



The Alabama Gazette

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
ALABAMA'S SECOND DISTRICT



WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) was sworn in for her third term in the House of Representatives Tuesday, promising to hit the ground running on pressing issues like immigration enforcement, Veterans Affairs improvement, relief for working Americans, and proper funding for the military.

"I'm grateful for the trust voters placed in me by returning me to Congress, and I'm deeply honored to continue representing Alabama's 2nd District," Rep. Roby said. "We have unfinished business to take care of on behalf of the American people, and I'm ready to get to work."

By "unfinished business," Rep. Roby means passing common sense legislation that got blocked in the formerly-Democratic Senate, reining in years' worth of Executive Branch overreaches, repairing the damage of the ill-conceived "sequestration" military cuts, and keeping up efforts to improve the delivery of health care and benefits to veterans long after the VA scandal left the front page.

"Partisan gridlock over the last several years has kept our country from making progress on many important issues. Hardworking taxpayers are still being squeezed in this economy, and federal policies on healthcare and energy aren't helping. Our military is dangerously stretched for resources, leaving our readiness compromised. And President Obama's reckless executive actions continue to threaten the checks and balances so critical to preserving our government 'of the people.'"

"House Republicans have made great strides toward addressing these issues, but have been greatly hindered by a Democratic-controlled Senate. With Republicans now in the majority in both chambers, I am optimistic we successfully tackle many of these pressing issues with commonsense solutions on behalf of the American people."

Of particular urgency is immigration enforcement, with President Obama moving forward with plans to undermine the rule of law and grant defacto amnesty to as many as five million illegal immigrants. In a recently passed appropriations package, Congress

provided only temporary funding for Homeland Security to allow a better opportunity to address immigration when Republicans assumed the majority.

Wasting no time to address the issue in the new majority, Rep. Roby said she planned to introduce a bill this week aimed to block President Obama's overreaching immigration actions using the "power of the purse."

"We have a responsibility to block President Obama's dangerous, unconstitutional immigration orders to grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants. In fact, I will be introducing legislation right away that wields the 'power of the purse' to prevent President Obama from carrying out his executive amnesty plans."

Rep. Roby will again serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Appropriations subcommittees for the 114th Congress have not yet been assigned.

**For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202.226.1567/
todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.**

ROBY BILL SEEKS TO BLOCK EXECUTIVE AMNESTY

Wields the "power of the purse" to prevent Obama's immigration overreach

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Wasting no time to address President Obama's immigration actions in the new Congress, U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) has introduced legislation to block the president's executive amnesty plans by prohibiting funding from being used to implement the orders.

H.R. 31, The Prevention of Executive Amnesty Act, is meant to present model language that can be used in a Homeland Security Appropriations title to block President Obama's unilateral executive actions, Rep. Roby said.

"President Obama's attempt to grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants isn't just irresponsible. It's dangerous. It undermines the rule of law and threatens American jobs," Rep. Roby said.

"Last month Congress went forward with a plan that gave us the best chance to address executive amnesty through the Appropriations process. In doing so, we also made a commitment that we would see that effort through in good faith. That's why I'm introducing legislation right out the gate that wields the 'power of the purse' to prevent President Obama from carrying out his executive amnesty plans.

"I have spoken directly to the Majority Leader to impress upon our leadership that our Conference must be serious about addressing executive amnesty head on in a straightforward and meaningful way."

"I know there will be a broad and dynamic debate about how to address executive amnesty, but let's start the conversation right here. I believe this language gives us a great starting point for blocking executive amnesty by using the 'power of the purse,' so let's go from here."

H.R. 31 states:

None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available, including any funds or fees collected or otherwise made available for expenditure, by any Act, or otherwise available to the Secretary of Homeland Security, for any fiscal

year may be used to implement, administer, carry out, or enforce the policies in any of the following:

- (1) *The memoranda issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security on November 20, 2014, on any of the following subjects:*
 - A. *Southern border and approaches campaign.*
 - B. *Policies for the apprehension, detention, and removal of undocumented immigrants.*
 - C. *Secure Communities.*
 - D. *Personnel reform for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.*
 - E. *Exercising prosecutorial discretion with respect to individuals who came to the United States as children and with respect to certain individuals who are the parents of U.S. citizens or permanent residents.*
 - F. *Expansion of the Provisional Waiver Program.*
 - G. *Policies supporting U.S. high skilled businesses and workers.*
 - H. *Families of U.S. Armed Forces members and enlistees.*
 - I. *Directive to provide consistency regarding advanced parole.*
 - J. *Policies to promote and increase access to U.S. citizenship.*
- (2) *The memoranda issued by the President on November 21, 2014, on any of the following subjects:*
 - A. *Creating welcoming communities and fully integrating immigrants and refugees.*
 - B. *Modernizing and streamlining the U.S. immigrant visa system for the 21st century.*
- (3) *Any substantially similar memorandum issued after November 21, 2014.*

Rep. Roby is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

NEW YEAR, RENEWED PRIORITIES

The start of a new year is a great time for reflecting on the past and looking confidently toward the future.

Many like to make resolutions to give a "fresh start" to a goal. Whether it is exercising more, eating healthier, going after that dream job, or spending more time with family, many times resolutions have as much to do with what we haven't done in the last year than what we want to do in the next. In other words, our "unfinished business" can often take the form of New Years resolutions.

That is certainly true of my hopes for Congress in the new year. There is plenty of "unfinished business" left to take care of, from jump starting job growth and getting families relief from burdensome healthcare policies to securing our border and reining in dangerous executive overreaches.

Partisan gridlock over the last several years has kept our country from making progress on these important issues, as well as many others. I am eager to change that in 2015, and I believe we can be successful.

One reason I am optimistic about this year is the changing landscape of Congress. After major victories on Election Day, this week Republicans will assume the majority the U.S. Senate and grow the majority in the U.S. House.

So, with measured optimism about the new year, here is a short list of issues and items I would like to take action on in the 114th Congress:

- Continuing to reform the Central Alabama VA. While some progress has been made, major staffing and care efficiency problems persist.
- Addressing President Obama's immigration actions. In the coming months, Congress must work to reverse the President's ill-advised orders through the appropriations process.
- Providing proper funding for our military. "Sequestration" devastated our military and compromised readiness. We must reverse the trend of military cuts and restore proper funding.
- Passing and enacting the Working Families Flexibility Act. My bill to offer working moms and dads more choices with their overtime passed the House last Congress, but was blocked in the Senate. I plan to try again this year.
- Helping advance and pass other sensible legislation that has been held up in the Senate, such as the Keystone Pipeline, repealing the Obamacare employer mandate tax, incentivizing the hiring of veterans, and implementing reforms to help welfare recipients find jobs and lift their families out of poverty.

These are just some of the many issues awaiting Congress' attention. In the coming months, I look forward to working to make progress on behalf of Alabama's 2nd District.

Best wishes to you and your family in the New Year.



Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Montgomery County Law

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THERE'S A NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN
...A New Chief Deputy too!



Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy

I am honored to introduce to everyone Kevin Murphy. He will assume the position of Chief Deputy on January 20, 2015. I am glad to have him by my side, and I know he will do a great job for the citizens of Montgomery County. Murphy possesses the necessary knowledge and experience that will guarantee his success as Chief Deputy.

Chief Murphy began his tenure with law enforcement in 1984, as a patrol officer with the Ozark Police Department. In 1986, he joined the Montgomery Police Department. Murphy has worked in several divisions and capacities at the Montgomery Police Department since 1986. He was progressive in moving through the ranks, holding every rank offered until being named Chief of Police in 2011.

Chief Murphy obtained a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice Management from Auburn University Montgomery in 2009. He graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy in 2000. Additionally, he graduated from the National Executive Institute sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2013.

Murphy's community connections include his membership on the following boards; Security Board of Alabama, South University Academic Advisory Board, Academic Policy Board with the Montgomery Police Department Command Staff College, One Place Family Justice Center, and the Mental Health America in Montgomery.

Please help me welcome Chief Deputy Murphy to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!

I have received several inquiries regarding my swearing in as Sheriff of Montgomery County. The swearing in ceremony will take place January 16, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at the Montgomery County Commission Chambers. I invite each of you to come out and celebrate this occasion with my family and friends. I would like to thank everyone again for making my dreams come true and trusting me to be your next sheriff.

During the holiday season, we were busy making sure all of the children in our county had a great Christmas. The Deputy Sheriff's Association, under the direction of Corporal Isaac Forbes was responsible for identifying less fortunate children and presenting gifts to the families. Corporal Forbes and Corporal Leonard worked day and night to make certain that Santa visited each of these families. Corporal Forbes and Corporal Leonard teamed up with Auburn University in Montgomery Athletics Department to make this endeavor a success.



Each of the sport teams affiliated with AUM volunteered their time not only to assist with the toy drive, but with the toy distribution as well. WCOV owner, David Woods even came out to the toy drive and offered his assistance.

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to Corporal Isaac Forbes, Corporal Cedric Leonard, and everyone else that helped to ensure the children of Montgomery County had a very Merry Christmas. The sheriff's office knows firsthand how good Walmart is to our community. I personally want to say, (THANK YOU) to the entire Walmart staff!

I am a person who truly enjoys being visible and active in community events, and I want to hear from you. I am usually in the office most of the time; however, I do attend several meetings during the day. If you need to contact me, please call my Administrative Assistant, Crystal Vazquez. She will make sure that I receive all messages. Our office number is (334) 832-1646, or you can email me at DerrickCunningham@mc-ala.org. or Mrs. Vazquez at ChristieVazquez@mc-ala.org.



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Robservations...by Robert Tate

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

ANARCHY IN THE WINGS

I will be honest with all of you. I don't even know where to begin with this Robservations. In an era where, as a society, we should be reaching for the stars, we seem to be mired in the most toxic racial environment I have witnessed in my adult life. Just

before I sat down to write this, a news report broke that I am sure each and every one of you has seen and heard about dozens of times. It appears that 28-year-old Ismaaiyl Abdula Brinsley of Maryland, took his semi-automatic handgun and murdered two New York City Police Department officers, Rafael Ramos, 40, and 32 year-old Wenjian Liu. In a hate filled twitter diatribe, Brinsley defiantly boasted of "putting wings on pigs" and encouraged others to kill police officers. He wrote, "they take 1 of ours ... let's take 2 of theirs." Like a lot of America right now, I am both confused and to be quite honest with you, pissed off. I cannot imagine what goes through the mind of somebody who decides to stroll up to a police car and put bullets into the heads of men minding their own business. Although Brinsley alluded that he was seeking just punishment for the killings of Michael Brown and Eric Garner, in fact all he did was callously murder two men in cold blood.

I think all of us watched in horror as the events in Ferguson, Missouri stained our national psyche. Looting, burning, arson, violence, you name it. For over a week, our televisions looked like a replay of the 1960s. Heck, I was just a kid living on the border of Newark, New Jersey in East Orange in 1967 when the riots hit that turbulent July. I remember seeing the National Guard troops walking in front of our apartment and in the end, 26 people died. But in 2014?

I have a Bible reading plan that I follow every year. On 2 December as I was doing my daily quiet time, I read a passage from **II Peter 2:9-10**. It says, "then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment, and especially those who indulge the flesh in its corrupt desires and despise authority." The words DESPISE AUTHORITY caught my attention.

I have a Bible program on my Ipad called e-Sword HD. It is a really good program. One of the features I often find myself using are the commentaries written by Bible scholars like Matthew Henry, Adam Clarke and Robert Hawker. When I read the passage in II Peter, I opened up the commentaries and turned to the one written by Albert Barnes. For those of you who don't know who he was, Albert Barnes was an American Theologian and ordained Presbyterian minister born in 1798 and died in 1870. In his commentary on **II Peter 2:9-10** concerning those who despise government, Barnes wrote,

"That is, they regard all government in the state, the church, and the family, as an evil. Advocates for unbridled freedom of all sorts; declaimers on liberty and

on the evils of oppression; defenders of what they regard as the rights of injured man, and yet secretly themselves lusting for the exercise of the very power which they would deny to others - they make no just distinctions about what constitutes true freedom, and in their zeal array themselves against government in all forms. No topic of declamation would be more popular than this, and from none would they hope to secure more followers; for if they could succeed in removing all respect for the just restraints of law, the way would be open for the accomplishment of their own purposes, in setting up a dominion over the minds of others. It is a common result of such views, that men of this description become impatient of the government of God himself, and seek to throw off all authority, and to live in the unrestrained indulgence of their vicious propensities." (italic added by author)

Wow!! Truer words are rarely if ever uttered in these most trying of times. In an era of wanting to be politically correct and avoiding even the perception of offense, people tend to minimize or outright dodge the truth in its entirety. In his commentary, Albert Barnes hit the nail on the head. I would ask those of you who read this article to read his words again and really try to understand what he is saying here. Whether it be the "Occupy Wall Street" gangsters, the Ferguson rioters and looters or the depraved cop killer, Ismaaiyl Abdula Brinsley, so often today we see people who simply want to disregard all forms of restraint. In other words, as our nation becomes more secular and moves at warp speed from those things of God, the reality of what Albert Barnes wrote in explaining the Biblical truths we are facing every day, will come to fruition. It is there for everybody to see.

