



Father's Day June 21



Father's Day is the day to recognize, honor and celebrate the sacrifices and accomplishments of our fathers.

Children celebrate their fathers and father figures to show their love and appreciation. More recently, Father's Day has been used to educate the population as to the significant impact a father makes in the home of young children. Father's Day was created to comple-

ment Mother's Day and is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

Father's Day Facts & Quotes...

President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the second Sunday in June as Father's Day in 1966. It became a permanent holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon proclaimed the second Sunday in June would remain Father's Day.

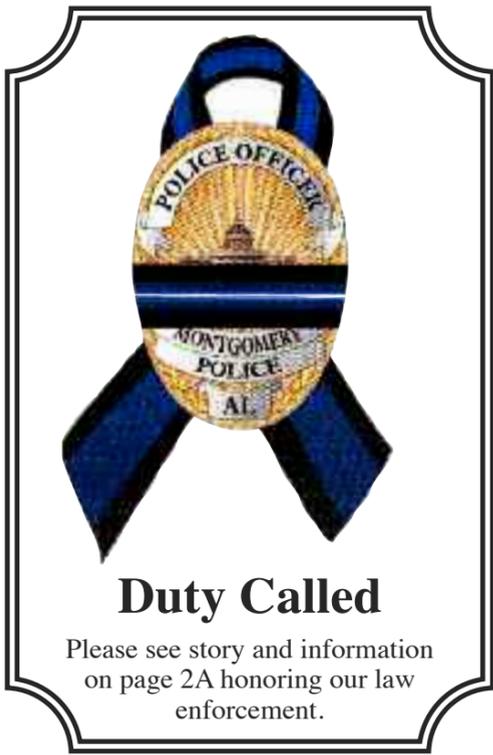
Mrs. Sonora Smart Dodd first came up with the idea for Father's Day after hearing a Mother's Day sermon in church. She was raised by her father and wanted to honor him.

In 2012, 16% of all single parents were men.

It is easier for a father to have children than for children to have a real father. - Pope John XXIII

**THE TIME IS NOW TO
VOICE SUPPORT FOR
OUR LAW
ENFORCEMENT!**

Montgomery Police Department



Duty Called

Please see story and information on page 2A honoring our law enforcement.



On May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson called for the nation-wide observance of Flag Day. In 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed congress's decree, making June 14th of each year National Flag Day.

Things to do on Flag Day..

Fly the American Flag. ~ Recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

*Visit a National Monument or National celebration.
Attend a Flag retirement ceremony.*

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Standardization/ Evaluation: Training's Evil Twin



Getting ready to "hit" the tanker. View from the AWACS cockpit during air refueling.

Because of the Germanwings Flight 9525 crash where the copilot Andreas Lubitz intentionally crashed his Airbus 320-200 into the French Alps killing all 150 people onboard, my previous Robservation focused on the aviation industry's need to develop and maintain robust selection and training programs. In addition to these two aspects, however, any organization that wants to succeed must also implement training's evil twin, *Standardization/ Evaluation*. I say evil with tongue in cheek, but standardization goes beyond training in that it encompasses aspects of analysis, enforcement and if necessary, punishment; punishment in that if you don't make the standard, you're finished.

In my 30 years of flying, while admittedly creating consternation and many a restless night, it is standardization that continues to serve as the second lynchpin to safety and mission effectiveness. In the flying world, standardization culminates in annual checkrides. During this evaluation, everything the pilot does is watched and graded by the evaluator and having been on both sides of the checkride fence, much like a Christmas present, it is always better to give than to receive.

A checkride, depending on the type aircraft a pilot flies, determines what is evaluated. Although civilian and military requirements differ greatly, while flying the NATO AWACS for example, I received at least two checkrides per year. One checkride was a four-hour simulator event from hell where I was tested on dozens of normal and emergency procedures. The other consisted of flying the airplane and a written or oral test on what we called **Bold Face** or immediate action requirements along with aircraft limitations. A sample (non-AWACS) **Bold Face** would be:

- Two Engine Flameout
- 1. IGNITION Switch ON
- 2. START PUMP switch ON

You would have to regurgitate this exactly and woe be to the Joe who flubbed either this or the limitations. No matter how well you may have performed in the jet, you would be given the opportunity to shine later in the month when you were forced to reaccomplish the entire checkride. Likewise, in the simulator checkride, you always had the opportunity to actually practice each of the **Bold Face** items.

By Rob Tate
Story Continued on page 7A

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MPD 2015 Award Recipients

Police Star

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Officer R. F. Hubbard

Combat Star

Officer A. C. Smith

Life Saving

Officer J. R. Anderson

Officer L. A. Bowman

Officer W. L. Prescott

Sergeant B. W. Capps

Officer B. C. Goza

Officer A. T. Young

MPD Citizen of the Year

Mr. Samuel Adams

Civilian Employee of the Year

Mr. Kenneth W. Anthony

Correctional Officer of the Year

Sergeant R. Rogers

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant R. K. Johnson

Chief's Staff Award

Major C. A. Wingard

Police Officer of the Year

R. F. Hubbard



End of Watch

Silas Goree ~ January 1, 1829

William D. Montgomery ~ September 22, 1886

John R. Pugh ~ October 11, 1886

John F. Suggs ~ February 15, 1886

Thomas Walter Berrey ~ October 5, 1910

Milton Goocher ~ March 1, 1918

Joseph Earl Davis ~ April 16, 1919

John B. Barbaree ~ September 29, 1919

George Luther Berrey ~ October 19, 1919

Albert Sansom ~ September 28, 1922

Rexford C. Wright ~ August 11, 1929

Raymond Mathis ~ April 30, 1936

Andrew O. Brasington ~ September 26, 1936

Marion D. Stalnaker ~ October 17, 1950

James Dean Sanford ~ September 29, 1961

Samuel Douglas Sumner ~ November 5, 1967

Manford E. Furr ~ October 12, 1974

George W. McGaughey ~ March 15, 1975

William E. Noble ~ May 5, 1976

Robert C. Ussery ~ July 21, 1978

Mary P. McCord ~ January 5, 1982

James Russell Ward ~ October 3, 1994

Willie Henry Pryor ~ January 22, 1995

Anderson Gordon III ~ September 24, 1997

Keith Edwin Houts - September 30, 2006

Kenneth M. Armstrong - August 17, 2007

Joshuah P. Broadway - January 25, 2009

David L. Colley - April 4, 2015

THE TIME IS NOW TO VOICE SUPPORT FOR OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT!

As we approach the summer of 2015 it is significant to know, as research studies show, that violent crimes occur at a higher rate in the summer season than any other season. There is a current heightened dissatisfaction and

anger among some individuals, groups and communities across America toward law enforcement officers.

Distain, threats and acts of violence against police have existed for decades whether it is state, county, district, municipality, university or other special police jurisdiction where uniformed officers are on duty to protect, serve and maintain order. However, in light of extensive media coverage of a few fatal shootings of unarmed minorities in high crime areas by police officers, there are rumblings of reprisal against police. In fact, following these high profile police shootings of suspects, nearly a dozen police officers have been murdered or injured in the line of duty in a variety of circumstances across America. No law enforcement officer anywhere any time is immune.

Though the issues are complex and reactions often political and racial, unbiased leadership is needed. The time is now for strong decision making which may not be politically correct or socially satisfying to those who blame bad behavior on everything and everyone except the perpetrators of crime. Absolutely, there are poor communities in most every state, some schools fail to teach children to read, some parents fail to instill good values and respect for authority and the prevalence of illegal drugs entices children and young adults. These indeed need the attention of community, church and government leaders. Hundreds of valid studies have been conducted about crime, crime trends, offender characteristics, victimization profiles, conditions which are causal effects and the high cost of crime to include incarceration. We already know who is committing most

violent crimes, we know the typical victims and, in general, where and when these crimes occur.

Highly respected Sheriff David Clark of Milwaukee County, Wisconsin was invited to speak to the United States Judiciary Committee on issues of crime and violence and allegations of widespread police prejudice and excessive force, particularly aimed at minority individuals. He said that our public officials and socially liberal-leaning talking heads do not acknowledge the "elephant in the living room". This, he said, is the reality of black-on-black violence at alarming rates. He told Committee members that root causes include a growing and self-perpetuating culture of victimization and dependence on the federal government. Sheriff Clark summed up his remarks by stating that "Such sub-human behavior in a sub-culture of celebrating bad behavior is the result of years of liberal policy making." Incidentally, Sheriff Clark is black.

And Montgomery's new Police Chief, Ernest N. Finley, Jr. says, "My vision is to guide and direct our MPD to provide customer service to our residents here... and also to reduce crime through community engagement." The last thing is to really develop partnerships."

These issues have worsened increasingly over decades. They will not be solved soon despite the urgency of a potential rise in violence within communities toward police. However, a few observations may be in order as we seek to reduce more incidents as occurred in Baltimore Maryland where a young black man died during an arrest which involved six police officers - three black officers and three white officers all of whom were arrested and charged in less than 48 hours with numerous crimes.

In a predominately black community of Baltimore hundreds of mostly young black men assaulted police officers, demolished and burned down businesses and looted stores in a three-block area. The reason given to media representatives was that police targeted blacks and used excessive force.

The Mayor of Baltimore, Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake responded with outrage toward the Baltimore Police Department even though her Police Chief, Anthony Batts is also black. Mayor Rawlings-Blake called for a U.S. Department of Justice investigation of the Baltimore Police Department which is majority minority! The first observation is that elected leaders at the top of any government have the responsibility to insure that every department, to include the police, are effective in carrying out their duties fairly in their dealings with all citizens. The point is that the Mayor through her Police Chief had the authority and responsibility to correct any deficiencies within the Police Department as the Chief of Police felt necessary to resolve any alleged police misconduct. A second observation is that the Mayor and Police Chief should have been proactive within any disgruntled community members seeking to resolve complaints while making a strong statement that the Baltimore Police Department had her full support. This may well have changed negative perceptions toward police officers.

There will always be crime. There will continue to be an anti-police perception since they represent authority and so many citizens, both black and white, resent authority. Yet, we do know that it is the responsibility of every elected official in every jurisdiction whether an elected Sheriff, Mayor, County Commission, or Governor to make sure those who are sworn to protect and serve do so with respect and fairness to all citizens. Right now all good law enforcement officers need our support. They are not black or white. They are all blue!

David Nichols, Ed. D., is a veteran law enforcement officer and leader. He began as a municipal police officer and served most of his career as a University Police Chief and/or a university administrator to whom the Police Chief reported. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Quantico, VA. Nichols served as a consultant to municipal (to include Wetumpka P.D.) and university police agencies, an expert witness on crime-related cases, a presenter at several police academies and conferences.



Dr. David Nichols

Montgomery County Law

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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham

Chief Deputy Kevin Murphy

KIDS' FISHING RODEO

Saturday, June 20th • 6 am - 12 Noon

Saturday, June 20th, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office will be having our annual Kids' Fishing Rodeo from 6 a.m. -12 noon at the Montgomery County Ponds. All youth between the ages of 6-12 are invited to come out and fish! We will have snacks and you only need to bring bait and tackle! Portable bathrooms will be available as well as handicap access. Please no adult fishing-this is only for our youth!



... (text continues from previous block)

Come out and have some family time with our youth!

Directions to the Montgomery County Ponds

7 miles South of the Boulevard on Highway 231 South (across from Meriwether Road). You will see the blue lights flashing at roadway.

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"friends" often try harder to make kids who say "no" to drugs, alcohol and tobacco feel like outcasts. Home testing kits have emerged that protect privacy and provide kids with a socially acceptable excuse, "My parents test me." For years, police have been the first to know when local kids used drugs while their parents were often the last to know. Now there is a way to REVERSE that trend!



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office recently announced a new alliance with **TestMyTeen.com**, an organization that has donated free home drug test kit vouchers to be shared anonymously with parents who need them.

Go to our website: [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) and click "Public Interest," then click "TEST MY TEEN" and follow the instructions... it's that simple!

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Attention Montgomery County Citizens and Neighborhood Watch Associations: If you are interested in having our agency come out and do a crime prevention home survey as well as give helpful information to help you ensure your home and personal property are secure, please email my Administrative Assistant, Christie Vázquez, at ChristieVazquez@mc-ala.org or contact my office at 832.1646. Your safety and well-being is just as important to us and it is to you and your family! Don't hesitate...call or email today!



L to R: Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy, State DARE Coordinator Snider, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham, Corporal Kofee Anderson, Assistant Chief Deputy Dave Bryan

On Friday, May 1st, our very own, Corporal Kofee Anderson, was recognized as DARE Officer of the Year! Corporal Anderson works vigilantly to reduce drug abuse among our youth. Corporal Anderson has been working for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office for 15 years and is currently signed to Legal Services Division. We are proud to have Cpl. Anderson as a part of our staff!

Keep up the good work, Corporal Anderson!!

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Think your teen may be "experimenting" with drugs, alcohol or tobacco? It's best to solve problems before they occur or get much worse. Unfortunately,



L to R: State DARE Coordinator Snider, Cpl. Kofee Anderson



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Special Note We are in the process of constructing a new website www.MontgomerySheriff.com and hope that you all will check this website periodically for helpful information and events taking place in the community and as always thank you for your continued support of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office!!



... (text continues from previous block)

Support our Law Enforcement and Fire Departments!..

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

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The Education Station...

We are honored to re-print address by Cecil Williamson of Selma, Alabama. *By Bobbie Ames*

(An Address given at the Alabama Division United Daughters of the Confederacy Confederate Memorial Day Celebration in Montgomery, Alabama April 27, 2015)

OUR CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS: WHY AND FOR WHAT THEY FOUGHT AND FELL...



It is an inexpressible honor to speak on this occasion in remembrance and in honor of some 250,000 Southern men, 30,000 of them from Alabama, who gave their lives in a just fight for constitutional government and law, and in honor of thousands of others who served in and survived the war for southern independence. Since 1866 in this city, there has been an annual remembrance of those who died and those who served in the armies of the Confederate States of America. Since 1901, there has been a State of Alabama holiday to honor and to remember our Confederate soldiers.

These tributes we pay to their memory today, these garlands of speech that we strew on their graves, are feeble compared to the tribute they paid the South by their faithful and honorable service.

The memory of their noble and upright service will be cherished forever by freedom loving Southerners. May the spirit that guided our Confederate soldiers be our guide so that it may be said of us---that we have been faithful to our heritage and our duty to defend the good name of the Confederate soldier.

On this Confederate Memorial Day, how do we remember fallen Confederates? In the poet's words:

"To remember the fallen

Is not to remember how they fell,

But to remember why and for what they fell."

We honor and remember them for why and for what they fell!

From glorious victories at First Manassas to Chancellorsville to difficult defeats at Vicksburg and Appomattox, from the horrors of inhumane prison camps at Elymira, Camp Douglas and other northern prisons where 26,000 fell from disease, starvation, cold, and from Lincoln and Grant's 1864 decision to end prisoner exchanges, confederate soldiers fell on ground made forever hallowed by their blood and sacrifice!

"How to remember the fallen," the poet asks? Not only to remember how they fell, whether by rifles, canons, bayonets or even shot in the back, but to remember why and for what they fell is to honor them today. Since the celebration of the war's centennial from 1961 to 1965 until today, the "why" and "for what" Confederate soldiers fell has undergone a dramatic change at the feet of the country's new unholy trinity of political correctness, multiculturalism and diversity. Permit me a personal illustration of how and for what Confederate soldiers fought and fell and how the why and for what they fought has changed dramatically in the last 50 years.

As a college student majoring in history during the time of the war's centennial celebration in the early 1960's, my roommate was from Sullivan's Island, South Carolina, near the Charleston harbor. On a few occasions I went with him to Charleston and visited Ft. Sumter. In the 1960's, the following was, in summary, the story of secession and how the war began that was told in Charleston.

