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## Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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



## Labor Day: September 7, 2020

Labor Day is upcoming on Monday. In bygone days it was the benchmark day for campaign season to start. Historically, Labor Day barbeques were events where political campaigns had their roots. Camp stew and barbequed pork were devoured while folks listened to politicians promise how they were going to bring home the pork.

The most legendary political Labor Day Barbeques have been held in the Northwest corner of the state. There were two monumental, legendary, barbeque events in that neck of the woods that were a must go to event for aspiring and veteran politicians, both locally and statewide.

The Terry Family Reunion is in the Loosier Community of Lawrence County. This is where the large Terry family originated. Actually, a good many of the folks that attend have kinship or ties to the Terry family. Many of the folks in Lawrence County are kin to each other through the large Terry family.

Every serious candidate for governor or major statewide office made the Terry barbeque. It lasted all day. Some would arrive in helicopters, which garnered attention. Legendary icons like Big Jim Folsom, George Wallace, Bill Baxley, Albert Brewer and Howell Heflin attended every year.

Another Labor Day barbeque was held in that area, which was just as important if not quite as big and wide open as the Terry Event. The legendary L. O. Bishop of Colbert County was known for having a Labor Day barbeque bash. His event was big, but more selective. L.O. was and has been for 60 years a leader in the Alabama Farmers Federation. He would only invite the Alfa backed candidates. His barbeque is renowned as the best in the state.

Bishop and Howell Heflin were best friends. Heflin became the best friend the Alabama farmer had. Judge Heflin became Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. He did a yeoman's job for Alabama Agriculture.

Senator Heflin was from Colbert County. He was renowned for being a great lawyer, storyteller and judge. Being from Northwest Alabama, he made the event of his best friend L. O. Bishop and the Terry Family Reunion every year. He not only made the events, he stayed there all day, grazed and ate barbeque.

Judge loved to eat. He really loved barbeque. You could tell he liked to eat from his large rotund physique. He considered himself a connoisseur of bar-

beque. In fact, he toured the state every year and he would plan his schedule so that he could eat at his favorite barbeque places in every corner of the state. When he would get through eating a plate of pork or ribs, he would smack his lips, sigh, wipe his face with his handkerchief and say, "That's some mighty fine barbeque, it's almost as good as L.O.'s"

It may be hard for some of you to believe, but after World War II and throughout the 1960's organized labor was king in Alabama, unlike today where most of our large industries are not unionized. During that 20-year period (1946-1966), Alabama was the most unionized state in the South by far. In fact, every major employer in the State of Alabama was a union shop.

Beginning in Northwest Alabama, the Reynolds Aluminum Plant in Sheffield and Florence were union. The Tennessee Valley workers throughout North Alabama were all union. The paper mill and Goodrich Tire Plant in Tuscaloosa were union.

The largest employer in Gadsden, the Goodyear Tire Factory, was union.

The Lee County Tire Manufacturing Plant was union. The military base employees at Ft. Rucker in the wiregrass were union.

The largest employer in Mobile was the state docks. Guess what, Folks? All those workers belong to the union.

The largest employer in Birmingham, as well as the largest employer in the State of Alabama, were the steel mills and U.S. Steel. You guessed it – the steel workers were all unionized. In fact, the Steel Workers Union in Birmingham was the largest in the nation.

The GOP ticket that appears on the ballot in 60 days will be a powerful triumvirate. It has gone under the radar since the presidential and senate races have taken center stage, but popular PSC President Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh is up for reelection. Thus, the Republican ticket will feature and illustrious alliteration of Trump/Tuberville/Twinkle, which will be hard to beat in the Heart of Dixie.

### Happy Labor Day!

For another article from Steve Flowers, please see page 6A



**Ronald A.  
Holtsford**

**on Death)** for bank accounts or **TOD (Transfer on Death)** for investment accounts or simply name them as beneficiaries. The POD and TOD transfer on death to the named individual by showing up with a death certificate.