There is an ugly trend in our society now that says, "You can't tell me what to do." The over used, "You're not the boss of me" has become synonymous with the boorish behavior of large segments of an entire generation. No people, there is no excuse for the murder of two policemen. At the same time, I am not so ignorant as to not realize there are some police out there doing bad things and too often those wrongdoings are overlooked by authorities. But as a nation of laws, we have to let the system work as best it can. As the saying goes, we cannot "throw the baby out with the bathwater." To willingly allow retribution to be dealt by the hands of angry mobs at the expense of the government is anarchy. Anyone who believes that unbridled lawlessness and mayhem is the way to a better America is a fool.

I for one hope we get past this soon but from my vantage point, as long as we have the very top leadership in this country stoking the flames of racism and the usual race hustlers adding fuel to the proverbial fire, things are not going to get better anytime soon. For this I am sad and for the first time in my adult life truly embarrassed for how America is certainly perceived around the world.



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers



Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His column appears weekly in 72 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us

During the 2010 Governor's Race, I continuously made the statement that whomever won the 2010 Governor's Race would be a one-term governor. My prophecy was based on the fact that the state was flat broke and it would take a lot of tough decisions and probably tax increases to fix the mess.

Former Gov. Bob Riley was not helping his successor any either in a concerted mission to spend every cent in an already barren cupboard. There was nothing in the state rainy day funds and all the federal stimulus money from Washington was gone. Unlike the federal government that can just print money, the state constitutionally has to live within its means.

Therefore, the new Governor, Dr. Robert Bentley, inherited a ship of state that was like walking onto the deck of the titanic. However, the good doctor from Tuscaloosa took the reins of state government with the same positive attitude that had resonated during his campaign for the office. He had connected with the Alabama electorate during his come from behind upset capture of the state's brass ring of politics. He began his four-year adventure by declaring he would not offer any tax increases to resolve the state's budget woes. This same mantra was espoused by his friends and former colleagues in the new super majority ultra conservative legislature elected with him during the 2010 elections.

Dr. Bentley rolled up his sleeves and went to work, although he went to work at below minimum wage. In fact, he received no wages for being governor during his entire four-year term, living up to his campaign promise of not taking a salary until the state reached full employment.

His primary goal was to create new jobs. He made that the focus of his first four years. He indeed had some success. He helped lure several high profile high paying manufacturing plants to the state. He was not flashy or ego driven but came across to fellow Alabamians as a good guy and a hard working underpaid governor. He was seen as a plow horse, not a show horse.

He further endeared himself to Alabamians with his outstanding service during devastating tornadoes that came through the state about two years into his tenure. He handled the catastrophe with aplomb and a sincere empathy that was

evident. Indeed the tornadoes hammered his home area. The worst damage and casualties resulted in and around Tuscaloosa.

After three years in office, the next governor's race was looming. Dr. Bentley made it known early that he was going to run for a second four-year term. It became obvious to me that my prognostication four years earlier, that whoever was elected governor in 2010 would be a one-term governor, was going to come back to haunt me and that I was indeed going to have to eat my words.

A cursory look at the initial polling of Dr. Bentley's re-electability numbers revealed my prophecy was going to be a mistake. Polling indicated an overwhelming and unprecedented approval rating for the Governor. His positive ratings were driven by an incredible trustworthiness factor. Folks simply liked the old doctor from Tuscaloosa. He was like an old shoe. He felt good to them.

Therefore, it became obvious early on that he was going to coast to reelection and he did. Incumbents have an inherent advantage in all elections but popular ones really do. Thus, the 2014 election shaped up as a very dull year for Alabama politics. Bentley was perceived as unbeatable, so the election became uneventful.

He received token opposition in the GOP Primary. Two obscure people qualified. Bentley trounced them with an amazing 90% of the vote. He then went on to trample the Democratic nominee, Parker Griffith, by a record breaking 64 to 36 margin. Further relegating the Democratic Party to minority and uphill status in future statewide elections.

Bentley's landslide victory in his reelection contest was also remarkable in that he won so overwhelmingly without running one negative ad. I can now safely say that Gov. Bentley will not be reelected in 2018, simply because he is prohibited by the state constitution from seeking a third consecutive term.

The race has already begun to succeed him. 2018 is shaping up as a much more exciting and unpredictable event than 2014.

January 7, 2015



Marcia Chambliss

LOVE OF PORK IS KILLING US

1.1 trillion dollars. That's the amount Congress approved in appropriation funding to keep our government operating, including the pork required to pass it. If you wonder how we have reached a level of government requiring such an astronomical level of funding, retiring U.S. Senator Tom Coburn's farewell address explained it best.

In his remarks, Sen. Coburn read the oath all members of Congress take when being sworn into office as he believes the failure to comprehend that oath is part of the problem. After reading it, and choking up while doing so, he proceeded to emphatically deliver the following scolding message:

"Your state isn't mentioned one time in that oath. Your whole goal is to protect the United States of America, its Constitution, and its liberties. It's not to provide benefits for your state. That's where we differ. That's where my conflict with my colleagues has come. It's nice to be able to do things for your state, but that isn't our charge. Our charge is to protect the future of our country by upholding the Constitution and ensuring the liberty that's guaranteed there is protected and preserved."

It's a video that should be mandatory viewing for every member of Congress whether newly elected or returning for their umpteenth term. It's worth noting that Sen. Coburn upheld his campaign promise when first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to serve no more than three terms. He then made a similar pledge to serve no more than two terms when elected to the U.S. Senate but has resigned two years early due to his battle with prostate cancer. While some of his comments in a recent **60 Minutes** interview may have riled up more than a few conservatives, he has not wavered in his stand against government excess.

A long fiscal conservative watchdog who fought government waste, often by blocking wasteful spending bills, his assessment of the out-of-control pork spending from both political parties does not bode well for the future of our nation. Why? Because the deals that are cut behind the scenes, away from the scrutiny of taxpaying citizens, reek of the crony corporatism and special interest influence that corrupts those we elect to represent

us, threatens the financial security of our nation, and in turn reduces our ability to protect us from our enemies.

It's how unpopular legislation such as Obamacare is passed; enticements such as the "Cornhusker Kickback" and the "Louisiana Purchase" secured those senators votes with financial enticements for their respective states without regard for the consequences.

Once that pork makes it way home, we the voters are sadly willing to trade our own state sovereignty and the long-term future of our Republic for our piece of the pie. With every dollar that we accept from the federal government, we lose our ability to operate more closely at the state and local level. We typically reward those pork-producing incumbents by returning them to office, even if their voting record conflicts with our stated fiscally conservative beliefs.

This insatiable dependence on federal dollars is not only driving us deeper into national debt – it is also further eroding the principle of federalism which was a relationship between government at the national, state and local levels and provides a sharing of power. One only has to look to the expansive Department of Education and its resultant failure to see the dangers of allowing the federal government to increase its power and control over the state and local governments.

Centralization of power leads to tyranny yet we continue down this path like lambs being led to slaughter. Close to home, the lure of federal dollars in Medicaid expansion may be a quick fix to state budget shortfalls, but the problems of a broken system will only be masked by a temporary influx of funding.

Similarly as Russia's government has been totally dependent on high oil prices, our government and economy is entirely built on our ability to print money – what happens when the world economies decide that the dollar is no longer the currency of choice? The lessons of failed governments are all around us if only those we elect to represent us would heed those warnings instead of allowing them to fall on deaf ears.

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c) (3) non-profit dedicated to the education and training of activists and candidates, and Smart Girl Politics Action, <http://sgpaction.com>, a 501(c) (4) which focuses on conservative issues. She can be reached at: Marcia@sgpaction.com. Her views do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Smart Girl Politics Action

SENSE AND NONSENSE ABOUT POLICE BEHAVIOR AND RACIAL PROFILING

The increase of accusations by the African-American or black community that white police officers disproportionately target black residents has become the focus of recent and current nation-wide protests – both violent and non-violent. News media coverage of the choking death of an unarmed black man, Eric Garner, during an arrest by New York City police officers followed by the shooting death of a young unarmed 18 year-old black man, Michael Brown, by a white patrol officer in Ferguson, Missouri have resurrected the issue of police brutality and racism across America. Protests have occurred in the streets of New York City blocking traffic and disrupting businesses. Just days ago two NYPD officers were shot to death execution style by a black man with the intention to "take out" two police officers. Interestingly, both officers were minority officers – one Hispanic and one Asian. Similar protests have occurred in cities across the nation to include here in Alabama. The Grand Jury's decision not to bring charges against Ferguson City Police Officer Darren Wilson sparked violent protests by primarily black residents along with divisive groups from other cities. This violence included the deliberate burning of businesses, looting, disorderly conduct, assaults and property damage.

Ferguson's population is sixty-seven percent black residents. Ferguson's Police Department is comprised of 54 sworn police officers 4 of which are black. There is no empirical evidence to substantiate this is the cause of alleged targeting of black residents, it does speak to the disproportionality of the general population's racial make-up compared to that of the Ferguson Police Department.

Of New York City's population 56% is white. Interestingly, the New York Police Department's (NYPD) patrol division is made up of approximately 53% of African American and Hispanic/Latino patrol officers and 47% of white officers. The race/ethnicity of known Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter suspects is Black (55.0%) and Hispanic (35.5%). White suspects account for (5.8%) of all Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter. Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter victims are most frequently Black (62.9%) or Hispanic (25.2%). White victims account for 7.2% in this category.

Continued on page 19.



Dr. David Nichols

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I was recently reading an article in the advertiser one morning and came upon some very interesting information that shows that we Alabamians are very giving. The article stated that Alabamians donate a larger slice of their income than those in almost any other state and the typical Alabama donation is bigger. Alabama ranks number 3 in highest percentage of donated income the study found. Only Mississippi and Utah ranked ahead of us.

The National Financial Advisory site WalletHub.com also ranked Alabama as the second poorest state. Talk about having a heart, we have the least and give the most, maybe the rest of the nation needs to take a look and follow our example.

Now I know that y'all are reading this and going what does this have to do with hunting and fishing? Well I'm going to tell you, deer hunting has become a way for many schools and charitable organizations to give back to their community or organization. One such organization that has taken deer hunting on as a way to raise funds is the Montgomery Lions Club.

Back in 2003 the Montgomery Lions Club was looking for a way to raise money for their charitable causes and they came up with the Montgomery Lions Club Charity Deer Hunt.

The deer hunt this season will be hosted by the Montgomery Lions on January 15th-17th, 2015. You can come join hunters from all over the United States and Canada and hunt over fifty thousand acres

of private land during the prime rut in the famous Alabama Black Belt, home of the Souths finest trophy whitetail deer. The Black Belt of Alabama is considered one of the best if not the best locations in the country to hunt the elusive whitetail deer.

The hunt registration begins on Thursday morning the 15th at 9:00 a.m. Hunting will begin Thursday afternoon and go through Saturday morning the 17th. During the hunts you will be hunting private land and personally guided and don't forget you will also be treated to great southern food and of course southern hospitality. On Friday night there will be a banquet and raffle packed with firearms and outdoor gear available for the lucky winners.

Now lets talk pricing, your not going to believe this, the standard hunt package which is 3 days, 4 hunts (one buck and two does) is only \$900. They also have a father/child package (17 and under)-\$1200 (both hunting-2 bucks and 4 does). If you want Mama to tag along she is only \$50 a day and can shop and explore while you and junior hunt.

I know there is a lot of land owners out there who are particular about hunting on their land, but if you would like to be a part of a great organization that is raising money for a good cause the Lions Club is looking for additional property to hunt. This hunt has been so good in years past that the demand is growing every year so additional land is greatly needed. if you have land and possibly interested in



Coston Strickland with a nice blackbelt buck from Bullock County

donating for the hunt call the **Lions Club office at (334)356-1180.**

The Montgomery Lions Club has generously turned over \$4 million dollars to charities over the years and will continue to keep working and raising funds with great events such as the Lions Club Charity Deer Hunt. My hats off to you guys and gals for all the hard work and time that y'all give to help others in need.



