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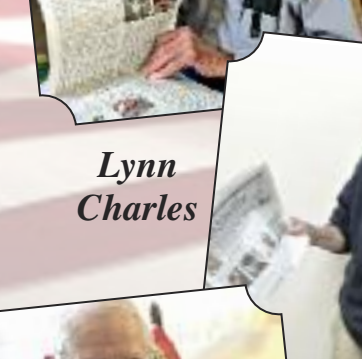
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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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Light Being Shown on Poarch Creek Gambling Casino Monopoly in the Heart of Dixie

Recently an organization was formed with the name, “**Poarch Creek Accountability Now.**” This nonprofit group is headed by former 40-year veteran State Senator Gerald Dial, who retired from the Alabama Senate in 2018.

The stated goal of this nonprofit group is to spread the true and accurate information about the Poarch Band of Creek Indians and their gaming revenue and expenditures. Dial says it is time to point out the unfairness of their operation. “They make billions upon billions in this state and pay zero in taxes,” said Dial. He said, and rightfully so, “that’s not right.”

Dial continued, “We just want to make sure that the general public is aware of the true facts about the Poarch Creek Indians. The PCI Gaming syndicate is using the vast revenues collected in Alabama on nontaxed gambling and using these Alabama dollars to purchase the Sands Casino in Pennsylvania for \$1.3 billion and then the Alabama tribe would begin a \$250 million renovation of their Pennsylvania Casino.”

Dial says that while the Alabama Tribe makes this out-of-state \$1.5 billion investment with Alabama money, the Pennsylvania casino will be taxed at a 16% onsite gaming fee and 54% of online profits.

It is no secret that during the past legislative session, the PCI lobbyists worked to kill a Lottery Bill that would have allowed Alabamians the right to vote on a lottery. It is good that Senator Dial and fair-minded Alabamians are shedding light on this unfair and some say un-American advantage and gravy train that the Poarch Creek casinos have acquired in our state. It is not only unfair, it is dangerous. The unimaginable profits being accumulated by these shadowy operations allow them to contribute large amounts of campaign money to legislative candidates, mostly incumbents, which in turn allows them to accumulate immense power politically. This is evidenced by their ability to kill Alabamian’s right to vote to have a simple lottery.

These Indian Casinos were created by the Abramnoff and Scanlan corruption scandal. Several years ago these two bagmen came to Washington with a Brinks truck full of money. Congressional testimony indicates that it came from Las Vegas as their way of spreading these casinos nationwide. Scanlan and Abramnoff went to jail, but the Indian casinos were granted asylum and

sanctified their once native lands to open casino gambling operations.

They took full advantage of those new federal laws here in Alabama. Most of the land in the state prior to our statehood was occupied by the Creek Indians. History reveals that our Creek Indians were done wrong. What Andrew Jackson “Ole Hickory” did to the Creek Indians in Alabama was inhumane to say the least, and most would call it a barbaric massacre. How those few who survived his sword made it to Oklahoma was a miracle.

However, the Creeks were not the only ones slaughtered by “Ole Hickory” during that time frame. As soon as he got through with the Creeks, he traversed down the Mississippi River and did it tenfold to the British Red Coats in New Orleans in 1812. There were very few survivors of Jackson’s savage victory over the British. He made sure that the Indians and the British knew that this was the land of some tough new American frontiersmen and they were led by one tough as nails, take no prisoners leader.

There are some folks with British ancestry who should be asking for some reparations after what Jackson did to their ancestors. The Creek Indians left in Alabama got their reparations from the Abramnoff/Scanlan Federal Deal. With that grant came some inherent federal protection from taxation along with their casinos. However, states like Alabama should not allow them to have a monopoly.

Let me give some legislators an idea on how to extract a little well-deserved penance from these greedy PCI gaming operations in the state. My guess is that the roads leading to their shiny, gold plated, gambling palaces are state roads. What would be wrong with making those roads toll roads and charge a \$100 fee to pass through to the casino and prohibit any other road being built parallel to our state toll road?

I bet that toll fee would give us the same amount of revenue as a lottery. You can bet your bottom dollar that Huey Long or Lyndon Johnson would take that approach to those arrogant, money grubbing, power mongering casinos.

October 30, 2019



Ronald A. Holtsford

follow his wife’s wishes because he just knew he would die if he did these documents, like sooner than later. Well the truth is you will die after doing the documents but your death will probably be later than sooner and those left behind will have more to deal with without proper legal preparation and your stuff may well not go to whom you intended. I did have a client that died the day after signing their legal documents; I must admit it shook me.

So who were Mrs. Trotter and Rod Poovey? I think there is less than a handful of people in Montgomery that know their names and most of them have my same last name. I grew up in north Alabama, so they were much better known there. When certain deaths trouble me I find solace in writing about them. Mrs. Trotter was able to live into her nineties and I recall when her mother, Mrs. Jones died that she too was in her nineties. Mrs. Trotter was truly a second Mom to me. My Mom and Mrs. Trotter I think were best friends who had met either when I was an infant or maybe before. At one point they lived up the street from us, within walking distance for a kid and after we moved the day after I finished seventh grade we moved up the street from the Trotter’s, but still within walking distance. Both families went to the same church and the parents were in a bridge club. You see, their boys, Howard and Charles were best friends to my brother Lex and me. We did everything imaginable together from hiking in the woods, building a log cabin, playing baseball (Little League as participants and G I Joe baseball while we controlled our popular toys as they took turns batting and running the bases), making movies (one of which we submitted to the Kodak Teenage Movie contest), shooting model rockets, playing golf, riding bikes and so many other things. It was so common in the 60’s and 70’s that moms looked after each other’s kids like it was a normal thing. Mrs. Trotter traded out with our Mom on rides to and from school and we knew we were always to thank her for the ride. Mrs. Trotter made me try her squash casserole; I would have whined and told my Mom “please, no” but I knew I couldn’t say that to Mrs. Trotter and you know what I liked it and I enjoy yellow squash a great deal thanks to her. As I got older she might meet my dates as my friend Howard Trotter and I dated two girls that were friends. Howard ended up marrying his beautiful girlfriend, Lynne and they have been blessed for many, many years. Peggy decided we should see other people after a short period so we both moved on. I was too dumb to completely understand the “we should see other people” thing as meaning she wasn’t very fond of me. After I got married and kids came, it was important to stop by and see the Trotters from time to time because they had that same interest in me, almost as strong as the love for their own boys and their families. There are many adult church friends that care for my wife and me and love our kids but it’s not the same as when Mr. and Mrs. Trotter were just up or down the street.

Rod Poovey was not an adult in my life but rather a guy I grew up with. We went through all schools together eventually graduating high school. As pre-teens we played on the same little league baseball team for two years. Rod was our number one pitcher. As a team we were not that talented and I don’t know that we won many games but we had fun. You see we were an “expansion team” up on the mountain in Gadsden. Most of us came from the Noccalula Civitans farm team and were some of the older boys on the team. The Fraternal Order of the Police (FOP) was kind enough to support the team. Back then we

Mrs. Trotter and Rod Poovey have died; a commentary



had real uniforms and FOP also supplied the bats and baseballs; our parents had less financial responsibility for sports in those days. Rod’s dad would often pitch batting practice and I always loved it because for some reason I could hit off of him better than the others. I understood many years later that Mr. Poovey died in some industrial type accident but by then Rod and I had long gone our separate ways. The last time I saw Rod was at a high school reunion fifteen years ago. It was good to see him and we talked for awhile. I understood he was working in some pastoral capacity following several years in sales. He invited me to sit with him but I politely declined since I had already met another friend there that I was going to sit with. We never did connect again after that and he was not at our last reunion. It is one of those moments that I regret not really having that longer talk that old friends have. I don’t know what caused his death; he was a pastor to the senior adults at his church in Tuscaloosa. Our high school class has probably lost close to 15% of our classmates. I expected us to grow up, get married and have children but we seem too young to be dying off. I’ll see Rod again one day in heaven. That conversation we might have had will no longer be important since earthly concerns will be no more. It will be good to see him.

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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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

A TRIBUTE TO: NINE-O-NINE

On 2 October of this year, I was in the Orange Theory Fitness facility getting ready to start a noon workout. Sitting there waiting for class to begin, I was reading through some of the current news feeds and something tragic caught my eye. As a pilot and former safety officer, anytime I see where an airplane has crashed, it gets my undivided attention. Then I saw that it was not just an ordinary airplane but a **World War II era B-17G Flying Fortress**, operated by the Collings Foundation out of Stow, Massachusetts. It crashed shortly after takeoff at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. That is an airport I have flown into dozens of times as a Delta pilot. My WWII aviation history side was crushed.

Details are still a bit sketchy and the NTSB has not yet released a final report but has issued just one initial report with some minor findings. On the aircraft, both pilots and 5 passengers were killed while six onboard and one person on the ground was injured. There will be more to follow as time passes on and I am not willing to guess or better yet, “second guess” what happened on that airplane.

For me, what is equally saddening is that in November of 2017, my wife and I had the opportunity to fly on this same airplane when it came to Montgomery’s Regional Airport. The pilot that day, **75-year-old Ernest McCauley**, was the same man who died in this accident. He was a very accomplished B-17 pilot with some 7,000 hours, more than anyone in history, on this aircraft type. It was an experience I will cherish for the rest of my life.

Back in 2010, I wrote the Robservation below about the time **Nine-O-Nine**, as her nose art depicted, came to Montgomery and my wife and I went out to see her. I want to share that now; a tribute to “Nine-O-Nine” and the men who died with her.



Photo by Robert Tate

"Nine-O-Nine in better days."

BEAUTY IS IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

I’ve been married to the same wonderful woman for over 25 years and am as blessed as any man can possibly be. Still, like any red-blooded American male, I remain appreciative of physical beauty. The world is full of it and I am not necessarily talking about Kate Beckensale running around as a vampire. (Okay, maybe a little) Although many a beauty will grab my attention from time to time, few succeed in keeping it.

I’m not sure if it is the way she looks standing alone in the distance or whether it is the way she confidently presents and carries herself. Strong and self-assured yet full of the soft, majestic lines every man likes to see. It is almost like the woman who walks into the room and acts as though she owns the place. People are unwittingly drawn to her like a moth to a flame. As I approached her the other day, my decades old initial reactions to her still proved to be correct. She, in her own way, remains indescribably stunning. She may not be as “pretty” as some younger “girls,” but none are more beckoning, proud and supremely confident as is she. When you saddle up next to her, the feel of her “skin” under your hand is intoxicating and her scent unforgettable. She, in effect, is what we call “the total package.” My wife knows of my obsession yet graciously puts up with it. “Bless his heart,” she thinks.

Now before you jump to conclusions, I am of course talking about the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. From 1-4 November, members of the Collings Foundation brought their B-17 “Nine-O-Nine”, their B-24 “Witchcraft”, and a P-51 Mustang to the Montgomery Regional Airport. This is an almost semi-annual event that I look forward to like a little kid on Christmas morning. Whenever I find out a B-17 (any B-17) is coming to town, I start planning my schedule to make sure I’m around so I can see her. Sometimes only a solitary B-17 will show up, other times more planes will come. It doesn’t really matter to me because the star of the show remains the same. Although I love the P-51 and

recognize it as arguably one of the two greatest fighter aircraft of all time, there are literally hundreds of those flying around. As for the B-24, although there are only two of those flying today, it is just not as pretty an airplane. The B-24 is the ugly puppy at the kennel that nobody sees. It is a good dog and a tireless workhorse that will serve its owner honorably but . . . it’s not a B-17.

The Boeing B-17. Made famous by movies like 12 O’clock High, The War Lover and Memphis Belle, out of the 12,731 B-17s built during the war, only 45 are left, of which 15 at any given time are airworthy. And yes I was fixin’ to crawl through one.

The tours began Monday afternoon at 1400. When my wife and I got to the airport at 1345, she could tell I was ready to burst. Across the fence from us stood “the other woman.” I started walking faster and faster, turning back to her urging her to “come on.” Going into the Montgomery Aviation main building which led to the ramp, she told me she had to first use the bathroom. I thought to myself, “Oy, now I have to wait another 3.27 minutes.”

Out of the building and into the clear blue sky, the only thing separating me from “Nine-O-Nine” was the beautiful silver P-51 and about 50 yards of open tarmac. After a brief discussion with several of the pilots, my prize was just a few heartbeats away. As I approached her I had to stop, marvel at her functional beauty and ponder her very existence. Why was she born at all? What was her real purpose? What was her role in helping to defend this great democratic republic we live in today? Do people realize she was just as deadly as she is beautiful? My mind could not help but wander to the dark days of WWII when Nazi Germany looked unstoppable and most of Europe was under her crushing Teutonic boot.

After WWI, aviation technology began to blossom in earnest. Many military theorists began to speculate that an enemy country could be defeated through aerial bombardment alone. To this end, many industrialized countries built bomber aircraft for that role. In the US, many bombers were built and to be honest, most of them stunk. It wasn’t until Boeing built the Model 299/ XB-17 in 1935 that the hallmark of a true thoroughbred was born. This machine matured rapidly and the newly coded YB-17 evolved through the B-17 E, F and culminated in the magnificent B-17G. Bristling with up to 13 .50 caliber machine guns, the B-17 wore her moniker “Flying Fortress” well. Worn torn and tested, the B-17 became the face of American airpower in WWII. It remains that face today.

When one stops to think of the contribution of the men who flew in this and other great airplanes over Europe during WWII, the numbers are truly staggering. During the war over Europe, American bombers dropped some 395,000 tons of bombs on Germany. In doing so, we lost 4,754 B-17s with their crews of 10 men and suffered a total of 174,238 casualties (deaths, PoWs, injuries). Few people realize the conditions in which these men had to fight their German counterparts. Flying in their unpressurized aircraft, at the altitudes they flew, the temperatures inside these bombers often dropped to -37 degrees. Men without hands, fingers, toes and noses, lost to frostbite, was a common sight on American bomber bases during the war.

When I watch shows on HBO like “The Pacific” or movies like “Flags of our Fathers” and “Letters From Iwo Jima,” I am reminded how brutal the war in the Pacific was and how hard the Marines had it. Not to demean the contributions of the Marines by any stretch, but few realize that although the Marines had 19,733 men killed, in the air war over Europe we lost 45,520 KIA. Some sources put Marine casualties at 31,986, 5.44 times less than that of the airmen. The battlefield in the skies over Europe was bloodier than the worst of Pacific battlefields.

