of the work he has done to strengthen our national defense and modernize our military. As the threats from our adversaries continue to evolve and intensify, it's never been more important

to fulfill his vision of Peace through Strength. I look forward to working with him to meet his goal of increasing defense spending to \$1.5 trillion. Americans can rest easier knowing that the state of our union is strong with President Trump in charge. It has never been more obvious that he cares about everyday Americans, and he cares about making our nation strong. The President is ready to make America even greater, and I am ready to help him!"

Congressman Dale Strong (R-AL05) said on X, "President Trump's leadership focuses squarely on America First policies that are lowering costs for American families and restoring strength at home and abroad — a stark contrast from the Biden administration."

Congressman Barry Moore (R-AL01) said in a statement, "As President Trump made clear in his State of the Union Address America is back on track. We're once again stronger at home and respected abroad. We've secured the border, rebuilt our military, and stood should to shoulder with law enforcement....and delivered real tax relief through President Trump's Working Class Tax Cuts that are putting more of Alabamians' hard-earned money back in their pockets."

Congressman Gary Palmer (R-AL06) said on X, "President Trump is celebrating American greatness during tonight's State of the Union by honoring and recognizing numerous American heroes. What a way to celebrate America's 250th anniversary."

To comment or to ask a question email: brandonmreporter@gmail.com



NOTICE!

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG WITH CURRENT NEWS!
www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



VETERANS EVENTS AND NEWS



River Region Veterans Coalition Meeting

Monday, Mar 23 6:00pm

Feast Buffet

5831 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36117

Arrive no later than 5:30 pm for Buffet Meal at \$12.00 per person

RRVC was formed one year ago to bring together veteran service organizations, government agencies, and community partners into a collaborative, apolitical coalition serving the greater Montgomery area. Over the past year, the coalition has grown to include a broad cross-section of veteran and community organizations and has completed several notable projects supporting local service members and veterans.

Make plans now to attend RRVC March 23rd meeting to meet and greet our guest speaker, April Turner. She is the current State Head Injury Coordinator for the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. She began her work for Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services over 24 years ago and most recent honors included presenting to the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine's Forum on TBI in Washington DC which was published and distributed by the National Institutes of Health and securing state funding to expand and develop a Veteran and National Guard TBI expansion for the State of Alabama. You don't want to miss this meeting to hear April and learn more about the Traumatic Brain Injury Program (TBI).

Veteran events provided by River Region Veterans Coalition



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E-mail: keithou2000@gmail.com
Cell phone: (334) 303-4102

INTRODUCING: The Veteran Owned Business Directory

Attention Veterans in the River Region Veterans Coalition Area

We want to help support your business! Publish your business, products and services proudly as a veteran through VeteranOwnedBusiness.com

The Veteran Owned Business Project is a comprehensive, user-friendly member network directory of small, medium and large businesses owned by veterans, service disabled veterans (SDVOSBs /DVBEs) active duty military, reservists and military spouses released on Veteran's Day 2008. Now Americans in the United States and abroad have an easy way to proudly search for products and services that are unique in the fact that they are all made by, sold by or serviced by United States military veteran business owners, service disabled veteran business owners, active duty military business owners, military reservists and military/veteran spouse business owners! Basic listing is FREE. Great Potential for New Customers.

Register today your Alabama Veteran-Owned Businesses, especially those in Autauga, Elmore, and Montgomery counties.

RRVC Celebrates First Anniversary and Expands Veteran Support Initiatives



Veterans and community partners gather to celebrate RRVC's first anniversary. Photo courtesy of Summer Ronso

The River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) celebrated its first anniversary on February 23, 2026, with a special ceremony and meeting held at Feast Buffet in Montgomery. The event marked one year of collaboration among veteran service organizations, government agencies, nonprofits, and community partners dedicated to supporting veterans and their families throughout the River Region.

The anniversary celebration included a ceremonial cake cutting honoring the coalition's leadership, partner organizations, and the families who stood beside those who served. The event reflected RRVC's mission to unify resources, strengthen communication, and ensure veterans have access to services, recognition, and community connection.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation from **Drew Fitch and Aaron McKeen from First Command of Montgomery of a \$1,000 charitable donation**, demonstrating continued community support for the coalition's mission and its expanding programs benefiting veterans and their families throughout the River Region.

During the meeting, RRVC highlighted several major initiatives completed and expanded during its first year:

Educational Outreach: The coalition's Color with Capt. RRViC children's coloring book, which teaches Alabama's military history, is now available for purchase at the Alabama Department of Archives & History gift shop and the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Research Institute gift shop at Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base annex. The project continues to connect younger generations with the legacy of military service, and the coalition hopes to expand availability to additional museums, historic sites, and educational gift shops across Alabama soon.

Veteran-Owned Business Recognition Program: RRVC is actively recognizing veteran-

owned businesses throughout the River Region and beyond by presenting certificates of recognition and official decals. These honors help businesses proudly display their veteran status while strengthening community awareness and support for veteran entrepreneurship.

Community Care and Recovery Partnerships: Guest speakers Kent Davis and Bob Holmes of Vets Recover from Mobile presented their mission and programs supporting veterans, first responders, and their families. Vets Recover is dedicated to removing barriers to care, offering both inpatient and outpatient recovery services, delivering integrated health support, and fostering healing through connection and innovative programs such as music therapy and songwriting workshops. Their work promotes long-term wellness and helps participants rebuild purpose, stability, and community.