"The Kritter Korner" BLACK BEARS

How many people know that in 2006 the Alabama State legislation designated the black bear as Alabama's official state mammal.

The black bears, one of my all time favorite animals is very intelligent, shy, and secretive

animals - actually seeing a bear in the wild is a very rare experience. Black bears are not always black - there are cinnamon, white (known as Spirit bears), beige, and "blue" (slate gray) black bears. Adult black bears vary considerably in size they can stand up to 6 feet tall and are a plantigrade (flatfooted), and weigh from 130 - 500 pounds (occasionally as much as 700). The black bear is classified as carnivores, and are not active predators. These intelligent mammals are opportunistic feeders and will eat almost anything that is available. Although natural foods, such as berries and acorns, comprise a majority of a bear's diet, bears readily take advantage of food options provided by humans. When available, bears may feed on agricultural crops such as corn, wheat, oats, and sugarcane, occasionally damage beehives in search of honey, and will readily become habituated to human garbage when the opportunity exists.

The black bear ranges from the far north (Alaska and northern Canada) to northern Mexico. Bears tend to range over large areas in search of basic needs such as food, escape cover, den sites, and mates. Males have been known to range over 100 square miles while females occupy much smaller home ranges, often less than 10 square miles. They can run up to 30 mph and are good swimmers.

The black Bear is a solitary creature (except females with cubs). A mating pair may stay together for one to several days, then part ways. The cubs are born in the winter during hibernation, and will remain with their mother until their second summer. When they emerge from the winter den the mother teaches the cubs which plants to eat and where to find the grubs and other insects that will supplement their diets.

Black bears are very intelligent, shy and secretive animals, and generally work hard at avoiding contact with humans. Dangerous situations may occur whenever close human activity is perceived as a danger to cubs or otherwise threatening. The best advice is for humans to avoid close contact with bears. The males are called boars and the females are sows, babies are cubs. The black bear has an extremely high sense of smell (and can smell up to 3-5 miles), but has poor vision. For all you seeking information on the law on Alabama mammal here is the Alabama law information on this subject.

Alabama Law; TITLE 1.
Chapter 2 STATE SYMBOLS AND HONORS.
Section 1-2-36 State mammal.
Section 1-2-36
State mammal.

The Black Bear, subfamily ursine, *Ursus americanus* Pollas, 1780, is hereby designated as the official state mammal of Alabama: (Act 2006-245, §1.)



Ron VanHerwyn



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**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

WWW.CUTBOWLS.COM

The proliferation of bowl games has been a favorite of mine. There are too many and next year there may even be more. The NCAA sanctions every bowl game played. ESPN will televise any bowl game within a thousand miles of the Continental United States. Why? ESPN makes money. The NCAA makes money. The participating schools make money for themselves, and for their affiliated conference. The independent teams like Notre Dame and Brigham Young really make money. The professional gamblers in Las Vegas and other book making loca-

tions make money. The advertisers evidently make money or they would not sponsor the games. So, with all of these people making money, why not add to the number of bowls that were played this year?

What can be done about this problem? This writer is establishing a new website to combat the NCAA, www.cutbowls.com...you can fight this also. If the NCAA does not sanction a bowl game, it will not be played. ESPN and other networks can not televise a game that does not exist.

The bowl season that has just ended was the worst. There were thirty-eight bowls played using up 1,560 hours of television time. That is almost 67 days. That does not include the national championship game at "Jerry's World". With **38 bowls**, there obviously has to be 76 teams participating. There are 128 Division I football playing schools being quasi-officially governed by the rules and regulations of the NCAA. Every school in the FBS (D-1 classification...the Auburns, the Alabamas, the Ohio States, the Wisconsin, etc.) that played in a bowl this year, were all sanctioned by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The fact is that only fifty-two schools in Division I did not go to a bowl, approximately 40%. This obviously means that 60% of all Division I schools were in bowls this year.

Picking on the NCAA has always been popular especially here in Alabama where Alabama and Auburn have been hit very hard in the past with serious NCAA probationations. Probation usually means that a team can not go to a bowl game during the probationary period. Sometimes, it can mean that a team can not participate in any televised game for this period of time. Also, the number of scholarships in the sport on probation can be seriously reduced. In the 80's, SMU was hit so hard that the program had to be discontinued. That is what has been referred to as "the death penalty".

The most egregious mis-use of power by the NCAA occurred in the Penn State affair three years ago. Mark Emmert, president of the NCAA saw a chance to make a name for himself and the NCAA by being on the "right side" of the sex scandal that occurred while "squeaky clean" Coach Joe Paterno was in charge of the football program. The former assistant coach that perpetrated the illegal sex acts on young boys in and around the facilities governed by Coach Paterno, the Penn State athletic director and the Penn State University president was a "hero" to the Penn State program and its fans. Coach Jerry Sandusky was the long time defensive coordinator who helped Paterno win two national championships. I believe that "Joe Pa" knew something long before the story broke because he terminated Sandusky, who quietly rode off into the sunset, but kept coming back to the shower room at the football facility. This was clearly a criminal case and not a NCAA probationary case. The only thing that the NCAA could authoritatively do to punish Penn State was with the regulation regarding "lack of institutional control". Emmert realized later that he had over-stepped his boundaries in this case. The NCAA allowed Penn State to participate in a bowl game this year. All sanctions will be lifted as of this fall. The NCAA has over-stepped its bounds in many cases and has done little or nothing in others.

Picking on ESPN is something new for me. It only occurred to me this year that this sports network would televise "THE TEXAS COW PATTY BOWL" in Amarillo, Texas. It is all about the money. Unfortunately that's the world we live in. Does it make this right? No. Does this make it wrong? No. It's just business. The bowls to a football fan is like the liquor stores are to an alcoholic. How many liquor stores do we need in America? I don't know the answer to that question. We must have enough because there are plenty of drunks causing havoc in their own families, and causing the deaths of innocent people on the streets and highways of this country.

Now, the bowls are not killing people, or causing undue hardship on families of football fans, but they are causing people to spend less time with their families during the holiday season. The ultimate fan may be with his family physically, but he could be like me. The obsession to watch football is so strong with some fans that it will actually cause them to skip dinner with the family in order to watch Utah State play the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) in the Gildan New Mexico Bowl. I'm not sure what a "gildan" is. Maybe I don't need to know. It hasn't hurt me so far not to know.

This bowl game addiction is growing like an infectious disease. In 1990

Total BOWL APPEARANCES

Alabama	62
Texas	53
Nebraska	51
Tennessee	50
Georgia	50

there were 19 bowl games. In 2000 there were 25. Last year there were 34. This year, 38. The number of bowl games have actually doubled since 1990. Where is the saturation point? I think that we arrived at it this year. I probably watched some or part of 35 bowls this year. My obsession may be a little stronger than most, but it will not be by much. I'm bowled over, bowled out and bowled under. This madness has to be put in reverse. The NCAA only requires that a team have at least six wins to be "bowl eligible". Fresno State played

Rice in the Hawaii Bowl with a 6-7 record, the only team with a losing record in the lineup this year. Now they are 6-8 because Rice ate their pineapples.

What is the solution? May I offer an opinion? I saw hardly 2,000 people in the stands at the Hawaii Bowl. That was the least attended bowl game of the year. In others, the stands were less than half filled. Even the inaugural Camellia Bowl in Montgomery had an attendance of around 20,000, approximately 80% of capacity. It is not my intention to say that we never need a new bowl game. The Camellia Bowl for instance was a resounding success. My intention is to say that we must cut out some games that are really embarrassing for the participants, the local bowl committee. It should be embarrassing to the NCAA.

The NCAA can require the teams in its organization to have six wins in order to be eligible for a bowl game. I believe that they should institute a rule that the participating teams, fans, local residents and the bowl committees must sell at least 90% of the tickets, with at least 80% of capacity in attendance. After two consecutive years not meeting this requirement the NCAA will no longer sanction that bowl game. This would allow the "bad" bowl games to "expire" over time due to their own poor performance. This should start this year. Now, there may be some legal issues with the NCAA trying to enforce a regulation on an organization like the Camellia Bowl for example. This bowl is like all others. It is basically a privately owned organization in conjunction with the City of Montgomery. The Camellia Bowl committee picked a perfect day for a

minor bowl game this year; December 20, the Saturday after the Army/Navy game. Kudos to the Camellia Bowl Committee. To accomplish anything as complicated as I am proposing, we will need an ace in the hole. One always needs an ace in the hole. Gotcha' covered cowboy. We have five aces in the hole, ESPN, ABC, NBC, CBS and FOX Sports. These are the people we have to convince to play ball with the NCAA. The NCAA would never be bold enough to take on the bowl system without somebody really tough backing them up. ABC, NBC, CBS, are not, and will not be a problem. These are networks that are extremely concerned about the quality of their programming. They would not telecast the "Cow Paddy Bowl". Fox Sports is not a big player in the bowl games. ESPN on the



Camellia Bowl 2014

other hand is where the problem began, and where the problem exits today, and where the problem will be in the future. Don't get me wrong, I love ESPN. I remember laughing with my friend Jim Fyffe about the fact that we needed to hurry home so that we could catch the soccer match between Brazil and Mexico on ESPN. That was the best that ESPN had to offer in the beginning. Now if they telecast a football game, I will likely watch it with interest.

What needs to happen is that enough people with enough influence put enough pressure on the NCAA to seek an agreement with ESPN. The agreement that is necessary is that certain restrictions be placed on all bowl games in existence today, and all bowl games that will seek sanctioning in the future. It is not a factor in the business interests of ESPN as to whether the attendance at the games are good or bad. If they can "sell the game", their money is in the bank. However, the NCAA and college football should be embarrassed by lack of local participation in the games and the lack of interest of the fan bases of the participating schools. In the "good ole days", in order to receive an invitation to a bowl game, a school had to have a very good football team, but more importantly, they had to have a great fan base that would buy tickets and spend money for a week in the host city. ESPN could care less about the quality of the team or the draw that the team will bring to the host city. They will know before anybody whether that game can be sold. It's just a business deal to them. If the bottom line looks good, the product can be had.

The only teams with "six win seasons" that were not in a bowl game this year were Old Dominion, Temple, Middle Tennessee, Ohio U, and UAB. That is insane. From Fresno State (6-7) versus Rice (7-5) in the Gildan Bowl to the semi-finals of the first national championship tournament in history. What a trip; Sixty-seven days?

Finally it is over. Ohio State won the first four team play-off by beating Oregon 42-20. Now we can start talking recruiting!



John Sophocleus

THINK

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

KILLING ATTICUS FINCH... REALLY?

Former long tenured aide and campaign manager Chip Hill exclaims we're "Killing Atticus Finch!" (a.k.a. his old boss Don Siegelman) in the video shilling for 'kickstarter' contributions to continue showcasing this embarrassment to our State. This recent iteration of political campaigning in our Montgomery federal court claimed 138 backers pledging \$10,725 of the \$125,000 goal as of Mr. Siegelman's December 15 court appearance before Judge Clay Land of Georgia. I couldn't find the donor list - perhaps there are no disclosure requirements in campaigns of this sort to dispel speculation it is driven by those who wish to keep political corruption alive and well in our State and nation. No doubt a great deal of resources have been devoted to Mr. Siegelman's legal defense revisiting the same failed appeal attempt of Mr. Scruschy.

Siegelman is no stranger to political grandstanding of this sort. One of his more infamous (on par with this recent sideshow) stunts was shamelessly dumping a trailer on Goat Hill to 'show the state of education in Alabama.' Too bad this effort wasn't devoted toward the efficacy of using trailers in many instances to not saddle our children with more debt & taxes. In fact, Don is a long established member of the Republicrat politburo. Crony contracts for construction companies to trump up campaign contributions matter more than our students' future. Similarly, crony contracts to providers of educational materials drive the current Bush, Hubbard, et al 'Common Core' blitz. Now a federal prisoner (forecasted to remain incarcerated till 2018, then final discharge 2021) Mr. Siegelman had a much less noteworthy record of actually curbing corruption as Secretary of State [1979-1987] Attorney General [1987-1991] Lt. Governor [1995-1999] and Governor of Alabama [1999-2003] when he actually held positions to address this cancer increasingly retarding our State.