I also often think about the young German pilots sent up daily to try and turn back the unstoppable American formations. One German pilot, Hans Phillip penned a letter four days before his death in October 1943 about attacking the American bombers. He wrote, “To fight against twenty Russians that want to have a bite of one, or also against Spitfires, is a joy. And one doesn’t know that life is not certain. But to curve into seventy Fortresses (B-17s) lets all the sins of one’s life pass before one’s eyes.”¹ A Luftwaffe pilot attacking a single Bomb Group of 21 B-17s, had to brave the defensive firepower of 273 machine guns. One German pilot wrote that attacking an American formation was like trying to have sex with a porcupine and not getting stuck.

It was with these and dozens of other thoughts that filled my mind as I approached this most magnificent and timeless of women. To look at her, to touch her and to smell her was to put me into the skies with those young men who fought, died and won the war so many years ago. I can only hope that groups like the Collings Foundation will continue to do what they do. They tour the entire country every year, bringing this living history for all of us to enjoy. The next time they come to Montgomery, I suggest as many of you as possible come out to see these magnificent machines. Although I doubt many will share the same visceral response to them as do I, you will nonetheless see them for the wonderful history they represent.

My wife and I went back out on Thursday to watch them take-off. When I was talking with a couple of the pilots, they told me how I could become a member of the foundation and get checked out as a pilot on the B-17 and B-24. When I retire from Delta (if not sooner) and have time to dedicate to this cause, I will certainly be sitting in the cockpit, also presenting this great history to our younger generation. So until the next time they grace the skies of Montgomery, fly safely and Hals und Beinbruch.

Have a Blessed and Safe Thanksgiving



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

John Sophocleus

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A Coward Dies a Thousand Deaths: I wish it were so few...



This month is the ten year anniversary of submitting my first *Alabama Gazette* column. It addressed eminent domain abuse; the infamous Kelo decision in the US Supreme Court and more specifically making a case for reparations to those like Mr. Williams (oft black landowners with insurmountable impediments to defend themselves in corrupt courts) who suffered wrongful takings in Alabama. Reflecting back it has been a ‘roller-coaster’ of highs/lows at our federal, local and State governments this past decade. DC Kabuki theatre displayed yet another high-watermark of moans, shrieks and shrills worthy of note these past weeks.

Pat Robertson’s assertion President Trump was losing his Heavenly mandate was most stomach churning as I imagined Jefferson increasing his gravely RPMs given his powerful opening in our *Declaration of Independence*. Doubtful Messrs. Robertson, Trump, et al type big govt. Republicrats were ever educated in this regard - more is the pity. Sadder still, men of this sort are looked upon by many as leaders while they aid and abet several scores of decay continuing to erode away our founders accomplishments who set us on a path to liberty. Champions of command and control [traditional] conservatism and modern liberalism find it effective to get the dumb masses distracted from Jefferson’s point and reason for stressing “*all men are created equal*” in explanation of what was driving colonists’ desire to separate from mother England. No doubt the crown would construe the course of human events in our Declaration as **treason** - a word more loosely bantered about in our modern history in spite of the clarity Article 3, Section 3 of our Constitution provides to grammatically correct readers over our politically correct hacks who usually carry the day.

I consider Jefferson’s pen one of the most courageous of the 18th century - imagine speaking Truth to an earthly king that to the Creator you are equal to your subjects! Has there **ever** been a more effective specific case made **against** ‘*divine right*’ and monarchical tyranny? Harrington wrote, “*Treason doth never prosper - what’s the reason? For it prospers, none dare call it treason.*” We’re so far afield from the designed path of the Constitution and so accepting of actual Treason [acts of war against a member nation state(s) in the coalition] anyone evoking divine authority over adherence to the ruling document isn’t considered alarming today. A document politicians took an oath to uphold and defend to attenuate abuse of power conferred upon them [their office/position] by the people of each State. Those who most cunningly and fervently evoke divinity oft are the most abusive and appear least worried of the Creator’s discipline. Listen more carefully how DJT asserts his rights instead of the authority of the office he’s abusing.

Not to be overshadowed as a reality Kabuki TV star, Rep. Terri Sewell’s input on the hearings to consider impeachment were on par with Pat Robertson’s rhetoric. She even caught my bride’s ear who matter of factly said, “*That person sounds so angry and mean - she must be an unhappy person.*” At first, I couldn’t believe she failed to recall what this despicable public servant did to us. It is the most angry I’ve ever got at a female which evoked strong instruction in my youth from my gentleman earthly father to restrain getting physical and let her words and poor demeanor and spirit speak for itself. Much like big govt. Democrat Trump (most think different now ‘donning’ the Republican moniker; furthermore I do not find Trump a racist - he genuinely doesn’t care the colour, creed, culture, etc. of those he manipulates and takes from) public servant Sewell also has complete disregard for fundamental civil rights - esp. life, liberty and property.

Also Trump-like, Sewell has a foul mouth - saying my unflappable bride “*can’t remember s@#t*” when she wouldn’t agree to remembering the falsehoods public servant Sewell was trying to lead her into affirming. While similarly (poorly) trained to not understand/ignore the importance of uniformly applying ‘all are created equal’ as the Robertson crowd, Rep. Sewell is more cunning than Trump using political rhetoric to accomplish her desired ends and cloak her avarice. Sewell is just as comfortable as Trump wrongfully taking from productive citizens for her desired redistributions.

Sewell has been as absent as most politburo thugs in getting justice for Williams and other victims of eminent domain abuse in Alabama, but would show in a “New York Minute” if it could be used (like Doug Jones) to advance vote totals toward the desired duopoly result on election day(s). Elections more easily than ever rigged with increased population and the 435 limit, restrictive ballot access laws, etc. More to the point Sewell would not likely win her Congressional seat where she resides if Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution (one US Rep. for every **30,000**, round-up) were followed allowing many more US House Reps. who may actually understand, care about and fight for our civil rights. Similarly, if we had some competition instead of more rigged Clinton/Trump choices, our nation may get back on a path toward liberty. Again, Sewell and Trump types have no problem stealing from productive citizens (perhaps in their hearts they know they can’t compete in a non-rigged environment) but show themselves as Kabuki stars when the theatre decides who gets the political theft.

Sewell’s demeanor conjured the 20th Anniversary of bringing the worst year of my life to a close when the governments, mostly federal (80% or 90%, never did get an answer in court) finally paid \$145,000 ending almost a year of homelessness, November 1999. Not that public servants like Butts, Dean, Dial, Dubina, Hubbard, King, Little, Meadows, Riley, Roberts, Rogers, Sewell, Shelby, Siegelman, H. Smith, Thompson, et al care about civil rights except as rhetoric to advance their own interest, it was nonetheless amazing to watch ‘*good Democrats*’ like Dial, Little, Sewell and Warren work hand in glove protecting Butts, Hubbard (some even at Felon Mike’s jury selection) Riley and Roberts. I unchambered the round from my M-14 deciding (wrongly it seems to some in retrospect) to give the courts a chance instead of opening fire on the large bulldozer putting me in fear of my life (until I pointed the weapon and

stopped forward motion) for standing my ground, placing the round next to the bible my mother gave me before leaving Baltimore. I would rather die than re-live November 1998 to 1999.

Words can’t convey how crushing it is to feel a failure as a husband losing a home (paid off in 1995) and putting the person I hold most dear through such an ordeal. It did make our bond and bond to God much stronger, even more so when we refused handsome settlement offers after winning so many times before righteous jurists over the years. We wanted the issue made clear in the courts for those not blessed with wealth, family, friends, etc. to weather such tyranny. Some things never fade. The back-up ‘beep’ of heavy machinery still puts me in a panic to grab my M-14... Other things attenuate. No longer teaching



I don’t have to suffer the expense, time and stress to travel into an increasingly unsafe town (safety not a priority over desired wealth transfers to politically connected contracts) to continue that charity I hold dear. Some think it foolish I’ve foregone so much in earnings (which would further feed the beast with income taxes?) to be a lowly educator. The harm done with revenue I generate for governments is very hard to overcome with my charitable efforts, but that’s fodder for another column.

In retrospect I do fear God’s judgment on not opening fire that day. Shakespeare wrote, “*A coward dies a thousand times before his death, but the valiant taste of death but once.*” When the US Supreme Court (some say Kagan or Sotomayer given the case number assignment) shown it would not rule a **second** time, where nothing changed after winning unanimously in 2005... rarely a day passed where I didn’t find myself a coward and wondered if I could do so again if/when violated the next time. Certain Jesus knew the slim probability Annas, Caiaphas, Herod, Pilate, et al would do right, He nonetheless trod the righteous path to give these souls the opportunity to save themselves. I have little doubt how Dubina, English, Ivey, Jones, Rogers, Sewell, Shelby et al along with the current SCotUS will act in the future. Would another chance be a rare time they reject evil? - or am I further aiding and abetting evil by not fighting as instructed is my duty in the *Declaration of Independence*?

Looking back even I consider myself foolish to think I’d win against demons so greatly accepted and even promoted by those many claim godly men. I thought winning would earn me standing as a good earthly husband and father worthy of shepherding children to follow Jesus’ path to God through this world. I spent more effort, money and time in the courts trying to secure these fundamental civil rights than most raising a child. Now I’m drawn to Luke Chapter 23 text where Jesus said to the Daughters of Jerusalem, “*weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children. For, behold, the days are coming, in which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bare, and the paps which never gave suck. Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.*”

God’s wisdom. He knew I could withstand the despair of losing to evil in my duty to shepherd our politburo members to do right; He knew I was too weak to watch my children endure it. I still experience joy remembering the jurists who did right (Judges Nix, Jake & Susan Walker, the unanimous 2005 SCotUS) my amazing attorneys, friends, family, those who armed themselves to house sit while we were under siege and took time to write sound affidavits. Hard to imagine anyone on earth who suffered more than Mary watching Jesus destroyed by the corrupt clergy and governments of Tiberius’ day; I ask all who suffered watching me so poorly (in every way) address this episode to forgive me. The wrongdoing was clear and easy for those who wanted to follow the law to correct. Next time a better man may prevail.

In closing, I pray those who understand the dark days coming guard against despair, one of Satan’s most effective weapons to remove the righteous among our youth. Suicide statistics for Alabama - esp. among those who serve(d) is alarming. Students who were former military (those taken from the best of health destroyed by our own arms and medicine appear most troubled) seem most vulnerable as they discover what they thought they were fighting for has little resemblance of what the document they swore an oath to uphold and defend requires. God does not want you to take your life but to stand well against the despicable public servants (from AOC and McConnell to Sewell and Trump) destroying our lives. Do not give the corrupt an easy way out to not account for the greater cost and consequences of their actions; fight all you can muster to reduce even one from suffering a similar fate.





The Education Station...

By Bobbie Ames

**“THE LORD HATH DONE GREAT THINGS FOR US;
WHEREOF WE ARE GLAD.”** Psalms 126:3

Individual religious liberty in practice...

The tragic lessons of History will be repeated if History is removed from a nation's memory, as it has been for several generations. America’s Christian History was replaced by Social Studies in public schools nearly a century ago. How many adults know what sacrifice and triumph brought about our uniquely American Holiday tradition of Thanksgiving?

Through brief bits of the story here, let's look at this American legacy, our own American heritage, and embrace it for a true Thanksgiving celebration this year. Go back with me to the Pilgrim Fathers of 1620, who embarked on the adventure of colony planting, with no experience, and no skills for the task, only seeking freedom of worship and self-government.

Picture the wild land and the wild sea, the bitter cold winter of 1620, and the illnesses which cost them half of their lives the first year. **The contract with the mercenary shareholders who funded the “adventure”, required them to practice Communism in labor and supply, denying them private property rights and other incentives.**

If communism would ever work, it would have worked for this colony, where people were deeply religious and loved one another, as well as having a work ethic.

Governor William Bradford took over the leadership of the colony upon the death of Governor Carver in the first year. Bradford ruled almost continually for thirty seven years, until his death. His literary gift has left us a detailed and documented history that is a treasure for every lover of History, and every seeker of Truth. **The lesson of the Pilgrims rejecting Communism can be valuable today and help us to come against another similar “Pernicious System,” as they called it. That system is strong in our post modern world today.**

After abiding by the terms of their contract for two years, seeing that communism had brought the colony to the verge of ruin, Governor Bradford “had the courage to cut the knot he could not untie.” He divided the land among the families, and placed every single person in a family unit. Attitudes changed. Now, mothers with children would go willingly in the fields to help their husbands. Wives were pleased to wash the clothing of their family rather than collectively. Working their own field, laboring together as a family brought peace and incentive, and Bradford wrote: “any general want or suffering hath not been among us since to this day.” Every adult shared in the responsibility to pay the just debts, through private ownership and free enterprise, which brought into being a successful and profitable fur trade. Commerce, industry and brotherly love combined for success.

Yes, abolishing communism may have been a violation of the contract, but Governor Bradford saw that the system was pernicious (destructive) and the colony had a life and death struggle for survival. He made a defining decision and Free Enterprise was instituted.

Why do we remember this little colony, with never more than a few thousand people? God's Providence shown in their story is dramatic. In their own words, they prayed to be “stepping stones for others” to migrate, and indeed they were. They were the forerunners of the great Puritan migration of the 1630s.

When the Mayflower ship returned to England, not one Pilgrim was aboard. ***That little band of believers had introduced a new powerful force on this continent – that of individual religious liberty in practice.*** Unable to reform the Church of England, now they could walk with God, raise their families in a church congregation guided by God’s Word alone, not by the King and not by the Civil Magistrate.

“The glories of Christianity are to be traced in the sufferings of confessors and martyrs of the 16th and 17th Centuries; and it was under the influence of Christian principles, imbibed at this very period, that the Mayflower brought over the band of Pilgrims to Plymouth....We should never forget that the prison, the scaffold, and the stake were stages in the march of civil and religious liberty which our forefathers had to travel, in order that we might obtain our present liberty.....”

“Before our children remove their religious connections.....before they leave the old paths of God's Word.....before they barter their birthright for a mess of pottage...let us place in their hands the chronicle of the glorious days of the suffering Churches, and let them know that they are the sons of the men 'of whom the world was not worthy' and 'whose sufferings for conscience sake' are here monumentally recorded.”

John Overton Choules, August 12, 1843.