Since its founding in February 2025, RRVC has grown into a collaborative network including organizations such as the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Marine Corps League, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans Affairs partners, and numerous nonprofit and community groups. The coalition has achieved nonprofit 501(c)(3) status and completed projects supporting veterans and military families throughout the region.

"The River Region Veterans Coalition was formed to bring organizations together under one unified effort to better serve those who served our nation," said RRVC President Keith Rudolph. "Our first year has demonstrated the power of collaboration, and we remain committed to expanding programs, partnerships, and recognition for veterans and their families."

RRVC will continue holding monthly meetings every 4th Monday open to veteran service organizations, community partners, and supporters who share the coalition's mission of strengthening veteran care and recognition throughout the River Region.

Veterans February Birthdays

Lundy, Norma Lynn	March 4th	McClendon, Tamara	March 18th
Harris, Eddie Frank	March 5th	Jeffries, John Michael	March 20th
Waters, Sharon	March 5th	Lufkin, Drew Donis	March 22nd
Pierson, James Edward	March 10th	Compton, Margaret Leah	March 29th
Thomas, Patricia	March 14th	May, Gerald	March 29th
Cornwell, Larry Patrick	March 17th	Hawkins, Jr., Jack	March 30th



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals.
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I want to introduce you to the Civil Air Patrol established on December 1, 1941. Today, CAP continues to serve the nation with over 60,000 volunteers performing missions that include search and rescue, disaster relief, counterdrug operations, and youth development. We are the largest private fleet of airplanes in the world which is overseen by the US Air Force.

As stated, we are part of the US Air Force and follow a military style structure to support educating youths in discipline, responsibility, military customs and courtesy. One of our core missions is to teach kids 12 to 18 years old about aerospace, leadership, cybersecurity, and emergency services. We take kids flying and have flight academies for which they can learn to fly. We have classes in engineering, medical introductions, drones, search and rescue plus many more.

But that's not all we do. We help prepare young adults for the future. We do this through volunteers as in youths, adults, prior military service members and even educational teachers to continue Civil Air Patrol's legacy. Volunteers learn and teach others. A cadet who's qualified in radio may teach other cadets or even adults in proper radio procedures. Volunteers can become part of an aircrew as an observer, scanner, or photographer for missions. We have so much to offer and so many opportunities for youths and adults to learn.

We need qualified pilots as well. Volunteer pilots for missions and instructor training. To be able to fly missions such as orientation flights for cadets, community support, search and rescue.

We also have an educator's program. This program is for teachers and homeschool parents. CAP can supply teaching materials to help educate students with STEM Kits.

The Teacher Orientation Program (TOP) flies Teachers. The Aerospace Connections Education (ACE) program k-6 has lesson plans for aerospace, physical fitness, and character education, and the Aerospace Education Excellence (AEX) program has 6 lessons for the aerospace award program.

We don't want to forget about our Chaplain and Character Development Instructor program. You can volunteer to teach cadets about our core values of Integrity, Volunteer Service, Respect and Excellence. You can also provide caring and appropriate crisis response counselling, be there for our members going through challenges and ensuring the religious liberty of every person. During disaster relief, you can provide support to individuals going through disaster.

As you can tell, Civil Air Patrol offers a lot of opportunities for children to learn about different careers and prepare them for their futures. We offer opportunities for adults to learn and help.

If you are interested in our program, go to www.gocivilairpatrol.com and check our program out. You can put your zip code in and find a squadron near you to visit. It will also provide you with squadron meeting days and times, where they meet and person to contact if you have questions.

Lt Col Michael McEntyre
Alabama Wing Recruiter
Civil Air Patrol
michael.mcentyre@alwg.us

MAXWELL COMPOSITE SQDN
Unit Contact: Robert P Dana
Contact Phone: (334) 315-7130
Contact e-mail: robert.dana@alwg.us
Meeting Address: West 180 Ash Street, CAP Hangar Building 843
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

Meeting Time: 1800-2030 TUESDAY
Charter Number: SER AL032
Unit Notes: Prospective members must contact someone in the unit prior to attending a meeting! Doing so will ensure smooth access to our facilities. While the Cadets meet every week, the Senior Members meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month

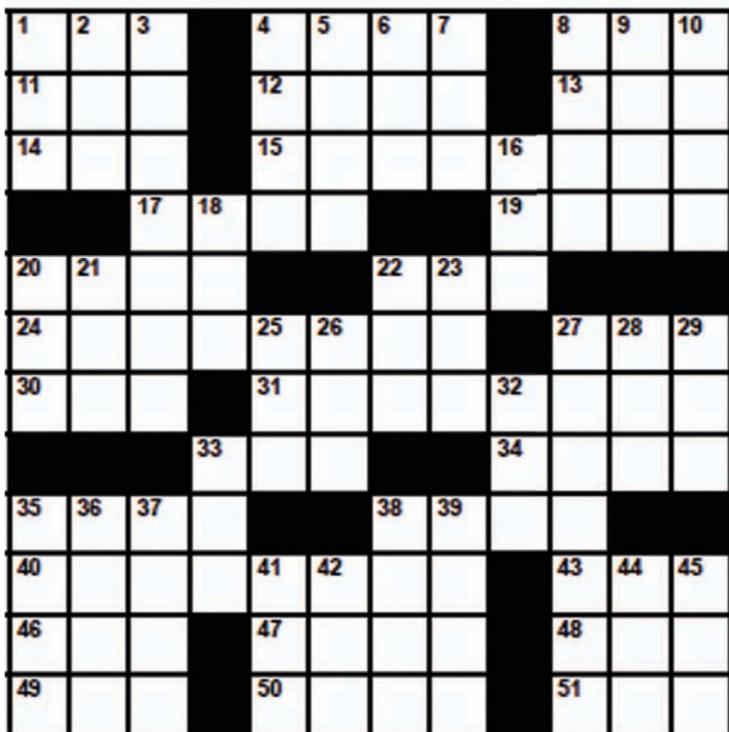
WORD SCRAMBLE ~ BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