For those unfamiliar with the case, Mr. Siegelman (evoking Nixonian flashbacks) claims he's done nothing wrong, since most of his fellow politicians have done the same... How can one justify putting all politicians like him in jail? Thankfully Judge Mark Fuller did not succumb to this flawed, immoral reasoning and Mr. Obama has not yet followed the despicable spirit of our worst unelected president in US History - Gerald R. Ford. Sadly, Mr. Ford (himself a beneficiary of 'quid-pro-quo' political corruption) set the bar most consider the 'new normal.' Many politicians (including presidents) now consider themselves above prosecution for their crimes; transparency and consequences of malfeasance are no longer a constraint nor consideration of the modern politician who only answers to the limited access, controlled ballot box and increasingly unjust courts. In June 2009 Obama's DOJ correctly requested an impressive INCREASE of his original 7 years sentence to 20 years, which offered further promise Obama may not pardon this case of 'politics as usual.' If politicians were indeed afraid those of poor character, integrity and corrupt actions were often placed in prison (like Messrs. Butts, Scruschy, Siegelman, et al) it may clean up the political sewer we currently observe.

As Alabama's governor he appointed HealthSouth CEO Richard Scruschy to a powerful health care board which plays a prominent role in determining wealth transfers in our State, rife with cronyism. Recently indicted Speaker Hubbard taking money from insurance companies to mandate auto-insurance and protect them from competition/enforce monopoly power over consumers is an example from the other side of the isle. Siegelman championed a State run lottery to further corrupt/distort the 'third person payment problem' decaying education in Alabama. Scruschy raised/contributed \$250,000 for the lottery campaign. After this 'down payment' Siegelman appointed him to the board.

The govt. lottery scam didn't pass, leaving substantial campaign debt for the failed promise of largess to minions; the same position Gov. Riley found himself in when his Amendment One tax explosion failed. George Will's February 10, 2012 Washington Post text asserted, "Siegelman and a wealthy Alabamian guaranteed a loan to pay it off, but Siegelman and others raised sufficient money — including another \$250,000 from Scruschy through his company — to retire it. Note that half of the contributions involving Scruschy came after his appointment to the board." In other words, this time Scruschy wanted to be certain he was on the board to redistribute wealth in his favor BEFORE he would pay the remainder after his "earnest money" secured 'the Don's offer' who'd shown he couldn't deliver on largess promises. Mr. Will, increasingly more the 'pro-politburo pundit' (on George Stephanopoulos' This Week (ABC) political 'talking head' program) has joined the chorus of those wanting to decriminalize political corruption.

Indeed, not all campaign contributions are bribes, but the jury which convicted Messrs. Scruschy and Siegelman in 2006 determined it was in this

case. Sadly, the bureaucrat included in the same litigation, who had a much more defined money trail of paying for favoritism was NOT convicted. Perhaps this director having to suffer what he'd made so many victims endure while defending themselves against abusive/wrongful takings and other civil right violations under his 'quid pro quo' tenure may deter other despicable bureaucrats from doing more of the same. Too often abusers have been aided and abetted by federal judges like Thompson and political hacks like Barron, Bedford, Davis, Ford, Little, Hubbard, Rogers, Riley, Sessions, Sewell, Shelby, et al who care little about our civil rights. Furthermore, it is rare when Thompson can not manipulate the system to discriminate/protect his thugs at ALDoT from trial; another reason to remove a Judge like Fuller who WILL allow trials of this sort under Thompson's corrupt stewardship. Sometimes a crook (like former Director Jimmy Butts) actually spends time behind bars when justice can somehow result out of Thompson's dysfunctional district. Until replaced by a jurist who cares about our civil rights, results like the Butts, Scruschy, Siegelman type righteous outcomes will continue to be few - even less likely upon removing Judges like Fuller who will allow juries to hear political corruption cases to help move our State forward.

Praising establishment Republicrat skills like George Will defending current 'quid pro quo' corruption to specifically avoid more American politicians winding up in the federal slammer if more prosecution of this type is applied across the board, the Siegelman attack machine relentlessly when after Judge Mark Fuller who presided over the 2006 jury convictions. Asserting ties from Bill & Leura Canary to Karl Rove and business associations which make Scruschy look like a piker, they assert Judge Fuller should have recused himself from the case so Myron Thompson could take the case or play the docket game yet again. With little veracity to these specific claims against Fuller (although a \$178 million crony contract which would further entangle some of the powerful players up to the national level is noticeably not mentioned) another way to remove this federal judge became a politburo priority. The gang of thieves in Montgomery and their minions couldn't allow a federal judge to continue permitting corruption cases going before juries - esp. when ties to the corrupt were connecting back to national level with names like Abramoff in the mix.

Judge Fuller displayed remarkable acumen thwarting efforts to take the case away from him. I have first hand knowledge of Judge Thompson removing cases from competent judges (true 'Atticus Finch' types like Susan Walker) who consistently render sound rulings upholding civil rights he didn't like. Incompetent Congressmen like Riley and now Rogers informed of this malfeasance and corruption by 'public servants' in our federal courts have made it clear they will not investigate/impeach this sort of easily verified subterfuge in the court docket. With no Congressional oversight, this is the expected outcome. Yet NOW there's the hue and cry to impeach/remove Fuller? Clearly the 11th Circuit has also shown no interest in monitoring/disciplining Thompson actions. The US Supreme Court, which showed some promise of improving before Roberts' installment will no longer provide relief, esp. with newly minted justices like Kagan & Sotomayor in place who also support decriminalization of political corruption.

Opportunity to turn up the heat on removing Fuller 'suddenly materialized' on August 29 via a domestic violence charge, recently pleaded to avoid prosecution and remove this misdemeanor arrest from his record. Not willing to chance a sitting federal judge like Fuller may uniformly apply justice on other 'public servants' indicted on even greater acts of corruption; the politburo wants the Siegelman outcome reversed and forgotten. Destroying a judge's career (esp. one who's shown willingness to discipline 'quid pro quo' corruption) means nothing to these political animals; they've already destroyed many lives without remorse in pursuit of their avarice. It appears this tactic has proven successful enough to re-run the 'domestic violence' play against others who won't stand on the stage in support of serial corruption in our State...

This opened the floodgate of politburo members fearing uniform prosecution. Some like Rep. Mike Rogers (after shilling for one recently indicted on 23 felony counts of political corruption) were easy to predict along with fellow 'public servants' like Jeff Sessions, Richard Shelby, Bradley Byrne, Spencer Bachus, et al types wanting to pave the way for blocking future prosecution of BCA political hacks mired in recent indictments. Also easy to predict were Terri Sewell, U.W. Clemon, et al types calling for the impeachment/removal of a judge who allows juries to hear corruption cases; noticeably absent making a call to impeach the worst records on keeping up case loads and disciplining civil right violations in the district.



Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch

Bench-Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

777 WORDS

A LAW AND ECONOMICS PRIMER

In last month's column we pointed out that the economics of law practice can actually impede the ability of the legal system to efficiently resolve disputes. In future columns we will discuss in depth the economic motivations of both defense lawyers and plaintiff lawyers that contribute to the problem. Before launching into those specifics, however, we need to have a broad general understanding of the relationship of economics and law in the resolution of disputes. The relationship between law and economics is much broader, and we are only discussing dispute resolution through litigation.

Almost all cases that arise in our legal system can be analyzed as an economic problem. Regardless of whether the underlying problem is a tort such as an automobile accident or a fight, or a contract such as the building of a house, the sale of a car, or a myriad of other occurrences, the plaintiff has some type of a claim against the defendant. In most instances the ultimate resolution is the payment of money. This means that the plaintiff has a claim or an asset which he or she is asserting that the defendant has an obligation to pay or to buy. The question then becomes how much is to be paid.

The legal system provides answers to the question. Ultimately if the parties are not able to reach an agreement themselves, the courts system assigns a value to the plaintiff's claim and require the defendant to pay that amount. It is not necessary at this point that we discuss in any detail the matter of payment by one side of the other side's attorney's fees, which is sometimes required by contract or by statute. But we are deeply concerned with the amount of attorney's fees and other costs that are involved in the resolutions of the disputes.

The service provided by courts and attorneys is *conflict resolution*. The legal system provides a way for the plaintiff to present his or her claim. The lawyers on both sides often participate in the effort to settle the matter. If the matter is not settled then the legal system itself, judges and juries provide an ultimate answer and bring about a final conclusion to the controversy.

In every economic transaction there are transaction costs. A sale of real estate might involve costs for title insurance, title examination, a real estate commission, etc. These are transactions costs that must be paid and do not involve directly the payment for the real estate. The same is true of the purchase of an automobile. The same is true of every transaction with economic implications. Transaction costs are an important element of economics.

The cost of attorneys and the court system in the resolution of disputes in court can be described as transaction costs, if the resolution of legal controversies is analyzed as an economic problem. The problem that we are suggesting in this series of columns is that the transaction costs for dispute resolution through the legal system have become unreasonably expensive. The economic value assigned to the transaction costs itself might very well equal or exceed the economic value of the underlying problem that is being solved. Transaction costs include not only attorney's fees, but also the court costs, the cost of witnesses, the cost of depositions, judges, court reporters, and the like. A major part of the problem rendering the legal system inefficient as a method of conflict resolution is the high transactions costs.

In columns that follow we will analyze the problem both from the standpoint of economic motives of the plaintiff lawyers and the economic motives of defense lawyers and insurance companies. We will be showing that these economic motives, in and of themselves, can inflate the transaction costs that are involved in the resolution of disputes that are presented to the legal system for resolution.

It should be noted in passing that there are many significant problems that the legal system simply cannot address because there are no funds to satisfy the economic requirements of attorneys. For instance, a faulty refrigerator can be a significant problem for a consumer. But a faulty refrigerator can be a very difficult problem for the legal system to effectively resolve. A bad auto repair job can be a significant problem for a poor individual (or even a well-to-do individual). But again, those types of problems are very difficult for the legal system to address because the economics do not justify the engagement of competent legal services. But even for those disputes that the system is economically able to address, the economics of law practice adversely affect the efficiency of the system.



Judge Philip Dale Segrest

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Have a Great and Blessed 2015!

Atticus Finch from page 8

Fear Alabama may again be a birthplace for sparking a movement to stand against corruption and tyranny is revealed by others wanting to thwart efforts to curb 'quid pro quo' corruption in our State and nation. Little surprise over 100 former AGs stand in support of Siegelman's clarion call for decriminalization of this sort of corruption. Senators Claire McCaskill (D-Missouri) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Connecticut) also joined the chorus of removing this specific judge while turning a blind eye to others much worse, but champions of big govt. corruption. Thankfully Terri Sewell's hypocrisy to incite protests demanding Judge Fuller resign were as weak in number as is her record on truly caring about and fighting for civil rights in our State. To see so few show in support of Siegelman political grand standing appearance in Judge Land's courtroom also lends a bit a hope that the hucksters are becoming increasingly less effective.

Even more noticeably absent is any argument Judge Fuller has lost his mental abilities to accomplish his case load, his docket performance has been poor, failure to adhere to the letter and spirit of the Constitution is even worse than others, etc. Wouldn't it be nice to have that kind of scrutiny and call for removal of OTHER federal judges in the district with worse records than Judge Fuller? I hope folks will remember to request impeachment/removal of other federal judges from this esteemed group of outspoken politicians as the usurpations of power continue in our district and across the nation...

60 Minutes asserting Mr. Siegelman was in the "Wrong Political Party" (as if the party engaged in bribery, conspiracy and obstruction of justice matters) gets at the heart of the matter. Party is not an issue when anyone in the politburo, Democrat or Republican may now be subject to prosecution for their corruption. Fueling fear among the duopoly is \$20 million in laundering gambling money (as if the exact type of graft really matters) appears to be small potatoes and will not be contained to just Abramoff criminals. It could be a bad day for many political thieves if they can't put that disinfectant back in the bottle. Arrogant BCA thugs never dreamed they couldn't control the process to ONLY remove those getting in the way of THEIR 'quid pro quo' deals. Few sincerely doubt Hubbard, Riley, Rove, et al wanted Siegelman gone; not because they cared about chilling political corruption but because THEY wanted to be in control of the wealth transfer in their favor. Easy to understand 'circling the wagons' now to protect the duopoly as recent fears of justice (esp. with recent indictments) may apply to BOTH "Wrong Parties" even with the successful campaign to get 'the intractable Fuller' out of the way (temporarily at least) by removing his caseload. Give Republicrats credit for that difficult accomplishment.