Preface to the 1844 reprint of Neal’s “History of the Puritans,” 1731 The Christian History of the Constitution, FACE, 1966

On that simple First Thanksgiving, one dynamic rises above all others. This small group of survivors labored to bring Glory to God for His Providence. They had survived hunger, disease, native attacks, unreasonable demands of their shareholders, the death of spouses, children, and best friends. Living in a wilderness they were utterly dependant and faithfully relying on

God to sustain them. They rejoiced in freedom of worship and in the civil liberty of Christian self-government. They had been successful in establishing a covenant relationship with their Indian neighbors, who were present at the First Thanksgiving. **Can you not see the Hand of God using those first seeds, which brought forth for us: Individual Liberty of Conscience, Christian self-government, and ultimately a Christian Constitutional Republic. May it be restored today.**



A Day of Thanksgiving has been a continuing tradition in our nation. The Journals of the Continental Congress record a Proclamation by the United States Congress assembled on Saturday, October 18, 1783. These words are a portion of that proclamation:

“Whereas it has pleased the Supreme Ruler of all human events, to dispose the hearts of the later belligerent powers to put a period to the effusion of human blood, by proclaiming a cessation of all hostilities by sea and land, and these United States are not only happily rescued from the dangers and calamities to which they have been so long exposed, but their freedom, sovereignty and independence ultimately acknowledged.....The interposition of Divine Providence in our favor has been most abundantly and most graciously manifested, and the citizens of these United States have every reason for praise and gratitude to the God of their Salvation. Impressed therefore, with an exalted sense of the blessings by which we are surrounded, and of our entire dependence on that Almighty Being, from whose goodness and bounty they are derived, the United States in Congress assembled, to set apart the second Thursday in December next, as a day of public Thanksgiving, that all the people may then assemble to celebrate with grateful hearts and united voices, the praises of their Supreme and all bountiful Benefactor, for His numberless favors and mercies.”

The Proclamation further leads in offering prayers for forgiveness, for wisdom to be granted, for prosperity for every good work, for peace for the nations, for blessings in the labors of the people, for commerce and navigation, for education and for the seminaries and all means of education, for true religion to flourish, and that the world be filled with His Glory. October 18th, 1783.

John Hancock, Governor of Massachusetts, called for a Day of Thanksgiving established in a proclamation dated November 8, 1783. In his proclamation, he praises the Lord for the “Unanimity and Resolution to adhere to our just Rights....” He refers to God as “our powerful Ally to assist us in supporting” those Just Rights. He pleads to continue "in the light of the Blessed Gospel, and secure for us, to the fullest Extent, the Rights of Conscience in Faith and Worship." And so much more is in his proclamation. We see pure Biblical Christianity strong here, and in the virtue of the character of these founders.

This Thanksgiving season, as a family and as a blessed nation, let us have a true celebration of praise and thankfulness to The Lord Who has done so great things for us.

Let me urge readers to go to the website (FACE.Net) of the Foundation for American Christian Education, Chesapeake, Va. and learn of their publications on America's Christian History. Also, they publish the **Webster's 1828 Dictionary** of the English Language, **which is the language of liberty.**

*The Source for these Proclamations: **The Bible and The Constitution**, published by FACE.*

More information is available through the writer of this column, Mrs. Bobbie Ames, bobbiehames@gmail.com

The Mayflower Compact (1620)

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereigne Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britaine, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northerne parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civill body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enacte, constitute, and frame such just and equall laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meete and convenient for the generall good of the Colonie unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Codd the 11. of November, in the year of the raigne of our sovereigne lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fiftie-fourth. Anno Dom. 1620.



The signing of the Mayflower Compact

John Carver
Edward Tilley
Degory Priest
William Bradford
John Tilley
Thomas Williams
Edward Winslow

Francis Cooke
Gilbert Winslow
William Brewster
Thomas Rogers
Edmund Margeson
Issac Allerton
Thomas Tinker

Peter Browne
Myles Standish
John Rigdale
Richard Britteridge
John Alden
Edward Fuller
George Soule

Samuel Fuller
John Turner
Richard Clarke
Christopher Martin
Francis Eaton
Richard Gardiner
William Mullins

James Chilton
John Allerton
William White
John Crackston
Thomas English
Richard Warren
John Billington

Edward Dotey
John Howland
Moses Fletcher
Edward Leister
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Community
Lifestyles





Honoring Our Heros

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Thomas Daniel Davis ~ 99

Thomas Daniel Davis is a 99 year-old United States veteran who completed 30 years of military service in two branches, namely, the U. S. Navy for 10 years and the U. S. Marine Corps for 20 years. He served in three wars including WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War with multiple tours to Japan, Korea and Vietnam. Davis received the following medals: sixty Good Conduct Medals with Two Stars, the Vietnam Service Medal with Two Stars, the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device, the National Defense Service Medal with One Star and the WWII Victory Medal.



Davis was born in the Hayneville area of Lowndes County, AL, a rural, low socio-economic area. Having lost his mother at the age of 10, he attended school at Wetumpka, AL, completing the eighth grade there. Davis also received training in vocational agriculture at Tuskegee Institute one summer returning to Montgomery to live with his brother.

In 1939, Davis volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy at the age of 19 after being influenced by an employee at the A.& P. Grocery Store where he was working. He went to the Navy's Boot Camp at Norfolk, VA, where he was trained in food services which he worked in his entire military service. He was sent to San Diego and then to Pearl Harbor on the USS Whitney (AD-4), a Dobbin class destroyer used in repairing other Navy ships. The ship was amid a flotilla of destroyers when the Japanese attacked, but it was undamaged during

the attack. Davis was on this ship at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, when the Japanese bombed there. Although his ship was not in the area where ships used in combat were anchored, he recalls seeing the carnage of the destroyed ships. He recalls actually seeing a bomb hit the USS Arizona’s stack exploding the ship in half.

Davis changed branches of service from the U. S. Navy to the U. S. Marine Corps because the Marines begin to allow African-Americans to have opportunities of serving in a variety of areas. After Pearl Harbor, Davis was sent to San Diego and put on a troop transport ship to the Pacific Theater where first-line Marines invaded the Japanese controlled Pacific islands including Guadalcanal. Davis states, “When you see the landing ships carrying Marines and see Marines dying every day in the waters, it’s something to see. I never want to see it again.” He was transferred to Treasure Island in San Francisco followed by an assignment at the Naval gun plant in Pocatello, ID.

In 1950, during the Korean War, he was shipped to Seoul, Korea ,where he had military police duty chasing drunken sailors off the streets and making sure that they returned to their barracks on time. Next came assignments at San Diego, CA, Cherry Point, N.C. and then to Vietnam. He volunteered for service in Vietnam because he wanted to earn and receive his last stripe which he did receive retiring at the rank of E-8 Master Sergeant. When asked by his military friends why he would risk injury by going to Vietnam, Davis told them, “If I survived Pearl Harbor and Korea, I can do Vietnam and a lot more!”

After retiring from military service, he lived in Orange County, CA. He worked in a catering business running it for its owner at Laguna Beach, CA, for three years. He worked in security for apartments for five years. Davis has one son from a previous marriage, and he has been married to Lula Davis for 39 years. He has two step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren. He returned to AL to care for his older brother who was experiencing severe health issues. He and Lula have enjoyed going to their time-share at Orange Beach, AL, and traveling to Hawaii, Canada and Mexico.

Davis’ conclusions about his military service are, "I was able to see places that I would not have gone to and to meet people that I would not have met. It changed my whole world and my dependence on God. When I talk to young people, I tell them to join the military because that's the best way out of life. When you get a job, the first thing that they ask you about is your military service. You may not make it a career, but you may like it." When younger people ask him how he stays so slim, he advises them saying, "Watch what you eat. Push the beer bottles back and go to the gym five days a week." Today Davis expresses thankfulness for having escaped injury or death saying, “I thank God that He spared me through those wars without a scratch. I am truly blessed by Him.”

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By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heros

Carl William Edwards ~ 95

Carl William Edwards is a 95 year-old veteran who served during WWII, the Korean War and later for a total of 20 years including the U. S. Navy, the U.S. Navy Reserve and the U. S. Air Force Reserve. His tours of duty in the Navy were on the USS Sepulga AO-20 (1942-1945) a fleet oiler during WWII, USS Holder DD-819 (1946-1948) a Gearing-class destroyer, and on the USS Delta AR-9 (1950-1952), a San Diego based repair ship during the Korean War. In 2012, Edwards was awarded the United Daughters of the Confederacy’s WWII Southern Cross of Honor Medal by the Jefferson Davis Chapter of Mobile, Alabama. Edwards’ niece proved lineage through his grandfather who served as a Confederate soldier.



Edwards was born to his parents, John and Frances Haynie Edwards, October 16, 1924, in Montgomery, AL, where he was educated until he volunteered to serve in the Navy at age 17 in 1942. He completed Boot Camp with the Navy in San Diego. He advanced from the rank of Navy seaman to Chief Quartermaster. Edwards trained in the field of Chief Quartermaster which consisted of visual communication, navigation, and ship supervision. Edwards stepped aboard the USS Sepulga on August 12, 1942. While stationed aboard the USS Sepulga during WWII, assignments carried him through the Panama Canal area to the Southeastern Pacific taking part in establishing the first remote fueling station since the outbreak of hostilities located at Bora Bora in the Society Islands. Then he headed north to the Aleutians, St. Paul’s Harbor at Kodiak and Dutch Harbor at Unalaska. His ship returned to San Pedro to pick up another load of oil and filled the cargo hold with dynamite. The USS Sepulga then steamed alone to the South-Central Pacific for 25 continuous months of a South-Pacific island-hopping cruise. First, he went to

Funifuti in the Ellice Islands, then to Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands where he experienced the first baptism of enemy fire during the air raids still in progress by the Japanese Air Force. Edwards witnessed the sinking of vessels by Japanese Kamikazes. Returning to Funifuti for a short period, he then preceded to Kwajalein and Eniwetok Atoll’s in the Marshall Islands and finally to the Ulithi Atoll in the Caroline Islands which eventually became the largest Naval anchorage in the world for a short period of time. His ship was engaged in following and keeping the U. S. Navy’s fleet supplied with fuel, diesel and lubricating oils, fresh water, fueling supplies, plus handling spent brass shell’s from the ships of the line that his ship refilled, and then his ship was sent back to the States for re-arming. Edwards’ Navy service also involved assignments in the European area and the Middle East. While stationed aboard the USS Holder, Edwards sailed to the Mediterranean Sea providing protection to Italy from the Yugoslavian military forces. Afterward, trips were made to Egypt, Saudi Arabia as well as the Caribbean Sea. While stationed aboard the USS Delta at the end of the Korean Conflict, Edwards, a former Holtville High School athlete, set the pace for his baseball squad in the Naval District West Coast League. As a left-handed pitcher, he would swing from the right at the plate, and he gained quite a reputation playing outfield, first base and pitcher. He accounted for the most runs batted in for the team with a .388 batting average and was tabbed by an mid-west scout as a potential big-timer. After graduation from Holtville High School in Elmore County, AL, he attended Auburn University for one year. He and his wife, Betty Ann Cobb, were married 68 years before she passed, and they had two children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The Edwards family has been a member of Millbrook United Methodist Church since 1950. While serving in the Navy Reserve, Edwards began working as a civil service employee at Maxwell Air Force Base in the vehicle department driving trucks, then working in the print shop and finishing his career with the postal service which required him to have Secret Service Clearance. During his time with the postal service, he represented the 3rd Air Postal Flight, a Maxwell AFB Reserve unit, on the longest training deployment of any reserve unit in Continental Air Command being airlifted to Tachikawa AB, Japan. Edwards retired from the Air Force as Master Sergeant. After military and Civil Service retirement, he went to work for the City of Montgomery as a supervisor in the maintenance department working 10 years. Since retirement in 1993, Edwards even today is an avid fisherman enjoying fishing on Lake Jordan and Lake Martin, quail hunting, watching baseball games and completing Sudoku puzzles. His favorite saying, "If we meet, and you forget me, you've lost nothing. If you meet Jesus Christ and forget him, you've lost everything". Edwards reflects upon his military service saying, “I think that I did what I was supposed to do. Serving in the Navy was a learning process, and until then, I had not been anywhere.”



Donald Charles King ~ 85

Donald Charles King served in the United States Air Force for four years. He volunteered for service completing basic training at Lackland A.F.B., CA, followed by a transfer to Kessler A.F.B., Biloxi, MS, where he trained as an



airborne radio repairman followed by three tours to the Ernest Harman A.F.B. in Labrador. He did repairs on airborne radios for the TC97, and the B47 aircraft

at the Lake Charles Air Force Station, LA. King advanced to the rank of Staff Sergeant in 38 months and was head of the Radio & Radar Shop. Instead of reenlisting, he used the G.I. Bill to earn a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University. King worked 25 years in New Orleans, LA, working on power-generator systems for petro-chem plants and off-shore drilling companies in the Gulf of Mexico. He then moved to Mobile, AL, doing electrical consulting. Hurricane Katrina wiped out one of his projects causing a submersible platform to hit a bridge. He had professional electrical engineering assignments in Nigeria, Mexico, El Salvador, Bahamas and Canada from 1962 to 2008. King was born in Madison, WI, February 21, 1935, to his parents, Charles and Lavona. He graduated from Wonewoc High School, and he worked at Rockford, IL, where he worked a boring mill on heavy machinery for one year before volunteering for enlistment. He and his wife, Connie, had two sons, one daughter and five grandchildren. They enjoyed touring the country as “rock hounds” looking for semi-precious stones that could be cut. They went deep sea fishing and shrimping near New Orleans as well as water skiing. They traveled to Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean, but they loved Orange Beach, AL. King’s conclusions about his life are, “I grew up on a dairy farm, went into the service and finished college. My time in the military was spent in air borne radio repair. My wife and I reared all four children who earned advanced degrees. I enjoyed being in the military, and I got to travel a lot. I made a lot of lifetime friends in the military, but I was happy to retire.”