HIIAAS _____
GSEDJU _____
EEHMIANH _____
HTSEER _____
REBSVROP _____
SSEEESCCIATL _____
NAILED _____
AEOHS _____

SANMOR _____
SEERBWH _____
TWAMTHE _____
HALIMAC _____
NIPIHPLSAPI _____
VALIORTEEN _____
SENSGIE _____
HUSOAJ _____

CROSSWORD

by Myles Meller



- Across**
- Beatles "I Saw ___ Standing There"
 - Temporary quarters
 - Employment
 - "What ___ the odds?"
 - Bit of land
 - Loonie, e.g.
 - Lady horse
 - Understood wrongly
 - Like some good wine
 - Student's "final" ordeal
 - ___ Minor
 - Miracle response
 - Displaying good judgment
 - Shoe part
 - Outmoded, with been
 - Ethnic
 - Bit of tennis
 - Lobster tail on a combo plate
 - 1994 Carrey film "The ___"
 - Cubes
 - Creative
 - "Tea for ___"
 - Pod vegetable
 - "___ we are" Gloria Estefan
 - Audience
 - Speak
 - Gobbles up
 - Tie-___ (sixties shirt style)

- Down**
- Kept
 - Gothic, for one
 - Ruins
 - Amounted (to)
 - Etcher's need
 - Robinson or Jones?
 - Lovey
 - Be playful
 - Till compartment
 - Propensity
 - Devoured
 - Fun time, slangily
 - Camp leftovers
 - Where the buoys are
 - Totally
 - Nurse type
 - Diamonds, slang
 - Barring
 - Had confidence (in)
 - Boat propeller
 - Imp
 - Not waste
 - Get winter exercise
 - Cartographic drawings
 - Vicinity
 - Abide
 - Grime
 - Frosts, as a cake
 - This girl
 - It may be high in the afternoon
 - Avenue
 - Metal source

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE B5



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Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



The Alabama Sheriffs Association proudly announces that Sheriff Derrick Cunningham of Montgomery County, Alabama, has been named the National Sheriffs' Association Sheriff of the Year for 2026.

This distinction is one of the most prestigious honors in law enforcement, recognizing outstanding leadership and service among more than 3,000 sheriffs nationwide.

Sheriff Cunningham has made a lasting impact on Montgomery County through innovative initiatives that strengthen public safety, enhance the quality of life for residents, and promote meaningful community engagement—while consistently upholding the highest standards of professionalism and service.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is gearing up for our Firearms Familiarization Course for 2026. **The courses are always held on a Saturday** and is **FREE** to Montgomery County citizens! The morning classroom session teaches firearm safety and firearm laws. The afternoon session allows those that choose to practice one-on-one practice time on our Firing Range under the instruction of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Range Master. Class participants must be citizens of Montgomery County and must obtain a pistol permit prior to attending the course. **To apply for a pistol permit**, visit our website at www.MontgomerySheriff.com or come by the Legal Services Division of the Sheriff's Office located at 100 South Lawrence Street (Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm) or contact them direct at 832-1335.

Permits are issued normally within 15 minutes, from the time you submit your permit application.

2026 Class Dates:

March 21st	April 25th	May 30th	June 27th
July 25th	August 22nd	September 19th	October 24th

Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.

For more information on the course or to apply, please visit our website at www.MontgomerySheriff.com or call 832.1645.

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Hosted by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 334-832-2515
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Our Age Groups Are:
2-4
5-7
8-11

2 Easter Basket Prize limit per child. If a child receives more than 2 prize tickets, we ask they be gifted to other children at the event.

OPEN ENROLLMENT
Community Emergency Response Team
The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) educates people about disaster preparedness and trains them in basic disaster response skills, including: fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and basic first aid. CERT prepares you to care for yourself and your neighbor during a disaster situation. Join a dedicated group of volunteers ready to support first responders, providing vital support during times of crisis.

- Learn Life Saving Skills
- Train in Search and Rescue
- Disaster Simulation
- Learn Disaster Medical Training

ENROLL TODAY
Starting April 20th & Ending May 2nd
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday
Saturday, May 2nd:
Final Exercise 8am

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+334-832-2515
www.montgomerysheriff.com

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(334) 361-2500
162 W 4th Street,
Prattville, AL
www.autaugasheriff.org

Sheriff
Mark Harrell

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8955 US-231
Wetumpka, AL 36092
<https://www.elmoreso.com>

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217 North Prarie Street
Union Springs, AL 36089
bullockcountysheriff@ustconline.net

Sheriff
Raymond Rodgers

Today's Woman Trisston's Tidbits:

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*

Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



"His Greatest Work of Art"

These are not my words, but something I recently came across and loved. So, I thought I'd share with you..."Jesus died at the age of 33. The human spine has 33 vertebrae. The same structure that holds us upright is the same number of years Jesus walked the earth. We have 12 ribs on each side, just like the 12 disciples and the 12 tribes of Israel. The vagus nerve runs from your brain to your heart and gut, calming the storm inside your body, just like Jesus calmed the storm. And guess what? Under a microscope, the protein that literally holds our body together is in the shape of a cross. Think about that...the very structure holding you together is a cross.