This is the reason we've currently troubled Judge Clay Land to come

from Georgia to revisit Siegelman's continued whiney efforts seeking early release from this jury determination as the appeal again makes it way through federal court. Siegelman genuinely appears to believe he deserves special treatment to be released temporarily while awaiting the appellate case resolution forecasted to be heard next month in the 11th Circuit. Similarly argued appeal of Scrushy's jury conviction failed, yet we are wasting more court time and taxpayer money for Siegelman, who showed little concern for taxpayers and citizens rights when destroying their lives. It would be a travesty to allow release (esp. after wasting time and resources for him to make the unnecessary 10 day trip from the Oakdale, LA federal prison) for an appeal which already failed under similar circumstances. Not that one of Mr. Siegelman's character and integrity would miss an opportunity to do more campaigning and spin to make it appear it was a 'good sign' Judge Land wanted to see him in person. In fact the request to appear was a 'clerical error' according to WSFA's news report and once found Judge Land gave Siegelman the opportunity to decide. A man unable to see himself for the corrupt politician he is in fact (regardless of the jury determination) without contrition or concern for the burden he's been and continues to be on our State and nation, Siegelman chose more political grandstanding in Montgomery this holiday season... no surprise there.

Killing Atticus Finch? - shame on you Mr. Hill... that dog won't hunt with those who remember how your office said "we'd like to give property owners their rights, but it would take too much time," when making them homeless from the houses they'd paid off/been in their families for decades. Witnessing first hand the harm Siegelman and his minions have done makes it difficult to care yet another of his holidays will be spent away from family, even if his family may not deserve to suffer because Don is evil and shows little sign of saving himself. May Chip Hill and his fellow accomplices find themselves residing in darkness with Mr. Siegelman following their most important final judgment for knowingly supporting deeds of this sort of their own free will. Continued grand standing and wrongfully shrilling this rhetoric instead of heralding those working hard to successfully remove corruption indeed kills the Spirit Atticus represented.

Many thanks to Judge Land seeing through the despicable "Free Don" tactics and may he accept my apology as one Alabamian who applauds the efforts of our few true Atticus Finch type officers of our courts I've observed in our State who've successfully removed Butts, Scrushy, Siegelman types from positions to do even more harm. The "Free Don" cabal of Democrats and the "Storming the Jailhouse" Republicans in fear of further prosecution of political corruption would ALL be ashamed of wasting this good Judge's time and effort not to mention taxpayer money -- if they had the requisite level of intelligence and integrity to experience shame.

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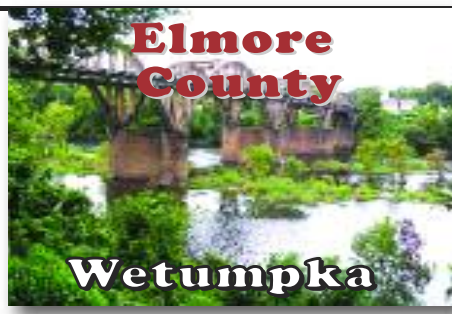
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Ronald A. Holtsford



You have not mentioned specifics about yourself so I'll make this answer generic in

a personal and in a business sense.

I'm sure that you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) and as you do you also think about your legal estate planning. Your financial estate planning goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate. For 2015 you can give up to \$14,000.00 to a person as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) and not have to file a Gift Tax return or up to \$28,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year. This is unchanged from 2014. There is a lifetime jump of generation skipping tax limits to \$5.43 million. There may be a tax advantage for the wealthy in that and if this seems to be something that might be helpful to your financial planning you should seek the advice of an accountant or other tax/ financial professional. For 2015, there is a \$5,430,000.00 total estate tax exemption per individual (if you die within 2015). Spouses can now combine their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$10.86 million. Remember that life insurance is considered for estate tax purposes if you have control over the policy (i.e. ability to change the beneficiaries, cancel the policy, etc). Many individuals have large insurance policies so its not inconceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over \$5.43 million dollars or even \$10.86 million as a couple.

With that said you need to pull out your Last Will and Testament and review it. If you have had any life changes (marriage, divorce, death, large inheritance, new child, etc.) a new Will may be in order. If you don't have a Last Will and Testament you need to have a lawyer prepare one as soon as possible. Why do you need one, because if you don't then the State of Alabama has one for you. Some of the spousal examples under the rules of intestacy (dying without a Will); (1) first \$100,000 to spouse and then 1/2 of the remaining estate to the living parent(s) when there are no children, (2) if children then the spouse gets \$50,000 and 1/2 of the rest, (3) if one or more of the children are not yours then the surviving spouse only gets half of everything, period. This is probably not the estate plan you have in mind. There are internet sites and software programs that can also assist with a Last Will and Testament but there is no guarantee that it will pass muster regarding state rules on probate nor a guarantee that it will do what you want upon your death. The best chance of meeting estate goals is through a lawyer and if you are of moderate means, you may be surprised

that it is less expensive than you think.

Aside from the Last Will and Testament you may want to have a Power of Attorney prepared. Most prepared these days are durable which require wording that the power of attorney is effective even in your disability or incapacity. Powers of Attorney became a statutory form as of 1 January 2012. Most attorneys have concerns about the filling in the blank and initialing choices format and have therefore at the least inserted tried and true language used in their practices for their many years, Power of Attorney is now by default a Durable power; however I insert the needed language anyway to make sure that there are no questions about its durability. A Power of Attorney (POA) can be very powerful and placed in the wrong hands can be damaging such as a daughter that is named AGENT and decides to sell your lake house and push you towards moving to an assisted living facility. On the other hand, naming a trusted AGENT and retaining the POA for future needs can be extremely beneficial. The POA can be used so that someone can write your bills for you during incapacity, file your taxes and with health/ Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA) provisions monitor your care with the doctors and hospital as well as handle medical insurance billing. The POA may also be used to name whom you would want as a conservator or guardian should one need to be named for you through a Court proceeding.

The final personal document would be an Advance Directive for Health Care, which is composed of a Living Will and Health Care Proxy nomination. It will allow you to make certain decisions about end of life issues should you later become unable to speak for yourself and two doctors have determined that you will likely die in the near future. This is the document that Terri Schiavo DID NOT have and for that reason the court found the testimony of the "husband" who was then living with another woman to be credible as to Terri's final wishes. Hmmmm. Naming a Health Care Proxy is the same as naming a health care power-of-attorney such as under a POA. The proxy is given limited rights under which situations that they can make decisions. And by the way, the ex-spouse automatically loses that job as proxy upon divorce. That's dodging a bullet!

If retirement is nearing consider that the 2015 Medicare Part B will be \$104.90 per month for those with incomes less than \$85,000.00 per year (unchanged from 2014). The Part B premium goes up with various income levels. There is a \$147.00 Part B deductible for the year (also unchanged from 2014). If you need nursing home (skilled nursing) care under Part A, days 1-20 are fully covered provided you continue to meet Medicare's requirements for those days; the co-payment for days 21-100 (if you qualify) will be \$157.50 per day. After day 100 you are 100% on your own unless you have some other means of long term care payment. If you have not already checked on long term health care insurance you should do so now. It not only will cover nursing home care but can

also cover assisted living or in home care. If you consider this insurance also look carefully at the options since they may be equally as important as the policy itself. This includes inflation increases which are very important or even the option of continued coverage for a certain amount of time when one with "forgetfulness" forgets to pay the premium.

If you do not have health care you need to check into what is available under the Affordable Health Care Act (Obamacare), not only to have health care in place in case you do not have but also if you recently lost your coverage. Failure to have health care can result in fines and penalties, increasing year after year. Older Americans may be eligible both for Medicare and Medicaid and impoverished Americans may be Medicaid eligible when they cannot afford premiums under Obamacare.

If you are currently in business or considering a business what about entity? A sole proprietorship offers pass through taxation but no limited liability. Your personal and business assets are at risk in a law suit. A Limited Liability Company (LLC) or a Registered Limited Liability Partnership (RLLP or LLP) offers the same pass through tax advantages as well as limited liability. A "C" corporation offers the same limited liability but there is taxation on the corporation and taxation on the shareholders. If you are in one of these entities and about \$80,000.00 plus talk to your accountant about the possibility of an "S" corporation election. It has pass through taxation and limited liability but also may have some self-employment tax advantages since some of the income can be paid to a shareholder- employee as a profit distribution. The Internal Revenue Service, however looks for Shareholder- Employees that pay themselves substandard salaries for their position in order that they can take more from the company as a distribution. And save more on Self Employment taxes. An "S" Corporation election only exists through the IRS and has specific requirements. So you can be an existing LLC, C Corporation, etc. but elect via the IRS as an "S" Corporation. Ask your accountant about whether it is right for your business.

I hope that this has helped with your question. If you need a lawyer you can contact the Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral service or ask a trusted friend about a lawyer that they might recommend.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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APPROPRIATIONS PLAN PASSES CONGRESS

Continued from page 2

Rep. Martha Roby

This past week, Congress passed a comprehensive Appropriations plan that:

- funds critical government operations;
- includes strong, important, conservative policy provisions; and
- allows Congress the best opportunity to reverse President Obama's unilateral immigration actions when Republicans have dual House and Senate majorities in January.

This Appropriations plan brings the federal deficit to half what it was in 2010, slashes funding for the Internal Revenue Service by \$345 million, prevents federal authorities from regulating farm ponds and irrigation ditches under the Clean Water Act, and provides critical military funding, including for new Lakota Helicopters to enhance the aviation training mission at Fort Rucker and for the Navy's Mobile-built Littoral Combat Ship and Joint-High

Speed Vessel.

As a Member of the House Appropriations Committee, I have been directly involved in the work to write new spending bills that reflect more responsible, conservative principles. Though the process was at times contentious, Congress made significant progress throughout the year toward the proper appropriation of government funding, as required by the Constitution. However, as you probably know, last month President Obama announced plans to unilaterally act to give de facto legal status to millions of illegal immigrants by using executive orders. Congressional leaders then set out to find ways to block this egregious overreach of executive authority.

I support blocking such action through the appropriations process, using the "power of the purse" to prohibit federal funds from being used to implement his orders. Used effectively, the appropriations process is one of the most powerful checks on the Executive Branch. Many of my colleagues agreed,

and we eventually coalesced around a proposal from Rep. Tom Price (R-GA) that would give Congress the best chance to reverse the President's actions.

The plan included passing an Appropriations bill that funds 11 of the 12 government divisions through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2015. The exception was Homeland Security, which is where immigration enforcement funding is contained. For Homeland Security, the plan included a Continuing Resolution, short-funding the agency temporarily so that Congress can more effectively utilize the "power of the purse" to rein in President Obama's immigration actions in three weeks when Republicans take the Majority in the Senate.

This is the best strategy for defeating executive amnesty. Given the way the American public feels about his reckless immigration policies and our ability to focus their attention on this single issue, I like our chances.



The Education Station... By Bobbie Ames

THE DANBURY BAPTISTS, THOMAS JEFFERSON, AND 'THE WALL OF SEPARATION'

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceable to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

On New Year's Day, 1801, Thomas Jefferson used a metaphor in a letter to the Danbury Baptists Association of Connecticut, which has profoundly affected policy in recent generations.

Jefferson's intention, clearly stated, reflected the Constitutionally mandated purpose and safeguard of the First Amendment's protection of Religious Liberty.

Go back in History to Colonial times, and recall that numerous colonies had an established Church, as in Connecticut, Congregationalism was the established church. The Connecticut Baptists were a religious minority and had supported Jefferson because of his unflinching commitment to Religious Liberty. They found themselves the minority, as a small Republican base, in addition to being a minority in their religious expression and practice.

In their letter to the new President, they wrote to congratulate him on his election and to voice their concerns: "Our sentiments are uniformly on the side of Religious Liberty--that Religion is at all times and places a Matter between God and individuals--that no man ought to suffer in Name, person, or effects on account of his religious Opinions--That the legitimate power of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor. But sir, our constitution of government is not specific." They expressed concern about their religious liberty, whether "religious privilege or inalienable rights." If "favours were granted by states," could they not be withdrawn? They expressed belief that Jefferson had been raised up by God's Providence, and that the Voice of the people had been heard as well.

Jefferson circulated the letter from the Danbury Baptists and a draft of his intended response to both Attorney General Levi Lincoln, a Massachusetts Republican, and Postmaster General Gideon Granger, a Connecticut Republican. The President was eager to explain why he did not issue proclamations designating days for Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Public Fasting, as had his presidential predecessors. It is clear that Jefferson wanted to use the occasion to express his personal convictions on the matter of faith. Levi Lincoln urged caution as the New Englanders were accustomed to "observing feasts and thanksgivings in performance of proclamations from their respective Executives, this custom being handed down from our ancestors." Granger also refers to the offense to the New England clergy, but believes that it is "but a declaration of TRUTHS which are in fact felt (held) by a Great majority of New England." After deleting a small section, Jefferson responded to the Danbury letter.

Gentlemen,

The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptists Association, give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, & in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more pleasing. Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State, adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural rights in opposition to his social duties.