Herman Leroy Naron ~ 83

Herman Leroy Naron served three deployments as an Administration Airman in the United States Air Force. Herman was born near Midway, AK, September 5, 1936, to his parents, Claud and Linnie Naron. His father was a sharecropper



in rural AK, and as Herman graduated from Drew Central High School in Monticello he realized that he did not want a life of working in the fields. He therefore joined the U. S. Air Force in 1957 completing his basic training at Lackland A.F.B. TX, and subsequently attended a technical school there where he excelled on a linguistics aptitude test. As a result, Herman was selected to

attend a Russian language school in Monterey, California, after which he was sent to Hof, Germany, where he served with a unit that worked with his language specialty and translated the intercepted words of Russian pilots flying MIGS in the area. Herman was then sent to Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. to expand his language training to include German after which he was sent back to Hof where he continued translating enemy messages and where he then met and married Karin Walli Rosa Naron (Prediger) in Vienna, Austria in 1963. In 1965, Herman was transferred to Sheppard A.F.B. in Texas, and he was deployed to Vietnam for one year where he planned and executed R&R (Rest and Recuperation) trips for the soldiers who were stationed with him. He received the Vietnam Service Medal for his service and was sent back to Germany with his family. He was stationed at the Wasserkuppe A.F.B. monitoring radar for U.S. troop movement and then at Sembach A.F.B. where he served in General Administration. Then, in 1973, Herman was transferred to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL for his final assignment working for the Air War College. Herman retired from the Air Force in 1977 and always remarked that “serving my country meant a lot to me.” Following retirement, Herman decided to further his education using the G.I. Bill, during which time he worked during the day for the Veterans Administration and studied at night toward his Business Degree in Business Administration with an Accounting major. Following his graduation and until his final retirement in 1995, Herman worked as an accountant at American Sterilizer in Montgomery. Herman and his wife, Karin, had two daughters and two grandchildren with whom he enjoyed spending time once he retired. He also enjoyed playing golf, bridge and travelling.

Harry Ural Jackson, Jr. ~ 93

Harry Ural Jackson, Jr. is a WWII Navy veteran who served on a submarine chaser three weeks off the coast of Normandy during and after the D-Day landing. Jackson was awarded the following combat ribbons and medals: American Theater of War, European Theater of War with One Battle Star for Normandy Invasion, Asian Theater of War, China Service and Victory Medal.



Jackson was born November 22, 1925, in Baconton, GA, to his parents, Harry and Carrie Jackson, living there until age 14 when his family moved to Cuthbert, GA, where he finished high school. In 1943 on his 18th birthday, he volunteered and enlisted in the U. S. Navy. Jackson's eight weeks at Boot Camp were at the U. S. Naval Station at Great Lakes, IL. He was selected for duty on a submarine chaser and sent to Key West, FL, for six weeks for sonar school to learn to detect under water vessels graduating at the rank of Third Class Petty Officer.

Jackson was assigned to the U.S.S. Submarine Chaser 1330 at Mayport, FL, to operate the sonar detection equipment, and then the ship and crew went to the Navy Yard at Brooklyn, N.Y. where the vessel was prepared for combat. As the crew boarded the USS Amsterdam for a five day voyage to the port at the mouth of the River Firth, near Glasgow, Scotland, each was given an American Red Cross comfort kit in a cloth bag tied with a drawstring containing a toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, razor blades and a Gideon Bible. The crew remained for a week at the English Navy base traveling by train to Liverpool, England to board his sub chaser. For five days, his sub chaser was anchored in Dartmouth Harbor, Dartmouth, England, waiting for the invasion in Europe to begin, and on June 3, 1944, the roads leading down to the ferry landing on both sides of the Dart River were lined with tanks and trucks waiting to drive into the Landing Ship Tanks (LST), the vessels used to support amphibious operations to carry tanks, vessels, cargo and landing troops directly on to shore where no docks or piers were available.

On June 5th, just before the sub chaser's captain ordered the ship to set special sea detail and prepare to get underway, the captain said, "At ease. Uncover." The crew relaxed a little, removed their hats and listened as the captain read the 23rd Psalm from the Bible and led them in the Lord's Prayer. At 17:45 hours, the sub chaser cast off and proceeded out of the harbor to sea moving into the English Channel. The assignment was to take a position on the starboard flank to lead a convoy of a double row of Landing Craft Infantry (LCI's), the amphibious assault ships used to transport large numbers of infantry on to beaches. The sub chaser was headed to Normandy for the invasion. Although Jackson was afraid, he had a feeling that he was going to make it back as he remembers recalling the Bible's words, "I will fear no evil for thou art with me." All during the night of June 4th and the early morning of June 5th, Jackson's battle station's assignment was to monitor the sonar and radar watching for German submarines, U-boats, alternating every half hour with another technician to ensure top efficiency.

At daybreak on D-Day, the crew could see the hills of the French shoreline. The first ships encountered were six American PT boats returning rapidly from a mission on the Normandy shore heading back to England. At 0550 hours, Jackson recalls that three American battleships, several cruisers and many destroyers began firing their guns at the beaches and Pointe du Hoc, a 100 ft. cliff overlooking the English Channel on the coast of Normandy. As the bombardment ended, landing craft with the troops and some tanks headed onto the beaches to go ashore at 0630 hour. Jackson's sub chaser was assigned to guide LCT's carrying tanks onto Green Beach at Utah Beach.

Jackson's combat experience included seeing ships being destroyed and Americans being killed. He witnessed the sinking of the LCT 777 which had hit a mine leaving the water full of dead and wounded men and four Army tanks. Jackson states, "I was not prepared for this sight of the dead and dying and the sound of the cries for help almost got me. My knees buckled, and I would have fallen had I not reached the lifeline that runs around the deck. After a couple of

seconds, my training took over, and I reached for a life ring with rope attached and threw it to a soldier on the port side of the ship. He failed to grab it, and I stood helplessly as I watched him slowly sink below the surface with his eyes still open looking at me." Jackson was successful in rescuing another soldier by throwing out the life ring. According to the ship's log, by 0955 hours, nine survivors had been taken aboard, and at 1100 hours, survivors were discharged onto the U.S.S. Dickman. At 2245 hours, the last entry for D Day read, "Dropped starboard anchor in 12 fathoms off Utah Beach, Normandy, France. Let out 52 fathoms of chain."

Although the Longest Day was over, Jackson's service at Normandy did not stop there. Jackson's sub chaser remained off the beaches of Normandy for 21 days. His vessel responded to Red Alert whenever German planes came at night to drop mines, which were the greatest danger for his ship. He could see the searchlights from the larger ships weaving back and forth across the dark sky, hear the 5" anti-aircraft shells exploding and see the streams of tracer bullets from the smaller guns climbing into the clouds. Looking up into all of that din, fury and death, Jackson whispered, "Lord, are you up there tonight, too?"

Finally, orders were received to leave the Normandy shores. On June 26th his sub chaser was assigned to screen a convoy going back to England, and it sailed back to the Dartmouth Harbor on the Dartmouth River. The crew was given a three-day leave. Before going on leave, Jackson chose to go off by himself, rowing in the ship's dinghy, a small lifeboat, up the Dart River finding peace, quiet and solitude that he desperately needed above the tidewater in a scenic place with willows on each side. There he recalled the words from Psalms 23, "He restoreth my soul." His ship continued service patrolling near Cherbourg, France, until December, 1944.

Jackson's Phase One service in WWII concluded when he sailed on the passenger liner, the Queen Elizabeth, along with 2000 other G.I.'s going home. He recalls sailing up the East River towards N.Y.C. passing the Statue of Liberty. Jackson states, "I looked up at that great monument, and it was blurred because I was looking through tears, and at that moment, I realize that I needed to do what I was doing."

Jackson's Second Phase of WWII Service began after Jackson and his crew were given three days leave in N.Y.C. and then an additional 30 days leave which he used to visit his family in GA. His last assignment was for service on the PC1171, a submarine chaser carrying 60 men and five officers and 20 mm anti-aircraft guns headed for Japan for an invasion. The plan was for his ship to get between the Japanese shore and the American ships and to shoot down the kamikazes before they could attack the American ships. He sailed to Miami, FL, through the Panama Canal, to San Diego and then to Pearl Harbor under the command of Cin CPAC; however, the second Atomic bomb was dropped on Japan followed by its surrender while the ship was sailing between San Diego and Pearl Hawaii. When he heard the Japanese had surrendered, Jackson went down to his bunk and cried. The next assignment was to escort a double column of LST's to Sasebo, Japan for 23 days. His ship experienced a typhoon and sailed into the Yellow Sea that was filled with mines of which many were destroyed by his ship. Jackson sailed to Shanghai, China, and to Guam. His Victory Plus Six Months (V-6) Navy commitment was nearing an end, and he headed for home sailing to Treasure Island at San Francisco. He traveled via troop train to Jacksonville, FL, where he was officially discharged May 28, 1946.

After his military service, using the G.I. Bill, Jackson enrolled at Georgia Tech for a brief time followed by graduation from North Georgia College with a B.S. Degree in business education. Instead of teaching in high schools, his employment involved working in banks for 47 years beginning as teller progressing to loan officer, chief executive officer and president. He worked at First National Bank of Auburn, AL, for five years, at the Warrenton Bank, in Warrenton, FL, for six months, at Commercial Bank and Trust Co. in Griffin, GA, for two years, at Peoples Bank in Carrville, AL, for 37 years and at the Bank of Tallassee for 2.5 years.

Jackson and his wife, Shirley Chamblis, have been married 71 years, and they have nine children including seven daughters and two sons, 22 grandchildren, and 20 great-grandchildren. Since retirement from banking, he has continued to enjoy participating in the activities of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, fishing and playing dominoes with friends and family. He has also been supportive of his wife's ministry as the choral director of adult and youth choirs at churches.

Jackson's conclusions about war are, "Some of the things that I have seen and heard in this country during the years since my war service have made me wonder if every generation should have its war and have to take part in it. That generation would more fully understand and better appreciate this great country in which we live and the freedoms that we enjoy. Better yet, each one would know that great feeling, that since of pride that come with knowing that you have literally laid your life, your most precious possession, on the line and done your part to keep this country great and to keep it free. I laid my life on the line for my country because I wanted to leave it a free society."

Jesse C. Perkins ~ 87

Jesse C. Perkins served as an Air Policeman (AP) in the U. S. Air Force for over 14 years; today the AP is called Security Police. He was born July 18, 1932, to his parents, Eddie M. Perkins and Sarah Lou Gregory Perkins in Morehead, KY, and after 13 years his family moved to Hillsboro, Ohio, where he was reared. After employment with Frigidaire of Dayton, OH, Crosley Corporation of Richmond, IN, and Great Lakes Steel of Detroit, MI, he volunteered to serve in the U. S. Air Force. On June 14, 1951, he reported for duty at Ft. Wayne,



MI, completing Basic Training at Sampson Air Force Base at Lake Seneca, N.Y., followed by 15 weeks of Combat Military Police training and the Provost Marshall General School at Camp Gordon, GA, which today is Fort Gordon.

His service as an Air Policeman took him to Air Force bases in the Pacific Ocean area as well as to bases within the nation. His first assignment was at March, AFB, in CA followed by a tour of duty in Guam where the first nuclear weapons outside the United States were kept. Perkins was stationed there for the remainder of the Korean War where seven Boeing B-50 Superfortresses were uploaded and downloaded daily with nuclear bombs until the Korean War ended. He was assigned to Lincoln AFB in Lincoln, NE, in June 1954, where he helped reactivate the base as the home for the Strategic Air Command (SAC) B-57 bombers. He helped write the first guideline, Broken Arrow, which gave instructions in case of a nuclear accident. Although he heard about two such

accidents, nothing exploded. His next assignment was at Okinawa at a nuclear storage site and then to Columbus, MS, where he helped reactivate the 4228 Strategic Wing (SAC) with Boeing B-52 bombers. In December, 1955, Perkins received orders to go to Bien Hoa Air Base, Vietnam, to set up security for a fighter unit, but he went to Maxwell A.F.B, Montgomery, AL, for an overseas physical. He developed problems with varicose veins, and after multiple surgeries and evaluations by a physical evaluation team, he was retired with a 60% disability May 7, 1966.

Perkins' reflections on his military service are, "I intended serving 30 years in the Air Force and achieving the rank of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force. I was dedicated in serving at the highest position that I could. I could not have done any better. All of my commanders always commended me. I was selected as the Outstanding Noncommissioned Officer of the Second Air Force in 1961 and 1962. My unit received an Outstand Unit Citation Award for excellent work in activating the AFB at Columbus, MS, for the B-52 bombers to be used for carrying nuclear weapons. I received a Good Conduct medal, and I was promoted from Private to Technical Sergeant during my service career. I have always honored service to others, and I think that it is a glorious thing. I really do! It is not just serving yourself. You are serving your nation which is the greatest nation on earth."

After discharge, Perkins resumed his education. He passed his GED, and he received an Associate Degree in Bible from Faulkner University followed by graduation with a B. S. Degree in Secondary Education from Huntingdon College teaching one semester at Lanier High School. Perkins received a Master's Degree in Speech and Language Therapy and Audiology from Auburn University. He practiced in his own clinic, Montgomery Center for Communication Disorder for two years. Perkins then worked at the AL State Rehabilitation Center as the staff audiologist for two years followed by working with a Montgomery ENT specialist testing patients for 11 years. He then worked for the AL Dept. of Mental Health at the J. S. Tarwater Development Center in Wetumpka, AL, retiring in 2003.

Perkins was married to his first wife, Beverly Jean Hart, for 53 years until she passed away, and they had three children, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. His second wife, Donna, and he have been married 11 years. When he was in the military, he learned how to weld and to do carpentry work. During retirement, Perkins has remodeled houses, fished and traveled to 48 states, and he has been a member of the Montgomery Rotary Club. Perkins has served as an elder and a preacher from 1956-2017 with the Church of Christ, and he has performed over 400 weddings and 300 funerals.



Enough is Enough

By John Martin

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

Back in the 1990's, WACV Radio talk show host, Don Markwell, regularly featured Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar as a guest on his program. One day, a caller chimed in and complained about people speeding in his residential neighborhood. After he disclosed the location, Mayor Folmar said he would step up patrols in that area.

The very next day, the same man called again, and he was not happy. He reported that when he came home that previous afternoon, a policeman pulled him over and gave him a citation for speeding—for going about 30 in a 25 mph zone.

That was a classic example of “Be careful what you wish for.”

Be careful indeed. Considering that all levels of government are already far too big, asking for more of it can slap you right in the face.

When it comes to law enforcement, there are a few areas where it is inadequate. We do need much more attention given to break-ins, burglaries, thefts, destruction, vandalism, and similar property crimes. In some cases, the police have even declined to take fingerprints, and in others, declined to accept and/or study videos and photos submitted by victims.

On the other hand, they have been vigilant in pursuing what we call consensual “crimes” that have no real victims—prostitution, gambling, possession of controlled substances, or being delayed getting to the courthouse on time. They need to hold back on these and spend that time addressing the above real crimes.

And enforcement of traffic violations seems to take even more priority. Although some violations are dangerous, most are technical infractions that would endanger nobody. Many streets have speed limits that are well below their maximum safe limits—often below the average speed of the traffic, which of course proves that point. Many signals (some with cameras) have yellows that are too short and have inadequate green time on the main thoroughfares.

Would our highways be a great deal safer with very strict enforcement? Some people claim that would be the case. But common sense proves otherwise.