Jesus rose on the third day. Science tells us when you fast for three days, your body begins to regenerate. Old cells die, new ones are born, and healing begins. Your body literally experiences a form of resurrection in three days, just like Jesus resurrected in three days. That's not a coincidence. That's the signature of an artist on His artwork.

It keeps going. Your heart beats with God's rhythm. Your brain lights up when you pray. Your bones store memory. Your tears change chemistry depending on joy or grief, and the Bible tells us that the Lord holds your tears in a jar. Your body worships God whether you realize it or not.

You are fearfully and wonderfully made by an artist who left His signature on his greatest artwork, You!
(Psalm 139:13-14)

And here's the wonder. Jesus didn't just create you, He wrote himself into your very DNA. He formed you with intention and breathed life into you. You see, He wants more for you than to simply exist. He wants to have a personal relationship with you. The Creator who holds galaxies together also holds you together. He wants to make His home inside your heart. He wants to be a part of your life. You were created to have a relationship with God who created you. If you've ever invited Jesus into your life, it's the best decision you will ever make!"

Many Blessings!



Sarah Ross

March is Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month

Each March, communities across the country observe Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month, a time dedicated to increasing understanding, encouraging support, and strengthening hope for those living with this challenging disease. It is an opportunity to look out for our neighbors and learn more about a condition that affects thousands of American families.

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a chronic disease of the central nervous system, which includes the brain and spinal cord. In people with MS, the body's immune system mistakenly attacks myelin, the protective covering around nerve fibers. When that protective layer is damaged, communication between the brain and the rest of the body is disrupted. Over time, this can lead to a wide range of symptoms, including fatigue, difficulty walking, numbness or tingling, vision problems, balance issues, and cognitive changes.

MS looks different for every individual. Some people experience mild symptoms and long periods of remission. Others may face more serious physical limitations. While there is currently no cure, medical advances over the past two decades have significantly improved treatment options, helping many people manage symptoms and maintain active, productive lives.

For middle-aged adults especially, MS awareness hits close to home. The disease is most often diagnosed between ages 20 and 50, right in the middle of career-building years, raising children, and caring for aging parents. A diagnosis can bring emotional, physical, and financial strain. That is why community understanding and practical support matter so much.

So how can we help? First, education is key. Taking time to learn about MS helps dispel myths and reduces stigma. Understanding that symptoms may not always be visible encourages patience and compassion in workplaces, churches, and community organizations. Second, consider offering practical

support. For someone living with MS, everyday tasks can sometimes become overwhelming. Offering to prepare a meal, help with yard work, provide transportation, or simply check in with a phone call can make a real difference. Third, support organizations that fund research and provide services. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society plays a leading role in advancing research, advocating for patients, and connecting families with resources. Their Alabama - Louisiana - Mississippi chapter serves residents across our region.

Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Month



Those looking to get involved locally can participate in fundraising efforts such as Walk MS Birmingham, scheduled this year at Homewood Central Park. Events like these bring together families, churches, civic groups, and businesses to raise money and demonstrate solidarity with those affected by MS. Even if travel isn't possible, donations and virtual participation options allow supporters to contribute from home.

March is also marked by the color orange, a symbol of MS awareness. Wearing orange, sharing reliable information, or organizing a small fundraiser through a local civic or church group are simple but meaningful steps. Whether through prayer, encouragement, volunteerism, or financial support, each of us can play a part in easing the burden carried by families facing MS. By learning more and stepping forward to help, we strengthen the bonds that hold our communities together.

Political Primaries - May 19th

VOTE

It your right and privilege to cast your ballot!

NicoleForAlabama.com
Contact: info@nicoleforalabama.com

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LT. GOVERNOR

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with the Conservative Outsider
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Paid for by: Committee to Elect Dr Nicole Wadsworth, PO Box 267, Montgomery, AL 36101



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



Remember to set
your clocks
AHEAD
on Sunday
March 8th

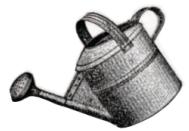


MEALS ON WHEELS
MONTGOMERY AL METRO AREA



JUDGE PEGGY GIVHAN

Southern Gardening Potpourri for March



The other day, someone came up to me and asked me what is going on in my garden? Well, I replied, I honestly do not know for sure as 80% of it is underground. I can report that the bulbs I planted are coming up like narcissus, crocus, tulips, and daffodils and they will soon let out a big shout, announcing Springtime. Since I planted pansies, dianthus and dusty miller last November, they have survived the cold weather we have just endured, and are blooming their heads off. Remember, that if you are planting pansies in a north facing area, the yellow ones do the best as they need less sun to bloom. Also if your yard is shady in the summer from deciduous trees, these areas should be getting a lot of sun now that the leaves have fallen. This just illustrates that your yard receives different sun exposure at the different seasons.