On December 20, 1860, the State of South Carolina, by the unanimous vote of a Convention, called by its legislature, formally seceded from the Union. At that time, Major Anderson was commandant of the federal forces at Charleston with his headquarters at Ft. Moultrie. Fort Sumter, the strongest of all the city's defenses and in the middle of the bay, was not occupied. At midnight, on the day the secession ordinance was adopted, Major Anderson, having received orders from Washington, spiked the guns at Moultrie and conveyed all his men and arms to Sumter.

The next morning, to the amazement of the South Carolinians, they saw the Union flag flying over Sumter and Anderson in possession. As was to be expected this act of treachery greatly incensed them...and hear this clearly...incensed them because President Buchanan had assured South Carolina that the existing military status would undergo no change during the remaining 4 months of his presidency. His pledge was violated by the seizure and occupation of Sumter. Buchanan refused to order Anderson back to Moultrie.

Buchanan's Secretary of War, J. B. Floyd, who had been a party to the promise by the President, felt that his honor had been so compromised by this gross breach of faith that he instantly and immediately resigned. For almost three months, from December 1860 to March 1861, when Lincoln was inaugurated, commissioners from the

South were in Washington urging a peaceful separation and in particular the removal of the federal garrisons from Forts Pickens and Sumter.

UPON BEING INAUGURATED, Lincoln gave assurances through an intermediary that all would be well, that the military status of the South would be undisturbed and that Sumter would be evacuated. The intermediary was respected United States Supreme Court Justice John Campbell, of Alabama. These assurances were given verbally and in writing to Campbell by Secretary of State Seward himself. However, neither Lincoln nor Seward had any intention of evacuating Sumter. Union Commanding General Scott informed Lincoln that Sumter could be reinforced militarily only by surprise or deception; hence, the deceitful promises. As late as April 7, it was pretended that the evacuation would still take place.

On April 7, 1861 Justice Campbell again wrote Secretary Seward about the subject and received this reply:

"Fate as to Sumter was fully kept -- wait and see." The very next day the Union fleet started a convoy, -- it said, to "provision a starving garrison." The fleet consisted of 11 vessels with 285 guns and 2400 men. The fleet arrived in time to see the bombardment of Sumter - while lying in anchor in the distance during the action and never firing a gun.

On April 12, 1861, the guns of Charleston had put the intended surprise reinforcement of the fort out of the question, but the Lincoln administration had accomplished its one great objective for which it had been scheming. Now the federal government, while in reality commencing a war which they had fully resolved upon, could make it appear that they were involved by the South's actions. Such was the impression Lincoln intended and such was the impression in the North needed to stir public sentiment against the South. Thus, Anderson held the fort as long as honor required, surrendered it without a loss of one man, while the formidable Union fleet looked on, never attempting to come to his aid.

In the early 1960's, this in summary was the story told of why and how the war began. It especially emphasized the Union's duplicity and deception in beginning the war. And from that beginning, some 250,000 Southerners and some 350,000 northerners fell in a war that could have been averted had Buchanan and Lincoln done what they repeatedly promised to do. It was obvious also that Lincoln in particular wanted either a war to keep the South's riches in the union or abject submission to his despotic rule. **IN 1860, THE CONFEDERATE STATES HAD THE WORLD'S FOURTH RICHEST ECONOMY.**

Let us examine the 1960's version of how and why the war began. Move forward now fifty years to 2015. What story is the National Park Service telling today at Ft. Sumter? I had the opportunity last month to visit Charleston, see Ft. Sumter and the beautiful new visitor center where you board the boats to go out to the Fort. From the time you walk into the visitor center until the time you visit the fort and leave the visitor center, the National Park Service is telling one and only one prostituted reason for the war: slavery-slavery-slavery! Murals, displays, interactive recordings, brochures, misleadingly claim that this war was about the South fighting to maintain slavery and the reason Confederate soldiers served and fell was to preserve slavery, while at the same time claiming that noble Lincoln and the union were fighting to free the slaves.

It is intellectually dishonest to study everything Lincoln said about blacks before 1861 and still believe that on April 12, 1861, he was starting a war to free the slaves. In 1818, Lincoln's Illinois had joined the Union as a free state; however, slavery continued there and free blacks were oppressed by state laws known as the Black Codes, which remained in effect from 1819 until 1865. Under Illinois law, blacks

- * *could not vote*
- * *could not bring suit against whites*
- * *could not testify in court against whites*
- * *could not serve in the militia*
- * *could not own arms*
- * *had to carry on their persons at all times a Certificate of Freedom or be presumed to be a slave*

In all of his time in Illinois, in the Illinois legislature and as President, Abraham Lincoln never attempted to repeal the Black Codes in Illinois. In fact, they were not repealed until the war ended in 1865. It is beyond dispute that Lincoln did not begin the war with the intent to free slaves.

The greatest evil in America today is not racism but ignorance. People who think 880,000

southerners were willing to fight and possibly die so that 4-8 percent of the people in the south could continue to own slaves are not only unbelievably illogical to believe that absurdity, but abysmally ignorant of the myriads of differences between the South and the North in 1860. **TARIFFS, TAXES, STATES RIGHTS, EVEN RELIGION AND ESPECIALLY THEIR DIFFERING VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, IS WHAT LED TO THE WAR.**

Had I been a Southerner in 1860 and my purpose was to maintain slavery, I would have stayed in the Union forever. From the drawing up to the adoption of the Constitution, slavery was unquestionably legal.

The founding fathers knew that if the Constitution outlawed slavery, it would never have been adopted by the 13 states. Why? Because in 1789, in every one of the 13 states except Vermont and Massachusetts, slavery was legal. The first federal census of 1790 showed the number of slaves in every state and that there were nearly as many slaves in New York as there were in Georgia.

HOW WAS SLAVERY ABOLISHED in five additional Northern states between 1790 and 1860? Slavery was abolished by the acts of the duly elected legislatures of those States. By and within the sovereign States - **NOT** by any action, coercion or military force from the federal government. Everyone understood that slavery was legal under the Constitution. The abolition or maintaining of slavery was left to the individual states. All to say, that even Lincoln himself, as he plainly said more than once, did not think the federal government had any power to abolish slavery within the states.

Only when a noble reason was needed for beginning a war, which costs 600,000 lives and maimed a million more, and created animosities which have not completely healed until this day, did "freeing the slaves" become the noble and politically correct 'cause' of the war. By saying that the South fought to maintain slavery - are you **NOT** saying that the North fought to free the slaves? And if you say the North fought to free the slaves, have you ever read the Emancipation Proclamation? If you have, how can you say that Lincoln and the North fought to free slaves? Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed not one - no not one - slave in the vast territory Lincoln controlled!

I believe it is an undeniable fact that our Confederate ancestors neither fought nor fell to maintain slavery. The last country in the western hemisphere to abolish slavery was Brazil in 1888. Every other major Christian civilized country in the world ended slavery without a bloody war. I do not doubt that slavery would soon have ended in the South under the economic realities of agricultural modernization and moral suasion.

But slavery is not the reason our ancestors fell and it certainly is not the reason we honor them on this memorial day. They fell fighting for the just cause of constitutional liberty. They fell fighting for Southern independence. They fell because the South was invaded. It is a truism that had not 2,200,000 Yankees invaded the South, there would never have been a war. Had Lincoln not sent more than 2 million men into the South to invade our land, burn our homes, steal our property and kill members of our families, there would not have been a war.

WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN 1861-1865 WAS NOT A CIVIL WAR. Classically, a civil war is when **two opposing factions within the same country are fighting for the control of the government.** The South wanted its independence, not control of the government in Washington or control of the northern states. No reasonable person believes the Confederacy once established was going to invade the north and try to rule a united nation from Washington. It was not 'Civil War' in which our ancestors fought and fell.

There is no provision in the United States Constitution to compel a state to remain in a union it voluntarily joined. There is no provision in the Constitution giving the federal government the power to militarily coerce a state to remain in the Union. Both James Madison who drafted the Constitution and Andrew Hamilton who favored a stronger central government said, the Constitution left the federal government, in Madison's words, "unclothed with any powers of coercion over the States." In the Convention Madison said, "the use of force against a State would be a declaration of war and be considered by the party attacked as a dissolution of all previous compacts." Hamilton stated, "To coerce a State would be one of the maddest projects ever devised." Interestingly, a proposal was made at the Constitutional Convention to give such a power to the national government, but was rejected by every other state delegation. That is why, after the war, when President Jefferson Davis was imprisoned, that the Chief Justice

Continued on page 6A

WHY COUNSELING?

Are you troubled by your life experiences or traumatic events? Are you having difficulty in a relationship? Do you find yourself having a hard time overcoming a recent loss? Do you drink alcohol, use drugs or medication to take physical or emotional pain away? Do find yourself wanting to improve overall?

Counseling/Therapy is a treatment modality that uses specific techniques of caring that have been created to offer effective, long-lasting help for people suffering from a wide range of difficulties, such as clinical disorders, emotional distress, relationship issues, trauma, and loss, just to name a few. Therapy can also help fulfill the yearning for personal growth or self-improvement.

Oswaldo Chavez,

MS, LMFT-S, LPC-S, NCC
Clinical Counselor CHIPS Center
Children's of Alabama

Hector Oswaldo Chavez, MS, is a Marriage and Family Therapist, Professional Counselor, and Substance Abuse Counselor. He serves on multiple boards and has worked in a variety of clinical settings such as with the Army, Navy, Hospital Inpatient and Outpatient, Community Mental Health, and Private Practice. His professional views may not necessarily reflect the views of other mental health or medical professionals. If you have any personal or family concerns about the topic discussed, please seek professional assistance.

Please feel free to email Oswaldo with any concern or questions you may have concerning your family or teen relationships. Att. Oswaldo e-mail: alabamagazette@gmail.com

Clinical Disorder or Condition

A Clinical Disorder is a series or group of behaviors that equal or match a list of expected behaviors listed in, "The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders" (DSM), the standard classification of mental disorders used by mental health professionals in the United States.

Those who have certain Clinical Conditions can benefit from a dual treatment of medication and therapy depending on their diagnosis by a medical professional. For instance, research shows that individuals with conditions such as bi-polar, schizophrenia, eating disorders, major depression or anxiety disorders benefit significantly

more from a combination of therapy and medication than just medication alone.

The diagnosis is important in many cases because it guides the clinician to a particular treatment modality that will be best suited for the client. Keep in mind that you, as the client, should research the professional you are seeking help from, as you want to ensure the individual is licensed and that the Counselor or Therapist takes into consideration what you want and need as far as services go.

Emotional Distress

Everyone experiences emotional pain at one point in his or her life. But sometimes the distress is particularly severe or long-lasting and interferes with your ability to function in your daily life. If you are experiencing sadness, grief, or anxiety that is persistent, therapy can help relieve the symptoms, address the underlying causes for your distress, and provide you with help in restoring emotional well-being.

Relationship Issues

Your negative emotions or anxiety may be coming from difficulties in your relationship with a partner, spouse, parent, child or co-worker. Counseling can be a valuable resource in helping you understand the root of the problem, such as family patterns passed down generationally. Exploring unresolved child issues may provide you with the insight and skills you may need to improve and mend the relationships. Some of these relational issues may be sexual in nature—sexual dissatisfaction and sexual dysfunction are very common problems. These problems may or may not be related to past sexual abuse; a therapist can help you better understand via talk therapy what may be occurring. However, it can also be a medical issue.

Trauma

Survivors of trauma, violence or abuse can feel so overwhelmed by feelings of fear, guilt, shame, anger, and/or helplessness making their ability to function effectively difficult to a point of impairment. Counseling can help

provide a safe, confidential setting in which you can discuss your trauma, if you choose, in a supportive environment in which the therapist can assist you in finding ways to move forward with your life and giving you tools when you have setbacks, such as the case with flashbacks.

Loss

Experiencing a break from someone who is significantly important to you, through death or separation, can result in great emotional distress. Counseling can be significantly helpful in coping with the loss through the grieving process. Keep in mind, healing in many cases is a lifelong process.

Personal Growth- Self Improvement

Counseling can help you overcome obstacles that have kept you from reaching your full potential and becoming the person you always wanted to be. Although you might not have a clinical condition or symptoms, therapy can help assist you in learning more about yourself and how you can live your life, giving you deeper, personal satisfaction.

Food For Thought

Why I became a Counselor- I wanted to become a counselor because I wanted to figure out why my father, Armando, and younger brother, Willie, and other relatives committed suicide and had other mental health issues. I initially started with studying pre-medicine in college, due to death of my father as a result of his self-inflicted fatal gunshot wound to the head after a night of drinking which occurred when I was just ten-years-old. I subsequently went to medical school for a brief period after the second family death involving the drowning suicide of my best friend and younger sibling, Willie, who was seventeen- years-old at the time of his death. I was twenty-two and just completed my undergraduate degree, however, uninterested in solely medicine, because it did not answer my lingering life questions of why these traumatic, life changing events occurred in my nuclear family. I quickly left medical school and did some soul searching which led me eventually to counseling as a career, because I wanted to help those who were suffering and suffered as my family members and myself had suffered.

My first encounter with counseling, that I can recall, was when I was approximately fifteen- years-old. I was the only person available and willing to take my younger brother, Willie, to a treatment center for substance abuse, depression and drug induced psychosis. I remember visiting him on family night, in which family members were allowed to visit the patient who is being hospitalized for treatment. When I first saw him, after a couple weeks of counseling, I saw this brilliant smile again that he had always carried with him, which always lit up the room when he was not suffering from his mental health disease. He described how talking to others in group therapy, who had similar issues, had helped him. He stated that he had a counselor, and that he wanted me to meet his counselor who was helping him work through his problems. He also described the 12 step programs of AA/ NA, Alcoholic Anonymous /Narcotics Anonymous, programs geared to his recovery for the addictions. From this interaction, I was left with a lasting memory that I later used to fuel my desire to become a Licensed Professional Counselor and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

I have learned through my professional life and personal traumas, that we can use what has happened not to bring us down but to build us up. It is our choice what we do with our thoughts and feelings-- we can focus on the past or work on making our future better. Sometimes I have learned it just takes a little guidance by someone to help us see that there is light at the end of the tunnel and the sun will shine again!

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John Sophocleus

THINK



IF INCREASED TAXES & MONOPOLY POWER ARE THE ANSWER: WHAT'S THE QUESTION?

Alabama Foundation for Limited Government (AFLG) President John Rice launched another campaign last month in opposition of Speaker Mike Hubbard's (facing 23 felony indictments) plans to raise taxes on Alabamians and further promote Poarch Creek Indians' gambling monopoly power. For those who may not know, Mr. Rice is a former State Representative and Senator with a long established record of opposing unnecessary tax increases to support deleterious government expansion.

Many consider Rice the 'point man' in the 2003 ground game/retail politics across the State that opposed the \$1.2 billion proposed tax increase; recently deceased libertarian Mark Bodenhausen was noted as the key person/strategist on the internet. Looking back a dozen years, the most memorable moment may be the televised Rice v. Riley debate during this 2003 campaign pressing for Amendment One tax increases immediately after barely being determined the next governor in a questionable race.

IT WAS HEARTENING TO SEE SOMEONE take up the fight and actually allowed to debate Mr. Big Govt. after Myron Thompson killed voters' civil rights to allow all parties on the general ballot in gubernatorial debates. I still have folks say, "I should've listened when you warned us of Riley's record." Big Govt. Bob's NTU (National Taxpayers Union) rating clearly did not reflect the general population of Alabama; seems our current governor is equally ignorant of Grover Norquist type analysis of stewards of taxpayer dollars. Even with the 'full court press' of all the usual coercion and threats of the Riley machine, the anti-tax position won soundly (2 to 1) on a GENERAL election ballot where voters agreed with Rice, et al upon rejecting 'Billion-dollar Bob's' tax increase.