There have been times when some of our highways had no enforcement at all. Did they have more violations and accidents? Not at all. The people policed themselves, and there were no problems.

Many people don't understand that TRAFFIC RULES ARE ESSENTIALLY SELF-ENFORCING. Every person has a natural incentive to obey them. He knows that if he exceeds the limits of common sense, he could have an accident. He could wreck his car. He could injure himself. He could even get killed. Therefore, he has every incentive to drive safely, even if there is no traffic law enforcement whatsoever. Only someone with a death wish would dare disobey reasonable traffic rules; he would soon eliminate himself with a “Darwin Award.”

Lately, politicians have argued that we need to hire more state troopers. In January 16, 2018, we had “less than 250 troopers to serve all of Alabama,” and we got along just fine. By January 13, 2019, just one year later, that number had jumped to 418. That should be more than adequate.

But some, along with some of the media, are whining for even more. Some have even mentioned 1000 or more, which of course, is gross overkill.

Mississippi has 375. Louisiana has 543. Georgia has 629, but it has over eight million people—twice Alabama's four million.

Observations of flashing blue lights on our highways and complaints from people who have received citations for frivolous and non-dangerous “violations” verify that our current enforcement is more than ample.

In some cases, I have personally witnessed excessive enforcement. Just a few months ago, on I-459 (just south of Birmingham) late on a Sunday night and in just a few miles, I observed state troopers, local police, and sheriffs' deputies all over the highway pulling over dozens of motorists.

And to make matters worse, Alabama has been guilty of accepting federal funding to finance enforcement “blitzes” on holiday weekends, thereby spoiling the vacations of hundreds of motorists.

A police state is NOT the solution for highway safety. In fact, overly strict enforcement can be dangerous. People who otherwise put 100% of their attention onto driving safely would be inclined to divert some of it into watching their rear ends.

Therefore, a small amount of traffic law enforcement is adequate. Anything greater can lead to abuse. It can even cause accidents.

The people of Alabama should stand up and say, “No.” We do not need nor want any more state troopers. We have enough already. Are you legislators paying attention?

And we must remember that for many years, Alabama has had a history of diverting road and bridge funds into the public safety department. This practice must be stopped. Let's use that money for safer roads and bridges and repeal the stupid gasoline tax increase that was railroaded onto us earlier this year.

Remember Thomas Jefferson's message: “He who is governed least is governed best.” We must always understand that too little government is better than too much. Bureaucracies thrive on growth, and the more they grow, the service diminishes, and the abuse increases. Never, never, NEVER ask for more bureaucracy; it is the bane of civilization.

I repeat; be careful what you wish for.

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Senator Clyde Chambliss named Outstanding Public Official for 2019 by the American Society of Civil Engineers

MIAMI, FL – Alabama State Senator Clyde Chambliss (R-Prattville) has been named the 2019 Outstanding Public Official by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). ASCE's Committee on Advancing the Profession selected Chambliss to receive the national award for "impeccable service and dedication to the State of Alabama, as well as to the civil engineering profession and land surveying professionals."

Elected to the Alabama Senate in 2014, Chambliss was recognized by the ASCE for meritorious service as a servant leader in the Alabama Legislature.

"Instituted in 1963, the award is made to those members of ASCE who have contributed substantially to the status of the engineering profession by meritorious public service in elective or appointive positions in civil government," noted Lawren Pratt, the ASCE member who nominated Chambliss for the award.

During his tenure in the Senate, Chambliss has led the effort to reform and modernize government regulations on the engineering profession. In 2018, Chambliss helped write and pass Senate Bill 316 that required Qualification Based Selection (QBS) to be included in the State Administrative Code, and added two public members to the Alabama Board of Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors.

Brad Williams, P.E., President of the Alabama Section of ASCE, praised Chambliss's leadership.

"Senate Bill 316 led to one of the strongest QBS laws in the nation; it would not have passed without Senator Chambliss's leadership. Senator Chambliss's knowledge of our profession as a practicing Professional Engineer was instrumental in how he was able to lead meetings, mediate between parties of differing interests, and educate legislative members on the importance of QBS," Williams said.

In accepting the award, Chambliss said that he appreciated the collaboration between legislators and professionals in the engineering field that led to the passage of SB316.

"It is such an honor to be recognized by my peers and colleagues with this award. Passage of SB316 was truly a group effort, and I appreciate the work of my engineer and surveyor peers in the development of such a great piece of legislation. I also want to thank my legislative colleagues for their support in voting for the bill, and Governor Ivey for signing it into law," Chambliss remarked.

Senator Chambliss and his wife Tara, also a civil engineer, own and operate a civil engineering firm that provides engineering services to small towns, water systems, and developers in Central Alabama.



Clyde and Tara Chambliss

Socialism is the Greatest Threat Facing America Today



Perry O Hooper Jr.
October 18, 2019

Our founders created the greatest country in the history of the world, where all men are created equal and anything is possible. We have the freedom to get an education, raise a family, travel, pick a career, and live in peace. The US is where private property rights and Individual liberties are protected like no other country on this planet. Innovation is king. Since 1902 when the first Nobel Prize was awarded to recognize

achievements in the arts and sciences, Americans have won 362 times out of approximately 1,000 awarded. Why? because of the innovations allowed by our freedoms and our free market capitalism. Runner up, Great Britain with 132 where capitalism also rules.

The most radical faction of the Democratic Party is now in control of their party at every level. They claim they are fighting for equality and justice for working Americans. These new socialists Democrats want us to believe that we can redistribute wealth and income and socialize large parts of the economy without harming production, productivity and our ability to achieve. Their form of Socialism is democratic because we will still have our right to vote. Venezuela became a country of Socialist Democrats. At the time they elected their first socialist president they were the richest country in South America. Now it's a Socialist Dictatorship. Don't let them fool you: Socialism ends in destruction and loss of liberty, a failing economy and a rapidly falling standard of living every time. In 2011, Senator Bernie Sanders said the American dream is more apt to be realized in Venezuela than the United States. Now the people of Venezuela are starving in the streets and being run over by tanks for protesting the Socialist regime.

Democratic leaders such as "The Squad" have shifted the narrative, saying America needs to emulate Nordic Socialism such as Sweden and Denmark instead. In the 1970s, Sweden began to implement Socialist economic policies. Over the next two decades, the country saw no economic success. In 1970, Sweden was the fourth-richest country in the world. By 1995, it had fallen

to 14th. During this period, no net new jobs were created in the private sector. Innovation was stifled by government intervention. There was an out-migration of the youngest and brightest. Swedish leaders acknowledged this failure, and gradually began to walk back these Socialist policies by lowering taxes, deregulating the economy, and privatizing the nation's pension system. Denmark's Prime Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen scolded Americans who "would associate the Our Model with some sort of Socialism."

Socialist bills like the "Green New Deal" are incredibly unrealistic and anti-free market. As Americans, we agree that protecting our planet is an extremely important goal but combating climate change and protecting the environment is going to be exponentially more effective if we rely on entrepreneurship and innovation, not government regulation. The greatest advances in combating climate change have all been private sector solutions. Free market countries like the United States have the cleanest environments. Controlled economies like China the worst. Furthermore "The Green New Deal" allows for government control in every aspect of our lives while costing trillions.

Led by Bernie Sanders the Democrats hail "Medicare For All" as some utopian system. Instead it would kick 180 million off their private insurance they like, while costing untold trillions of dollars and putting 400,000 Insurance company employees out of work. Socialized Medicine creates a system of rationing care with long queues of patients waiting for care run by government mandate not medical professionals. Recently Sanders, had a medical procedure to insert stents to open an artery blockage. His doctor immediately scheduled surgery and he was back on the campaign trail in two weeks. In Canada's government run system bureaucrats would have determined his priority based on age and the seriousness of his condition and it would have taken 14 to 28 days for the surgery not counting recovery. In England, ironically, he most likely would have had to drop out the presidential race. He would on average had to wait 44 day for surgery. Utopia I think not.

Every day, we enjoy the freedoms inherent in this great American system. It's what we know, expect, deserve. But we shouldn't take it for granted. Complacency is dangerous and so are the Democrats. We our fighting for the very soul of America. Socialism is the greatest threat to the America we know and love.

Guns - Personal Responsibility - Shall Not Be Infringed



John W. Giles

While the gun control debate escalates after mass shootings, I want to begin this article with a few simple questions that might deserve simple answers. Does a Saturday night special or an AK-47 on the counter kill innocent people? Does a spoon or fork cause obesity? Does a bottle of whisky or a six-pack of beer in the store cause a DUI? Does a needle filled with heroin cause drug addiction? Did a Boeing 757 become a weapon of mass destruction (WMD) killing innocent people at the World Trade Center? Does a rope hanging in a tree cause suicide? Does a butter knife or meat cleaver become an assault weapon and create a hate crime? Did my pencil cause me to fail the test at school? The answer to all these questions is, ABSOLUTELY NOT!

In the wake of a horrific crime, where innocent lives have been senselessly taken, it is the time for cool heads and common sense to prevail.

What ever happened to personal responsibility? I am indeed responsible for my own actions. If I break the law, I am the problem and should be held accountable to the fullest extent of the law. My children, at one time, attended a school notarized for providing a classical education. One of the hallmarks of this academic setting was the school had a governing constitution, each classroom had a constitution and every student had a personal constitution. The idea was to be self-governed. If our children obeyed all three of these constitutions, they are self-governed, and guess what, no laws were broken. Friends, this is the genesis for a law-abiding community, state and nation. The problem is those people who are not self-governed. They break the law, hurt others in the process and unfortunately the punitive consequences do not match the crime. No personal responsibility, translates into breaking the law.

Our founding fathers where brilliant countrymen, who knew that government had the potential power to over reach into the affairs of man. They were successful in getting the ten amendments (Bill of Rights) ratified by the people in 1791. One of these constitutionally protected rights was the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states: "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed." Infringed means an act to limit, undermine or encroach and tyrannical means dictatorial, oppressive or authoritarian. It is an unequivocal right for U.S. citizens to own and bear arms. This issue is one of so many serving as a prime example why we need constitutional originalist on the federal bench.

2020 Democrat Presidential hopefuls are hyping up talk about gun control, but they have three serious problems. The first problem is any legislation passed by congress, with the exception of a constitutional amendment ratified by the people should be struck down by the federal courts as unconstitutional. Constitutional provisions can be addressed by passing an amendment to the

U.S. Constitution; it has to clear the U.S. House and Senate by two-thirds of the majority voting and then ratified by the states. Guess what Beto; this constitutional amendment WILL NOT PASS! Second problem you have is gun control simply does not work. America's top five cities with the highest murder rate, and very strict, failing gun control ordinances on the books are (In order of worst to least), Chicago, Detroit, Washington DC, St. Louis and New Orleans. Lawbreakers do not buy guns legally, so these local gun control laws only apply to law abiding citizens. The third serious problem you have is the constitutional provision for a well-armed militia. For 243 years, citizens have legally bought guns and ammunition. One of the constitutional reasons is in the event of a tyrannical government. Bottom line Bernie, Elizabeth and Beto, I would not suggest coming to Alabama as a pilot program of the government confiscating guns, not a great idea.

Every time we as Americans witness terrorist acts like senseless mass shootings, driving a van into a crowded sidewalk or see 757 jets flying into buildings, we grieve for the horrific loss of innocent human life. The loss of innocent life is always met by all of us with immeasurable emotions and often a panic stricken notion to do SOMETHING NOW! Remember cool heads and common sense must prevail, removing guns, knives, 757 jets and vans WILL NOT Stop illegal activity. We have laws on the books to handle law-breakers, but our sentencing reforms have gone soft, the punishment does not match the crime. I wrote an article recently entitled, Reverse Recidivism Rate advocating restoring penalties to match crimes. Years ago, when we had an electric chair in Alabama (Yellow Mama), statistics noted that one execution would deter 17 future deaths. Yellow Mama was feared and served as a viable deterrent and before pulling the trigger, one would in a split second, fast forward to the horrors of facing Yellow Mama.

The same radical liberal folks pushing for gun control are also responsible for softening prison sentences, restoring felon's rights, resist law enforcement officials from identifying potential terrorist and the mentally deranged by putting them on the highest level of threatcon delta status. They have also removed our most effective crime prevention tool, Yellow Mama. You can always depend on liberal governing philosophies to pivot off to some side political advancement, like gun control rather than hit the problem head on. Have you noticed it is always somebody or something else at fault for the actions of these animals committing these fatal crimes against innocent people? In fact, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez recent ranted we need to abolish prisons, how about them apples?

So before we fall for the temptation of removing guns, forks and spoons, pencils, 757 jets and vans; let's tap the brakes, hit the reset button, reintroduce Yellow Mama, start sending these folks to meet Jesus, plow through political correctness and up our crime prevention game to threatcon delta status.

DISTRICT 6880 ROTARIANS CELEBRATE FIRST ARCH KLUMPH SOCIETY MEMBER

Evanston, IL, USA, 28 October 2019 — Congratulations to Sam and Mary Adams of Montgomery, Alabama, on becoming the first Arch Klumph Society members from District 6880. Over the weekend, Sam and Mary were honored with a special induction ceremony at Rotary International Headquarters in Evanston, IL. Sam is past president of the Montgomery Rotary Club.



Rotary International President Mark Maloney and Chair of the Rotary Foundation Gary Haung present the Arch Klumph Society Certificate to Mary and Sam Adams.

Named after the sixth president of Rotary, the Arch Klumph Society recognizes The Rotary Foundation's highest tier of donors — those who have contributed \$250,000 or more during their lifetime.

Membership in the Arch Klumph Society is lifelong. Each member has the opportunity to have his or her portrait placed in the Arch Klumph Society



Mary Adams and Sue Desmond-Hellmann, CEO of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, a strategic partner with Rotary to end polio.

Gallery, located on the 17th floor of Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, USA. Portraits are etched on glass plaques to create a stunning display of the Foundation's most valued supporters. Members also have their profiles included in an interactive display, and receive pins, pendants, and several other benefits

commensurate with their generosity.

Sam and Mary were honored alongside 29 other Arch Klumph Society members from Austria, Taiwan, Switzerland, and the United States for their tremendous generosity and dedication to The Rotary Foundation. Weekend festivities included a tour of RI Headquarters, an exclusive Foundation panel discussion, a reception with Rotary senior leaders, recognition ceremonies, and a celebratory dinner. Sam just completed a successful term as District Governor. He has traveled internationally to give polio vaccines to children and



Sam and Mary Adams at Rotary International Headquarters.

traveled in downtown Montgomery to deliver hot meals to shut-ins through Rotary's partnership with MACOA. Sam says of this honor, "God blesses us all with opportunities to serve others near and far. Rotary helps you to make your dreams and passions a reality."