There are many stores offering daffodils for sale now. In our area, there are 3 varieties that come back every year and multiply reliably. They can be naturalized even in heavy clay soil. These are: Mount Hood, Ice Follies, and Carlton. If you plant these now, they will be late, but who cares.

Plan for the next season in your garden.

This is always a good idea since you can figure out the size of the areas for the number of plants you will need to purchase. Good flower design for the garden is to have flowers planted in drifts, rather than the flowers lined up like marching soldiers. Also do not space them too far apart, thinking that they will fill in. Most plants will show on the tag this information. If not, ask someone in a garden center or go to Google. Remember we do not want our gardens to resemble plucked chickens.

If you have wintered over Geraniums, clean up the dead foliage and stems, and they can be planted now. If you are not sure where they should be placed, put them in pots, fertilize and let them thrive in the early spring weather. These are what are known as cool weather plants, and will take even freezing temps in zone 8.



Stachys byzantina, the Lamb's-Ear Monty plant or woolly hedgenettle, is a species of flowering plant in the mint family Lamiaceae, native to Armenia, Iran, and Turkey. It is cultivated throughout much of the temperate world as an ornamental plant, and is naturalised in some locations as an escapee from gardens.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--LAMB'S-EAR(Stachys byzantina)

Lamb's-ears are a very popular perennial with thick velvety silvery gray- green leaves. Some call them donkey tongues. They thrive in full sun and partial shade, like well drained soil and most of all, they are deer and rabbit resistant. The only problem is that they can not be over-watered as they will rot. Drought resistant, and easy to grow, they shoot up spikes of yellow and pink flowers in the summer. Another plus is that they attract pollinators. One can easily propagate Lamb's ears by dividing the root -ball. The silver green leaves can act as a foil for really vibrant bright colors in the summer bed.

Happy St. Patrick's Day and Good Gardening



A BUCK KNIFE

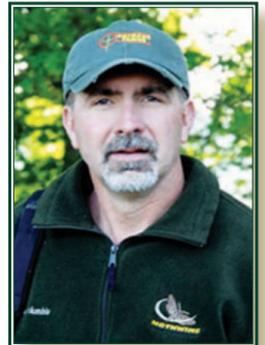
There's no doubt what we do makes an impression on our young people and those who look up to us. Just as I remember buying my first new gun, I also remember my first new knife. Not only was I enamored by the knife itself, but I was also very interested in the paperwork that came with it. While most would only throw away

the unnecessary stuff, I made it a point to find out about my new Buck knife. It talked about how to take care of it and how to sharpen it. But what caught my attention was the message from Al Buck. Here is how it read.

Now that you are family, you might like to know a little more about our organization. The fantastic growth of Buck Knives was no accident. From the beginning, management determined to make God the Senior Partner. In a crisis, the problem was turned over to Him, and He hasn't failed to help us with the answer. Each product must reflect the integrity of management, including our Senior Partner. If sometimes we fail on our end, because we are human, we find it imperative to do our utmost to make it right. Of course, to us, besides being Senior Partner, He is our Heavenly Father also; and it's a great blessing to us to have this security in these troubled times. If any of you are troubled or perplexed and looking for answers, may we invite you to look to Him, for God loves you.

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son; that whoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."
John: 3:16

Wow! What an impression that made on a teenager. I thought big companies and successful people surely had no need for God. I was wrong and I never forgot that simple message purposefully placed in that little box. Decades later, every time I go to buy a knife, I'm reminded of that day that someone cared enough to be unashamed of their faith and who also understood that all we have and all we do is to be used to reflect the goodness and grace of a Heavenly Father. Since that time, I have met other businesses and their owners who feel this same responsibility and apply it different ways. Their subtle but powerful message is their own unique way of recognizing their own Senior Partner.



Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. gary@outdoortruths.org



Humane Society of Elmore County News
255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) Wetumpka, Alabama 36092
PHONE: (334) 567-3377

Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
Sat: 8am - 4pm



ADOPT A PET IN MARCH

- Fill out and submit our ONLINE ADOPTION APPLICATION or Email us at hselco@bellsouth.net for our Adoption Application.

- Once we receive your completed application we will review and once approved, will contact you to set up an appointment to meet the pet in question.

IMPORTANT – we respond to your emailed applications and queries via email back to you. Please make sure you have either added our email (hselco@bellsouth.net) to your contact list or that you routinely check your SPAM folder for our response just to be safe. If we do not receive a timely response we simply move on to another applicant.

- Those wanting to adopt a cat will come inside the facility to our cat rooms to meet the cat(s).