If you own a vehicle by yourself, you can add a child to the title, but you will want the word "or" between the names. If you still reside in the home that you occupied when your husband died, I would guess it reads "with right of survivorship," in which case it automatically passed to you at the moment of his death. If you probated his estate, you may have transferred the home solely to you at that time. In that case, if you want to transfer the home to your child, you have a few options. The first possibility is a **Last Will and Testament**. The Will is generally not very expensive to do, though probate can be a few thousand dollars for legal, court, maybe bond and other statutory costs. The home can be transferred via a Personal Representative's deed provided the bills are paid. The second possibility is a new deed adding your child or children via "rights of survivorship." Another may be a Deed Reserving a Life Estate where the individual has rights to the property until their death, then transfers to those that hold a remainder interest. Another possibility may be a trust that holds assets including the deed, etc with beneficiaries.

So there are several ways to transfer assets before death, at the moment of death or post mortem. Sounds like a plethora of choices, nothing can go wrong, right? Well, several things can go wrong. If you end up requiring Medicaid for long-term care within five years, there would be a time-based penalty by Medicaid and application rejection due to the gifting of assets when not receiving fair market value. An example may be such as giving away money or the home. At this writing, a deed reserving a life estate carries no value after five years. Or you give away a home and/or money and the beneficiary is sued or files bankruptcy, then "your" assets become available to the plaintiff or creditors in a bankruptcy. Or in giving away assets, the new husband ends up having no home or inadequate assets to care for himself upon your death.

While dependents are entitled to certain exempt assets and maybe more when there is no Will, the spouse may well be entitled to an elective share.

## Can I just Give Assets to my Kids, Even After I remarry?

There are several facets to your question so the answer will be a bit broad. There are ways to transfer assets now such as those financial accounts in your name. Your new spouse probably doesn't want to add your child if he runs a risk of losing assets. You can add your kids with right of survivorship. Of course that gives them the same rights and liability regarding your accounts. You can also set up a **POD (Payable on Death)** for bank accounts or **TOD (Transfer on Death)** for investment accounts or simply name them as beneficiaries. The POD and TOD transfer on death to the named individual by showing up with a death certificate.

**Children are not necessarily entitled to anything under your Will, but your spouse is.**

Under Code of Alabama 43-8-70 it reads: (a) If a married person domiciled in this state dies, the surviving spouse has a right of election to take an elective share of the estate. The elective share shall be the lesser of: (1) All of the estate of the deceased reduced by the value of the surviving spouse's separate estate; or (2) One-third of the estate of the deceased (b) The "separate estate" of the surviving spouse shall include: 1. All property which immediately after the death of the decedent is owned by the spouse outright or in fee simple absolute; 2. All legal and equitable interests in property the possession or enjoyment of which are acquired only by surviving the decedent; and 3. All income and other beneficial interests: *a.* Under a trust; *b.* In proceeds of insurance on the life of the decedent; and *c.* Under any broad-based nondiscriminatory pension, profit-sharing, stock bonus, deferred compensation, disability, death benefit or other such plan established by an employer. (c) If a married person not domiciled in this state dies, the right, if any, of the surviving spouse to take an elective share in property in this state is governed by the law of the decedent's domicile at death. (Acts 1982, No. 82-399, §2-201.)

The elective share is available if the spouse has not adequately taken care of them in their Will or taken care of them in some adequate way outside of the Will. As you can see it can be a significant portion of the deceased spouse's estate. You may feel more of a commitment to your children from your prior spouse especially if the latter marriage is more at an advanced age; but your spouse still has significant rights.

Think before you leap and have a really good conversation with your lawyer to consider legal and moral obligations.

*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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# ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

## Here I go with yet another installment of “Bits and Pieces.”

1. For the past several years, during our wedding anniversary week, my wife and I like to go down to Destin, Florida and stay at the Henderson-Salamander Resort and Spa for four to five days. We love it down there. From their private beach to the other plentiful amenities, we will likely continue going there every year for the foreseeable future. We have even gone there in December just to see how they decorate for Christmas. I highly recommend the Henderson and no I do not have any stock or other vested interests there.