After this political failure, big govt. thugs realized they must engage in more piecemeal, slow 'divide and hide' methods to get their way. Most notable was the \$3 million wasted on a SPECIAL election just 49 days before a general election where another attempt to hike taxes would fail if 'We the People' decided. In a May 11th news conference Rice said, "When the legislature pushed the September 2012 raid on the trust fund, I predicted we would still be in budget chaos after everyone was safely re-elected. I was right. Had they listened to me then, we wouldn't be in this situation. I'm telling them once again: Fix the problem. Stop kicking the can down the road and do not raise taxes on the hardworking men and women of Alabama." This special election amended our State Constitution with approval of only 14% of eligible voters - i.e., much easier to get your minions out to vote and carry the day for favorable wealth transfers when most voters thought it something of major concern to be decided in the upcoming GENERAL election in a few weeks.

Readers may recall my column on Rice's lawsuit against this abomination as the machine touted how they 'balanced' the budget with this \$437 million theft from our trust fund. So now we suffer the result of having more govt. employees and programs than we can afford and less revenue generated by a depleted fund already hemorrhaging from so greatly distorted interest rates putting more demands on taxpayers and further contracting the economy. Little surprise Gov. Bentley's press secretary called the Rice lawsuit against the unlawful budget submitted frivolous as the governor currently evokes the usual Reagan rhetoric to garner support from big govt. conservatives. Wasting \$3 million in

taxpayer money on a special election 49 days before a general election to expand government without support of the people is OK. Recent polling again found Alabamians overwhelmingly reject tax increases and Indian monopoly on gambling - so the rational forecast is this can NOT be put a GENERAL election ballot and win.

THE REPUBLICAN SUPER MAJORITY LED ALABAMA LEGISLATURE continues to fail citizens on several key issues. In 2012 as federal 'stimulus' and one-time monies dissipated, the Legislature and Governor manipulated the process to amend our State constitution to steal \$437 million dollars over three years from the Alabama Trust Fund with the empty promise of paying it back. A promise still not kept nor addressed. This Super Majority's is no different than other "PIIGS" nation-states like Greece who will do anything to avoid fiscal discipline and destroy the quality of life for their posterity, making the inevitable reckoning all the more painful.

We're now past the 2014 elections, observing the result of increased influence by big money on Alabama politics (think AEA, BCA, et al alphabet soup) with the \$500 cap on corporate campaign contributions removed. Suffering some of the most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation, big money can more easily buy elections here in Alabama. Over 90% of incumbents who ran this cycle were re-elected in the House and 100% in the Senate. I appreciate readers who find these results disturbing yet not surprised by the recent gubernatorial announcement of a \$541 million general fund shortfall. So much for paying back the trust fund... think those who hated our forecasting what would happen in 2012 will now call us wise given the correctly predicted result? No doubt the Governor and Legislature knew what they were doing, but they're simply Elephant pigs addicted to taking from current taxpayers and our posterity just as the modern Donkey pigs before. Does anyone genuinely think feeding these pigs another \$541 million will solve the problem instead of proffering more and fatter political animals?

SO WE OBSERVE THE RILEY MACHINE running this same 'up the gut' from their playbook strangling our State without fear of voter discipline. The two options for this iteration according to Speaker Hubbard are raise taxes another \$200 million and give Indian Gaming a bigger footprint in the gambling sands with more monopoly power in Alabama. Perhaps they've offered more 'protection' money than out of state establishments the machine was bilking or perhaps fear of federal charges (think Jack Abramoff scandal) by anyone who wants to connect the dots similar to the serial felony indictments driving the observed corrupt result. I sincerely enjoyed all the kudos from last month's 'tongue in cheek' column - esp. those forecasting (correctly it seems) who would 'save the day' for Boulevard's legal bills -- indeed Indians not the 'traditional cavalry' as some jest.

Why did Bentley fail to put this current 'solution' (to not addressing spending problems back in 2012) before GENERAL election voters to consider his now proposed \$541 million tax increase in the last gubernatorial campaign? Can't let those who are paying to keep the pigs fed determine their fate. It may cut some fat and get Goat Hill serious about earning some credibility with taxpaying voters to un-earmark (three times more than the national average) and provide a little flexibility to redirect resources to the few things State governments can provide better than private (non-govt. distorted/

subsidized) efforts. For those who really want to fill their barf bags, Gov. Bentley is now evoking the patron Saint of big govt. conservatives Ronald Reagan (you remember, the pro-labor union Democrat turned Republican who exploded spending as Gov. California - now there's example for us to follow) to justify their cowardice and dereliction of fiscal responsibility and duties. Ronald was an accomplished actor; I also have great affection for his words and witticisms. Sadly we've had enough Lincolnian politics - great rhetoric to cloak self-interest and advance more corporate welfare will not move us forward out of the morass they've 'progressed' us into... It is long past due to quit with the easy words and move onto the difficult task of actually balancing budgets and stop feeding the pigs on Goat Hill.

Not to be out corrupted by the "Spender of the House," Senate Pro Tem Del Marsh championed the other 'solution' - broad based govt. run lottery and casino gambling to a few providers who pay well for monopoly power. Sure glad the Republican Super Majority evoking Ronald Reagan is getting us out of this mess. Not that a return to our 'Barron Daze' Senate would be any different. When Reagan was done with his brand of conservatism US debt per capita increased three-fold; maybe if he'd had as many years as FDR he could've come closer to that twelve-fold increase a few decades prior to 'save us' from the Great Depression. Dr. Gov. Bentley has promised to call the legislature back for special sessions this summer until his \$541 million tax increases are passed. I forecast more auctioning of future taxpayer theft will be accomplished under a Hubbard/Marsh special session than balancing a budget which will curb deleterious government growth and promote recovery.

If increased taxes and promoting more monopoly power for gambling are the answer - what's the question? How does the Governor and Legislature come up with anything they can possibly consider to keep feeding the pigs and keep the graft-master machine churning...

Postscript: to inquirers seeking update on my March 2014 column about Quo Warranto proceedings against Sen. Del Marsh's illegal attempt to revise the Alabama Constitution. On May 7th our State Supreme Court denied AG Luther Strange's motion to dismiss. The AG's text did little to address this proposed usurpation of power. In my specific observations of pro-govt. thug attorney generals when winning our case unanimously in the US Supreme Court in 2005, not addressing the actual issue of wrongdoing is the programmed response. Seven of the nine Justices concurred in denial of the AG's frivolous text in appeal which has served the purpose of postponing use of this effective tool to curb corrupt actions of this sort enabling Montgomery to usurp even more power from the people. As we learned, winning means nothing if a Supreme Court does not follow-up and simply remands it back to the poor jurists below them. It is indisputable Sen. Marsh did NOT provide his authorization to engage in this wrongdoing in a timely matter - the courts can now correctly bring an end to this debacle - with prejudice! In short, our twelve brave citizens' Quo Warranto inquiry of Sen. Del Marsh to provide where he's authorized to revise the Alabama Constitution (without first placing the question of convention or no convention on the ballot) moves forward...

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

The Education Station continued from page 4A

of the United States Supreme Court advised the federal government, "if you bring these leaders to trial, it will condemn the North, for by the Constitution, secession is not rebellion." And they were never tried!

The South was right about constitutional government in 1861 and it is still right today. That was the principle upon which our ancestors stood and fought and that is the principle for which more than 250,000 Southerners were willing to give their lives: for the just causes of constitutional liberty and government and for Southern independence..

The leftist elitist press, the poverty pimps down the street, and those who worship the pagan deity political correctness do not get to define our history. It is not their prerogative to determine why we honor our Confederate ancestors or celebrate Confederate Memorial Days. We honor Confederate soldiers because we understand not only how they fell but why and for what they fell.

The Declaration of Independence which our forefathers used to justify their secession of the 13 colonies from England clearly states: "...it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it (government)

and institute new government...organizing its powers in such form as to them seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness." The Southern states had as much moral, legal and constitutional justification in instituting a government suitable to them as the colonies did in 1776. If Lincoln really believed his high sounding words at Gettysburg about "government of, for and by the people," how could he oppose the Southern states having a government of, for and by the Southern people?

How do we rightly remember our ancestors? To remember the fallen - we continue to fight, we carry their dreams and we finish what they started. Today we are continuing their fight for limited and lawful constitutional government. We again have a would-be tyrant from Illinois in the White House who like Lincoln believes he rules by divine fiat, is answerable to no one, can ignore the Constitution and the Congress, can make laws with his pen, and can coerce states and individuals to submit to his dictatorial whims.

Our ancestors did not run. They did not retreat in the face of an invading army of more than 2 million destroyers of life and property. Neither should those of us run today who love our heritage

and our families. We should remain committed to Christian principles as the foundation of our struggle against tyranny. We should answer every attack on our heritage in the press, movies and on television with letters and public outrage. We should observe all of our Confederate holidays and birthdays by flying our flags, having parades and public gatherings such as this. We should never be ashamed of our Southern heritage, but we should be ashamed of those who are.

The South was right in 1861. We are right today. The constitutional cause for which our ancestors fought was just and righteous. I s s u e s settled at the end of a gun barrel will never be settled in people's hearts. We should have the courage to stand against tyranny, as our Confederate ancestors did.

Long live the righteous and constitutional cause for which our ancestors fought and fell. Long live those who will defend truth and our Southern heritage. God will vindicate. God save the South.

*Cecil Williamson, Selma, Alabama
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The views of this editorial may not express the views of The Alabama Gazette.

ROBSERVATIONS... by Robert Tate

Standardization/ Evaluation: Training's Evil Twin



Continued from page 1A

Once I became an instructor pilot, annual instructor requirements had to be graded as well. Also, in the AWACS world, if you were air refueling qualified, we had to "hit" a tanker and stay on the boom for a specified amount of time. In other words, there was a lot to accomplish. Guys in the tactical world dropping bombs and the like have a whole other set of annual requirements to fulfill.

Each of these "tests" consisted of mission planning, ground operations, all phases of flight to include take-offs, landings, approaches, air refueling, post flight and debrief. In all, 30 or more items were watched by an evaluator pilot and then graded Level 1, 2, or 3. (Pass, Pass but needs work, or Fail). A Level 3 in certain items such as "Judgment" meant an automatic failure for the entire ride. Failure for any reason also meant mandatory retraining and then a "recheck" consisting of re-accomplishing the failed event or possibly the entire checkride.

In the airline world, it is much the same but as you can imagine, not quite as intense. Two days per year in the simulator and an oral exam on **Bold Face**, limitations and walk around slides where we are shown pictures of the airplane and asked what different things are in the photo.

As a **Standardization and Evaluation pilot**, my primary instrument outside of the checkride was the Trend Analysis Tool (TAT). It is here that every item graded on every checkride was logged. If I had 30 pilots in my squadron, some 60 annual checkrides or more would be reflected in the TAT. At a glance, I could see results for ground ops perhaps 60 times during the year, maybe 70 3-engine approaches to a missed approach, how many pilots flew 10 knots slow on approach or how many pilots successfully hung onto the boom the requisite amount of time during air refueling. If two out of 30 pilots demonstrated the inability to land the jet on centerline for example, that would not show a problem but 15 pilots failing the same task would indicate a trend requiring the training program to address the weakness.

This is where standardization and training go hand in hand. While training equips personnel to perform at a certain standard, it is standardization and evaluation that compels training to produce the desired effect. If an organization has an "excellent" training program, exactly how do you know? Without a method of testing, grading and evaluating personnel, you don't. In order to monitor the success of a training program, regardless of how painful it may be, there needs to be a method in place to evaluate personnel. Personally, this has never been a problem since training and evaluation has been and continues to be a normal occurrence in the aviation world. But for some in other careers, the thought of being rigidly tested two to three times per year is a scary proposition. I have talked with people like teachers who cringe at the idea of being tested on a regular basis, especially when one's job would hang precariously in the balance. For us, it is a way of life.

This past January and February, Delta went through a Line Oriented Safety Audit (LOSA). I was fortunate to be one of 50 LOSA observers. During

the first 7 weeks of the year, each of the observers accomplished a minimum of 12 safety audits. An observation consisted of the observer sitting in the cockpit and watching and taking note of everything that occurred during a flight. Some flights were short like Atlanta to Augusta, some were longer like Atlanta to Los Angeles while others were long international flights. For the most part, observers watched flights on the airplane we currently fly but also conducted a few on airplanes we had flown in the past.

The results of the LOSA audit will be available later this summer. But for us in the best airline in the country, it was an opportunity to look at our flight operations, identify threats and see how well our crews mitigated those threats. When I say threats, I don't mean folks with bombs, but external factors like weather, icing, rain, snow, gusty winds, ATC issues, unruly passengers, operational interruptions and the like. After an observation, it normally took me 3-5 hours to write one up. Although it seems like a lot of work, the fact that these observations increase our safety and highlights where our standardization may be lacking, this type of safety audit is indispensable. This is one of the many reasons our passengers should feel safe when riding in a Delta airplane.

While nobody will disagree that excellent training in any career field is paramount, many still unfortunately oppose standardization; mostly because of its potential punitive aspects. At the same time, however, success of any operation cannot be relegated to a training program that has no way of verifying its own validity. Regardless of the profession, development of a program that embraces training and standardization/ evaluation is essential for success.



Getting ready to "hit" the tanker. View from the AWACS cockpit during air refueling.

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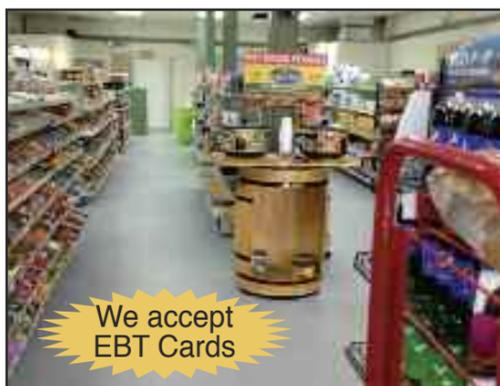
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Letter to the Editor

FREE MARKET EDUCATION, PART 1 By John Martin

IN A FREE SOCIETY, THE LEGITIMATE FUNCTION OF GOVERNMENT IS VERY LIMITED. In essence, government should do three things—national defense, roads and bridges, and protecting the people from the wrongdoings of other people. Otherwise, government's job is to leave people alone and get out of the way.

One thing government should never do is meddle into education. The sum of its dangers is frightening to those who understand the way socialist and fascist systems operate.

Nearly everybody knows the importance of a good education. But we must also realize that education is the duty of the parents, NOT the state. The sooner we cast off the slave chains of collectivism, the more prosperous we become. To do this, we must have the opportunity to educate ourselves in a free market and without restraint.

The idea of a "right" to an education provided at public expense is straight out of the Communist

Manifesto. It is one of the ten planks of communism, and Karl Marx had a good reason to put it there: A small minority would be well-educated—those at the top of the "pecking order." The remainder would be taught to work hard, be obedient, and accept their status as little more than serfs. Marx believed that government must control the children, lest they grow up learning the economic truth and begin to rebel against the system.

In the early years of American public education, students learned a great deal. Since everything was locally financed and controlled, parents and teachers could work together to do what was best for the children. Public schools continued to work fairly well up until the mid-1960's, although their quality declined somewhat as government input crept in and diluted parental authority.

Then, spurred by quotas of the civil rights movement, government impositions rose dramatically. Racial mix equalizations were decreed, and students were forcibly bused to distant neighborhoods. Gangs began to take over. Discipline and grades plummeted. Failures soon became so rampant that administrators had to graduate huge masses of dumbed-down students to free up space for new

enrollments. The more responsible parents quickly withdrew their children from the public schools and enrolled them in private ones and/or home schooled them.

Public education continued its steep decline. Taxes went up. More and more money was pumped in. Education budgets skyrocketed. New buildings rose everywhere. More and more administrators, officers, and bureaucrats were hired. Forced attendance laws were passed. School days per year were increased. Kindergartens, and later, pre-kindergartens were established. Government confiscated greater and greater portions of the children's lives.

Today, grades and test scores continue to slide. Gang membership has risen—along with bullying, juvenile crime, violence, drug use, teenage pregnancies and reckless child-bearing. A tsunami of riffraff has now grown up and spread across America.