I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection of the common father and creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect & esteem.

Thomas Jefferson

As governor of Virginia, in 1779, Jefferson wrote "A Bill Establishing Religious Freedom." He was the chief architect of proclamations designating days of Fasting and Prayer through the 1770s. Jefferson saw his position as consistent with the Constitution and the establishment of Federalism. State governments were authorized to accommodate and prescribe religious practices. Jefferson viewed the powers of the executive branch as derived from the creative powers of the legislative branch. He should be respected for his allegiance to the Tenth Amendment principles of Federalism and strictly delegated powers.

Jefferson's reference to the "wall of separation" was simply a figurative device to refer to the First Amendment mandate that prohibited congress from making laws concerning the "establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The letter was circulated almost immediately, but it would not be the end of the Church-State debate in America.

Phillip Schaff, church historian, noted that the phrase 'Wall of Separation' entered the lexicon of American constitutional law in 1878. Quoting Schaff, "In

Reynolds v. United States, the Supreme Court opined [claimed] that the Danbury Baptists may be accepted almost as an authoritative declaration of the scope and effect of the First Amendment thus secured. Nearly seven decades later, in the landmark case, Everson v. Board of Education (1947), the Supreme Court returned to the metaphor. In the words of Jefferson, the First Amendment clause against the establishment of religion by law was intended to erect 'a wall of separation' between church and state -- that wall, the justices concluded in a sweeping separatist declaration "must be kept high and impregnable -- we could not approve the slightest breach."

Contrary to the Supreme Court Justices, voicing their opinion in Everson, there is no evidence in America's early history that our founders and framers ever intended to construct a wall of separation between Church and State. Few letters in American History have been so misused and have had such an impact in the public square. Had there been no strong voice of Biblical Christianity in early America, there would no US Constitution as we have it, and certainly no First Amendment.

The "wall" metaphor that Jefferson used was evidently inspired through the writing of James Burgh (1714-1775), an admired Scottish schoolmaster, one of Britain's most popular spokesman for political reform. Jefferson and the other Revolutionary leaders were greatly influenced by Burgh, a radical Whig, espousing the rights of resistance, separation of powers, freedom of thought, religious toleration, advancing public education, and extending the 'rights of Englishmen' to all mankind.

Burgh, and the others of like mind, advocated reforms in English government, including legislative representation, rotation of offices, annual Parliaments, etc. His writings, circulating widely in the colonies, included a three volume "Political Disquisitions" (1774-1775) included in Jefferson's library. Interestingly, he recommended this reading to his future son-in-law, Thomas Mann Randolph, who would study Law. He also recommended the study of Montesquieu's "Spirit of Laws" and John Locke's "little book on Government." Historical documents testify to the influence of Burgh on Jefferson, Washington, Adams, Hancock, Rush, Sherman, and many others. Jefferson's construction of the First Amendment may easily have been influenced by Burgh. No English or European writer was closer to the American thought than James Burgh. He was a man of deep orthodox faith, which was cited as the "wellspring of his politics and moral code." It was his belief in religious tolerance that inspired his recommendation for building "an impenetrable wall of separation," to prevent government intrusions.

Having been a great admirer of Burgh, it is most likely that Jefferson adopted the figure of speech from Burgh's use of it. George Washington shared these concerns and wrote of "establishing effectual barriers against the horrors of spiritual tyranny, and every species of religious persecution."

Few letters in American History have had such a negative impact through MISPERCEPTIONS as the "Wall of Separation" -- evidenced in the courts of the land. American Culture is suffering through the effects of this, and suffering from the abandonment of American History in schools and family life. Indeed, "my people perish for lack of knowledge."

American Federalism is unique in world history. America's founders discovered the way for Christianity to be protected by law, but not controlled or dictated by law. It took America to determine how to build American Federalism. It was by local self-government with union of two great divisions of power: the States and the Nation.

This writer believes that our Constitutional form of government cannot exist without a Biblically educated people, capable of self-government. Only the Biblically educated will see that the Price of Liberty will always be Eternal Vigilance.

Inspired by President Ronald Reagan, and passed as Joint Resolutions of Congress, 1983 was declared The Year of the Bible, public law 97-280, Oct. 4, 1982. In a beautiful proclamation, Reagan urges all Americans to "reexamine and rediscover the Bible's priceless and timeless message." He affirms that the Bible is the source for inalienable rights of the individual and of our system of law and government. It was James Madison who said that the uniqueness of America was "the capacity of mankind for self-government."

Bobbie Ames

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 4:6

Sources for this article includes writing by Daniel Dreisbach, Journal of Church and State, 0021969X. Summer 1997, Vol.39, Issue 3., and Database Search Elite



Dr. John Bitter
Editor-Senior Section

Gazette Seniors...

IS IT LAISSEZ OR LAZY?

What should Santa Claus have brought us for Christmas this year?

How about a healthy dose of Laissez-faire?

And just what is Laissez-faire, you may ask?

One could say that it was one of the founding principles of our nation. Many residents of the colonies, as this country was commonly referred to back then, grew tired of bowing to the crown, and letting the King of England tell them how to live their lives.

Some of the stalwarts of the idea had read the works of 18th Century Scottish philosopher and economist, Adam Smith, and the 19th Century Scotsman John Stuart Mill, of a similar intellectual persuasion, and had decided that there's something better in life, something more important than sitting around on your backside letting someone else tell you how to live your life.

The term most commonly used to express their thinking is a French term: Laissez faire, which could be broadly interpreted to mean: Leave me alone and

let me and fend for myself.

The Patriots, as our trouble making early founders were often called, thought man was best served if left alone to chart his own future—he didn't need "Big Brother" poking his nose into every aspect of his life. This was a guiding principle of our Founding Fathers. America and Americans were more than "subjects" as the British were content to be; they were better than that. Many Colonists wanted to be left alone to think and do for themselves; not bow their heads and grovel when the "Crown" saw fit to recognize their existence.

But, a couple of centuries have passed since then, and it looks as if many Americans would be content with again being "subjects." They want "the Crown" to look after them, to tell them what to do and when to do it.

Many Americans; but not all Americans. There are still a few of them who steadfastly hold to the principals which guided our quest to become "the greatest nation on earth." That was then; what about now?

What has happened to the spirit that built this nation?

**YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL**
"...if you still look for a
"Made in USA" label
in your clothing.

MULTIPLE HYPHENATION

For those of us old folk who are today stumbling about in a state of confusion, we view the present national attitude toward immigration—more particularly illegal immigration—with an uncomfortable dichotomous feeling.

Most of us recall our youth, when one—or both—of our grandparents had immigrated here from a foreign land. The process for them was an arduous one, and their path to naturalization was a long and studious one. Some of us even married aliens, and shared with them the process of studying and working toward attaining their naturalization. It was a long and arduous journey. But in the end they proudly attained the coveted status of "American."

And, in that regard, their naturalization was one of totality. As one federal judge, some years ago, told a class of new citizens at their swearing in: "You are now Americans. You renounce any allegiance to the country from which you emigrated. There is no such thing as a hyphenated American." But, what about a double hyphenation: "illegal-Mexican-American?"

Now we see our president boldly informing us that he plans to, with a stroke of his magic pen, make thousands of illegal immigrants bone fide American citizens, with little or no effort on their part to earn that status; or the benefits to be derived therefrom.

How, we ask ourselves rhetorically, did this happen? How can people who

broke all the rules by which our forefathers abided be welcomed to our country—and be provided all the benefits which regular citizens earn—by the simple stroke of the pen by a president whose presence in that office many Americans recently repudiated.

As the late comedian Jimmy Durante might have put it: "Now ain't that a sad state of affairs?"

The results of the latest election gives credence to this observation. Q.E.D.

"REVEREND", INDEED!

Every so often a word or term comes to mind the meaning of which may seem somewhat obscure.

Take for example the noun: reverend, as used in the honorific "The Reverend"

The 500-year-old noun was attached to the names of members of the clergy as a sign of respect for the sacrifice and study they underwent in order to obtain the wisdom necessary to become closer to the Almighty and therefrom of extra service to their fellow man. It was an indication that the person bearing the title was, in effect, closer to God, and could serve his or her fellow man; that he should be "revered."

So how can we square its use today when attached to the name of less than honest individuals who may be using it as a disguise to conceal their real motives: self aggrandizement, pseudo-knowledge, and as a cover for nefarious efforts which result mainly in self enrichment, in a variety of ways.

We see a lot of that today. Or, maybe "Rev.," now stands for revolting.

WHAT'S AHEAD?

After viewing the results of last month's elections a quote from Thomas Jefferson comes to mind: "I predict future happiness for Americans, if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people under the pretense of taking care of them."

While these comments are most assuredly as appropriate now as they were more than two centuries ago; we should take caution from the words of the Greek philosopher Plato, who observed: The heaviest penalty for declining to rule is to be ruled by someone inferior to yourself." This caveat should take a prominent place in the minds of the electorate when the next general election takes place. Caveat emptor.

Leaping ahead a few centuries for words of wisdom, take President Gerald Ford's admonition that "A government big enough to give you everything you want is a government big enough to take from you everything you have." The last six years or so have certainly born out the truth of that bit of wisdom.

And if there was ever a summarization of the

present situation in Washington it was surely uttered some time in the recent past by Carl Sagan, who posited that: "One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back."

Are we, we must ask ourselves, not on the precipice of that warning today?

Americans have complacently sat back and let government have its way. Now is the correct season to compare what has been happening to American by comparing it with the prospect of a major league football team kicking off at the start of the game, then complacently wandering over to the bench to see what will happen.

And to wrap it all up we return to observations made by two more of the founding fathers. "The whole art of government consists in the art of being honest," said Thomas Jefferson. Add to this the warn-

ing of his fellow Founding Father, John Adams, "A constitution of government once changed from freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."

And there we have it. America has enjoyed what many hope will be a fruitful election, but we still have ahead of us two more years with the same captain at the helm.

This will more than likely be a contentious two years, since our current President has given no evidence that he will steer this country in the right direction.

America is teetering on the brink of a Depression that will far exceed that in which most of us old folk began our lives. All of which brings to mind another oft-mentioned memorable quote from 19th Century Spanish poet, essayist, and novelist George Santayana: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

We old timers remember well the past, we'll never forget it. We wouldn't care to repeat it; but a solution, to our peril, may be beyond our grasp.



Kyle' McKinney

By Kyle' D. McKinney
Alabama Public Affairs Specialist
Social Security Administration
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100
Montgomery, Alabama

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke about his dream of an America where equality was more than a concept—where it was an everyday reality.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal."

His dream struck a chord with many people and inspired a nation. It shined a light on the ideal that every citizen should have equal opportunity to prosper and succeed.

As we remember Dr. King and his dream for America, take a moment to reflect on your dreams for yourself and your family. What are the things that you want for your future? Do you see yourself enjoying retirement someday?

With some planning, that dream can come true. The best way to keep your retirement dreams on track is by opening A My Social Security account. A My Social Security account is an excellent tool that helps you plan for the future. It

FROM DREAM TO REALITY WITH MY SOCIAL SECURITY

lets you verify your earnings on your personal Social Security Statement—because your future retirement benefit depends on your earnings throughout your career. You can view your Statement at any time, giving you a good picture of what your future benefits will be. When you are ready to retire, you can even go online to apply for benefits from your home or office.

And the advantages of having a my Social Security account don't stop after you retire. Once you start receiving benefits, you can manage them with a my Social Security account. You can get an instant benefit verification letter, check your benefit and payment information, change your address and phone number, and start or change your direct deposit information—all online.

Setting up a my Social Security account is quick, secure, and easy. Millions of Americans already have accounts. In fact, someone opens one about every six seconds. Join the crowd and sign up today at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount. It's the stuff dreams are made of.

Kyle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, can be reached by e-mail at kyle.mckinney@ssa.gov



THE MARSHALL MOMENT

DR. RICK MARSHALL
Eastern Hills
Baptist Church
Montgomery, Alabama

Soul Searching

*For unto you is born this day
in the city of David
a Saviour, which is
Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11*

CHRISTIANS LIVING IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

Have you ever known more uncertain times? We look at the domestic front and problems abound. Almost every week there is a new crisis whether in government, a health scare, tension within communities, crime, poverty and economic insecurity. Just as unstable is the condition of our world from the troubles from North Korea to terrorism in the Mideast. Many don't have to look beyond their front door to find uncertainty brought about through joblessness, marital difficulty, child abuse or good schools for children to get an education just to name a few.