Well this year, as my wife and I were leaving, we stopped by the gift shop to talk with the manager who is just a wonderful person who always goes out of her way to make us feel at home. As we were talking to Ellen, we mentioned “Montgomery” and a young lady spoke up and said she too was from the Gump. We all talked as she waited for her husband to come in. After several minutes, in walks Mayor Reed. Although he was wearing the required mask, his distinctive eyes were a dead giveaway. “Hey, you’re Mayor Reed!” I just wanted to say that both he and his wife are two exceptionally kind, gracious and genuine people. My wife and I took to both of them immediately. Although he didn’t have to, we stayed and talked for close to 10 minutes before we had to hit the road to come home. Not once did we talk deep politics, that was not the time nor place, but just talked about life in Montgomery and the surrounding areas.

I just wanted to say that this was the most pleasant of surprises for both my wife and me. Thank you, Mayor and Mrs. Reed for being so open and friendly. Now onto the business at hand.

2. Biden Picks Harris. Okay, I am going to be honest. I don’t like the ticket but, in a way, I do because I hope it thoroughly buries the Democratic chances of a November victory. I am not about to get into some of the horrible things I have heard thrown about dealing with Harris’ character. I am going to leave that up to others. There is enough mud slinging already. But here is a certain reality as I see it. The moment Biden picked Harris, she rolled out her old notebook and started the initial vetting process for her Vice-President.

“What do you mean, Rob?” Easy. I have mentioned this in earlier Robservations but I do not believe Biden is mentally fit to be President. I am not knocking him, mocking him or being mean spirited, but I honestly believe he has significant cognitive issues that should disqualify him from running. Just listen to the man anytime he goes off script or teleprompter. It is a train wreck, and I honestly feel sorry for him since I believe he is being used and manipulated by his Party. I think they know he is mentally unfit for office but is still more viable than any other Democrats that were in the running.

What I feel is going to happen is this. Should the Democrats somehow manage to defeat President Trump in November, I predict that within Biden’s first year in office, he is going to be deemed “unfit” to continue serving, he will be forced to step down and Kamala Harris will be the next President of the United States. Even if Biden finishes his first year, I am willing to wager a large Oreo Blizzard that he will not complete four years. It ain’t gonna happen. So, I think people need to think this one through. A vote for Joe is a definite vote for Kamala as POTUS. If they have no problem with that, have at it. The thought of her and her extreme leftist views at the helm of our country is a scary proposition. I see this as a definite outcome if Biden wins the White House.

There is certainly no shortage of Harris’ extreme leftist political shenanigans to demonstrate her unworthiness for the highest office in the land. For just one example, look at how Harris tried to persecute Pro-Life citizen journalists and founders for the Center for Medical Progress, Sandra Merriitt and David Daleiden for exposing Planned Parenthood’s selling of aborted baby parts. She used her power to punish two American citizens who did nothing illegal but simply opposed the murderous organization that had conveniently contributed some \$81,000 to her political future. Quite despicable stuff actually by someone abusing their power. Just look up the links.

<https://www.gopusa.com/kamala-harris-pro-police-past-will-haunt-her-as-vp-nominee/>

<https://www.lifenews.com/2020/08/14/kamala-harris-tried-to-put-pro-lifers-in-jail-who-exposed-planned-parenthood-selling-baby-parts/>

<https://netrighttolife.org/news/kamala-harris-tried-to-put-pro-lifers-in-jail>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/may/14/pro-life-investigator-daleiden-sues-kamala-harris-/>

<https://studentsforlife.org/2019/08/26/kamala-harris-persecuted-pro-life-activists-as-attorney-general/>

3. Any bets on whether there will actually be any Presidential debates? My vote is still that there will be no debates and if so, only one or two and they will be tightly scripted and full of those big softball questions like Donna Brazile passed ahead of time to Hillary Clinton during the last debate election cycle. Either that or the conditions for a debate will be so ridiculous that President Trump will refuse to agree to the terms and then the press will argue that it was Trump who refused to debate. To be honest, I really hope I completely out to lunch here. I truthfully want to see a spirited debate between the two and may the best man win.