Sam Adams and Rotary Foundation Chair Gary Haung, Taiwan, receiving a Rotary Alabama District 6880 Challenge coin.

20th Anniversary Alabama Gazette Open House

Despite the steady drizzle of much-needed rain, the weather could not deter guests attending the Alabama Gazette's Open House on October 15th. The annual event was extra special this year as the founder, Loretta Grant, proudly celebrated the Gazette's 20th year of printing, along with co-owner, Sam Adams, and many long-time supporters and staff.

Held at the Gazette's historic office on East Jefferson Street in Montgomery, the atmosphere was very warm and welcoming as guests mingled and enjoyed a delicious array of fingerfoods and each other's company. The Gazette looks forward to many more years publishing the "People's Paper."



Mrs. Ames with her son David Ames.

Mrs. Bobbie Ames was presented a special bouquet of roses for her over 12 years of contributing her column "The Education Station". Her knowledge of American history and our great U.S. Constitution has been a wonderful asset to providing the true history of our nation. We want to thank her for all her efforts over the years and how she embodies the history of our nation. She has an upcoming book that we will be announcing soon!



Photos by Patricia Killough



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



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Chief Deputy
Kevin J. Murphy

Christmas Angel Tree

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will once again be sponsoring our Christmas Angel Tree. Our Christmas Angel Tree will benefit the homeless at Faith Rescue Mission as well as special children at Montgomery Children's Specialty Center. Each ornament will have various items that are needed that we often take for granted. Please contact our Administrative Division at 832.1339, if you're interested in sponsoring an ornament.



Thank you

Thank you to all the citizens that came out to enjoy our Halloween Spooktacular again this year! We always have a great turnout and enjoy fellowship with our community!

Firearms Familiarization Course

Our courses for 2019 have concluded!
Register NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Courses for 2020!

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

Course Requirements:

- Montgomery County Citizen
- Obtain a Montgomery County Pistol Permit (prior to the course date)
- Complete an Application for the Course



2020 Course Dates:

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Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?
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Ed Jones
Football Writer

As the last five weeks of the college football season unfolds, let’s look at my pre-season projections for 2019. My choice of Alabama, Oklahoma, Michigan and Clemson was looking good until Michigan lost its second game to Penn State 28-21 on October 26. Their chance of getting back is zero. Also there was quite a surprise on the same day when mediocre Kansas State beat Oklahoma 48-41.

With one loss, Oklahoma can climb back into the top four by winning out, and by getting help from Ohio State and Alabama. Ohio State must eliminate Penn State. Alabama must eliminate LSU with a decisive win. Georgia eliminated Florida in the “outdoor cocktail party” in Jacksonville. With those wins and with impressive wins by Oklahoma, the Sooners could get back in, especially since Oklahoma made a miraculous comeback behind quarterback Jalen Hurts in the Kansas State game. Trailing 48-23, Hurts led Oklahoma to two touchdowns, a two point conversion and a field goal in the fourth quarter. Only a botched on-side kick kept the Sooners from having a good chance of tying the game in regulation. It was an impressive performance by Oklahoma. I had Oklahoma number 2 pre-season. The voters are sometimes influenced by a one loss team that exhibited a furious comeback to come with one play of possibly winning. An 11-1 Oklahoma will look fairly good even with a less than difficult schedule. Also, Kansas State can beat Texas, West Virginia, Texas Tech and Iowa State and finish with a record of 10-2. Oklahoma only dropped to 10 after the loss.

Ohio State has replaced Michigan and has an excellent chance of finishing 13-0 with a win at home against Penn State and a win at Ann Arbor against an improving Michigan team still ranked 14 with 2 losses. They must also win the Big-10 championship over a somewhat weak field in the Western Division. Look for Ohio State to remain in the top four instead of finishing 6th as in my projections.

Going into the LSU game, Alabama had slipped to 2nd as LSU had an impressive win over Auburn. Alabama had an average game over Arkansas with Mac Jones at quarterback. “Tua” comes back to face number one LSU in Tuscaloosa. This game will have more effect on the playoffs than any game of the year. President Donald Trump is scheduled to attend. A close game could put both in the top four provided Alabama beats Auburn. LSU quarterback Joe Burrow could be the player of the year in the SEC and a strong candidate for the Heisman Trophy. A win over Alabama could do it for the transfer from Ohio State. Tua Tagovailoa versus Joe Burrow! It can’t get better than that.

I had Clemson at number 4 even though the national polls had them at number 1. It was my belief that Clemson lost too many defensive players to be a great team in 2019. They are good but they are just hanging on to number four by the hair of Coach Dabbo Swinney’s “chinny, chin, chin” and he doesn’t even have a beard. Clemson could be challenged by Wake Forest and South Carolina. They must continue to march.

My number 5 Georgia went to sleep on October 12 and lost to a struggling South Carolina team that is playing the toughest schedule in the nation. Coach Will Muschamp is built for tough games but not this many. The Gamecocks may not even make a bowl this year. Coach Kirby Smart must diversify his offense and get more out of the passing game. He has an NFL bound quarterback in Jake Fromm. Maybe Jake has some suggestions! Georgia is poised at number 6 just waiting for some help.

I had Texas rated too high at number 8. They lost to LSU, Oklahoma and TCU. With their playoff chances shattered, Coach Tom Herman’s Longhorns are fighting for a second level bowl game with Kansas State, Iowa State, Baylor and Texas Tech straight ahead.

I missed badly on two teams, Baylor and Penn State. My top 50 did not include Baylor and at this writing they are 8-0 ranked number 11. However, I don’t think they can get through TCU, Oklahoma and Texas. Still they will be going to a bowl. Penn State is now ranked number 5 with an 8-0 record. They must negotiate an undefeated Minnesota which also was not listed in my top 50. Also, the Ohio State game will be played in Columbus. Penn State or Ohio State will probably not make the playoffs.

Minnesota has had an easy schedule, which explains their 8-0 record. But, Penn State, Iowa and Wisconsin will dispense with the Golden Gophers.

Ohio State and Penn State are the best of the Big-10. It would be sad to see either not get in.

My number 9 team, Michigan State has been a total flop. It is very unusual

for Coach Dantonio’s team to be dominated by Ohio State, Wisconsin and Penn State. With a road game with Michigan left, the Spartans will finish at 7-5 or worse. Their defense showed up but the offense is missing in action. They will drop from my number 9 to out of the top 25. My worst pick!

Florida is an interesting team. I had them number 10 with a 10-2 record. That could happen even with the loss to Georgia in Jacksonville. They end with Vanderbilt, Missouri and Florida State. They are 7-2 and ranked number 10 at this writing. Coach Dan Mullen has coached a team with average talent into an excellent team headed for a New Year’s Day bowl. I think that he is the second best coach in the conference.

My number 11 team, Washington, has been a big disappointment. With Georgia reject Jacob Eason at quarterback, Coach Chris Peterson seemed to be in position to win the PAC-12 title. It ain’t gonna’ happen. The have already lost to California, Stanford, Oregon and Utah.

Utah had a bad loss to USC, but has climbed back up to number 8 after a big win over Washington. Arizona and Colorado stand in their way toward an 11-1 regular season record. They will most likely play Oregon for the PAC-12 Championship. I had the Utes at number 12.

Notre Dame, as usual, was overated. I had them at number 13 with a 10-2 record. They dropped to number 15 after a come behind one point win against Virginia Tech in South Bend. Coach Kelley just can not get the Irish back in the hunt.

Some thought the Auburn Tigers were poised for another playoff appearance. With the best defensive line in football, Auburn was expected to hold teams down while freshman quarterback Bo Nix gained valuable experience. The offensive line featured five returning seniors as well. To go along with the freshman QB, Auburn had five pedestrian running backs to go to. None caused fear in the minds of other SEC coaches. The wide receivers were at best average, even with speed at the position. Auburn faced one of the toughest schedules in the country, having to play Oregon, Florida, LSU, Georgia and Alabama. That’s a tough row to hoe even if you had a good hoe. Coach Gus Malzahn does not have a good hoe, especially when Auburn gets to the offensive “red zone”.

I consider the red zone starting at the 25 yard line. Coach Malzahn is under the allusion that “his” zone read offense with one running back can score touchdowns on a regular basis in the red zone. Quarterback Nick Marshall seemed to validate Malzahn’s theory in 2013 and 2014. However, the success Marshall had was because of Marshall’s athletic ability. Without that talent, Malzahn’s red zone offense has been a joke. Go back to 2015 through 2019 and see how many times Auburn has failed to score a touchdown in the red zone. Often Auburn has lost yardage which made a field goal try difficult. From a coaches standpoint the impotence of Malzhan’s theory is alarming. From an Auburn standpoint it is embarrassing. Auburn could not have beaten Florida and LSU with Malzahn’s system. Unless he and his coaching staff learn to make first downs in the red zone, Auburn can not beat Georgia or Alabama. It is revealing to look at Gus Malzahn’s record against SEC opponents in seven years as Auburn’s head coach. I had Auburn at number 14 at 9-3.

Oregon recovered from the “lucky” pass play at the end of the Auburn game, to be on the fringe of the playoff. Only Arizona, Arizona State and Oregon State stand in their way to the PAC-12 championship game. At press time Oregon was rated number 7. I had them below Auburn at number 15.

We will stop our comparisons at number 15. No team will climb from number 16 to national relevance. Also, we have limited space to devote to this story.

The Associated Press Poll, The Amway Coaches Poll and any other poll matters not after Tuesday, November 5. On that date the College Football Playoff Selection Committee releases its first official poll. That is really the only poll that matters.

I have been doing these pre-season college football projections since 1979. Some years have been very accurate. Some years have been acceptable. Some years have been not as good. However, among the leading affiliates that do pre-season college football polls, I will put mine up against them all. Nobody is very good at it. You can do your own in 2020. The 2019 college football projections will be my last. I plan to travel more, play more golf and write more hit country songs!

It has been fun!!

TOP 50 PROJECTIONS FOR 2019

1.	Alabama	12 - 0	18.	Boise State	11 - 1	34.	San Diego State	9 - 3
2.	Oklahoma	12 - 0	19.	Iowa	9 - 3	35.	Missouri	9 - 3
3.	Michigan	12 - 0	20.	Central Florida	10 - 2	36.	Stanford	8 - 4
4.	Clemson	11 - 1	21.	Army	11 - 1	37.	USC	8 - 4
5.	Georgia	11 - 1	22.	Miami	9 -3	38.	Washington State	8 - 4
6.	Ohio State	11 - 1	23.	Wisconsin	9 - 3	39.	Syracuse	8 - 4
7.	LSU	10 - 2	24.	Texas A&M	8 - 4	40.	Oklahoma State	8 - 4
8.	Texas	10 - 2	25.	Appalachion State	10 - 2	41.	Virginia	8 - 4
9.	Michigan State	10 - 2	26.	Ohio	10 - 2	42.	Kentucky	8 - 4
10.	Florida	10 - 2	27.	Toledo	10 - 2	43.	Boston College	8 - 4
11.	Washington	10 - 2	28.	Cincinatti	9 - 3	44.	UAB	9 - 3
12.	Utah	10 -2	29.	Memphis	9 - 3	45.	Florida Atlantic	9 - 3
13.	Notre Dame	10 - 2	30.	Virginia Tech	8 - 4	46.	North Carolina State	8 - 4
14.	Auburn	9 - 3	31.	TCU	8 - 4	47.	Houston	8 - 4
15.	Oregon	9 - 3	32.	Florida State	8 - 4	48.	Iowa State	8 - 4
16.	Nebraska	9 - 3	33.	Mississippi State	8 - 4	49.	Southern Mississippi	8 - 4
17.	Penn State	9 - 3				50.	Florida International	8 - 4



Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

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Soul Searching

Free For All ~ God’s Amazing Grace

Free For All is the name of a new book I have written set to be released **this December!** The subtitle is 4 Things God’s Amazing Grace Can Do For You. In this book, we will explore four different ways we can experience God’s grace. God’s grace is truly free for all.

The following is an excerpt from Free For All set to be released this December on Amazon. We find this SCUBA story in the chapter of the book where we explore God’s prevenient grace and the fact that it goes before us and surrounds us. For those who have eyes to see, his grace is active in our lives and in his creation even before we believe in it or acknowledge that it is there.

Several years ago, I went scuba diving with my sons. Although it was not the first time we’d dived together, and it certainly would not be the last, this particular trip was special because it was the trip in which Joshua, my younger son, earned his certification as a scuba diver. His older brother, Harden, and I were already certified, and we accompanied Josh on his open-water dive, which is part of the certification process. We were in the Bahamas at a place called Shark Junction. We dove to about fifty-five feet, where we were surrounded by hundreds of sharks—all kinds, but mostly Caribbean reef sharks. Now, Josh was about ten at the time, and the boy has never known fear. During that dive, I stayed right behind him. Although I managed to stay just out of his sight so that he didn’t think I was hovering, I was there every second, watching him closely, making sure he was always within reach. When one particularly large shark swam by him, he reached out to touch it, and I pulled back on his tank to keep him away from it. I think that’s a perfect picture of prevenient grace; the Lord’s hand is always on us, even when we don’t realize He is there.

We are surrounded by this prevenient grace of God. Romans 1:20 speaks of it, in fact:

For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see His invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. (NLT)

Do you understand what the Apostle Paul is saying? All of creation is shouting the story of grace and trying to help us see that there is a divine designer... I simply couldn’t understand how anyone can think there is no intelligent designer. God is pouring out His prevenient grace on us every moment we take a breath of air and every time we see the beauty of His creation.

As I write this chapter, I am looking out the window at the beautiful aqua blue waters of the Bahamas and anticipating going snorkeling this afternoon. Every time I snorkel or scuba dive, I am blown away by the incredible beauty and uniqueness of God’s creatures and the vast diversity of life in the sea, especially on the reefs. I can’t comprehend how anyone could dive a reef and not believe in an omniscient Creator. For that matter, one might be hiking in the Appalachian Mountains or hunting in Montana or simply walking on the pristine beaches of the Gulf of Mexico or the rocky shores of the West Coast or doing eighteen on a favorite golf course. To me, it takes more faith not to believe in an intelligent designer, a Creator. Creation is far too vast, too complex, too diverse, and too beautiful to be the random product of chance.

God’s grace is truly free for all who believe and chose to see and receive it!