Why don't the American people rise up and say, "Enough is enough?" Why is so much money being wasted to destroy our children? Why can't it be used for real education instead?

There is a simple solution to this terrible problem—FREE MARKET EDUCATION.

See part 2 in the next issue of the Gazette.

Woods & Waters with Steve



Steve Long

ALABAMA, A FISHING PARADISE

Now that we're in the last few days of spring, we've had a few great days for weather, and a few days with some heavy rain. But the days I've found a chance to slip out and fish have been the best of the bunch, and with any luck, we'll have more good weather ahead of us, as we're steadily getting into proper fishing season.

Just about everybody knows I enjoy catching some bream, as they're easy and fun to fish for. And sure enough, in the many lakes and ponds in our state, we have plenty of places to go bream fishing. Just a cane pole, some crickets, or maybe some worms, and you're set. Of course, those same simple farm ponds also typically contain large-mouth bass and catfish, which are bigger and stronger than a simple bluegill. Bass didn't just get their reputation for being a sports fish by letting you pluck them from the water without a single splash! They fight back. Catfish, of course, are just big, heavy bottom-feeders that aren't too keen on leaving that bottom of the pond or river. As they can grow to some pretty immense sizes, they tend to put up a good fight.

Of course, if you're the more adventurous and bold type of fisherman, you can always go noodling for catfish, which is pretty much sticking your hand in a hole in the mud that a catfish has made for eggs and trying to provoke the catfish into biting your hand. Crazy as it sounds, this works, but I will say this. Never try this alone, and make sure you've got some good buddies that have some experience noodling to help you learn, as snakes, snapping turtles, and other hazards can make for a bad day in the water if you're not prepared. Those reptiles enjoy hiding in the holes catfish have previously made, and unlike catfish, they have some pretty nasty bites. For these reasons, and others, noodling is only legal in 15 states, one of which is our own Alabama. So if you're up for the challenge, feel free to look up some groups for noodling and have some fun.

Our lakes in this state also have the same bream, bass, and catfish, but also have some bigger fish to look for. In Lake Martin, you can find stripers which can grow up to 60-70 lbs.! My friend, Captain David Hare of Alex City

Guide Service, is a seasoned veteran for striper fishing and provides guide services for live bait fishing on Lake Martin. He provides all the bait and equipment, you just bring your own food and drink. He gets the shad for bait, and much like bottom fishing, you'll want to get the bait down pretty deep. If you've never been striper fishing before, you absolutely need to give it a shot. Feel free to drop them a line at 256-401-3089 if you're interested! As a man who enjoys his grouper, I can vouch that striper tastes fairly similar, so if you want the fun (and the food) from a deep-sea style fishing outing, but want to just hang out by the lake, striper fishing is for you!

Of course, we have more water nearby than just what's land-locked. Along the southern coasts, we have plenty of artificial reefs which make for some excellent red snapper fishing. Now, there's been some recent controversy about red snapper fishing, in that our nation's regular season, or recreational season, only runs from June 1st-11th. However, charter boat captains with a federal license will have a 44 day season, ending July 15th. Now, this is a drastic improvement over the 9 day season everybody was lumped into last year, but a lot of privately-operating fisherman are a bit unhappy that they're still restricted.

The thing to remember though, is that these are all conservational measures. As they get better data on what the snapper population looks like, these fishing laws will change to accommodate the large demand for snapper fishing. The downside to all of this though is the restriction of access to a natural resource; the fish. It's a delicate situation and is going to require a lot of careful planning and management to get the seasons and access correct. Of course, this helps out charter captains tremendously, as they can

now do some proper business, as snapper fishing is a big draw.

As for me, I'm still pretty satisfied with my bream fishing, though I plan on dabbling into whatever kind of fishing I can get into! I hope everyone else enjoys this great weather we have now, as it's gonna start heating up pretty soon. So get your hook wet and go get 'em!



Alan White from Baldwin county caught this nice Striped Bass at Lake Martin with Alex City Guide Service

Porcupines

"The Kritter Korner"



Ron VanHerwyn

The porcupine is the prickliest of rodents, though its Latin name means "quill pig." There are about two dozen porcupine species, and all boast a coat of needle-like quills to give predators a sharp reminder that this animal is no easy meal. Some quills, like those of Africa's crested porcupine, are nearly a foot (30 centimeters) long. The North American porcupine is a large rodent it is actually North America's second largest rodent the beaver is the largest. They have stout bodies and short legs and are nocturnal. Porcupines are herbivores; a group of porcupines are called a family their average life span in the wild is between 5 and seven years. They are

25 to 36 inches long from head to body and an additional 8 to 10 inches more for their tail and weigh 12 to 35 lbs.

Porcupines have soft hair, but on their back, sides, and tail it is usually mixed with sharp quills. These quills typically lie flat until a porcupine is threatened, then leap to attention as a persuasive deterrent. Porcupines cannot shoot them at predators as once thought, but the quills do detach easily when touched.

Many animals come away from a porcupine encounter with quills protruding from their own snouts or bodies. Quills have sharp tips and overlapping scales or barbs that make them difficult to remove once they are stuck in another animal's skin. Porcupines grow new quills to replace the ones they lose.

The porcupines found in North and South America are arboreal which means they are good climbers and spend much of their time in trees. Some even have prehensile (gripping) tails to aid in climbing. The North American porcupine is the only species that lives in the U.S. and Canada, and is the largest of all porcupines. A single animal may have 30,000 or more quills each quill has microscopic barbs on the ends. North American porcupines use their large front teeth to satisfy a healthy appetite for wood. They eat natural bark and stems, and have been known to invade campgrounds and chew on canoe paddles.

North American porcupines also eat fruit, leaves, and springtime buds.

Female porcupines have between one and four young, depending on the species. Babies have soft quills at birth, which harden within a few days. Most young porcupines are ready to live on their own at about two months of age.

The North American Porcupine has a very large range. They can survive in a variety of climates and elevations. Primarily they live in coniferous and mixed forested areas in Canada, Alaska, and much of the northern and western United States. There is a small population in the eastern United States. They can also be found in shrub lands, tundra, and deserts as far south as northern Mexico. The North American Porcupine likes to make its den in a hole in a tree or in a rocky area. Other porcupine species live in Africa, Europe, and Asia. These animals usually live on the ground and can inhabit deserts, grasslands, and forests.

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UAB - 2B OR NOT - 2B

In the December issue of *The Alabama Gazette*, the most successful monthly newspaper in the state, my column dealt with the dilemma that UAB, Troy, USA and other colleges have gone through by moving from D-IAA to D-I in football. Unfortunately, this upward and onward quest has not provided the desired results. The struggles that my friend **Larry Blakeney** has gone through in order to make this work at Troy has not escaped my attention.

**Sports Editor,
Ed Jones**

In consultation with **Coach George "Snoozy" Jones** my attention became drawn to the miss-information that preceded the move to D-I by UAB and others. Coach Jones was on the original staff of UAB when it started as a club team. After UAB began their "climb to the stars" (club team to D-I) in a few short years, Coach "Snoozy" found it exceedingly more profitable to build his textbook business than it was to help guide UAB into a battle that could not be won.

"Snoozys" is now a very successful chain of bookstores in Jefferson County and UAB is a crumbled football disaster. We both coached at Sidney Lanier in the heyday of Montgomery football dominance in Alabama. We were both on the staff of



www.cbssports.com

state championship Lanier teams in the late '60's. We both have a shared love for "Dear Old Lanier." "Snoozy" has a love for the football program and the academic program at UAB. Like so many people in Birmingham, he would support a sensible approach to football at UAB. There is no need to mention how many millions of dollars it has cost UAB to field a D-I football team. It did not have to come crashing down. The foundation was laid with care and precision, but it could not withstand the weight of using the wrong bricks that were used to top off the program, and ultimately toppled the program. Dr. Ray Watts, the "political" president of UAB, may be dubbed as a "pointy headed intellectual" from the grave of a former Alabama governor.

There is a saturation point when it comes to how many D-I football teams can exist in this country. There is a measurable number of alumni and fans available for each team. All schools should have at least a ball park figure of the maximum number that are supporting your program, or that will support your program in the future. There are only so many dollars that your program can realistically count on in order to keep your athletic program in the black. Basketball can be self supporting, but it can not be counted on to subsidize other sports. Football is the cash cow that has to bring in the money to run your athletic department. Of course, some institutions are the recipient of alumni or fan donors that will contribute to your program.

It is my belief that we have reached that saturation point. There were 128 schools fielding D-I football teams in the fall of 2014. This number has been increasing every year for some time. The reason for the increase in D-I AA schools moving up to D-I is due to the false premise that a D-I program will net much more money than can be made by playing a D-I AA schedule.

It is true that a D-I schedule can bring in more money by selling itself to more established programs in what we have become accustomed to referring to as "money games." A money game that comes to mind is when Troy agreed to play Georgia in Athens for a healthy guaranteed paycheck. UAB, USA, Troy or any other D-I football team in the bottom one quarter of D-I programs can negotiate a contract to come to Athens, and get beat 66-0 as did happen in 2014 to Troy. It is my opinion that no amount of money is worth getting embarrassed in this manner, especially when the game is televised to the nation.

Georgia is used as an example because it is not relatively expensive to travel a team, band, majorettes, cheerleaders, necessary faculty and staff from Troy or UAB to Athens, Georgia. The real question is this; Does the money outweigh the negative national attention that a game of this magnitude gives to your program? **Coach Watson Brown** took his UAB squad to Baton Rouge and shocked **Nick Saban's** first LSU team. That was an exception. What has the program done lately?

Troy is used as an example because I am very familiar with what Coach Larry Blakeney has been trying to accomplish at Troy. The same could be applied to UAB and South Alabama. Troy has been a D-I program since the fall of 2001. During this period, Troy's overall record is 86 wins and 84 losses. Two of those wins came against Missouri and Oklahoma State. That is the good news. The bad news is that they lost 84 games in order to be a D-I football program. This situation is not unique to Troy. One can take the records of UAB, South Alabama, Georgia State, Old Dominion or any of a dozen other programs drowning in a sea of Division I football. They are just treading water.

The Deep South Conference is a proposed D-I AA conference that Coach "Snoozy" and I refer to as the "*Affordable Conference*." It could be made up of twelve teams in Alabama, Mississippi and Georgia where the longest travel would be from Georgia State in Atlanta to either Southern Miss in Hattiesburg or Jackson State in Jackson. However, some D-II schools would have to move up one class for this to work.

Being a little fish in a big pond gives the fish more room to swim but the oxygen level is the same, and the survival expectancy is better for a big fish in a little pond.

Natural rivalries would result in addition to saving travel money.

There are many factors to be considered before turning down an opportunity to have a successful program in Division I-AA, and still have pride in what is being accomplished on campus and in the stadium. The only difference is that you will not be forced to place your athletes in a situation where they can not succeed over the long haul.

Following are some of the factors that need to be considered in making your decision:

- I. The costs of traveling to destinations such as Idaho, which Troy visited in 2014, are prohibitive. UAB has had similar trips.
- II. Your team would never have to travel to Idaho to play a team that your team can easily defeat.
- III. A win over Idaho, UTEP, Louisiana, Texas State, New Mexico, etc. gains little or no national attention for your program. National attention is a magnet for students to take a good look at your school.
- IV. Programs that are nearer the bottom of Division I than they are to the lower one quarter of D-I will not survive in Division I due to several overriding factors:
 - A. Some states cannot support more than two major Division I football teams, i.e. Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina. This really takes in the entire Southeastern states with the possible exception of Georgia. **Coach Erk Russel** laid such a sound foundation in Statesboro, Georgia that Georgia Southern has a chance to survive. Georgia also has more high school football talent than any other Southeastern state other than Florida.
 1. There is just not enough talent (quality football players) in these states to supply three or four D-I programs. Check the success of the Florida and Louisiana "directional" D-I programs.
 2. To entice quality football players to come to your campus from other states will be difficult. These players are being courted by the major D-I programs in your state (Alabama and Auburn in Alabama, Ole Miss and Mississippi State in Mississippi, Georgia and Georgia Tech in Georgia, South Carolina and Clemson in South Carolina, etc.)
 3. The fact that most of the major football playing schools are recruiting more and more nationally will take even more of the quality football players from your state.
 4. This leaves your program with the unfortunate necessity to sign players in and out of state that are just below the quality line, and hope that your staff can "coach them up" in order to compete.
 5. No matter how good your coaches are, they will never be able to "coach up" enough players to be able to compete with the major powers in any state.
 - B. Some states only have one major power football program, which provides that school a "blank check" to be used to sign all the talent in that state - example, Louisiana.
 1. Although there are many D-I programs in Louisiana, no quality player will likely choose Tulane, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana Monroe over LSU.
 2. The top high school prospects in Louisiana that do not go to LSU, will more than likely sign with Alabama, Auburn, Ole Miss, Arkansas or another major program in the south. Apply this fact to your own state.
 3. Alabama - In--Alabama, Auburn...Out--Troy, South Alabama, UAB, Mississippi - In--Ole Miss, Mississippi State...Out-- Southern Miss, Georgia - In--Georgia, Georgia Tech...Out--Georgia State, Louisiana...In--LSU...Out--Tulane, Louisiana Tech, Louisiana "Directionals", etc. Tennessee - In--Tennessee Vols...Out--Vanderbilt and all others.

V. Game attendance at UAB, Troy, South Alabama is not good enough to sustain a competitive Division I football program. A school must average 17,000 in attendance in order to remain in Division I.

- A. Fans will not continue to support a program that cannot win on a consistent basis. Fans are not as excited about UAB beating an SEC team once in a decade, Troy occasionally going to the New Orleans Bowl, or South Alabama going to the Camellia Bowl, as they are about Auburn going to the Outback Bowl or Alabama going to the Sugar Bowl.
- B. Fan Loyalty will always be divided among the lower tier D-I teams and the major powers in each state. Therefore, UAB, Troy and South Alabama will always be dividing third place in Alabama for example.

VI. The cost of housing, feeding, providing all medical treatments, covering 85 plus D-I players on the group insurance is tremendous.

VII. The same expenses must be budgeted for the 64 D-I AA scholarships, but the cost is considerably less than the cost of 85 D-I players.

VIII. The costs of traveling great distances in order to play teams that a D-I team can easily defeat is prohibitive.

IX. The costs of traveling basically within the state of Alabama, and in the proximities of the borders of Georgia and Mississippi would save your program millions of dollars in the long run.

X. Creating rivalries that are geographically close creates attendance. Again, we use UAB and Troy. They have had no natural rivalries since moving to D-I.

XI. Reaching the sixteen team national championship play-off for Division I-AA will provide your program with as much national attention, TV exposure, etc. as your program will receive from going to a lower tier bowl such as the New Orleans Bowl or the Camellia Bowl. NFL scouts are well aware of the players participating in these play-offs. The further a team goes in the play-off, naturally they will receive more and more exposure.

There are many advantages to returning to Division I-AA or moving up from Division II to Division I-AA as would be the case with University of North Alabama (UNA). We have only discussed some. Please think about the proposed I-AA Deep South Conference with the appropriate people in your program. Respond by sending your thoughts to us at Alabama Gazette Publishing, LLC at 12 E. Jefferson Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104 or email: alabamagazette@gmail.com.

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UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE **MARTHA ROBY**
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MONTGOMERY'S 'ACE' CHARLES CLEVELAND MEETS WITH ROBY, STAFF

Lt. Gen. Charles 'Chick' Cleveland, fellow 'Aces' honored at Capitol on May 20.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Montgomery's "Fighter Ace," Lt. Gen. Charles "Chick" Cleveland met with U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) and her staff on Wednesday, May 20. Gen. Cleveland and his fellow "Fighter Aces" were later honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in a special ceremony in the U.S. Capitol.

Rep. Roby thanked Gen. Cleveland for graciously visiting and sharing stories about his service.