- Of course you are not required to adopt the pet you apply for if it is just 'not the one' once you meet it but honestly with your application and our help the approved application to adoption conversion rate is easily 95%.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

H	E	R	C	A	M	P	J	O	B				
11	A	R	E	12	A	C	R	E	13	O	N	E	
14	D	A	M	15	M	I	S	T	16	A	K	E	N
17	A	G	E	D	19	T	E	S	T				
20	A	21	S	I	A	22	A	23	W	E			
24	S	E	N	S	I	B	L	E	27	T	O	E	
30	H	A	S	31	C	U	L	T	32	U	R	A	L
33	S	E	T	34	S	U	R	F					
35	M	A	S	37	K	38	D	I	E	S			
40	A	R	T	41	S	T	I	C	43	T	W	O	
46	P	E	A	47	H	E	R	E	48	E	A	R	
49	S	A	Y	50	E	A	T	S	51	D	Y	E	

ANSWERS FROM PAGE B2 PUZZLES

WORD SCRAMBLE ANSWERS

ISAIAH
JUDGES
NEHEMIAH
ESTHER
PROVERBS
ECCLESIASTES
DANIEL
HOSEA

ROMANS
HEBREWS
MATTHEW
MALACHI
PHILIPPIANS
REVELATION
GENESIS
JOSHUA

DC TREE SERVICE

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**GLOBAL
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 ALABAMA EMERALD COAST CONFERENCE

Appreciating Lent, Holy Week And The Easter Season

Ash Wednesday. Lent. Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday. Good Friday. Easter. Understanding better the meaning and significance of these "Holy Days" will bring a greater appreciation and experience of the Lent and Easter season for each of us!

The Season of Lent and Easter are full of strange names and words that many people do not understand. I have found that a great many people do not know the meaning and significance of these "Churchy" words and Holidays in the Season of Lent and Easter. In fact, most people probably don't know that the word "holiday" comes from the old English word "Haligdaeg" which literally means "Holy Day".

So, let's see if we can help out with some of these "Churchy" words of Lent and Easter...

Two billion Christians around the world are challenged to participate in what the Christian Church calls the Season of Lent! What is Lent? Lent is a season of preparation and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday and continues till Easter Sunday. It is the 40 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter not counting Sundays, and it is traditionally a time for prayer, fasting and scripture reading. For 2026, Ash Wednesday was on February 18 and Easter Sunday is on April 5th. Therefore, Lent in 2026 involves half of February, the entire month of March and the first 5 days of April.

In this six-week long celebration of Lent on the Christian calendar, Christ followers are "encouraged to find their own method of confronting their sinfulness, remembering their mortality, and giving thanks for the gift of salvation they receive through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ." (Methodist Book Of Worship). The word "Lent" comes from the Anglo-Saxon (Old English) term "Lencten" which refers to the lengthening of days. It also literally translates to Spring or Springtime.

On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, Pastors and Priests gather the ashes from the burnt palm branches from the previous years Palm Sunday worship service. They mix those ashes with anointing oil, and then, on Ash Wednesday, they mark the foreheads of Christ followers with the sign of the cross as they bless them in their journey of preparation in the Season of Lent. Often Pastors or Priests will quote Genesis 3:19, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return" or "Ashes to ashes and dust to dust." "In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."

Lent is also connected to the 40-day fast that Jesus undergoes in the Judean wilderness. The accounts of Jesus fasting and praying in this desert are found in **Mark 1:13, Luke 4:1-13 and Mathew 4:1-11**. This 40 days of fasting and prayer for Jesus was the season of preparation for his mission as the Messiah and teacher of the Gospel (Gospel means Good News) and for his death on the cross as the Savior of the world.

The official end of Lent for 2026 will be on Saturday, April 4th, the day before Easter. The final week of Jesus' earthly life is called "Holy Week" which begins with Palm Sunday, The Sunday before Easter Sunday. This year Palm Sunday will be held on Sunday, March 29th. This is the day Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem where throngs of believers waved palm branches and laid them at his feet in celebration of the arrival of the Jewish Messiah. Many churches celebrate Palm Sunday (so named because of the Palm branches waved before Jesus and laid in Jesus' path) with children and/or adults marching into the service waving palm branches while the congregation is singing "Hosanna, Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Holy Week also involves several other special Holy days of remembrance. Maundy Thursday is the Thursday of Holy Week and derives its name from the Latin word "Mandatum" which means mandate or commandment. Because Jesus issued a new commandment at the Last Supper, "*I give you a new commandment.*"



Love one another as I have loved you." On this day Christ followers also remember and celebrate together the Last Supper. Jesus, at his Last Supper before his death, instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion when he informed his disciples that the bread and the wine at the meal represented his body and his blood. Jesus told them that his body, symbolized by the bread, would be offered on the cross for all people and that the wine represented his blood which would be shed on the cross for the sins of the entire world. Many churches offer this Maundy Thursday service during Holy Week and gather to celebrate communion together in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice for our sins and the mandate that he gave to love one another.

The other Holy Week service that many churches offer is the "Good Friday" service. Good Friday is the Friday of Holy Week when Jesus was crucified on a cross for the sins of the world. In this service,

Christ followers often recount the seven last words or quotes of Jesus from the cross. It is a somber service usually associated with candles and darkness as we remember the suffering of the Lord on the cross for our sins. Many people wonder, why it is called "Good Friday" since the torture and the agony was so tragic and horrific for Jesus? It is called "Good Friday" because through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross our salvation was secured. The price for our sins was paid on the cross by Jesus! It was a "good" day for all of the sinners of the world, which includes you, me and everyone else.

Holy Saturday is the day before Easter and is traditionally known for big Easter Egg Hunts and Resurrection parties for the children. Many churches over fun and festive Easter Egg Hunt Celebrations every year on this day, and it is a big family day of fun, games, candy and laughter.

Easter Sunday marks the end of the Season of Lent and the joyous celebration of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ! Easter is Resurrection Sunday, and it is by far the biggest, the most glorious day on the Christian calendar for the Church and every Christ follower. On Easter Day, Resurrection Sunday, we acknowledge and celebrate our liberation from sin, the gift of grace and the joy of salvation. The resurrection of Jesus defeated death and sin once and for all. Our forgiveness is secured and our salvation from sin and death is guaranteed because Easter changed everything for all of us!