Many people see faith as a means of escape from uncertainty assuming that if a person is a "good Christian," those kinds of problems will disappear. To them, believing is somehow supposed to produce an umbrella of protection from the difficulties of the world. Sadly, such misunderstanding, even if out of the best of intentions, will always lead to disappointment.

As we are entering a new year, it seems to me we should give some thought to how we will approach a new year which holds yet unknown challenges. I have no doubt all of us will have some unexpected pleasures. But just as surely there will be corresponding difficulties. Most anyone can enjoy a party. Few know how to cope and successfully negotiate the uncertainties of life.

Let me interject a thought and flesh it out with you in some detail below. Most of what was written in scriptures was written in an environment of uncertainty. Take almost any character or event in the Bible you wish to recall and you will find it is in the context of uncertainty. This book is not filled with feel-good messages for a world we don't live in. Whether it is Abraham following God to a new land, Joseph being sold by his brothers, Daniel and his prayer life or people like Peter or Paul in the New Testament. Life was no piece of cake.

God was not absent in those trying times and He is not absent in yours either. I suggest to you that the Bible is not an instruction book on how "to get you back in control of your life" or how "to get life back to normal." Do you know why some people say that Christianity or the Bible does not make sense to them? It is precisely because they are determined to keep control of their lives. This book is filled with stories of people facing uncertainty and discovering that not only is God not absent, but he is often diligently at work accomplishing his will in this world and in the lives of those he loves. It is about how very much God is in control and how very much we are not. The problem too many of us is that we try to control our own life and make a mess of it and haven't understood that "normal" is how unbelievers live. God wants believers to experience a different life in the context of challenges in order to learn dependence and to discover His sufficient grace. From God's perspective, uncertain times are opportunities for God to do something for us, not God doing something to us.

In order for God to accomplish something great in and through us, we must respond correctly in those times of challenge. I want to suggest three urgent steps you need to develop the spiritual discipline to do in times like these.

Rather than panic, worry, become afraid or seek unhealthy solutions to difficulty, Christians need to remember the resource of prayer. I'm not talking about the usual quick prayer of thanks at a meal, the oft repeated request to "bless all the missionaries and sick people" before going to sleep or the desperate need when every other answer seems to be inadequate.

Instead we need to remember the admonition of Paul as he wrote from the prison cell of Rome hundreds of miles from his friends and in imminent danger of death. He wrote to the Philippians in the fourth chapter, "Rejoice for the Lord is near..." Isn't that interesting given his situation? I think he says, "don't get sucked into the same sense of gloom and doom as everyone else...God hasn't gone anywhere."

"Be anxious for nothing," Paul says. It seems easier said than done. Paul gives further help. The way to avoid anxiety is "in everything with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." I can hear some responding with "I've already tried that and don't have a good answer yet." Have you tried the "thanksgiving" part yet? It takes recognition that God would not let you be there if He did not have a plan for you.

Furthermore, we must be careful to assess the situation in terms of responsibility. God never promised to rescue us from the result of every earthly calamity much of which is our own doing. The idea is not to inform God, but to discover what it is you are really after and verbalize that to God. Learn and unearth what

it is you fear and what it is you desire and talk to God about it. The focus here is on revealing what's on the inside of us. Pour out what is in you to God.

When we are able to discover and give to God those deep, otherwise unknown desires, something happens.

The rest of Paul's well-known word to the Philippians is that the "peace of God which passes understanding will be yours." It really can be if you learn to pray with faith. The situation may not change, but you will. Prayer doesn't change things. Prayer changes people.

A second help in uncertain times is to remember. I would hasten to say that for all of us there are some things in life we would love to forget. There are also things we can't afford to forget. "Uncertainty has a way of focusing us so exclusively on the mystery of what lies before us that we forget what lies behind." If you have been a Christian for any length of time, God's faithfulness to you in the past casts a shadow on your future. God's faithfulness to us in the past should shape our assurance and perspective about the future.

I remind you of the story of Elijah. This great servant performed one of the most astounding feats in the Bible as recorded in I Kings 17-19. You recall how he showed up the prophets of Baal as phonies and called upon the Lord to demonstrate His presence by burning up the altars of Baal and slaying the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel. If anyone could be described as a believer and in touch with God, it would be Elijah.

Yet you also remember how he fled in fear of the threat of Jezebel, wife of the king and worshipper of Baal. He went and hid under a juniper tree and told the Lord he was ready to die. Here was Elijah's problem. There were some things he forgot about. Because he forgot God's past faithfulness, he had a difficult time factoring in his future faithfulness. He could see no light at the end of his tunnel. Because he didn't know what was going on, he assumed nothing was going on.

All believers are subject to difficulty from time to time and could have a response of fear, even if not so dramatic as to pray to die. When we lose sight of God's past faithfulness, we don't consider Him in our future either. And our fear can drive us to places we have no business going relationally, financially, and emotionally. As we remember Him in our past, we will see Him in our future.

God knows exactly where we are! It's for times like those that I think God gave us personal verses like this one in Isaiah 41:10. "Do not fear, for I am with you. Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you. Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

Not only did God know where Elijah was, He knew where Elijah was going. Guess what, He knows where you are going. There is no need to fear the future if we believe God is there and knows exactly our needs.

A third urgent need for believers in times of uncertainly is to follow. Consider again with me the words of Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. "Seek first His Kingdom and all these things will be added unto you." In times when you do not know what to do, follow the light you have. Seek what God is doing and you have the best chance of finding your way again. It's logical in thought but harder to practice. Yet we must work at it. If we truly trust a God who cares for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, would He forget about us, lead us in a wrong path or intentionally harm us? I think not.

You must decide God can be trusted in uncertain times. "Uncertainly, like physical pain, has the potential to drive us to self-centeredness." When we worry more about ourselves than pleasing God, the ability for faith to do us much good other than seeing our friends at church on Sunday, has gone out the window. It takes downright stubbornness to tackle our insecurities when trouble abounds. Perhaps the Lord is telling us not to worry about how we will sustain blessings, but seek His Kingdom and trust that He will bless us. If your only worry is about earthly matters you will never enjoy the fullness of how God wants to bless you.

I wish each of you a happy and prosperous new year not only in earthly success but even more so in the spiritual economy of life. When uncertain times come, and they inevitably will, your best resources will come from a vibrant prayer life, a rich spiritual bank account of memories of God's sustaining power and putting His will above earthly priorities. Don't forget, our difficulties only serve to create enormous opportunities for God to bless and use us as witnesses of His grace and power.

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**Judge
Peggy Givhan**

January has always been to me the month which can be a let down after the hurry and flurry of Christmas and New Year's social whirl. It is a time for rest and reflection which usually brings a myriad of New Year's resolutions. Do you write these down and reflect on these promises you made to yourself throughout the year? Can you even remember the resolutions made last January? And if you do remember some of them, were these promises met? I always make a garden promise that I will create the most beautiful garden possible in at least one of the beds. Did I keep this one last year? Well, maybe yes and no. But when one fails to live up to the promises, don't throw in the towel or trowel, just say to yourself that you will do better in 2015. Perhaps starting out with a less grandiose plan would keep us all on track.

Gardening for 2015 is on the horizon. For those who planted tulips as late a mid December will be getting a colorful surprise in the next month or two. For those who planted narcissus, will be seeing fragrant results late this month or February. For those who planted daffodils, will be enjoying these through the end of March, beginning of April. This shows us that a little pre-planning and pre-planting will enhance the enjoyment of the late winter garden.

It is not too late to plant perennials this month. Look for snap dragons,

a perennial at times for the deep south only because of our extreme heat in summer. I prefer the tall snaps which can be cut for flower arrangement indoors. Snap dragons are happiest when they are cut, and reward the gardener with a profusion of new blooms. This technique also keeps them from going to seed too early.

Other perennials would include all the salvias, except the annuals which would do great planted in March or April. Then fox glove plants, which are really biennials; holly hock plants, also biennials; and dusty miller, dianthus, and Christmas or Holly ferns. There are really so many, this article would become more of a listing of plants.

January is also a great time to tune up and sharpen garden tools. If the blades are rusty, buy some naval jelly and get to work. It is easy to use, just spread it on the rusty areas, and wipe clean. If the first application does not take off all the rust, apply again. After the rust is removed from trimmers, trowels, shovels, spades and hoes, I spray paint them with Rustoleum brand canned spray paint in some bright and cheerful color.

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soaking in vodka.

Spice mixes, condiments, pasta, drinks and candy are more of the items you can make. And you decide on the quality of the ingredients, how fresh you want it and how much of two items you want that seems to be plentiful in packaged products, sugar and salt.

A thing you should remember about Southern cooking is that "you eat big." Not that the food should not be high quality in a gourmet sense but you should also have plenty for your family and guests. Southern cooking is home cooking and you can't get that from a can or a box made in New York City. You can make it better for less and a part of you is in your food that won't be found in the store bought food, that being Love.

There are companies that make very healthy products, with no preservatives and fillers, and very fresh products. You have to read the labels and decide how much you want to spend for the convenience of pre-made prepackaged soulless food.

Every self respecting Southerner should know how to make scratch biscuits, pan gravy and as Trisha Yearwood once said, "you can't be considered a serious Southern cook if you don't know how to make peach cobbler."

So the recipe this month you do not need to buy in the refrigerated section

Southern Cuisine *with David Spooner*

As I was scouring my news apps the other day, I came across an article about food you should never buy, but make at home. The article said that the items made at home are cheaper and healthier than the store bought items.

At first glance, I agreed with most of the list. Peanut butter, mayonnaise, applesauce, hummus, and pesto can be made with a good food processor. Granola needs a sheet pan and a bowl and a list of your favorite nuts and grains and fruit. Pancake and waffle mix is nothing but dry ingredients you can pre-measure ahead of time and add the eggs and milk when you are ready to make breakfast. Vanilla extract is a vanilla bean

or the frozen food section at the grocery store is for biscuits. Recipes for biscuits are not going to vary much in ingredients but vary in technique. There are kneaded and rolled, drop biscuits and hand tossed biscuits. I like rolled biscuits because they have body and a flaky texture. Tips for making good biscuits: do not over mix, and do not roll excessively, and do not twist the biscuit cutter.

Rolled Biscuits

2 cups all-purpose flour
4 teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoons sugar
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup shortening (vegetable or lard)
2/3 cup of milk (for buttermilk biscuits, add 1/4 teaspoon of baking soda and sub 3/4 cup buttermilk for milk)
Makes 10 to 12

Preheat oven to 450. Sift together all dry ingredients in large bowl. Add fat and using your hands, work the fat into the dry mix until the largest pieces of fat are the size of small peas. Add liquid and mix quickly by hand and stop when dough comes together

and pulls away from bowl. Turn dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead. To knead dough, gather it into a ball and push down into center with heel of your hand. Fold top half back toward you and turn dough a quarter turn and repeat. When dough no longer feels sticky, roll dough gently and evenly with a floured rolling pin. Roll dough up and down once and side to side once. Then one more time up and down. You want it at least 1/2 inch thick even 3/4 will be fine. Cut with a biscuit cutter and place on a sheet pan (ungreased). Close together will produce soft sides, apart will make crusty sides. Scraps can be patted and cut once, but won't rise as high. Cook about 10 to 12 minutes or until puffed and golden. Serve warm, split and with butter.

Today's Woman

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



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“NEW YEAR'S RENEWAL”

Have you made a New Year's resolution? Or maybe you've given up on doing that! Perhaps in past years you've been through the cycle of optimism, trying hard, faltering, getting discouraged, and giving up. Indeed, most people who make a New Year's Resolution have given up on their project by mid-February. Many people discard the whole idea and say, "I don't make New Year's Resolutions!" But there is another way to approach the start of a New Year: Pray for God to lead you in a "New Year's Renewal."

"No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead. I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us." (Philippians 3:13-14).

For a number of years, I've been using the clean slate and fresh start of a New Year to make a New Year's Renewal. I pray about what the Lord wants to do in my life and how I can work with him to grow in that area. My New Year's Renewals always boils down to one thing: More than anything I want to be the kind of person who lives for the one thing of being devoted to Christ with all my heart.

Psalms 27:4 tells us *"The one thing I ask of the LORD, the thing I seek most, is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple."*

Each year God shows me something I need to overcome or something about how I live my daily life that needs to change so that I can get more centered on Christ as my One Thing.

This year, I encourage you to seek the One Thing that is the best thing for you to be more devoted to Christ. It may just be the New Year's Renewal that you have been looking for!

Happy New Year & Many Blessings!



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NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MEMORIAL DAY
In honor of the National Children's Memorial Day, a special candlelight service was held at Mt. Hill Baptist Church in the Bethlehem Community on Sunday, December 14, 2014. The guest speaker was Mike Jackson with the Baptist State Convention in Montgomery.