"It was such an honor to have Gen. Cleveland in my office this morning. He was kind enough to spend some time with my staff and me, sharing stories about his service, including what it's like to shoot down a MIG fighter jet. Later today, Gen. Cleveland and his fellow 'Fighter Aces' will be bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal for their extraordinary acts of bravery on behalf of our country. The ceremony starts at 2:00 p.m. Central Time, and I encourage everyone back home to watch."

The ceremony honoring all of America's "Fighter Aces" with the Congressional Gold Medal took place at 2 p.m. Central Time inside Emancipation Hall. The event was televised on C-SPAN and streamed live online by the Speaker's office at www.speaker.gov/live.

America's "Fighter Aces," are the country's most distinguished fighter pilots, having earned the title, "Ace," by downing at least five enemy aircraft in combat. Gen. Cleveland earned his "Ace" status as a pilot in the Korean War, in which he shot down five enemy aircraft in the dangerous region known as "MIG Alley."

After Korea, Gen. Cleveland went on to a distinguished and decorated career as an aviator and combat instructor, finally serving as commander of Air University at Maxwell Air Force Base from 1980-1984. Retiring to Montgomery, Gen. Cleveland has remained active in Air Force affairs, both nationally and locally at Maxwell.

Now 87, Gen. Cleveland serves as president of the American Fighter Aces Association and has worked to gather all the living "Fighter Aces" for Wednesday's Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony. Of the 77 "Aces" still living, more than 35 are expected to attend Wednesday's ceremony, including Gen. Cleveland.

The Congressional Gold Medal is Congress' highest honor, awarded to Americans who have made special contributions to the country. Legislation securing the Gold Medal for the "Fighter Aces," was passed in May 2014.



[Lt. Gen. Charles "Chick" Cleveland and his son, Chris, meet with U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL) and her staff on Capitol Hill Wednesday]

For more information contact Communications Director Todd Stacy at 202.225.2901 or todd.stacy@mail.house.gov.



ROBY HOSTS GOWDY IN ELMORE COUNTY THURSDAY

MILLBROOK, Ala.-- Congressman Trey Gowdy (R-SC), one of the nation's most prominent conservative leaders, visited Central Alabama Thursday for a special event with U.S. Representative Martha Roby (R-AL).

Roby hosted "Coffee & Conversation with Special Guest Congressman Trey Gowdy" on Thursday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. Central Time at the Millbrook Civic Center behind Village Green Park. The event was a chance for people from the River Region to meet with Roby and Gowdy, and join a discussion about conservative reform and the need for strong Congressional oversight.

The event was free and open to the public.



Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column on Alabama politics appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.



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

THIS HAS BEEN AN EVENTFUL YEAR. Thousands of tourists have flocked to Alabama to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March for Civil and Voting Rights. The events that happened in Alabama spurred the enactment of the landmark acts that broke down the legal barriers prohibiting African Americans from voting in the South.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 made it unlawful to discriminate based on race. It was followed up the next year with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that assured African Americans the right to vote.

Ironically, as the state and nation were preparing to celebrate and remember the famous 1965 marches and subsequent enactment of the Voting Rights Act, the federal courts essentially gave all marriage rights to homosexual couples in Alabama. Federal judges have clearly and emphatically ruled that it is unconstitutional to prohibit lesbian, gay and bisexual people from marrying each other. The federal courts have determined that same sex marriage rights are granted under the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

In late January, a Mobile Federal Judge ruled Alabama's constitutional amendment stating that marriage is only reserved for a man and woman is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court set the precedent in a pivotal case last year. They are set to place the final nail in the coffin next month. They sent a clear message as to their direction. They

selected the appealing states that are right on point. This time next month it will be all over but the shouting. Same sex marriage will be the law of the land.

Based on last year's Supreme Court ruling, 36 states allow same sex marriage. Alabama became the 37th state on February 9, 2015. Therefore, same sex marriage rights arrived in the United States and Alabama 50 years after Equal Voting Rights.

Alabama was one of a host of states that passed constitutional amendments outlawing same sex marriage during the past decade. Alabamians passed the Alabama Sanctity of Marriage Act in 2006 with an overwhelming 81% vote. That is a pretty strong approval margin. So, it is not surprising that most Alabama political players denounced the Court's recent ruling.

Gov. Bentley led the chorus saying, "The people of Alabama voted in a constitutional amendment to define marriage between a man and woman. I am disappointed by the ruling." However, the most ardent posturing came from Chief Justice Roy Moore. "Be advised," he said, "that I stand with you to stop judicial tyranny and any unlawful opinions issued without constitutional authority." Judge Moore, who is no stranger to conflict and throwing down the gauntlet when it comes to religious and socially conservative issues, sent a memorandum to all state probate judges instructing them not to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples.

By and large, most probate judges ignored Moore and complied with the federal court mandate.

Even though most of the probate judges do not agree with the edict and all were probably among the 81% who constitutionally voted to ban same sex marriage in 2006, they also know that they have to uphold the law. They understand the basic tenants of the judicial system in America.

Under our system of government, the U.S. Supreme Court trumps the Alabama Chief Justice's opinion. The Supreme Court makes the law of the land and the Supreme Court is going to put the final coup de grace to their interpretation of the constitution come July. Same sex marriage will be the law of the land. It already is in Alabama.

Five years ago, who would have thought that same sex marriage would be sanctified in Alabama? It would have been laughed at 50 years ago. However, integration of schools by race in Alabama would have been thought to be ludicrous in 1915. Folks, things are a changing. In fact, public opinion in the United States favors same sex marriage by a 60% to 40% margin. There has even been an incremental change in Alabamians' opinions. Today, polling reveals 40% of Alabamians would permit same sex marriage, while 60% oppose it.

It does not really matter what we think, what Roy Moore does, nor how much any other political characters bark at the moon or stand in the schoolhouse door. The Supreme Court has deemed same sex marriage the law of the land.

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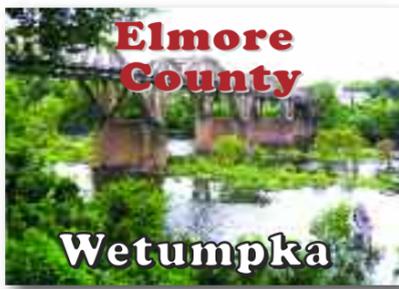
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Flag Day Facts & Quotes...

On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a congressional order making June 14th of each year National Flag Day.

The First Flag Act was signed by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777... Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.

Worn out flags may be given to the American Legion or Boy/Girl Scouts of America where they will burn the flags in a formal ceremony on June 14th.

The Flag should never touch the ground when being taken down. It should be folded neatly and stored ceremoniously.

You should fly the American Flag only between sunrise and sunset. If left hanging around the clock it must be illuminated during the dark hours.



Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for June by Peggy Givhan

WITH MEMORIAL DAY BEHIND US, I hope we can keep our patriotic spirit through June until the 4th of July. Do not take down the flags, plant a red, white and blue flower bed, or travel to Boston, Philadelphia or to Jamestown, Virginia to immerse oneself in patriotic fervor. Check out some biographies from the library on Samuel Adams, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson for starters. And for the 4th, bake a Flag sheet cake covered in white icing, with strawberries for the stripes and blueberries for the stars. I do this every year without fail. As for the patriotic flower bed, use the following for sunny beds: blue ageratum, white vinca, and red annual salvia; and for shady beds, use white impatiens, red impatiens, blue forget-me-nots or blue Veronica (speedwell).

Although summer will be officially at hand on June 22nd, summer is upon us now. It is time to pull out any winter annuals such as Johnny-jump-ups, pansies, dianthus, snaps, and cut back the now yellowing stems of daffodils. Some perennials need to be cut back after they quit blooming such as shasta daisies, coreopsis, phlox subulata, and spring blooming salvias. This is also a perfect time to plant canna lilies, caladiums, elephant ears, and other summer bulbs. Always remove dead growth and leaves from the beds so as not to encourage mold, fungus or insects.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

Bear's Breeches: Acanthus mollis -- These plants are fast growing and spreading, and are native to southern Europe. I have grown these for many years, and loved them. A perennial that is reliable for several years, they would be the diva of the garden. For large beds, you would only need about 2 or 3 plants. Versatile, they can tolerate full sun to partial shade. They flower white, lilac, or rose flowers that stand 18 inches tall



in a tubular spike. Water needs would be regular to moderate and when not blooming are prized for their dramatic foliage. They can be divided in the fall to winter and are kin to the artichoke plant. I have seen them occasionally in nurseries in Montgomery, so grabbed a couple when you can.

Pots in the garden can be an effective method to add interest, and dimension to the garden scene. I have seen large amphora turned on the side with small annuals spilling out behind a border with taller flowers surrounding

BEAR'S BREECHES: ACANTHUS MOLLIS



the pot. Upright clay pots with tropicals such as hibiscus and plumbago or allamanda can be charming. If you have a rampant grower that you do not want loose into the beds, use pots to contain them. Now you have the best of 2 worlds.

GOOD GARDENING!

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EVEN AFTER YOU ARE DEAD CAN THERE BE LEGAL CONSEQUENCES?



The question sounds almost silly (pardons to the submitting reader), but there are legal consequences of sorts and in many years gone by it was taken much more seriously in certain cases.

Beginning with life insurance, the industry typically will not pay life insurance proceeds to beneficiaries in cases where someone has taken their own life within two years (may vary by company) of the policy being issued. So if anyone is so compelled to financially benefit their beneficiaries, they will

have about two years to think about it after having the policy issued and hopefully by that time their life will seem much brighter and the prior issues are hopefully resolved or at least tolerable to live with.

Have you ever heard of a "suggestion of death"? It has always seemed that you are dead or you are not. In a civil case for instance if a party to the suit dies during the trial then a "suggestion of their death" is submitted to the Court so that one of a few legal variables might take place.

Then there is a presumption of death in Alabama. Code of Alabama, 1975, §43-8-6

In proceedings under this chapter the rules of evidence in courts of general jurisdiction including any relating to simultaneous deaths, are applicable unless specifically displaced by the chapter. In addition, the following rules relating to determination of death and status are applicable:

(3) A person who is absent for a continuous period of five years, during which he has not been heard from, and whose absence is not satisfactorily explained after diligent search or inquiry is presumed to be dead. His death is presumed to have occurred at the end of the period unless there is sufficient evidence for determining that death occurred earlier.

So you could return from a foreign prison, etc. after five years to find you are considered dead and all of your possessions distributed to family.

Even if living and you are divorced from someone who included you in a Last Will and Testament during marriage, you are treated as if you predeceased that person and of course get nothing if you survive them. The only exception is if there are provisions made even after divorce from the former spouse.

After your death your estate takes on it's own life of sorts. During probate your financial accounts are placed into an estate account, which requires its own EIN (something like its own Social Security number so it can pay taxes if your estate generates enough income). Your estate will be expected to pay for your funeral, burial, cost of last illness, administration of your estate, taxes of your

employees, personal taxes if any and your debts or obligations.

BUT HERE IS THE INTERESTING AND ARCHAIC PART and I want to credit my friend, Dr. Bill Helvie for enlightening me to this Latin term, *felo de se* or "felon of himself". This amounted to an adult who committed suicide also committed a felony. And today we would say, "so"? But in yesteryear under English Common Law it meant something.

The offending now dead individual forfeited his property to the King. That could be bad for the family, but that was not the end of the shame to the memory of the offender. The person committing suicide would be buried usually at night with a stake driven through the heart and at a crossroad. Additionally no mourners or clergy would be allowed and the authorities would not disclose the location of the burial to the loved ones.

In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries suicide became to be considered as an act during temporary insanity and the jury of the coroner began to consider those committing suicide as *non compos mentis* as opposed to *felo de se*. In the early 1700's, *non compos mentis* had replaced ninety percent as the suicide verdict though there was a report in 1866 of an English prisoner who took his own life while awaiting a death sentence. The jury did provide a verdict of *felo de se*.

Felo de se was expanded to include those killed while committing a felony. Section One of the Suicide Act of 1961 took away the criminal element of suicide. The burial components of a person taking their own life changed for the better under the 1823 Burial of Suicide Act and the 1882 Interments Act.

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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Public Involvement Meeting FISCAL YEAR 2016 – FISCAL YEAR 2019 STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (STIP)

Notice is hereby given that the State of Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) will hold a Public Involvement Meeting to gather input regarding the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Place: **Alabama Department of Transportation
1525 Coliseum Boulevard
Montgomery, Alabama 36110**

Date: **June 3, 2015**

Time: **5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.**

The Department is seeking public comment on the proposed STIP, which includes a listing of specific transportation projects that will be funded during the next four years.

The meeting will be held in an open house format, with displays and information available to discuss planning efforts and answer questions. A short presentation will be included to explain the requirement to have a STIP.

Persons with disabilities should contact Tyler Ashmore at 334-241-8548 to request special assistance at least one week prior to the meeting and specify the type of assistance needed.

The *DRAFT* STIP-2016-2019 will be available for review at the Area Office in Montgomery, and at each of the District Offices in Montgomery, Selma, Speigner, Seale, Greenville, and Union Springs.

Comments will be accepted until July 21, 2015 and should be forwarded to:

State Office Engineer
Alabama Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 3050
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-3050

Or submit your comments electronically by going to ALDOT's web page:
www.dot.state.al.us Click on: **DRAFT 2016-2019 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.**

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• ***A lie can travel half way around the world while the truth is putting on its shoes.***

• ***A man is never more truthful than when he acknowledges himself a liar.***

Bench - Bar & Beyond

By Judge Dale Segrest

Judge Philip Dale Segrest

Want to know more about the author or to comment on the column:

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CASE UNDER SUBMISSION?

For several months this column has focused on various causes of ineffectiveness of the legal system. Most recently we dealt with the extreme ineffectiveness and waste of time that is involved with grand juries in the State of Alabama. Before that we had focused on ineffectiveness that results from the economics of law practice. This column will continue the focus on reasons for ineffectiveness in the legal system. The judicial system itself has certain built in problems.

Trial court judges are overloaded with responsibilities and overworked. Caseloads are large. The effectiveness of a trial judge depends on the motivation of the particular judge. The ultimate responsibility for decision making rests with the trial court judge in most instances. There is little supervision of the day to day operations of a trial court judge.

The appeal system, which will be the subject of a future column, certainly does not provide supervision. At best, if the trial court judge makes a mistake it can be reversed by an expensive appeal process after the lapse of several months. That does not constitute any real supervision. There is the judicial inquiry commission if the judge's conduct steps considerable outside the norm. But in the normal course of events the work of the judge is

unsupervised.

Ultimate responsibility must rest somewhere, and for our legal system, it rests with the trial judge. For the system to be effective judges must be totally honest, bright, and have strong work ethic.

There is an ethical provision that requires a judge to report to a bureaucracy any cases or matters that have been under submission for more than six months! Why should any matter remain under submission for over six months at any time? Based on my experience as a circuit judge, I know that often a circuit judge deals with dockets involving thirty or forty cases on any given day. If ten matters are taken under submission each working day, that would be fifty under submission in a week. That would be two hundred matters in a month. In six months it could be a whopping twelve hundred matters. Of course some of those matters would have been decided in the meantime. Nevertheless, simple mathematics tells us that if under the hypothetical that I have just posed there is an average delay of two months in making a decision on a the judge will always be required to remember the details of several hundred different matters. The human mind just doesn't work that well.

Effectiveness requires a quicker turnaround. While we are talking about the psychology and

mental aspects of retaining mentally sufficient information to make good decisions, we should remember that the largest amount of memory loss occurs on the first night's sleep after exposure to pending matters. Recall does not improve with the passage of time for a judge any more than it does with anyone else. If notes become cold, the facts are difficult to recover, and who can keep up with several hundred sets of notes?