## BITS & PIECES 10.0

4. By now, I am certain most of the people who read the Gazette have heard the story of five-year-old Cannon Hinnant who was shot in the head by his next-door neighbor Darius Sessoms. Okay, I am going to throw this out there but yes, Cannon was White and Darius was Black. This story is disturbing on absolutely every single level. As the story has been reported, Cannon was riding his bike and playing with his two sisters when he rode onto Mr. Sessoms lawn. Obviously, this affront was so disturbing that Sessoms walked outside and shot Cannon in the head. Yeah, you read this right. A 25-year-old man was so butt-hurt by a little kid riding onto his lawn that of course the only logical thing to do was murder him.

This story has bothered me almost every day since it happened. But in addition to the obvious evil on display, there is further evil promulgated by the press. Let me ask, how many times have any of you heard this mentioned on the television more than maybe two or three times if at all? I watch our local news every night before I go to bed (not going to mention which one), and I can honestly say I heard this mentioned there only one time. Maybe I stepped out of the room the other times but I can tell you I heard the name George Floyd mentioned just about 72 bezillion times over the past several months. If you can imagine this, I have mentioned this story to lots of people who had never heard of it. I am sad to admit that I was talking to my sister just yesterday, mentioned this story and she had never once heard of it. Not once and she lives up in New Jersey.

Here’s one for you from the world of CNN. I saw it as a meme on Facebook and thought, “No way in Heck this is real.” I searched and yes, I found it.

Here’s the link.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/13/us/north-carolina-boy-killed/index.html>.

In reporting this story, the title reads, “A 25-year-old man has been charged in the shooting death of 5-year-old Cannon Hinnant.” “What’s so bad about that, Rob?” Glad you asked. Well, right underneath the title, they show a picture of a man. That man happens to be Cannon’s father; not Sessoms. If you read further down you will find a picture of the murdering dirtbag but if all you are doing is skimming the headlines, you will walk away thinking Cannon’s father, a White man, is the murderer. Pretty shady stuff here.

In addition to the deafening silence of media crickets, I have also come across some pretty foul Facebook memes from the ultra-classy and always tolerant Leftist punks running amok in our country. One from a nurse in Boston put a picture of Cannon on his bike and wrote along the lines of, “Free Bike. My friend no longer needs it. Good condition but has some red stains on it.” Another cretin wrote that it was justifiable to kill him as payback for slavery. More to come I am sure.

5. Where is this country headed? I for one am sick of this crap. In today’s America, some serious battle lines are being drawn by people who really don’t want to be drawing those lines. They really don’t. They may think they do, but they don’t. Every day now I am seeing videos of people getting beat up, assaulted and even killed because of either their skin color or their political affiliation. I am not going to call out anybody but EVERYONE reading this knows exactly which is the guilty side.

From tearing down monuments and statues regardless of what they are to the overall “cancel culture” that is polluting the minds of our young and destroying this country, people are increasingly finding themselves on one side of the fence or the other. It is no longer cool to engage in political discourse and go your own way. Now if you disagree with someone, (yes, generally a leftist), you may find yourself in a fist fight or worse. Just wearing a red baseball cap is enough to send them spiraling violently out of control. At one level for example, BLM stands for something I can get behind. But I believe ALM, All Lives Matter. In July, an Indianapolis woman was killed by BLM members for saying All Lives Matter.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/ny-jessica-doty-whitaker-shot-dead-indianapolis-all-lives-matter-20200713-jcm5oyjca5fz5kge4qtlhh7dnu-story.html>. Really?

*In another Robservations, I will write my thoughts on ANTIFA, BLM and NFAC as well as some other groups on the other side of the fence. The bottom line is that this divide in the country, which I believe is intentionally orchestrated, is not getting better. When Trump crushes Biden in November, I think all of us have to be prepared for the unrest that is certain to come. What we are looking at today is nothing.*

*I saw this online today: I love it.*

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BEFORE YOU SPEND – EARN  
BEFORE YOU QUIT – TRY  
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*“The Informed Southerner”*

# John Brown and the Secret Six

History is filled with conspiracies and conspiracy theories. I would like to look at a genuine conspiracy from the 1800s.