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Red Mass signifying the Opening of Court for the State of Alabama



Archbishop Thomas J. Rodi visits with the justices and judges who attended the annual Red Mass that was held at St. Peter’s Church in Montgomery on October 7, 2019 A.D.

Chief Justice Tom Parker"s quote for this article: “Judging is a heavy responsibility, which is why judges need all the wisdom we can get. Therefore, in accordance with James 1:5, we celebrate the Red Mass to invoke the presence of the Holy Spirit to guide us in these decisions that affect lives and property throughout the State of Alabama.”

The traditional Red Mass was started by the Alabama Supreme Court in 1973, and is held annually on the first Monday in October to mark the beginning of the new judicial year. The Red Mass is celebrated by people of all faiths requesting prayers and intersessions for justices, judges, litigants, and the Court System.

The Red Mass is also celebrated in Birmingham and Mobile.

Kindness and good nature unite men more effectually and with greater strength than any agreements whatsoever, since thereby the engagements of men’s hearts become stronger than the bond and obligation of words.”

— Sir Thomas More

For centuries, attorneys, Judges, Justices, citizens, courts, and individuals of all faiths throughout the world have celebrated Red Mass every year before the beginning of the new term of Court. The purpose of the ceremony serves to invoke God’s blessing and guidance in the administration of justice. In particular, the United States Supreme Court celebrates the event every year on the Sunday before the beginning of the new term in October. The event is an opportunity to offer prayers for judges, lawyers, litigants and the court systems. Moreover, the mass reflects upon the responsibility of individuals in the legal profession to seek justice both in our courts and in our society. Some notable Supreme Court Justices practicing who have attended the service are Chief Justice John Roberts, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Samuel Alito, the late Justice Antoin Scalia, and the late Chief Justice Rehnquist. The Red Mass service has traditionally been enjoyed and supported and enjoyed by members of all faiths, not just Catholics.

In Alabama, services are held throughout the state during the months of September and October, giving individuals ample opportunity to participate. While public servants and officials may participate in the event, the ceremony is not intended to bear any government imprimatur. The Mass merely offers an opportunity for persons of faith to gather, pray for the profession and those whom they believe have been selected to discharge the responsibilities of justice.

The tradition of the Red Mass dates back centuries to the time of Rome opening the judicial year of the Sacred Roman Rota, the tribunal of the Holy See. In 1245 during the reign of Louis IX, Paris first celebrated the Mass. Thereafter, King Edward II brought the tradition to England in 1310. At that event, all members of the bench and bar participated. Red Masses are held today throughout the entire world, including Scotland, England, Italy and Australia. In the United States, the Church of Saint Andrew in New York City held the first Red Mass in 1928. Traditionally Justices attend and in years past, the President has also attended along with members of congress, judges, and various branches of government, foreign diplomats and citizens from all walks of life. Some Protestant Churches have also created similar services.

The Red Mass name originates as a representation of the tongues of fire said to represent the Holy Spirit which descended upon the Apostles and is symbolized in the red vestments worn by the clergy.



**Chef
David Spooner**
Retired Chef

*Volunteer Fireman,
Lowndesboro V.F.D.*

*St. Paul's Episcopal
Church, Lowndesboro*

*Board of Registrars,
Lowndes County*

it on the counter and it happens to be winter, the butter is like a brick. And it stays that way all winter. To overcome this malady, out comes the vegetable peeler. Shaving a thin strip off the top produces an easy melting and spreadable ribbon of butter. Our sticks of butter do not shrink in length, they become thinner.

Speaking of cold kitchens, what about the coffee cups in the cupboard. Run hot water from the tap into your cup to warm it. We run our brewer without a pod to fill the coffee cup. Let it sit while we hunt for the creamer, then pour out the water and brew our cup of coffee.

Not that you do this very often, but if you over-cook your cookies a wee bit and they are dark enough on the bottom to be an embarrassment, there is a quick fix. Pull out your micro-planer and gently grate away the overcooked layer. None will be the wiser!

When I was going to school, my mother would make sandwiches for me and then freeze them. By lunchtime, the sandwich would be thawed, soft and ready to eat. That worked for some sandwiches, like the ones without lettuce! The biggest problem with making the sandwich was spreading the peanut butter, jam or other thick cold ingredients on the bread. The soft bread would tear and would not evenly spread. Solution is to freeze the bread before making the sandwich. The bread is hard enough to hold up to the peanut butter or other thick hard to spread ingredients. When it was time for lunch, the bread was thawed and soft.

Most of my recipes are meals to serve four or more. What about a single person that wants to prepare a healthy meal? How do you plan a menu, shop and prepare a single meal without having leftovers for a week or throwing away most of the cooked food? Starting with the planning, decide how many meals a week you are going to make. Are you going to plan for leftovers to fill in the gap for days you are not cooking? Next, think small as in small bags of groceries. Did you know you could buy four slices of cheese and five slices of meat at the deli counter? No more buying one-pound deli packs of sliced turkey. You can buy two tomatoes and two carrots in the produce section. If the thought of going to the grocery store to pick up so few items is a waste of time and money, then decide if you can plan freezable meals to prepare in advance in single portions. There are also single portions of frozen meals available. To make life a lot simpler, buy yourself a good toaster oven. It will look like you are cooking a larger meal when it is in a smaller oven. LOL.

I was scanning through articles from past Novembers. In all likelihood the most important tip pertaining to Thanksgiving and all your meals was in my article from November 2015.

There are some simple rules to follow making sure that your leftovers will be safe to serve.

Web MD had a 2-2-4 formula to remember.

2 hours-Store all leftovers in the refrigerator or freeze no more than 2 hours after cooking. This includes turkey, gravy, anything with milk or eggs and rice.

2 inches- Store food in 2 inch deep containers. This will help the food cool quickly and slow the bacteria growth.

4 days- Eat the leftovers within four days. If you are not going to eat the leftovers within 4 days freeze it. If you do re-heat the frozen food later, you must eat it immediately.

Other tips include, turn the temperature of your fridge down temporarily while prepping to compensate for the extra door openings and closings. Also, a very important rule to remember is to frequently wash your hands. If you are handling the turkey, every cutting board, counter and serving utensil will have germs and will spread to everything else you touch.

A warning about stuffing: If you stuff your turkey, you must be from up north, but make sure the stuffing reaches at least 165 degrees. It is hard to do without overcooking the turkey. I highly recommend stuffing the turkey with an onion and some herbs. This step will help you to remember to remove the neck and giblets that are in the store bought turkey. Make the dressing in a separate pan in advance, because you are from the south, thus saving time and headaches on Thanksgiving.

So with everything said and done, the following is the way that Thanksgiving dressing is made traditionally. Not step by step directions using pre-measured ingredients but by practice over the years by the women of the family. Ingredients are listed but adjusted by taste. Ingredients are added and mixed until it looks good. Leftover cornbread, rolls and vegetables from meals past get a new life in this years dressing.

This is our families’ dressing and gravy recipes as described by my wife, Anne.

**GRANDMOTHER TUCKER’S
DRESSING**

Serves 20

Make cornbread – I use buttermilk and lots of bacon grease (You can also use saved and frozen cornbread from other meals.) Crumble cornbread in a large bowl.

I cut up an entire package of celery and three onions so that I will have enough left over for the gravy. I cook the onions and celery in chicken broth and butter. Save.

Add to crumbled cornbread: 8 slices of toasted or dry bread, 1 sleeve of Ritz crackers, 8-10 biscuits or dinner rolls and 1 sleeve saltine crackers. Crumble and mix together.

Add:
2 or 3 cans cream of chicken soup
I also add a can of cream of celery soup
1 box chicken broth
3-4 eggs
Add by the ladle full, the cooked celery and onion and the broth to taste salt and pepper to taste
sprinkle of sage, onion powder and celery salt to taste...you might not need this
poultry seasoning if needed to taste
(You will need more broth than this.... You mix all of this with a big spoon or your hands until all of the crumbles of the breads are broken up...it’s the feel and texture of a thick cornbread mixture with onions and celery. You

Southern Cuisine

I was having a difficult time coming up with recipes and ideas for this month’s article, but not because of writers block. With drought conditions and record heat, one does not think about autumn stews, butternut squash, sweet potatoes, pumpkin and hearty soups. Nor do you think about the reason there is the month of November, Thanksgiving Day! Thanks to Mother Nature, the rains came, the temperatures dropped and my mind cleared. Now my problem is I have so many ideas, tips, recipes and stories, I do not know where to start.

To get your mind working, I will start with tips. In our house we leave the butter covered but on the counter. You have read how warm it is in our kitchen. During three seasons, the butter on the counter is soft and spreadable. One is when we use all of the butter in the dish and we put a new stick from the refrigerator in the dish. The other time is winter! When we take butter out of the refrigerator and set



During three seasons, the butter on the counter is soft and spreadable. One is when we use all of the butter in the dish and we put a new stick from the refrigerator in the dish. The other time is winter! When we take butter out of the refrigerator and set

do not want to be able to see parts of a piece of bread or a biscuit. I have even used a hand mixer to mix everything completely.

I also add about a half a stick of melted butter.)

TASTE...even though it has raw eggs in it! I would be dead by now if it were dangerous! You want to check the salt pepper and sage flavors. Some broths are very salty and I don’t like a lot of sage.

Bake in a greased baking pan at 350 degrees for 45 minutes – check often to be sure it does not burn.

I make dressing on Veterans Day since I am usually off from work. It “freezes beautifully”! I have it defrosted, and ready to bake on Thanksgiving morning.

I keep a baggie in the freezer and save those extra pieces of bread at the end of a loaf and the slice of cornbread that might be left over or biscuits so when it is time to make dressing..I have the breads ready. Originally dressing was a way to use all the stale breads. This is also a good time to use all of those frozen baggies of left over broth or the broth you put in ice cube trays over the year! Grandmother Fuller used to keep a large mason jar in the freezer and she would add to it when she had any left over broth. This recipe is exactly like Grandmother Fuller’s except she loved sage (and I think she used too much) and did not cook the onions and celery. I think cooking the onions and celery like Grandmother Tucker makes all the difference!

Grandmother Fuller also taught me to keep a jar of left over vegetables in the freezer. When you are cleaning up after a meal and you have a spoonful of beans or corn or whatever, just add it to the jar rather than throwing it away. When the jar is full, it is time to make vegetable soup!

ANNE’S GRAVY

- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can chicken broth or more to make the gravy as thin or thick as you like..you can also use the broth from the turkey
- 2 or 3 boiled eggs diced – this will thicken the gravy some.
- cooked onions and celery to taste, from making the dressing
- chopped giblets from the turkey or small pieces of dark turkey

There is no controversy of either serving stuffing or dressing with this family, however the Thanksgiving item that has stirred up controversy and the most jokes with every family is the cranberry sauce. If you ask four different people what type of cranberry sauce they prefer, you will get five different answers. I do not know how anyone can call a jelly like glob that has can indentations on the side, a sauce. There are people that swear by it. And there are people who swear at it.

I introduced a cranberry sauce recipe in my November 2016 article that will liven up any dish.

Thoughts for the holiday:

Vegetables are a must on a diet. I suggest carrot cake, zucchini bread and pumpkin pie. Jim Davis

There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving day is the one day that is purely American. O. Henry

CRANBERRY SAUCE

Yeild: One cup

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup fresh cranberries, about a quarter of a pound
- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 4 tablespoons honey
- 1/4 cup water
- Pinch of salt
- 1 1-inch stick of cinnamon



METHOD:

1. Over medium heat, add cranberries, water honey and lemon zest to a sauce pan.
2. Bring to a boil uncovered for about 5 minutes. The cranberries will start to pop open, mush with a spoon any cranberry that has not popped.
3. Add pinch of salt and stir until thickened, remove from heat and remove cinnamon stick.
4. Save until service if made the same day, or keep in refrigerator and take out and let come to room temperature before service. It’s bright and tasty and fresh.

Note: depending on freshness of cranberries, water amount may be adjusted depending on how thick of a sauce you want. Same goes with the honey and sweetness.

A variation on this recipe is to omit the cinnamon stick and stir in one teaspoon of Dijon mustard. Another way to add sweetness and thicken the sauce is to add some dried cranberries that have been soaked in apple juice.

Dining Out in The River Region

**Every
Thursday
in November**

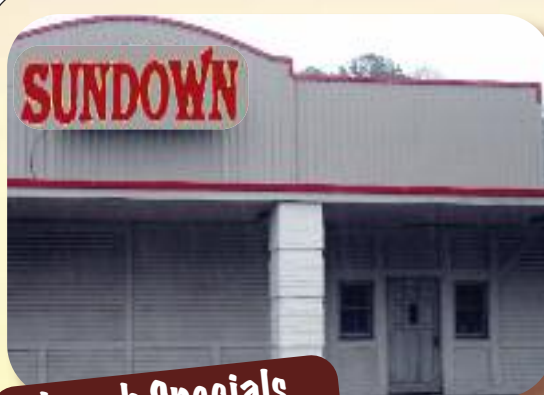
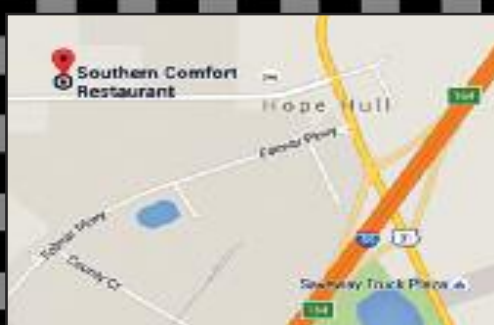
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Southern Gardening Potpourri for November by Peggy Givhan



**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

My how quickly this year has sped by, almost as if we were in a time warp. Thanksgiving is upon us on November 28th, let the holiday seasons begin. One thing we need to remind ourselves and be thankful for is our good fortune in living in America. Politically we all have our differences and preferences, but we can all coalesce around our patriotic oneness as Americans. My grandmother always said that in a diverse group settings, do not speak of religion or politics, but mostly about the weather. However, in today's thinking even that can be controversial with "climate change". But, I have an even better topic of conversation around the Thanksgiving table, and that is gardening. So, let's speak to gardening during the fall month of November.

Many people want to grow tulips in our area, but say they do not do well. That statement is not true, because what they mean is that "tulips do not come back". Tulips thrive in much cooler climates, usually zone 7 and below, such as Tennessee. The bulbs need cold winters to reliably bloom year after year and this is the reason we have to refrigerate the bulbs before planting. They must have this chill of at least 6-8 weeks in order to bloom on a tall stem. Otherwise, the bloom head comes right out at ground level. Also if you want to go to the trouble of planting them and want to save them for the next year do the following:

1. Let the foliage die down after blooming
2. Dig them up and place in a brown paper bag with a layer of sand at the bottom. The sand keeps bulbs dry in our humid climate.
3. Store them over the summer, dusting them with Sevin insecticide to prevent garden pests.
4. Then around November, place them in the crisper of your refrigerator for 6-8 weeks before planting. Now we have beautiful tulips in the spring that did not cost you a dime.