The name "Easter" was derived from the Old English name "Eosturmonath" which was the name of the month in which Easter was celebrated. The name stuck. Personally, I prefer "Resurrection Sunday" instead of Easter, but that is another story for another day.

I encourage you to find a church family that offers you opportunities to remember, prepare for and reflect on this Season of Lent and Easter. I also strongly recommend that you be sure to find a church that believes in and teaches the authority of scripture and the centrality of Christ as the only Lord of heaven and earth. And, most importantly, be a part of a church that believes in and celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ every Easter Sunday...and everyday all year long! Why everyday? Because Christ followers are an "Easter People" as we owe everything to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ! This is why Christian's around the world gather to worship and celebrate every Sunday, because Sunday was the day of that first Easter when our Lord arose from the dead.

Happy Lent and Easter/ Resurrection Day to each of you!



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Fri. - 8:30 - Noon

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Support Group Meeting
 March 10 @ 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Frazer Church
 6000 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery
 Room 8114

Join our free support group meetings at 5:30pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are open to breast cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members, and friends. These meetings feature inspiring talks from survivors, doctors, and other experts. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who understand your journey.

Home Town Community News

Events - Local Celebrations

PIKE ROAD

Empty Bowls: Benefitting Summer Feeding Program

Mar 3rd. 5:30PM - 7:30PM
 Tickets \$25.00

Grace Episcopal Church: 906 Pike Road, AL 36064

As part of an ongoing effort to combat hunger in our community, Pike Road Emergency Response (P.R.A.Y.E.R.) Team will host the 2nd Annual Empty Bowls Benefit.

Every ticket purchased is a direct donation to the Summer Feeding Program. Each ticketholder gets their choice of a handmade bowl created by local artists from the Pike Road Art Council along with a meal of soup and bread.

Alchemy of Change Art Show

Mar 22nd - Apr 26th Art Show Viewing: Saturdays 10AM - 4PM
 Pike Road Arts Center
 944 Wallahatchie Road

Experience the mesmerizing presence of "ALCHEMY OF CHANGE" through nature, life and thought at Pike Road Art Council. Together with a talented group of local artists, Pike Road's Water House Gallery presents works that embody the transformation processes around us, from shifting seasons and evolving landscapes to the subtle shifts in mindset and practice.

Montgomery

Art Poster Contest

Montgomery is proud to join cities nationwide for #America250! In partnership with the U.S. Conference of Mayors & National Endowment for the Arts, we invite artists of all ages to design posters that honor Montgomery's past & inspire the future.

Celebrate the nation's semiquincentennial by telling Montgomery's story through art—open to artists of all ages and skill levels.

Show your talent. Share your pride. Shape the future.

Submission Deadline: March 22, 2026

Learn more and enter here:

<https://www.montgomeryal.gov/postercontest>

PRATTVILLE

Taste of Prattville

Saturday Mar 21st. 6:00PM
 Cultural Art Center: 203 West 4th Street, Prattville, AL 36067
 Phone: 335-595-0850

Enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and fun, along with an exclusive silent auction benefiting the Friends of the Arts. Proceeds from the auction will directly support our mission to provide accessible arts education and creative opportunities to our community. A portion of the proceeds from Taste of Prattville will be dedicated to funding a student arts scholarship, helping local students pursue further education and training in the arts.

Spinners Bunny Shop Hop

Saturday Mar 21st. 6:00PM
 Spinner Park, 390 W 6th St, Prattville, AL 36067

Bring the whole family out for a fun-filled spring event! 100+ craft & vendor booths, Food trucks, Kids' activities, Live music, Door prizes. Raffle drawing for a beautiful quilt throw by Spinners members. Free parking & No entry fee

WETUMPKA

Elmore County Celebrates America250 – Desirous of establishing permanent peace:

Alexander McGillivray,
 George Washington, and the Treaty of New York

Mar 15th. 2:30PM
 Elmore County Courthouse 100 E. Commerce St,
 Wetumpka, AL 36092
 Phone: 334-567-5097

Historian Alex Colvin presents Desirous of establishing permanent peace: Alexander McGillivray, George Washington, and the Treaty of New York. This Elmore County 250 program explores the influential Creek leader Alexander McGillivray, his negotiations with President George Washington, and the landmark 1790 Treaty of New York, which sought to establish peace between the young United States and the Creek Nation.



Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 17, 2026

- HELP WANTED - SEASONED Part/Full Time PAINTER NEEDED IMMEDIATELY

Are you a skilled and detail-oriented painter looking for a new challenge?



Do you have experience painting custom-built exhibits or displays?

Are you ready to work with creative teammates in a clean and well appointed studio environment?

Candidates should submit a letter of interest & work history to:

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anthonymassey210@gmail.com

or Call/Text: 951-209-6034



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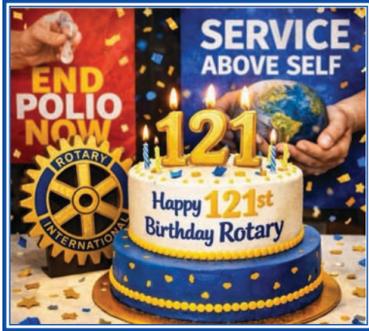


Articles submitted and shared from The Montgomery Rotary Club.