As a teen, I worked in construction and encountered some interesting individuals. One was an older black gentleman who frequently used the expression: “I’ll be John Brown.” I did not know if that was the equivalent of “I’ll be a ‘sob’” or something similar in the entertaining vernacular of the construction world. As I learned more history, it became clear that my assumption was correct—whether my co-worker intended it that way or not. John Brown is generally known as the abolitionist who was hanged for committing treason against the Commonwealth of Virginia. He routinely claimed to be a Christian as he simultaneously advocated murdering innocent people.

Brown was born May 9, 1800, in Torrington, Connecticut, the fourth of eight children. His parents were Owen Brown and Ruth Mills Brown, and his predominant ancestry was Puritan. His family moved to Hudson, Ohio, in 1805. The city had strong pockets of anti-slavery sentiment that his father identified with.

At the age of 16, Brown moved to Plainfield, Massachusetts; he attended a prep-school there and later an academy in Connecticut. He married Dianthe Lusk in 1820 (died 1832) and Mary Ann Day in 1833, eventually having 21 children, although not all survived. Over time, Brown lived in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio, having a career laden with misfortune and poor decisions.

As the slavery issue heated up, Brown moved to Kansas in 1855. Upon arrival, he became active in the anti-slavery movement. It is doubtful many in the modern world would disagree with the anti-slavery sentiment; however, the tactics employed by Brown only exacerbated the problem. For example, Brown was part of the group that murdered five individuals in Pottawatomie Creek, Kansas on May 24-25, 1856 (“The Pottawatomie Massacre”).

Brown’s efforts to take over the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, proved to be his Waterloo. The first person killed by Brown and his “merry men” was Heyward Shepherd, a free black man, who worked for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. In 1931, the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Sons of Confederate Veterans erected a statue to Shepherd at Harpers Ferry; modern day authoritarians may have destroyed it by now.

How could such an erratic, sometimes emotionally-unhinged and fiscally-inept person like Brown traverse the country?

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

The simple answer: the Secret Six, a group of six wealthy Northerners who financed a good portion of Brown’s exploits.

Who were these individuals?

1. **Gerrit Smith**—A wealthy New Yorker who was a reformer and social activist, Smith initially supported deportation and colonization of Blacks but later switched to abolitionism. He owned the Great Wharves at the harbor of Oswego (N.Y.) and benefitted from the Federal Government’s free land policy.

2. **Thomas Wentworth Higginson**—Unitarian minister, author, and soldier with strong Puritan ancestry. In his youth, he was interested in the “utopian” Brook Farm in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and French socialist Charles Fourier.

3. **Theodore Parker**—Unitarian minister, speaker, reformer, and Transcendentalist. Parker supported Brook Farm and, like Higginson, was sympathetic to the ideas of Fourier.

4. **Samuel Gridley Howe**—Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Howe was a doctor and advocate for the blind. His wife, Julia Ward Howe, wrote the Unitarian song, Battle Hymn of the Republic (a version of this South-hating song appears in the Baptist and Methodist hymnals).

5. **Franklin Benjamin Sanborn**—New Hampshire-born journalist, author, social reformer, and abolitionist who was friendly to the transcendentalist movement.

6. **George Luther Stearns**—From Medford, Massachusetts, Stearns was an industrialist, merchant, and abolitionist. Being involved in the manufacture of sheet and pipe-lead, he stood to benefit financially from the North’s protectionist tariffs.

These men were generally anti-slavery, anti-Southern, socialistic proponents of centralized government. They had pretty much abandoned Christianity for Unitarian and/or humanist beliefs. It is likely they saw John Brown—a seemingly deranged individual—as a good vehicle to create havoc while they remained somewhat “behind the curtain.”

Ohio Senator Clement Vallandigham, who would eventually be arrested by the Lincoln Administration for exercising his free speech rights (likely a future article), interviewed John Brown in the autumn of 1859. Vallandigham deduced that Brown was simply a pawn in a large-scale conspiracy. The communist Vladimir Lenin, who is often compared favorably to Abe Lincoln, was known to use the phrase “useful idiots” to describe sometimes unknowing pawns. It can be convincingly argued that John Brown fit that mold.