Another idea, is to plant a couple of swaths in the garden, maybe 30 bulbs, or plant them in pots for a spectacular effect. In selecting the bulbs, purchase the largest ones you can find.

One design idea we have used in the past, is termed "over planting". The technique involves planting a shorter plant and then one inserts a taller plant within the flower drift. This month we can plant bulbs, like daffodils, (any bulb that needs no refrigeration) at the same time as we plant the shorter flowers. As the lower growing flower matures and spreads, then the bulbs up through them. Wow, and one has almost a 3 dimensional look.

As I have written before, this is a good time to sow seed for next spring. Larkspur, cleome, old fashioned poppies, marigolds, California poppies, holly hock, and herbs such as parsley and cilantro. Both of these herbs tolerate cold

weather. November's cooler days makes many garden tasks a pleasure. Cleaning out the beds of debris such as the perennials which need to be cut back, and those annuals which are dying or dead. This organic plant material is good to place in a humus pile along with other leaves, etc. Just be sure to not place diseased plants in the pile.



**PLANT OF THE MONTH--
BEAUTYBERRY-
CALLACARPA
AMERICANA**

What a beautiful, showy shrub which brings forth fuchsia and purple berries in the fall. These berries bloom after the leaves drop, and are much loved by birds, deer and other wildlife. The shrub grows to a height of 6 feet, and requires very little maintenance. Once cut, they make a great addition to any flower arrangement. I have actually seen Beautyberry incorporated in the flower garden, where it is usually used as a back drop shrub. There is also a white variety of Beautyberry named Lactea. You may be able to obtain this plant at nurseries specializing in heirloom plants.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING AND GOOD GARDENING.



Patricia Killough
Community Editor



Home Town Community News

Happy Anniversary

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|--------------------------------|
| 5 | Brad & Julie Echols | 16 | Alan & Debra Moore |
| 7 | Brian & Jennifer Rushing (10th) | | Stephen & Joyce Turnipseed |
| | Bill & Peggy Struthers (65th) | 17 | Clyde & Audrey Alison (40th) |
| 9 | Don & Tanya Cooley | | Chip & Tricia Norris |
| | Tommy & Patti Maihan (34th) | 18 | Burks & Charlotte Crane (24th) |
| 10 | Tanner & Shannon Grant | 21 | Doug & Cindy Young |
| | Manly & Kris Swearingen | | Gary & Martha French (45th) |
| | Tom & Jayne Ward | 24 | Gary & Debbie Partridge |
| 14 | Jim & Frances Ard | 27 | Mike & Wanda Horsley |
| 12 | Sonny & Linda Turner (53rd) | | Joe & Olivia Thomas (66th) |
| | Todd & Sandy Rogers (16th) | 28 | Andre & Beverly Stephens |

Happy Thanksgiving

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

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

Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

MacIsaac, Charlotte Pauline Wade (84)died May 4, 2019
Hudgins, Jamie Lynn Horn (64)died September 18, 2019
Tebbetts, Agnes A. (82).....died September 25, 2019
Hampton, Jr., Marion Henry “Bubba” (65)died September 26, 2019
North, Hazel Pate Pinkard (94)died September 26, 2019
Miller, Nelda Karen Perry (88)died September 28, 2019
Watters, CMSGT, Ret., Robert Harry (89)died September 29, 2019
Dobalavege, Joseph P. “Joe” (84)died September 30, 2019
Head, Miriam Epps (89)died September 30, 2019
Kirkland, Jr., Fred (90)died September 30, 2019
Durham, Ret. Col., USAF, Charles V. (79)died October 2, 2019
Thompson, Frank Webster (77)died October 2, 2019
Townes, Mary Patricia (64)died October 2, 2019
Woodall, M. D., John Burleson (78)died October 2, 2019
Byrd, David Leroy (58)died October 3, 2019
Finney, Theresa Lynn (65)died October 3, 2019
Fussell, Earnest Carl (87)died October 3, 2019
Hamilton, Dianne Parris (79).....died October 3, 2019
Phillips, Ret. Col., Robert Stanley “Stan” (86).....died October 5, 2019
Duck, Albert Clayton (81).....died October 6, 2019
Atcheson, Marshall J. (86).....died October 7, 2019
Grisham, Linda Kay (71)died October 7, 2019
Mooney, Luann Hawkins Roberts (82)died October 8, 2019
McIntyre, Clara Dean (97)died October 9, 2019
Schneider, Raymond William (72)died October 9, 2019
Jester, Donna Lynn (65)died October 11, 2019
Bitter, Dr. John (90)died October 12, 2019
Regnier, Dr. John Edward (84)died October 12, 2019
Bice, Clyde (94)died October 13, 2019
Dunn, Martha Daughtry (100)died October 13, 2019
Williams, Jr., Alvin Ray (63)died October 13, 2019
Finkel, Dr., Sheldon Joel (91)died October 14, 2019
Meadows, Anne M. (81).....died October 14, 2019
Norman, Hazel Smith (99)died October 14, 2019
Sexton, Cecil DeWayne (78)died October 14, 2019
Asbury, Joyce Kelley (87)died October 15, 2019
Head, Philip Curtis (74)died October 15, 2019
Henry, George Michael “Mike” (49)died October 15, 2019
Kolasky, Suzanne Lowe (75)died October 15, 2019
Head, Susan Ward (62)died October 16, 2019
Jones, Charles Mercer (67)died October 16, 2019
Price, Charles Allen (64)died October 16, 2019
Faulkner, Harold L. (90).....died October 17, 2019
Weldon, Tommy Carl (81).....died October 20, 2019
Barnett, Myra R. (80).....died October 21, 2019
Marshall, Lucy Wilson (88)died October 21, 2019
Poole, Jr., John Alex (82).....died October 21, 2019
Dean, Jerry Lavon (72).....died October 22, 2019
Martin, Clayton “Clay” (22).....died October 22, 2019
Stephens, Charles David “D” (85).....died October 23, 2019
Beazley, Sara Patricia Richardson (87)died October 24, 2019
Perry, Sr., Letus Brannen (81)died October 25, 2019
Vaitis, Joseph “Joe”(71) died October 29, 2019

November Birthdays



- | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Kelei Lewis | 15 | Larry Browder |
| | Jimmie Mims | | Mary Elizabeth Dean |
| | Barbie O’Neal | | Mae H. Poole |
| | Bobbie Parker | | Katherine Huro |
| 2 | Al Flanary | | Debbie Johnson |
| | Bill Grubs | | Heather Killough |
| | Mary Ellis Killough (11th) | 16 | Thomas Joseph Boyd |
| | Mike Lane | | Alton Haraway |
| | Charles Meredith | | Patricia M. Lee |
| 3 | Larry Chambers | 17 | Dan Fowler |
| | Jack Hornady (91st) | | Bill Harper |
| | Doug Sellers | | Mary Holman |
| 4 | Patrick Sikes (9th) | | Cara Stafford |
| 5 | Jeremy Brown | 18 | Billy Jack Beck |
| | Mike Davis | | Doug Cole |
| | Margaret Ann Morgan | 19 | Laird Bone |
| 6 | Bella Boyd | | Mattie Sherman |
| | Faye Deal | 20 | Sandy Garner |
| | Teresa Seevers | | Sharon Harper |
| 7 | Carol Harrison | | Rich Takacs |
| | Debbie Green | 21 | James Miller |
| | Jane Camille Robinson | 22 | Annette Banks |
| | Helen Struthers (94th) | | Randy Bishop |
| | Paula Barker | | Amy Grubbs |
| 8 | Trey Mainor | | Lee Hartley |
| | David Strange | | Tommy Jones |
| | Gerry Williams | | Virginia Shearin |
| 9 | Kristen Butler | | Locke White |
| | Carl McDevitt | | Charles Wilkerson |
| | John Porterfield | | Charles Winsett |
| | Jamalyn Smith | 23 | Joyce Mims |
| | Patrice Wasden | | Peggy Cole |
| 10 | Frances Dover | | Brittany Hord |
| | Gayle Harper | 24 | Helen Cain |
| | Myra Mills | | Howard Duncan |
| | Harlan Ratliff (81st) | | Donald McClain |
| | Manly Swearingen | | Pearl McClain |
| 11 | Amanda Anderson | | Patricia Potts |
| | Robert Sandifer | | Jerry Shadrick |
| 12 | Clyde Alison | | Debbie Whitehouse |
| | Faye Best | 25 | Colonel Durden |
| | Jo Hurley | | Bonnie Morris |
| | John Messick | 26 | Faye Spivey |
| | Warren Miller | 27 | Annabelle O’Neal (9th) |
| | Mary Talley | | Vaughn Lowery |
| | Tom Vocino | | Jessika Wallace |
| | LeeAnn Willams (38th) | 28 | Marilyn Oliver |
| 13 | Sarah Bone | | Betty Spivey |
| | Jenelle Jones | | Andy Strange |
| | Norman Rahn | 29 | Weston Browder |
| | Marie Penn | | Mavis Kratzer |
| 14 | Shawn Adams | 30 | Brittany Abott |
| | Kenneth Banks | | Kaitlin Castleberry |
| | Houston Harris | | Drew Meadows (11th) |
| | Walker Meadows | | Jackie Moseley |
| | Ken Franklin McKenzie | | Boyd Partridge |
| | Xan Morrow | | Jim Tinney |
| | Spears Rhodes | | Earle Williams |

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Gaylord Edward Kafka – October 9, 2019
Betty Jean Culver – October 10, 2019
Edward Randall Burdick – October 11, 2019
Ryan Patrick Angier – October 11, 2019
Bernice Ray – October 11, 2019
Abel Clinton Franklin – October 11, 2019
Teresa Ann Robinson – October 12, 2019
Infant Vaila Rhianna Kate Williams – October 12, 2019
Samuel Luther Logan Jr. – October 14, 2019
Gloria Ann Dean – October 21, 2019
Charles Ernest McWhorter – October 22, 2019
J. W. Puckett – October 22, 2019
Infant Carter Jamal Williams – October 22, 2019
Lula Nelda Weldon – October 24, 2019
Pauleen Holloway – October 25, 2019
Cecil LaDon Denham – October 27, 2019
Richard Blair Melton – October 27, 2019
Sunsern “Sam” Padavanija – October 29, 2019
Bruce Howard Brown – October 19, 2019

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Years and Laughter:

Nobody is okay all the time...and that is okay

By Amanda Walker

Everybody puts up a good front don't they? Or at least they try to. And that is probably what we are supposed to do for the most part. Just by human nature we tend to put our best selves forward. Even if we are train wrecks.

We certainly do in the South. Someone can be grieving, broke, lonesome, depressed, bored, and hopeless, but if you ask them how they are doing, they will say they are okay. Or, they will say, "I'm good," – knowing full well they are having to hold a Bible in one hand and a drink in the other at night just to get to sleep.

And all over the country this is happening – some people are waking up, lost somewhere in the book of Acts with an empty glass beside their bed – and then they get dressed-up like a professional. They march out to pretend with everybody else that everything is wonderful. They may be about to implode from the stress they are carrying. They may have recently stopped cigarettes by replacing them with opioid tablets. But if you ask them, they are going to tell you they are fine. They will probably even smile in a way that makes you believe them.

There are others living for reasons they aren't sure about anymore. They are nowhere near good, or fine. They are living for an escape. They are looking for an exit. They are giving up. But they are not going to tell anyone that. They will say they are okay.

And people are a lot like chickens. You can't look at them in the face and tell how they are feeling, but it is okay to not be okay.

You may go through your day thinking everybody around you seems to have it together. And many do. There are people who are happy and successful. But if you ask them how they got there, you will find that – almost without exception – they had times when they were not okay.

I quit a job one time when I was around 22. It was not my first job to quit. I had quit a lot of things. I had quit track. I had quit college. I was planning to quit a marriage. So quitting another job was not a major move, and it wasn't like my name was on the side of the building. I felt I had little to lose – even though I didn't have a car at the time, and about three night's meals left in the freezer.

When I decided to quit, on this first day of this ill-fitted job I had taken, I just walked out...and kept walking. I lived a couple of miles away in a rented townhouse. I knew I could make it home before my ride was due.

And I was pretty low. I was walking along West Front Street, on a sidewalk I had memorized as a kid. It went right by my old elementary school. And along the way I got chased by four dogs.

So now there I was, frantically running down West Front Street – unemployed. The dogs were getting closer, and with few choices, I chanced running into one of the houses. I didn't know the homeowners that well, and they weren't expecting me to crash through their screen door, but I figured I could explain things...at least in part.

The dogs turned out to be friendly, and I slipped back out the screen door unnoticed. They stayed with me most of the way home before turning back to their life and leaving me to mine.

That was a lot of years and several cars ago. It's not a time I often write about. But if you are not okay today, just remember that over time the doors that need to open will be unlocked, and not all barking dogs bite. Life gets better. Ask anybody.



Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms.Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits...

“An Attitude of Gratitude”

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

Ahhhh! Fall has finally arrived, and November is here. This time of year is synonymous with Thanksgiving in America. It's common during this month to hear talk of gratitude and why it's so important. Adopting an attitude of gratitude isn't just something that sounds nice at Thanksgiving. It's a lifestyle and mindset choice that will drastically change your life and bring peace.

“Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

For something to change in your life, one of two things have to happen: your life changes, or you do. Waiting for life to change is a pretty passive solution. When you're stuck in a problem mentality you miss out on all the opportunities for solutions that are knocking on your door every day, simply because you don't even hear them or see them.

By opening your eyes to an attitude of gratitude wonderful things can happen. All of a sudden, things start to fall into place. Life becomes more peace-filled. Also, adopting an attitude of gratitude takes you out of the problem and toward a solution. It removes you from complaining mode and into a best-outcomes mindset.

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

So remember, be choosing an attitude of gratitude, you not only change your life, but the lives of those around you. Whether you are facing chaotic, unsettled situations or your soul is weary from striving, stress, and strain, there is peace, my friend. God's peace is waiting for you just beyond the doors of gratitude. But the only way to find it is to go there and see for yourself. God's peace is one of the many blessings that live on the other side of gratitude.

Happy Thanksgiving & Many Blessings!

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