The COGnition

The Official Publication of the Montgomery Rotary Club
Glenn Halbrooks,



Rotary International Celebrated its 121st Anniversary with a Bang

Did you know that Rotary International provides over 1,000 Global grants (over 100 countries) annually while distributing over 500 District grants to help in local communities. Furthermore, Rotary's Disaster Relief fund helped in over 75 communities to get through floods, storms and earthquakes. These grants are directed in many areas which include, but not limited to, literacy, promoting peace, providing clean water, fighting diseases and growing local economies areas. Our signature project, Ending Polio, has reduced the number of cases to less than 1% and has eliminated polio in over 175 countries. We celebrate these victories while at the same time build networks and friendships in our local clubs.

Our local clubs include: Montgomery, Montgomery Sunrise, Montgomery Capitol, and over a dozen more within a 50 mile radius. Call 334-301-0597 for more information on how you can DO GOOD IN THE WORLD, and have FUN doing it.

35th Annual International Night



President Kimberly Baker and International Night Chairman Scott Rizer presented a check to Vicki Dendis (VP & International Spouses' Program Coordinator) for \$500 from The Montgomery Rotary Foundation.

The International Family Orientation Program helps foreign military families acclimate to the river region during their stay at Air University.



We had another successful Rotary International Night on Tuesday, Feb. 3rd! We had a great crowd with around 175 in attendance. The night was full of fun and fellowship! We enjoyed music by Terrence Baldwin... and dancing!

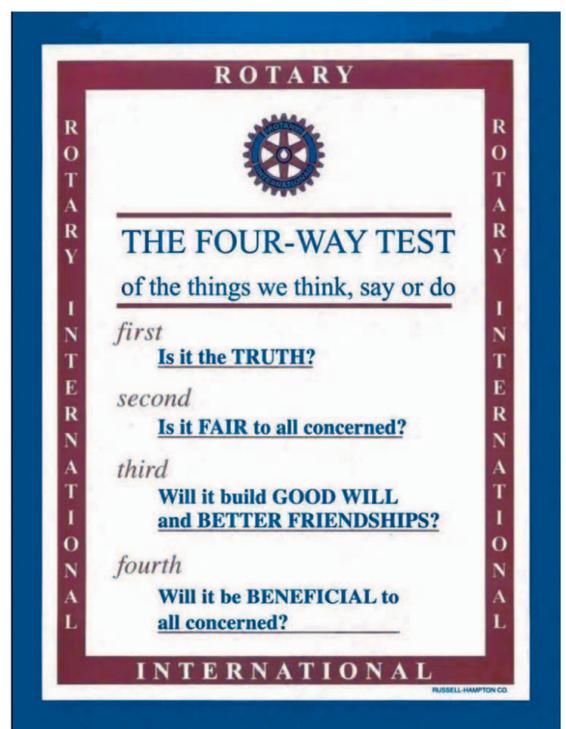


Rotarian Maitri Chandrasoma and his wife Vinny took a moment to pose with all their friends.

Three Montgomery Rotary Clubs Hosted a 60 Minute Coffee

On February 10th, the three Montgomery Rotary Clubs hosted a 60 Minute Coffee at the RSA Activity Center. The Montgomery, Montgomery Capital, and Montgomery Sunrise Clubs welcomed Chamber members and other guests to enjoy a light breakfast and hear from their respective club presidents about their clubs' efforts to improve the well-being of Montgomery.

What all Rotary Clubs have in common is the commitment to the Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, or do. If serving our community is something you are interested in and you identify with the Four-Way Test, consider attending a nearby Club meeting. Visitors are always welcome, and hopefully, the experience results in a new member.



Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club collects supplies for PAHS

Members of the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club recently conducted a supply drive to benefit the Prattville Autauga Humane Society (PAHS), reinforcing the club's commitment to service above self and community partnership.

The club collected and delivered essential items including pet food, cleaning supplies, and other necessities to assist PAHS in caring for animals currently housed at the shelter. Rotary members also met with PAHS staff to learn more about the organization's mission and ongoing needs.

The Prattville Autauga Humane Society serves as a vital resource for animal welfare in Autauga County and depends heavily on community support to continue its work.

To learn more about the Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club and its service projects, visit www.mgmsunriserotary.org or follow the club on Facebook.



Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club member David Dinger delivers donated supplies to the Prattville Autauga Humane Society in support of local animal welfare efforts.

JOIN A ROTARY CLUB NEAR YOU!

- **Prattville-Millbrook Sunrise**
3050 Lanark Road,
Millbrook, AL 36054
334-313-3160
<http://www.prattvillemillbrooksunriserotary.com>
- **RSA Alabama Activity Center**
201 Dexter Ave,
Montgomery, AL 36104
Meets Monday, 12:00
Two blocks west of State Capitol.
- **Senior Connection**
304 Park Plaza, Clanton,
AL 35045
Meets Wednesday, 12:00
205-755-7105
www.rotaryclubofchilton-county.org
- **Montgomery Capital**
Wynlakes Golf & Country Club
7900 Wynlakes Blvd,
Montgomery, AL 36117
Meets Thursday, 12:00
- **Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce**
1 Depot Square
Greenville, AL 36037
334-382-4201
Meets Thursday, 12:00