The hope of lawyers and litigants that the judge is spending a great deal of time to meditate on a decision in their case is often without any real basis in fact. Congestion of the docket brings about delay and delay does not make the decision making process any more effective or efficient. First impressions are often the best impressions and if a judge is reasonably convinced after hearing arguments, then there should be little delay in making the decision. A quick turnaround on the decision making process will improve the effectiveness of decision making in most instances. Needless to say, there are, from time to time, complicated legal issues that require study and careful analysis and the judge needs to identify those cases and spend the required amount of time engaged in the study. However, the matter of routinely taking cases under submission and not making a decision within the most optimal period of time is very detrimental to the effectiveness of the legal system. While some systems of accountability may be helpful, the only real solution will always remain in the integrity and work ethic of the judges themselves.

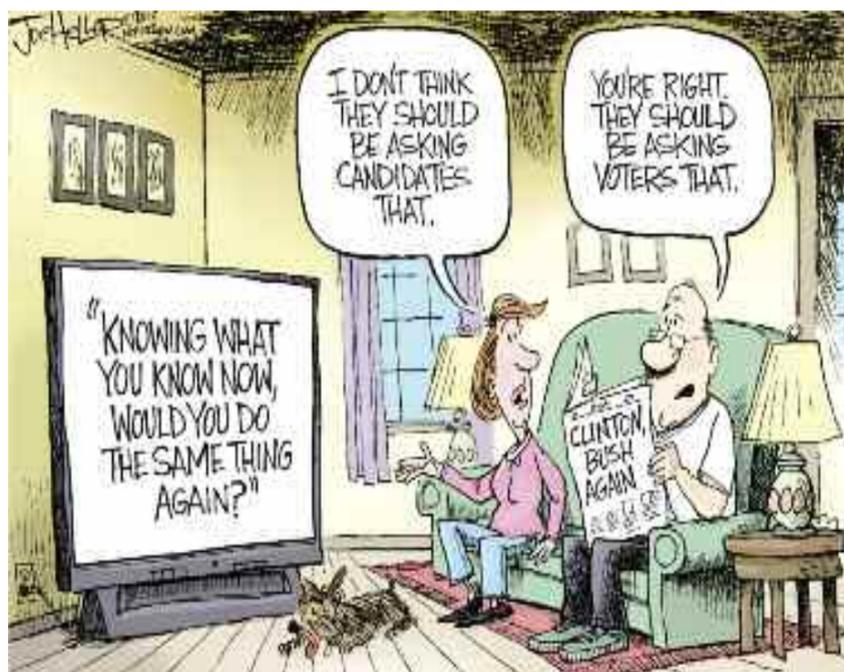
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Guest Speaker
Dr. Sorenson

from the Air War College at
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REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT OR HOMEGROWN TERRORISM?

MANY AMERICANS HAVE SERIOUS CONCERNS about the vulnerability of our unsecured southern border and the danger it presents in allowing easy access to those who are determined to bring destruction on our nation.

But while our attention is focused primarily on that southern border, little notice is paid to a federal program that may well be allowing those with evil intent into our country via legal and taxpayer-funded means.

The Refugee Resettlement/Asylum Program has existed with relatively little fanfare since its inception by lead sponsor Sen. Ted Kennedy and then-Senator Joe Biden, and signed into law in 1980 by President Jimmy Carter. Initially, the goal of the bill was to aid in the urgent needs of individuals facing persecution in their own nation, amend previous immigration law, and provide specific procedures for providing opportunities for those escaping oppression in other countries.

An annual cap of 50,000 "refugees" (definition utilized in the U.N. Protocol) per fiscal year was in place for the program until 1983, allowing the president to increase that cap in the event of an emergency *after* consultation with Congress.

However, according to data from the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement, those numbers for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 have increased to just under 70,000.

According to extensive information gathered by the **Center for Immigration Studies**¹, there are many facets of this program which should demand attention from Americans. While the initial purpose of the program was humanitarian in nature, **a quite lucrative industry now exists to "resettle"**

refugees and the opportunity is ripe for abuse and fraud involving government funding of these non-government organizations and non-profit groups. Additionally, the overwhelming majority in recent years, up to 95%, are referred to the U.S. by the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a disturbing relinquishing of our nation's sovereignty from the early years of the program when the large majority of refugees referred were determined by the U.S.

Refugees are now eligible for all manner of welfare assistance, and are being placed in communities across our nation which are often unprepared to deal with the influx of people who have little to no desire to assimilate into American culture. Language barriers complicate and even prevent job opportunities, leading to increased unemployment and economic drains on community resources.

Children of refugees, most if not all unable to speak English, are enrolled in public education systems which are already struggling under burdensome federal mandates and funding that never reaches the classroom. How many of these children will simply fall through the cracks and be unable to ever escape poverty?

But from a national security aspect, just who are we legally allowing to enter our country?

It appears that Michael Steinbach, Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, understands the serious threat we face through this program. The conflict in Syria is currently producing the largest group of refugees and the UNHCR has estimated the number could exceed 4 million by December.²

During a House Homeland Security Committee meeting in February of this year, Steinbach told committee members that the screening process for these refugees will be "difficult" due to a lack of intelligence from a country with a failed infrastructure, and also because of "the lack of our footprint on the ground in Syria."

Does anyone at any level of our federal government truly know how many of these refugees are not individuals or families escaping persecution, but are instead radical jihadists planning attacks on American soil? How many are coming to America because they want to embrace freedom and liberty rather than simply become permanent participants in our welfare system? How many truly want to assimilate and become Americans who cherish and believe in the Constitution and our Bill of Rights instead of being on a mission to destroy them?

Most critically, just what is our Republican-led Congress that last year promised to stop the fundamental transformation of America doing to immediately reform this program and protect our nation from homegrown terrorists?

¹Barnett, Don. *"Time to bring refugee program out of the shadows."* Center for Immigration Studies. March 2014. Web.

²"US Lacks Intel to Vet Syrian Refugees: Officials" Newsmax, 11 Feb 2015, Web.

Marcia Chambliss is the Alabama State Coordinator of Smart Girl Politics, a 501(c)(3) non-profit 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.

Gazette Seniors...

400-YEAR-OLD ADVICE...

YOU MAY BE
OVER THE HILL
"... if you spend more
time in the bathroom
than you do in the
living room."

Dr. John Bitter
Editor
Senior Section

In Act 1 of Scene 3, Hamlet's chief counselor advises his son Laertes some pearls of wisdom that would well serve those who lead us today. Polonius tells his son to take his best friends and: **"Grapple them to thy soul with hoops of steel . . . And warns him of the dangers of 'hatching new comrades.'**

He cautions him to be wary of entering into quarrels, but if he must enter into same, make sure his opponent quakes at the thought of having entered into it.

He urges his son to: **"Give every man thy ear, but few thy voice."**

Then he goes on to advise his son to **"Neither a borrower nor a lender be; For loan oft loses both itself and friend, and borrowing dulls the edge of husbandry."**

Then Polonius wraps it up by telling his son to:

"Above all to thine own self be true,
"And it must follow, as the night the day,
"Thou canst not be false to any man."

As we look at our world today, and the situation into which various politicians and monarchs have dragged us we must wonder how these simple truths have been so cavalierly ignored.

In our schools we study literary works; even memorize some of them, but do we learn anything from the effort?

One fears not.

But we should—and soon. Our survival as a nation depends on it.

The truths that were self evident to our Founding Fathers seem to be beyond the grasp of today's crop at the top.

ADOPT A CAT

At the urging of a feline friend of long acquaintance your writer would like to bring to the readers of this page a suggestion for June: **Adopt a cat.**

Why, you may ask, should this idea be brought up now?

It's because June is "Adopt a Cat Month," that's why.

And even if you don't adopt a cat, consider making friends with one; they do make good friends—and interesting ones at that.

As has been mentioned from time to time in these columns, Wiley, a Siamese Seal Point cat of long acquaintance, came into this wretched writer's life nearly a decade ago, and has since become a good friend.

If you would like to adopt a cat plan ahead. The local Humane Shelter is a good place to look for one, since a goodly number of cats end up there.

For first time cat owners Wiley has some suggestions:

Choose a cat whose personality is similar to yours. At first reading this may not make any sense, but it's worth considering, since cats definitely do have their own peculiar personalities and they seem to prefer humans whose personality will mesh well with theirs. And remember this: There's no compromise; it's their way or the highway.

Ask questions: Line up a veterinarian before hand and get his or her advice. Know what you're getting into.

If you live alone, fine. If there are others in your household make sure that they're prepared for this new member of the family.

Consider the added cost of feeding and caring for a feline friend, and make sure you have plenty of supplies on hand before you bring him—or her—home. More than likely, your cat will want to eat, NOW!

Be sure to "Cat Proof" your home before the new addition arrives. If there are belongings you would prefer the cat not play with, get them out of sight. Cats are curious critters.

If you're going to make a cat a member of your family, go all the way; the cat will.

Pets of any kind are a worthwhile addition to your life; especially for seniors. As Wiley will tell you: Cats make the best of friends; If you do as you're told.

WHO WAS LOOKIN' IN MAY

Jackson Hospital Patient Advocate **Mark Springer** held a roomful of seniors virtually spellbound May 5, as Eastdale Estates' "Who's Lookin' Out for You?" Program launched its second month.

More than 40 residents sat intently, listening to Mr. Springer discuss ways by which they can facilitate their hospital stay,

On the following Tuesday, Gazette Publisher **Loretta Grant** regaled her audience with anecdotes regarding both her personal life, as well as the publication of her monthly newspaper.

On the 19th of the month, Consumer Protection Specialist **Emily Nichols** shared with the group some useful information on how to spot scams and how to protect themselves from being scammed. Seniors often naively became victims of these predators, mainly because their frugal upbringing

Virginia Moore-Bell talked to Eastdale's residents on the 26th about various legal protections afforded long-term care seniors; many of which are beyond the reach of residents in her audience.



By Kyle' D. McKinney
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SOCIAL SECURITY SUPPORTS NATIONAL CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

In 2015, more than a million people will be diagnosed with cancer. This alarming statistic affects people and families all over the world. On June 7, 2015, we observe National Cancer Survivors Day in the United States. In support of this day, Social Security encourages checkups, early detection, and awareness, while honoring the survivors who have gone through this battle and defeated the disease.

Social Security stands strong in our support of the fight against cancer. We offer services to patients suffering from this disease through our disability program and our Compassionate Allowances program. Compassionate Allowances are cases with

medical conditions so severe they obviously meet Social Security's disability standards, allowing us to quickly process the cases with minimal medical information.

There is no special application or form you need to submit for Compassionate Allowances. Simply apply for disability benefits using the standard Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) application. Once we identify you as having a Compassionate Allowances condition, we'll expedite your disability application.

Social Security establishes Compassionate Allowances conditions using information received at

public outreach hearings, from the Social Security and disability Determination services communities, from medical and scientific experts, and based on our research. For more information about Compassionate Allowances, or to view the conditions currently listed, visit:

www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances.

If you think you qualify for disability benefits based on a Compassionate Allowances condition, please visit www.socialsecurity.gov to apply for benefits.

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



Long-Term Care Insurance Protection for you and your family

Sure it's about maintaining personal and financial independence, but as a fundamental part of your retirement plan, having a long-term care insurance policy can signify so much more to your loved ones. Most of all, it can include more choices for living life the way you see fit. Talk to a New York Life Insurance Company producer. They offer knowledge and experience to help protect your retirement assets and income, standard of living and quality of life.



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alzheimer's association

THE ABC'S OF ADL'S

ADL's are Activities of Daily Living. They are the parts of the day that we rarely stop and consider until we or our love ones are unable to perform them without assistance. ADL's are bathing, dressing and toileting, the very private parts of our personal care, something we do alone, a time when we value our privacy.

When an Alzheimer's patient begins to have difficulty successfully completing their ADL's, you can be sure that more than just memory loss is to blame. Many intellectual deficits hamper the patient's ability to complete their personal care ritual. Remember, Alzheimer's disease is brain injury. It's not won't take a bath, but can't take a bath.

Many newsletters have covered the four A's of Alzheimer's. When understanding why a patient can no longer perform their ADL's consider the impact of these disabilities.

Amnesia – memory loss. What is initially damaged is recent memory or the ability to store new information, like a conversation as it occurs.

Aphasia – communication difficulties, both in expressing themselves and understanding what you say to them. Patient may not be able to speak clearly which is more obvious than when a patient can't follow everything you say.

Apraxia – inability to perform preprogrammed body movements, the things we normally do on "automatic pilot," without any concentration. Think how severely ADL's are affected by the patient who can't remember how to unbutton their shirt, brush their hair, turn on the taps, etc...

Agnosia – inability to recognize familiar people and things. Consider the agitated patient in the bathroom. The caregiver may be the spouse of 45 years – but the patient doesn't recognize them.

For more information on long-term care insurance, please contact Bernard Mathis, Agent, New York Life Insurance Company at 334-467-1108.

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THE MARSHALL MOMENT

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Soul Searching

DISCOVERING PURPOSE IN LIVING

RICHARD LIEDER AND DAVID SHAPIRO IN THEIR BOOK, *Replacing Your Bags*, tell of a middle-aged man who spent several years making the transition from being laid off as the head of a staff department in a private corporation to teaching at a small liberal arts college. He talked about his future. He had tears in his eyes as he said, "Some people when they realize they are about to die, say, 'Oh no!' I'm not going to be one of those. I'm taking the risk now to create the second half of my life. I had success before, but I wasn't fulfilled."

Which is more important, setting lofty goals for your life or discovering a purpose for your life? This is the question I posed recently in a sermon primarily for students. They are about to enter the world of adults out from under the shadow of their parents. They have to discover who they are and why they are here. Otherwise they fall into the trap of simply planning life around some goals relating to financial achievement or social status, neither of which are necessarily fulfilling. All one has to do is look at the wrecks of lives and unhappiness many find when they arrive at those lofty, but often empty places.

To appreciate the importance of distinguishing between the two, perhaps we should consider the meaning of finding purpose in life. Purpose is identity. It is one's reason for being. If I look around at the multitude of problems in society today it seems that many of them come from this subject alone. Without purpose life drifts along with whatever comes along like a leaf on a stream. There will always be an undercurrent of ease and self-centeredness which comes from the fact we live in a lost and sinful world.

The Christian's identity is not of this world and what it offers, but rather, found in Jesus Christ. Not only do we bear His name as Christians, He called us to be salt and light in the world in which we live. Therefore, our foremost reason for living is to give Him glory through our lives. This becomes the Christian's purpose.

The difference in goals and purpose now comes more clearly into focus. Setting good goals in life is important. However, a goal is something which can be achieved, while purpose always exists. The ideal life is one where goals grow out of a well-understood purpose in life.

Finding our purpose and sticking to it is not easy for students entering adult life or most any of the rest of us. Nothing about society is making it easier to live for Christ. "For example, between 2007 and 2014, when Pew conducted two major surveys of U.S. religious life, Americans who described themselves as atheist, agnostic or of no particular faith grew from 16 percent to nearly 23 percent. Further, findings "point to substantive changes among the religiously unaffiliated, not just a shift in how people describe themselves. Secular groups have become increasingly organized to counter bias against them and keep religion out of public life through lawsuits and lobbying lawmakers."

Purpose must not only be a matter of identity, it is a direction. Christianity is not a status to achieve, but a life to live. We must determine a world view which sets the tone for the rest of life not unlike a compass for a journey. The wrong direction leads to a wrong destination. Christianity must be our personal compass for truth.

Some of you will remember the insightful words of Dr. Seuss, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."

Developing a Christian world view is the most critical factor in anyone's future. It is up to us to decide why we are here and who we choose to become. You can call it a philosophy or a mindset or Christian world view. It is that "conceptual scheme by which we consciously or unconsciously place or fit everything we believe and by which we interpret or judge morality." Moral, political, social and financial decisions are bound up in what you believe and how it affects your life. Good thinking translates to good living and good living is the best or only reliable indicator of good thinking.