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Patricia Killough



HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

JOHN MICHAEL HIGGINS & LAUREN ANGELYN JOHNSON

John Michael and Lauren graduated from Auburn University on Saturday, December 13, 2014 at the Auburn Arena. Now they continue their plans for a June, 2015 wedding.

Congratulations!



January Birthdays



- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell
Cad Gates
Tammy Smith
Butch Metcalf | 16 Ester Covington
Ann Takacs |
| 3 Jennifer Jarrell
Frank Rotton
Ben Davis | 17 Randy Childs
Toni Grimes
Charlene McClanahan
Bill Northington |
| 4 Morgan Boone | 18 Carly Madison Ellis
Joshua C. Kyser (3rd)
Joy Fleming
Leslie Garvin
Laura Hester
Johnny Hassett |
| 5 Jan Johnson
Barbara Harrington | 19 Kaybee Hobbs
Gina Hunt
Connie Bush
Sammy Turner |
| 6 Judy Norman
Elizabeth Robison | 20 Caleb Campbell
Dr. Charles Cloutier
Taylor Campbell
Alyssa Spivey
Randy Kelly |
| 7 Barbara Cassels
Ted Johnson
Willie Jordan
Nicole Windham
Tim Pierce
Danny Bush | 21 Mildred Athey
Tonya Cooley
Cory Griffin
Julio Vazquez
Elizabeth Phibbs |
| 8 Joshua Nix (16th)
Sam Cassels
Burks Crane
Marilyn Evans
Mary Ellen Millis
Scott Mills
Trey Norris
Sarah Morgan Smith
Blake Webb
Brett Tolerson | 22 Kayla Cook
Jonathan Aplin
Tim Wilsford |
| 9 Bobby Mills
Brittany Mitchell
Megan St. Clair Stewart
Edna Hargrove | 23 Pam Higgins
Jason Selvage
Ridge Newell
Bernice Bryant |
| 11 Jim Aro
Liz Klauss
Betty Woodall | 24 Donna Gail Andersen
Tina Campbell
Anne Pinkston |
| 12 Corey Campbell
Carson Lane Abbott
Liz Braswell
Brenda Moseley
Clarice Caldwell
James Barton | 25 Mary Beth Wadsden
Ellen Robbins |
| 13 T. J. Mills
Bob Maddox | 26 Mary Price
Mack Terrell |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews
John Black
John T. Killough
Doug Young | 27 Sophie Boyd |
| 15 Jennifer Williams
Hayden Kelly
John McClelland
Ross Godwin | 28 Baleigh Windham
Darrell Self |
| | 29 Kim Kelley
Faye Law |
| | 30 Wanda Horsley
Doris Miller
Betty Ann Russell
Tiffany Hammock |
| | 31 Will Garrett |



Austin and Ashley Owens are the proud parents of

Addyson Brynn Owens

**Born January 9, 2015.
Addyson weighed 8 lbs 5 ozs.**

Proud grandparents are:
Pastor and Mrs. Chuck Glasscock
of Montgomery, AL

Andrea and Michell Owens
of Frisco City, AL

*She is welcomed by many aunts,
uncles, cousins and friends.*

She is such a blessing to her many great grandparents:
Sandra M. Bell
of Montgomery, AL
David and Gloria Jones
of Blountsville, FL
Edwin Jesse Hillyer of Brooks, OR
William and Loretta Grant
of Montgomery, AL

Bob and Carolyn Glasscock
of Montgomery AL
Gary and Patricia Johnson
of Frisco City, AL
Jimmy Jackson
of Brigham City, UT
Ray and Mary Owens
of Pine Hill, AL

Sympathy to the families of...

- Bieber, Dylan Adler (16)died November 23, 2014
Hardin, Hoyt Elliot (16).....died November 23, 2014
Hart, James Bart (50)died November 23, 2014
Reynolds, Charles Michael "Mike" (68)died November 23, 2014
Young, Carolyn Turner (87)died November 29, 2014
Foster, Elizabeth R. (84)died December 1, 2014
Pickard, Paul "Pick" Manney, Jr. (59)died December 2, 2014
Gordon, Kate Olive Green (85)died December 3, 2014
Schmitt, Louise Adell McGheedied December 3, 2014
Nichols, Rebecca Scrushey (61)died December 4, 2014
Boone, Lucille Hollon (87)died December 9, 2014
Macon, William "Billy" (71).....died December 11, 2014
Pouncey, James Elisha (64)died December 12, 2014
Connally, Joseph Henry (88)died December 13, 2014
Reynolds, Alice Derrickdied December 13, 2014
Ingram, Mary Frances (93)died December 14, 2014
Reinhardt, Jane Lawrence (84).....died December 14, 2014

Loving Memory of Barbara Kearley Cassels - December 27, 2014



Barbara was laid to rest on December 31, 2014 at White Chapel-Greenwood Funeral Home, Montgomery, Alabama. Burial was at Greenwood Serenity Memorial Gardens, Montgomery, Alabama. Barbara is survived by her sons, Sam Cassels and Charles Cassels, sister, Martha Kearley Sule and husband, Frank and nephews, Robert Sule (Heather) and David Sule, niece, Cheryl Sule Staats (Chris) and many other cherished extended family members and friends. Barbara was a devoted and loving mother, sister, aunt and respected friend. She will be dearly missed.

In honor of her memory, please make donations to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Tribute # 37403942, P. O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148, or call 1-800-822-6344.

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| January 6 Jim & Beth Maxwell | January 14 Mike & Debbie Green (31st) |
| January 7 Ross & Margaret Goodwin | January 18 Raymond & Ann Tucker |
| January 8 Fred & Nancy Setzer | January 22 Bob & Betty Crowe |
| January 11 Reneau & Virginia Gates | January 23 Jeff & Nancy Beale |
| January 12 Frank & Colleen Rutland | George & Sherry McCulley |

Continued from page 5
Dr. David Nichols

NONSENSE

Most white police officers do use excessive force when arresting black suspects. Most police officers have an inherent prejudice against all black citizens. Most police officers target young black men without probable cause. High-crime areas present no more threat to the safety of police officers than low-crime areas. All African-Americans hate white police officers. Police departments have done nothing to increase racial diversity among their officers. Excessive force in arrest situations by some police officers does not exist. All white police officers respond with more excessive force to predominately high-crime black neighborhoods than when responding to high-crime white neighborhoods. Racial bias no longer exists in the U.S. All civil rights leaders are instrumental in resolving and calming the black communities when a white police officer is required to use deadly force involving a black suspect. All nonsense!

SENSE

Most serious crimes (murder, manslaughter, rape, assault) are usually committed by offenders on victims of the same race – black-on-black crime and white-on-white crime. A 2011 Bureau of Justice Statistics report found the rate of black homicide victims and offenders were disproportionately represented compared to the general population. The black victimization rate was six times higher than the white victimization rate. Black offending rate was almost eight times higher than whites.

One valid research study suggests that police are more likely to use force in high-crime areas regardless of race. In responding to calls for service where the neighborhood is known for frequent violent incidents officers may arrive on the scene with a high level of stress prepared for a violent confrontation. Patrol officers in some jurisdictions are predisposed to race-based bias. Some officers are prone to excessive force without regard to race. Efforts to recruit hire more culturally and racially diverse police is advantageous to police-community relations as this can reduce tension between all community populations and police officers. Studies have repeatedly shown officers with some college are, in general, less likely to use excessive force in making an arrest than officers without any college.

Significant progress has been made over the past four decades as the basic law enforcement screening process has been improved by police agencies. Most law enforcement agencies now utilize a personality assessment in the screening/selection process such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI-2). This is used to assess psychological stability in "high-risk" professions.

Basic police training for newly hired officers has improved nationally. Alabama's basic law enforcement training has doubled from 6 weeks during the 1970's to the current minimum of 12 weeks. There are 10 police training academies in Alabama all which are under the auspices of the Alabama Peace Officers Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC). Some academies provide training beyond the APOSTC 12 weeks. The Birmingham City Police Academy requires approximately 20 weeks of basic

training. Police academies also offer on-going advanced training for topics to include diversity training, use of force training and leadership training. Despite a few reported drawbacks, police departments should consider the optional means of force in effecting arrests other than deadly force. These options include Tazers. An analysis of 12 police agencies with more than 24,000 use-of-force cases in which Tazers were used showed the odds of suspect injuries decreased by almost 60%. Another alternative to deadly force when dealing with a dangerous suspect is pepper spray (oleoresin capsicum). This causes inflammation to the eyes, nose and throat. The circumstances in which an officer has to make an immediate decision are always different and difficult. Life-threatening confrontations depending on time, distance and the level of threat of the suspect determine how police officer must use the option he/she has been trained to use for the unexpected. One final statistic should emphasize the high risk all police officers in any law enforcement agency face each time they put on their uniform: In 2013 there were 237 police officers assaulted while in the line of duty (APOSTC).

David Nichols, Ed. D., is veteran law enforcement officer, police administrator and author. His career includes being a patrol officer for municipal, county and universities. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, he taught criminal justice courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, he published widely on law enforcement issues, presented to several Alabama regional police academies and conducted organizational assessments for municipal and university police departments.

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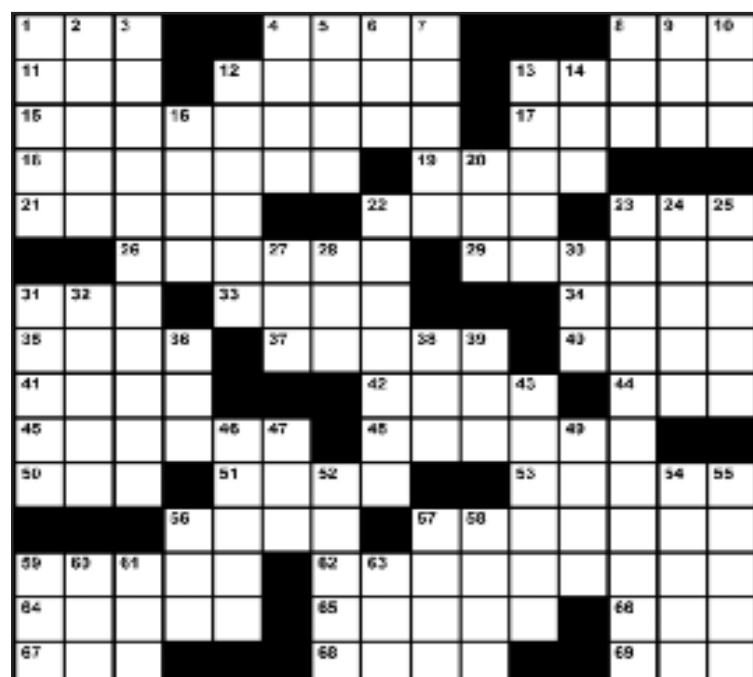


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- 62. Owner
- 64. Join
- 65. Gum
- 66. Informal, though
- 67. Big conference in the BCS
- 68. Cultural doings
- 69. Holiday tuber

- Down**
- 1. Gardener's targets
 - 2. "I am not my hair" singer
Arie
 - 3. Bulletins
 - 4. Little ones
 - 5. Soft cheese
 - 6. Rap sheet abbr.
 - 7. Mountain collection
 - 8. Chinese food pan
 - 9. Stretch, with "out"
 - 10. Auction ending
 - 12. Immediate
 - 13. Change gears
 - 14. Gladys Night backup singer
 - 16. Tiptop
 - 20. Notes after dos
 - 22. Rests
 - 23. Artery operation
 - 24. Soft cloth cap
 - 25. High point
 - 27. Sun, for example
 - 28. Mr. politely
 - 30. "Sweet!"
 - 31. Ill-gotten gains
 - 32. Lock horns
 - 36. Hill person: abbr.
 - 38. "___ true!"

- 39. NBA team (abbr.)
- 43. Whalebone
- 46. Problem
- 47. Amigo
- 49. BBQ meat cuts
- 52. Dried coconut meat
- 54. Friendly greeting
- 55. Compact PC disc
- 56. Go (for)
- 57. "Check this out!"
- 58. Egyptian goddess of fertility
- 59. Split the deck
- 60. Till bill
- 61. Feminine side
- 63. Done, to Donne



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- I have leukemia and I am in constant pain. My sister gave me a band as a gift and the pain went away instantly. *Carmelita N., TX*
- Within hours of using the band I noticed the nagging spot of pain in my shoulder was so much less. I highly recommend the Miracle Band. *Carl Schmidt, ND, Owner of the Herb Shop, Montgomery, AL.*

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