John Martin

## GAWLEE! THEY DEFEATED THAT PROPERTY TAX AGAIN!

One of the best things about living in Alabama is that its taxes are among the lowest in the nation. Of particular importance, the property tax is THE lowest in the nation—by a wide margin. The property tax is one of the most oppressive taxes there is. In essence, it requires a person to pay “rent” to the state to occupy and use his

own private property. It can also be arbitrary. A so-called “appraiser” can set, within certain limits, whatever value he chooses on anyone’s property. The owner has little recourse except to complain, and he knows that too much complaining can sometimes bring negative responses from the powers that be. He has no choice but to pay whatever they ask or have his property seized and sold.

Property taxes are also invasive. They give state and local governments excuses to trespass and spy on local citizens to see if they are hiding anything. Intrusions range from aerial photographs to close inspections of anything that seems to have been improved. Agents can violate homes and businesses to inventory “taxable” property. Reappraisals occur all too often, and the cost of these is added to the tax bill. Privacy rights, of course, go out the window.

Alabama’s low-taxed citizens owe their good fortune to the writers of the state’s constitution back in 1901, a time when the political arena was occupied by statesmen instead of greedy politicians and special interests. These people had the foresight to require a referendum from the people whenever a tax increase was proposed, preventing arbitrary increases of taxes without the consent of those who paid them.

In 1901, the property tax was the only widely used state and local tax. Income and sales taxes did not even exist in Alabama in those days. When these taxes were developed later in the 1930’s, they were not subjected to this constitutional restraint, and therefore they rose to higher levels than the property tax. Even so, Alabama has managed to avoid some of the more extreme government excesses that other, more “progressive” states have suffered.

Property tax referendums are a way of life in Alabama. Politicians continuously bombard the voters with opportunities to saddle themselves with higher taxes and more abusive government programs. A favorite is education. They keep repeating that it’s “for the children.” Often they are so impatient, instead of waiting until the next regular election, they spend additional tax dollars to hold a special one so they can get their increase ASAP and sneak the election through before opponents can organize.

A typical example happened in Alexander City in January 2001. The local board of education decided that the school system needed more money, ostensibly to head off an estimated \$500,000 deficit and to offset reduced tax collections due to layoffs and declining revenues from Russell Corporation, the area’s largest employer and taxpayer. Alex City Superintendent of Education, Jim Nabors\* said, “The future doesn’t look bright right now.”

The new tax was not a small one. It would have raised the local rate from three to nine mills—a 200% increase. It would have been a really hard knock for the thousands of residents faced with a declining economy, evaporating savings and job losses.

While the private sector was forced to tighten its belt and adapt to hard times, the “educrats” were demanding more of people’s dwindling incomes and savings for their top-heavy government-run education empire.

Needless to say, the tax proposal failed. It was really no surprise.

The surprise was that it failed by a very narrow margin of only 27 votes. Many of the opponents had fallen asleep at the switch and had not voted. Frustrated by the defeat but encouraged by a near victory, the tax supporters wasted no time petitioning their local legislators to grant them another special election.

On August 21, the people were again faced with the prospect of a tax increase. Proponents and opponents were now engaged in a heated battle. A small group of tax proponents calling themselves “The 21st Century Committee” opened a downtown office, and volunteers harassed local residents over the phone for weeks attempting to prod them to vote for the tax. They also spent a considerable sum for hundreds of signs they placed on lawns, in front of offices and along streets that said, “SOLD on better schools. Vote yes—August 21.”

The local paper, The Outlook, devoted several front pages to stories supporting the tax increase, and the Montgomery Advertiser also ran an editorial endorsing the tax—as it has routinely supported tax increases of every stripe in the past. “We’re a lot more visible this time,” said Nabors. “We were advised not to rile anybody up the last time, and it almost worked.” But the people were riled up. One of the opposition leaders was actually named Ryles—Leonard Ryles—and he was hopping mad. “I think we’ll beat ‘em by 200 votes this time,” he said. “The more they keep calling these elections, the wiser people become.” The city’s elderly also made it clear they wanted no part of a tax increase. They recalled going to superior schools that cost a fraction of what the current money pits consume.