Today's Christian cannot relegate faith just to Sunday morning church attendance or an affiliation with the church. Today we deal in society and business with terms like pluralism, multiculturalism, relativism and assimilation more than any generation before us. The question is whether we will capitulate to a corrupt culture or embrace it socially while keeping religion in our back pocket as the insurance policy against eternity. Not all the changes in society

are negative, but neither are many of them being challenged by Christian thinking.

The great problem today is the lack of critical thinking about the issues of the day from a Biblical perspective. Those who do are greatly challenged in the media and sometimes among their peers. Let me remind you that Christ said that we should love the Lord our God with our minds as well as soul and body Paul said, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." We will not experience personally nor pass on to those who come after us a vital faith with minds in intellectual neutral when it comes to spiritual matters.

It's not hard to see how or why we have some of the problems evident in our society. "In a recent Barna survey, he found that 22 percent of those who identify themselves as "born again" Christians said they made decisions based on principles taught in the Bible. He also found that 24 percent said they made choices on the basis of whatever felt good or comfortable in the situation. The situation is even worse in the younger generation. He found that among American teens only 6 percent said they believed in moral absolutes and 83 percent said that moral truth is dependent upon the circumstances." It is for that reason we have to decide what we believe about moral absolutes. That is why we have the efforts to pass laws in spite of what the Bible says about all manner of life issues such as abortion and gay marriage. These are not the end, but rather, the tip of an ever increasing iceberg to come in terms of what is considered legal, but for a Christian, are wrong.

The world will tell us "there is no truth, only truths." The issue for the world is not truth, but power. He who holds power can determine the truth. We can no longer expect the laws to set the boundaries of Christianity for us. Being a Christian means that more and more we will be a counter-culture than in the mainstream of culture.

In order to give these thoughts on purpose some perspective, let's transition in thinking back to far before the time of Christ to a man who had more power than a President, more wealth than a Saudi Arabian sheik or a famous athlete. His name was Solomon. He wrote the book of "Ecclesiastes" in our Bible. He was the richest, most powerful man of his day. Suddenly he reached mid-life and realized the passion of his youth was gone. He became cynical and unhappy. He began to question the reason for being and the meaning of life.

If you read the opening words of the first chapter of "Ecclesiastes," you will hear his frustration with life. He asks, "Does anything really matter in life? I think what he was asking was this, "When you turn the light out at the end of the day, did the day have any meaning or are you satisfied with life?"

In other words, Solomon had success from the world's view, but he wasn't fulfilled as a person. Someone told me one time, "Success is getting what you want. Fulfillment is wanting what you get."

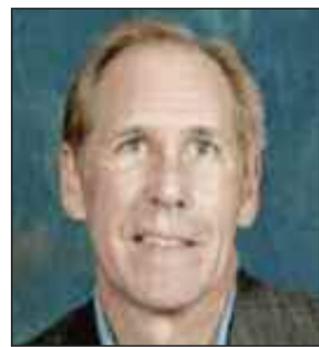
One of the most often used phrases of Solomon in this book was "under the sun." He claimed to have searched for meaning in life everywhere "under the sun" and found none.

Why did he have that happen? Why did he come to that conclusion? Was he looking in the right place? Perhaps he had his focus all wrong.

Here's the key phrase, "under the sun." He was looking only at what he could see. God's purpose for our lives is in what we cannot see with our human eyes and touch with our human hands. The ultimate answer to the meaning of life is something beyond the realm of earth, beyond the realm of our time and beyond the realm of the visible. C.S. Lewis said, "That which is not eternal is eternally obsolete."

Real purpose is invisible but known in the heart. It is not dependent upon what we possess but what possesses us. Perhaps Augustine said it best centuries ago. "He who has seen God has seen everything. He who does not have God has nothing. He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone."

If you had to answer the question as to which seems most important to you, success or fulfillment, how would you answer? It would be a shame to turn the light out at the end of the day and fail to find fulfillment and meaning in that day. It would be a tragedy to get to the end of life and have nothing but earthly efforts or successes with which to step into an eternity without eternal preparations. These can only be made in Jesus Christ, the author of truth and purpose in living.



Reflections

By Michael J. Brooks

Partners With God

A children's worker spoke to a group recently about innovative teaching. She said an intrepid Sunday School teacher brought fish sticks, a loaf of bread and a toaster oven to the class. She heated the fish and let the children slather them with ketchup. She then taught about Jesus feeding the 5000 with five loaves and two fish.

His parents asked one little boy what he learned that day. "We learned about when Jesus fed the crowd with fish sticks and Wonder Bread!" he said.

John is the only gospel writer who identified the source of the food: a lad who brought his lunch. Though John is clear the primary reason he wrote his gospel is that we believe Jesus is the Messiah and we have eternal life through him, this story has other life lessons.

One is that God uses people to do his work.

Did Jesus need this lad's lunch? Not really. They were near the Sea of Galilee. All he had to do was summon the fish and they would have leapt from the water. And bread? He could've called manna from heaven as Moses did, or turn the stones into bread as Satan tempted him to do.

But Jesus chose to use the lad and his lunch, just as God choose to use us today.

Entrusted to us is the privilege of knowing God's heartbeat and partnering with him. He gifts us for service with at least one spiritual gift as we work alongside him in the most exciting work in the world.

In our low moments we often belittle ourselves. After all, we know in our heart of hearts our personal weakness. If a spy satellite recorded our coming and going for a single day, we'd all be embarrassed for others to see the kind of lives we live and to hear the words we say.

Yet the psalmist insisted that God knows us intimately. "You knit me together in my mother's womb. You saw me before I was born" (**Psalm 139: 13,15**).

And he continued, "You have examined my heart and know everything about me" (v. 1).

The writer declared God knew us yesterday and knows us today. And what is his response? "You place your hand of blessing on my head" (v. 5).

God places his loving hand on our heads, blessing us to be his partners in ministering to a broken world.

French villagers reconstructed a statue of Christ that was damaged by bombs in World War II. The hands were obliterated, but the villagers kept the statue and added an inscription underneath: "I have no hands but your hands."

You and I can be the hands and feet of Christ.

Reflections is a weekly devotional column by Michael Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church in Alabaster, Ala. and adjunct instructor of speech at Jefferson State Community College, Hoover. Permission is given to use this material with attribution.

Michael J. Brooks

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Ole' Fashion Annual Homecoming Celebration

Mt. Hill Baptist Church located in the Bethlehem Community in Sellers, Alabama.

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Southern Cuisine

Recipe: A series of step-by-step instructions for preparing ingredients you forgot to buy, in utensils you don't own, to make a dish the dog wouldn't eat. Author Unknown.

You should try to minimize how true this statement is.

There are lists of ingredients that are common to everyday cooking and what can be substituted for that item you forgot. It does work most of the time, but the original ingredient in the recipe is the best way to go. There are times you just have to go to the store. This can be avoided by a well stocked pantry. There are always new utensils and new gadgets on the market that I would like to buy. After looking at the price and trying to find a place to store it, the Alton Brown in me comes out. I think of ways to multitask the utensils I already have. And besides, a well stocked pantry will have all of the utensils you need.

And your dog should not eat human food anyway.

Pre-heat the oven? Really? If I was the sort of person who planned ahead, I wouldn't be eating this Totino's Party Pizza in the first place. Adam Peterson.

I can never stress too much the importance of a well stocked pantry. When I visited friends in England, I was amazed how often they shopped for food. Until I noticed that all the stores they shopped at were close, the pantry in their house was very small as was the kitchen and the refrigerator was the size you kept in your dorm room in college.

At least where I live, a small but nearest grocery store is 6 miles away and the full size grocery store is 16 miles. I have been told that I have a large pantry, but I have seen other larger pantries that I envy.

In my March article, I listed 10 items that should be in a Southern pantry. John Edge of the Southern Foodways Alliance has his own list of five essentials.

PIMENTO CHEESE

INGREDIENTS

3 large pimento peppers (about 12 oz.)	1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper
4 oz. cream cheese, at room temperature	1/8 tsp. freshly ground white pepper
1/2 cup Duke's mayonnaise	1/8 tsp. smoked paprika
1/2 tsp. vinegar-based hot sauce, such as Crystals	1/4 cup pickled ramps, chopped, plus 1/2 cup of the brine (see note)
1/2 tsp. kosher salt	1 lb. sharp cheddar cheese, grated on the large holes of a box grater

Makes 2 to 3 cups

DIRECTIONS

1. Roast the peppers over an open flame on a gas stovetop, one pepper at a time, on the prongs of a carving fork. Or place on a baking sheet and roast under a hot broiler. In either case, turn the peppers to blister all sides. Then transfer the peppers to a bowl and cover the bowl with plastic wrap. Set aside to let the peppers steam until cool enough to handle.
2. Carefully peel the blackened skin off each pepper. Cut the peppers lengthwise in half, open out flat on a cutting board, and carefully scrape away all the seeds and membrane. Dice the peppers. (You can use jarred pimentos but buy whole and if you can find them buy the roasted whole pimento and chop them yourself, the already chopped jarred pimento are tasteless)
3. Put the cream cheese in a medium bowl and beat it with a wooden spoon until softened. Add the mayonnaise and mix well. Add the hot sauce, salt, sugar, cayenne pepper, white pepper, and smoked paprika and stir to blend. Add the onions, brine, and cheddar cheese and stir again. Fold in the diced pimentos.
4. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Tightly covered, the pimento cheese will keep for up to 3 days in the refrigerator.

Note:

For creamier pimento cheese, combine all of the ingredients in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and beat on medium speed for 2 minutes.

Ramps are wild spring onions that are brined in a standard pickling mixture. I chopped green onions and soaked them in a pickling bath for two hours. I made this recipe without going to the store, everything was in my pantry. The ramps were not but I used green onions which were.



1. Potlikker, which, if you didn't know, is the liquid left over from cooking greens or beans. It is "the building block" of other dishes.
2. Sweet potatoes, in southwestern Louisiana chunks of sweet potatoes are used instead of rice in a bowl of gumbo.
3. Alecia's Tomato Chutney. You need to read the history of ketchup to understand this. It is made in Leeds Alabama.
4. Hot sauce, but not just Tabasco, but the spectrum from Cheerwine Hot Sauce to Sriracha and Valentina
5. Rice grits, which is the broken grains of rice and you don't cook them too long or it will turn to mush. But the rice grits look like grits and absorbs all the flavors they are cooked in.

"I'm always sketchy of people who don't like grits." Jaycee Ford Martha Stewart has a summer pantry so you can serve an antipasto platter for an impromptu summer get together.

If you ate pasta and antipasto, would you still be hungry?
Author Unknown

CORNBREAD

INGREDIENTS

2 cups coarse yellow cornmeal (see note)	5 tablespoons bacon drippings, melted but not hot
1 teaspoon salt	1 large egg, lightly beaten
1/2 teaspoon baking soda	1 1/2 cups buttermilk (see note)
1/2 teaspoon baking powder	Large pinch of salt
	Makes 8 servings

A good cornbread recipe is an essential part of any good Southern kitchen and everyone has an opinion on cornbread. You either make it with or without sugar. If I wanted sweet I would eat cake. To me, if you do not make cornbread in a cast iron skillet with bacon drippings you are wasting your time. This recipe is adapted from Husk restaurant in Charleston, S.C.

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the oven to 450 degrees.
2. Pre-heat a 10-inch cast-iron skillet inside.
3. Combine cornmeal, salt, baking soda and baking powder. In another bowl, combine 4 tablespoons of bacon drippings, egg and buttermilk. Combine wet and dry ingredients until smooth batter comes together. Carefully move hot skillet from oven to a burner over high heat. Add remaining tablespoon of bacon drippings to the pan. Swirl around to evenly coat pan and pour in the batter. Swirl the batter around the hot skillet to make sure it's evenly distributed.
4. Return to oven for about 15 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the cornbread comes out dry.

Note: The type and freshness of the cornmeal will affect the final product. If you are using cornmeal from Anson Mills or some other high quality cornmeal, follow the recipe. **If you are using a store brand cornmeal, cut cornmeal to 1 1/2 cups and add 1/2 cup of all-purpose flour.**

Buttermilk was the liquid left after butter was churned. But like so much of our food, commercialization has turned into bacteria added low-fat milk that is thickened and has a tangy flavor. Some producers even add flecks of butter to give it real look of buttermilk.

The Pioneer Woman has a standard pantry list but adds freezer bags of pre-made meals that can be served quickly. She is testimony to one of the Great Rules of the South, "Always keep a funeral casserole in the freezer."

I am going to venture into culinary no man's lands. I am going to introduce two recipes of the most fundamental, most Southern, and often the most cherished of the Southern recipes. They will be recipes that everyone will say "Mom didn't do it that way" "You should leave well enough alone." I am guilty of that too!

I don't care for the recipe my wife uses for tuna salad. Her mother made it one way and my mother made it another. While I was working as a banquet chef in Montgomery, we would argue over the recipe for tuna salad that was for a banquet. Do you put dill relish or sweet? Do you add chopped apples and pecans? Do you add mustard and was it grain or yellow. But the first recipe is about pimento cheese.

"I've seen people almost get into fistfights over who has a better pimento cheese recipe. Southerners don't mess around when it comes to their cherished "pate de Sud" excerpted from *HERITAGE* by Sean Brock. This is my modification of Sean's recipe. I modified the recipe, using a different hot sauce and using green onions instead of ramps and was able to find whole roasted jarred pimento in the store. And I omitted the quarter teaspoon of sugar.

Don't think that the tinkering with our food is a recent phenomenon. Here is an article "What We Eat" from *GLEASON MONTHLY COMPANION*, April 1879 Vol. VIII, No. 4

"The adulteration of food and drinks has become almost as general as the use of the article itself. Scarcely an article used by men in civilized countries has escaped this process, where it was possible to unite some cheaper substance with it. Flour, coffee, tea, sugar, butter and a hundred other articles that undergo this adulteration process. The methods have been so often exposed, that the public are tolerably acquainted with the manipulations these substances undergo at the hands of experts."

Know Your Farmer!

SEND US YOUR FAVORITE RECIPE TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS!

If cooking is what you like, give us some tips to save time or recycle leftovers!



Chef David Spooner

Retired Chef

Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D.

Senior Warden, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Lowndesboro

Town Councilman, Town of Lowndesboro

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The Carter Hill Road **STEAK-OUT** is pleased to announce that they are under NEW Ownership, Camille & Christina Harris. Originally from Chicago, Illinois, Camille has been in the nursing business for 25 years and Christina has worked for Steak-Out here in Montgomery since 1997. Steak-Out has been a popular restaurant here in the Montgomery area and the girls decided to come together and with the help of the former owner, Tom Healey, Camille and Christina successfully took over ownership as of May 4, 2015. They are excited and ready to continue serving the City of Montgomery, and would like to thank the staff and customers for being loyal.



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The Alabama Gazette has new territories open. If you would like to become part of our sales team, call 334-356-6700

Tallassee Community Development
"Tailgating Events" total sales
\$150,000 in 2014 in support of Community Projects!

Upcoming 2015 Tailgate Partners Events

- February 21st - Prom Committee
- March 7th - Wall Street Community Improvement Assoc.
- April 11th - McCraney-Cottle Arts Council
- May 9th - VFW
- June 6th - CDC - Tallassee NOW!
- July 4th - Tallassee Girls Softball
- August 1st - Tuesday Night Card Players
- August 15th - Talisi Historical Preservation Society & Sons of Confederate Veterans
- September 5th - Reeltown Fire Department
- September 19th - Tallassee Fire Department
- October 3rd - His Eyes Ministry
- October 15th - The Learning Tree
- November 14th - Tallassee Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts
- November 28th - Tallassee Athletic Club



7TH Annual Tallassee NOW BBQ Festival & 5th Annual Cook-Off June 5th & 6th

BBQ Plates ~ \$8⁰⁰
Tasters Choice Sampler ~ \$10⁰⁰
Whole Boston Butt ~ \$35⁰⁰
Ribs ~ \$25⁰⁰
Brisket ~ \$60⁰⁰
Camp Stew ~ \$12⁰⁰ (quart)

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Kelley's Smoked Sausage Red Beans and Rice

In the bayous of the *Deep-South and Louisiana*, Mondays wouldn't be Monday without Red Beans and rice. Monday was traditionally a day to wash clothes. Before the invention of electric washers and dryers, a pot of red beans spent the morning simmering on the back of the stove. Typically there was a ham bone and or sausage left over from the Sunday dinner; they too were thrown into the pot of beans. The savory marrow from the cracked bone or distinct flavor of smoked sausage combined with a blend of herbs and spices made the beans tasty. The long cooking made them tender and creamy. Typically when the washing was done, so was dinner. The red bean mixture was then ladled over fresh steamed rice and served with corn bread or French bread for sopping up the savory gravy.

2 tablespoons vegetable oil	½ cup chopped celery
1 LB Diced Ham cut into ½ inch cubes	3 tablespoons chopped garlic
1 cup chopped onions	1 tsp. salt
1 LB Kelley's Smoked Sausage, cut bias	10 oz. chicken broth or water
½ cup chopped bell pepper	¼ tsp. ground black pepper
1 LB dried red beans, soak overnight, drain	1 tsp. dried thyme
	½ tsp. cayenne pepper
	4 bay leaves

- Heat the oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Sauté the onions, bell peppers, celery, salt, cayenne, black pepper and thyme for about 5 minutes. Add the bay leaves, ham and sausage. Sauté for 6 – 8 minutes. Add the beans, garlic and enough broth or water to cover the contents in the pot. Bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to medium and simmer, uncovered, stirring occasionally for about 2 hours. Add broth or water if the mixture becomes thick and dry.
- Use a rubber spatula to mash about half of mixture against inside rim of pot. Continue to simmer, stirring occasionally, for about 1 ½ hours or until mixture is creamy and the beans are soft. Add broth or water as it becomes thick. The dish should be soupy, but not watery.
- Remove the bay leaves and serve over steamed rice.

8 servings

Patricia Killough



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

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

Home Town Community News

June Birthdays



- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Ruby Henley | Kelly Kilgore |
| 2 Christian Grant | Ruth Preble (86th) |
| Amber Holbrook | 15 Angie Ashurst |
| Pat Moseley | Mary G. Thaggard |
| Mike Moseley | Caty Jane Turnipseed |
| Barbara White | 16 Saralu Belkofer |
| 3 Eleanor Haynie | Robert Gardner |
| Margie Johnson | David Morrow |
| Kade Wallace | Terri Taylor |
| 5 Braden Crowe | Carson Tucker |
| Michelle Crowe | Garrett Tucker |
| Lane Carter Johnson | Anna Shay Wasden |
| Maggie Mills | 17 Susan McGuire |
| Johnny Rush | 18 Mary Jane Flurry |
| 6 John Michael Higgins | Marion Grant |
| William Grant | Jonathan Lowe |
| 7 Jeannie Handey | Frieda McDevitt (93rd) |
| Frank Litchfield | 19 David Vinson |
| James Stanley | 20 Linda Reynolds |
| 8 Georgie Harris | Michael Taylor |
| 9 Faye Boyd | 21 Mary Raley |
| Laura Smith | 22 Nita Tidwell (92nd) |
| 10 Juanita Beckman | 23 Thomas Berrey |
| Seth Lumley | 24 Alice Ivey |
| Justin Manning | 25 Janet Treat |
| Melinda Newell | 27 John Donahey |
| Sylvia Phillips | 28 Paul Hanson |
| 11 David Livingston | Nadean Holley (101st) |
| Ashley Owens | Tricia Norris |
| 12 Gary Crowe | 29 Ansley Brown |
| Charlotte Gaston | Lauren Moffitt |
| Beverly Ming | Dot Rebre |
| Mackenzie Richardson (7th) | 30 Kathy Blount |
| Madilyn Sellers (7th) | Gordon Davis |
| 13 Rachel Miller | Wyatt Echols |
| 14 Kerry Brown | Jonathan Killough |
| Julie Echols | |



Daniel Selvage received the Laffy Taffy Award from his first grade teacher, Miss Autrey of Coosada Elementary School.



Daniel Selvage turned 7 on May 21, 2015. He celebrated his birthday on May 20 with his classmates at his school.

Youth Minister / Youth Challenge

Jesse Guffin

Youth Minister Jesse Guffin at Woodland United Methodist Church had to color his hair pink after losing the challenge to his youth to raise \$2,000 for their summer youth mission trip.



The youth will be participating in Alabama Rural Ministries (ARM) in July. Great job youth!

Sympathy to the families of...

- Ball, Ann Gravely Kennedy (72)died April 18, 2015
- Foster, Michael Wayne (42).....died April 26, 2015
- Hornaday, Virginia (Ginny) Lobue (86)died April 28, 2015
- Price, Floyd Howard, (82)died April 29, 2015
- Noble, Lucy Mae (93)died May 9, 2015
- Holman, Jo Underwood (87).....died May 10, 2015
- Long, Arthur R., Jr. (86)died May 13, 2015
- Thornbury, Betty W. (88)died May 14, 2015

In Loving Memory

Sandra Lane Bell,



age 67, received her crown of glory Saturday May 16th, 2015 after beating cancer for 16 years. She is survived by her children Suzelle (Pace) Josey, Keisha (Chuck) Glasscock, David (Dana) Jones, Barry (Elizabeth) Jones, her baby Stephanie (Darryl) Truett; fourteen grand-children and ten great grand-children. Additionally she is survived by siblings Marsha Jackson, Avery Sheffield, and Kenneth Sheffield, former husband Jim Lane and numerous nieces and nephews. Ms. Bell's abiding love for her family prompted activities

in business, education, and politics. She founded the Association for Judeo Christian Values, Beulah Enterprises, Alphamega Health Systems, Parapet Insurance and others. She worked tirelessly to protect Traditional Family Values and the Constitution of Alabama. Sandra truly lived the meaning of her name "Helper of Mankind". There was no one she didn't help when she saw a need. Heaven is her home but earth will feel a void forever. Visitation was Tuesday, May 19th 5-7 pm at Leak Memory and services were Wednesday May 20th, 11am. Chief Justice Roy Moore was a special speaker, with her sons Barry Jones and David Jones presenting the eulogy.

In Loving Memory

Charles Donovan Peters,



69, a resident of Kinsey passed away at his home on Friday, May 15, 2015 following a long battle with lung cancer. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 19, 2015 at the Sunset Funeral Home Chapel with Father Lawrence W. Thompson of St. Matthias Anglican Church officiating. Burial followed in Sunset Memorial Park with Robert Byrd directing. Mr. Peters was born September 25, 1945 in Geneva County, AL to Walter A. and Ola Mae (Peacock) Peters. He was a graduate of Dothan High School. In 1969 he graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. in Civil Engineering. He was one of the top three engineering graduates in the Fall of 1969, and was awarded a commission from the USAF Reserves at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery where he commanded the 908th Civil Engineering Flight. Charles is survived by his wife, Betty Faulk Peters of Kinsey; a son, Jonathan Peters of Kinsey; a daughter, Anna (Cory) Singletary of Dothan; and grandson Charles Lee Singletary of Dothan.

CORRECTION

In our May issue, the banner for Terrell S. Hartleys birthday read 2013. Mr. Hartley actually turned 102 in 2015.

Happy 101 Years Young Birthday

Evie Nadean Butler Holley

Ms. Nadean will celebrate her **101st birthday on June 28, 2015.**

She was born in Seamon, Alabama and is a native of Eclectic, Alabama. Congratulations and may you be blessed with many more.



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 Bill & Harlan Ratliff (59th) | Felix & Janice Norman |
| 2 Glenn & Sue Borders | 18 Lera & Kim Evans |
| Tony & Kate Smith | Eddie & Rhonda Spivey |
| 3 Joe & Amy Boyd | 21 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Cobb |
| Tom & Vivian Ledbetter | Lowell Thomas & |
| Rick & Ann Pascal | Julianne Hataway (57th) |
| 4 Claude & Joan Collier | 22 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Crutchfield |
| 5 Frank & Linda Clayton | Ron & Jan Johnson |
| Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ming | 23 Harold & Susie Van Patten |
| 6 Shayne & Patrice Wasden | Mike & Mary Pat Sikes |
| 8 Ken & Karen Deavers | Matt & Melanie Smith |
| Jim & Joy Fleming | Dan & Marcelle Thompson |
| 9 Slade & Skeeter Rhodes | 24 Bill & Vangie Walmsley |
| 11 Jason & Hope Marsh | 25 Mike & Brenda Moseley (55th) |
| Mr. & Mrs. Steve Young | 28 Vance & Ruth Cordle |
| 12 Bobby & Nicole Burton | 29 Billy & Betty Gallops (47th) |
| Tommy & Jennifer Champion | 30 Gary & Linda Beaty |
| 15 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Nester | George & Liz McCurdy (58th) |

50th Anniversary Celebration

Woody and Linda Foxworth

Woody and Linda Brady Foxworth were married 50 years ago on May 15, 1965. A reception was planned for May 16, 2015 but due to some health issues of Woody, it was cancelled. Woody and Linda spent a quiet day at home but was surprised with flowers, cake and balloons from family and friend. Woody is doing much better. Congratulations!



TODAY'S WOMAN

Trisston's Tidbits...

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Guard Your Heart"

God is constantly trying to plant new seeds of victory in YOU...and your heart is the soil from which those seeds will grow. However, if you harbor bitterness, jealousy, or pride in your heart, those seeds will not be able to take root and develop in your life.

Proverbs 4:23 reminds us, "Keep and guard your heart with

all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flows the springs of life."

Jesus told the story of how the enemy comes to steal the seed of God's word through temptations, concerns, and anxieties. But you are good ground for the seed of the word when you guard your heart by standing and believing that God's promises will come to pass...even when the circumstances don't agree. Don't allow discouragement to affect your faith. Stand and guard your heart... knowing that through faith and patience, you will inherit all of God's promises for your life!

Many Blessings!

Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America!
Alabama 2005

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

Bridal Shower

A bridal shower was held in honor of **Lauren Johnson** on Saturday, May 2, 2015 in the Family Life Center at Woodland United Methodist Church in Pike Road. The shower was given by **Ellen Kyser, Leigh Ann Kyser, Cindy Smith, Joy Fleming, Judy Nulph** and **Haley Pears**. A large number of family and friends enjoyed the delicious food prepared by the hostess. The bride's parents are **Kent and Janet Johnson** of Montgomery and the groom, **John Michael's** parents are **John and Melanie Higgins** of Pike Road. A June wedding is planned.

L to R: Ellen Kyser, Leigh Ann Kyser, Cindy Smith, Joy Fleming, Lauren Johnson, Judy Nulph, Haley Pears

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Kendrick ~ Royal Wedding



Reuel S. Royal and Brittney Kendrick

wed on **April 20, 2015** at Gold Star Park in Wetumpka. The Royal Wedding took place 3 years to the day, of their 1st date, which lasted seven months and 7,000 miles. They bicycled diagonally across the USA. From Tybee Island, GA to the San Juan Islands, WA. down the Oregon coast, across the Golden Gate Bridge to San Francisco. They have been inseparable ever since, and have many adventures ahead. The brides father **Scott Kendrick** performed the ceremony. Brittneys twin brother, Brandon, and grandmother **Joyce Bowen** were in attendance. Also in attendance were the grooms family, mother **Liz Royal**, (the late **Sonny Royal**, father), and sister **Angel Hall**. Friends and family, aunts and uncles and extended family were in attendance.

Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of Graduation from Montgomery County High School, Ramer, Alabama.

THE CLASS OF 1945 MET AT RED'S LITTLE SCHOOLHOUSE RESTAURANT FOR A REUNION ON MAY 2, 2015.

There was a time of fellowship and good country food. Charles Miller, our High School Class President, presided. Those attending shared "the life styles of the Good ole' days". Many of the life styles and school days activities have changed from many years ago.

Attending the 2015 Reunion were:

Charles and RLease Miller - Tucker, GA
 Cecil and Sible Dorsey - Luverne, AL
 Tommy and Blanche Champion - Lapine, AL
 Margaret Meriwether Thompkins - Montgomery, AL
 Margaret Thompkins Rogers - Montgomery, AL
 Floyd and Mary Glen Hicks - Ramer, AL
 Lourie Smilie Sanders - Ramer, AL

Plans were made to meet again in May 2016.

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Jeff Nursey - "Doing All The Good He Can."

"We cannot change the past. All we can do is affect the future, and that's how we handle today." Jeff Nursey

New Beginnings

When I met Richard He was holding a sign that said HOMELESS will work for food. I told him to get in my car and I fed him. That was two years ago and he has not gone hungry. My friend Richard has been on an amazing journey from homelessness to restoration. When I met him, Richard was losing the battle against addiction, living on the streets of Montgomery. Since then, I have watched in awe, as Richard turned his life around, getting sober and finding a place to stay, while starting a whole new chapter and I helped plant that seed. Richard makes me certain that there is hope for us all. That there is hope after dope my problems seem very small, when I consider what others have overcome. Now Richard works and has become a functioning member of the local community.



Glenda DeRamus, Jeff Nursey, Alexis Yount and Judge Keith Watkins

Donations can be mailed to:
DeRamus Hearing
 2809 Chestnut Street
 Montgomery, AL 36107

Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2015

My wife and I are committed to helping Alexis Yount, Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2015, with her mission to promote the welfare of disabled Americans. Alexis was involved in a serious car wreck, which left her paralyzed. We so admire her determination to not only refuse to be beaten by her disability but also to help empower others to rise above their circumstances to lead lives of joy and sincerity. Alexis needs donations to help her go to the national Ms. Wheelchair America competition. Far from a simple beauty pageant, this national competition seeks out future spokeswomen to advocate for people with disabilities. If you believe, as we do, that this is a worthy cause, help Alexis raise funds by donating to her fund online or dropping off a donation at any DeRamus Hearing Centers location.



Alexis Yount and Trudy Cathy of Chick-fil-A



Alexis Yount with Judge W. Keith Watkins, Chief Judge U.S. Middle District

Remember, if you help enough people get what they want, you can get what you want.

Judge Watkins and Trudy Cathy spoke at Women's Philanthropy Board, Auburn University, College of Human Sciences and Jeff Nursey and Glenda took Alexis to meet Trudy Cathy and Judge Keith Watkins. The event was fabulous and "We personally commend Judge Watkins and Trudy Cathy for their time and effort to make Alabama Great.



ANTIQUE TRACTOR SHOW ELMORE, ALABAMA MAY 16, 2015

By John Martin

Once again, people interested in antique machinery enjoyed the Annual Antique Tractor Show and Pull at Elmore, just west of Wetumpka. Featured were old tool vendors and all sorts of machines along with antique automobiles, a monster truck, and of course, tractors and equipment.

Also present were a corn grinding demonstration, a barbecue competition, food vendors, and various other exhibitors, including flint knapper Stan Payne.

Hit and miss engines are always popular, and several were featured. These devices can run almost forever on a small amount of fuel.

One of the most interesting items was Mel Dearing's "Hoover Tractor," a Model T Ford modified to plow fields. It has two transmissions--a Ford planetary two-speed and a Muncie three-speed mounted in series to provide seven forward speeds and two reverse. It also features a fold-up plow on the back, a glass cover to view the oil flow, gaps in the ignition wires to intensify the sparks, a water injector to allow it to run on kerosene, and even a siren to warn people to get out of the way.

Mel said that these devices were frequently built by farmers who could not afford to buy tractors during the Great Depression. "Simplicity is its virtue: No oil pump; no fuel pump; no water pump. Engine, clutch, transmissions, magneto, and brake all run in the same oil."

Visit next year. Each year brings in something new. Don't miss it!



An ancient 1920's McCormick-Deering tractor.



Mel Dearing with his Hoover Tractor.



Pulling the sled.

This hit and miss engine consumes only a drop of fuel every few seconds.



A "Governor's Staff" Model A Ford. George Wallace campaign contributors were frequently given these special plates.



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