Russell Corporation wanted none of it either. After its economic black eye, massive layoffs and restructuring, it was in no mood to triple its \$610,000 a year school tax bill. Nabors said that if the tax failed a second time, “I won’t support another on my watch.” August 21 came and went. The result was what an overtaxed population would expect, and welcome. The decision was clear, “NO MORE TAXES.” The increase suffered its second defeat in seven months. The vote was 2268 no’s to 2069 yea’s—a margin of 199 votes. Leonard Ryles’ prediction missed by just one vote. The tribe had spoken.

Steve Forehand, a local lawyer and board of education member said, “We’ll now look for ways to cut programs. Our first responsibility is to the education of our children.” Well, why didn’t Mr. Forehand think of that in the first place?

Ryles said, “What they wanted to do was squander money and the people wouldn’t go along with it.” And poor old Jim Nabors just couldn’t get it. He must have said, “Gawlee!”

\*This was not the Jim Nabors of Gomer Pyle fame. However, he may have been related. “Gomer” was raised in Sylacauga, which is not far from Alexander City.

HEY STEVEN REED! Do you really think the people in Montgomery are going to support YOUR proposed 200% tax increase? And for what? Closed schools?



Credit to danielmoy

“Those who deny freedom to others deserve it not for themselves; and under the rule of a just God, cannot long retain it” ~ Abraham Lincoln

“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.” ~ Thomas Paine

“Fr  edom is never more than one generation away from distinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the blood-stream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.” ~ Ronald Reagan

“The only sure bulwark of continuing liberty is a government strong enough to protect the interest of the people, and a people strong enough and well enough informed to maintain its sovereign control over the government.” ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

“It’s easier to build strong children than repair broken men.” ~ Frederick Douglass





John Sophocleus

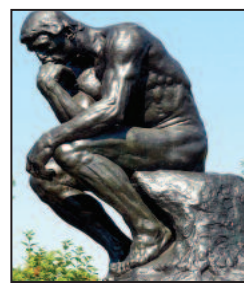
# THINK

GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com

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

## FOR THIS REASON I TAKE A KNEE

THIRD &amp; FINAL PART



*Part one opened with Apostle Paul's caveat in Ephesians to not be faint in tribulation and his cause/reason for kneeling to God in Truth and Love. Part two opened with excerpts provided by fellow Alabama Gazette columnist John Taylor from his book Union at All Costs to help illustrate 'Judas rhetoric' cloaking the avarice of 'America's deadliest president.' My third and final part is a plea to rise above this rhetoric which has put far too great a burden on Black lives these past several score; indeed a terrible legacy. Hopefully, it is not too late for the nation to understand they've been on the wrong side of history. It would've been much wiser fighting qualified immunity, federal hegemony and crony capitalism to champion market competition these past several score instead of advocating more failed 'radical egalitarian' command policies/programs and destroying monuments in the spirit of 'presentism.' Progressives will always search for the ripe (zeitgeist) fruit of the moment to usurp more power, rights and freedom from citizens.*



Once allowed voting rights, more effort was put in to block the ballot to reduce righteous candidates to vote for and limit Congress so the sort of politicians progressives wanted would control the House and be increasingly less representative of the population. Hyper-gerrymandering to pack Black voters (and others undesirable to progressives who could make a difference on the margin) into one district has been most effective. Of course, do not expect a 'freedom, liberty and/or justice suffrage' movement to begin anytime soon. I know it is in vogue to shrill the 'go vote'

chant, but vote for who... big govt. Biden (with mass incarceration, drug warrior Harris) or big govt. democrat (now donning the Republican moniker) Trump? Sorry, I can't vote for either and face my God. Please stop asking to support blue or red demons. I realise BOTH of them work for the same boss.

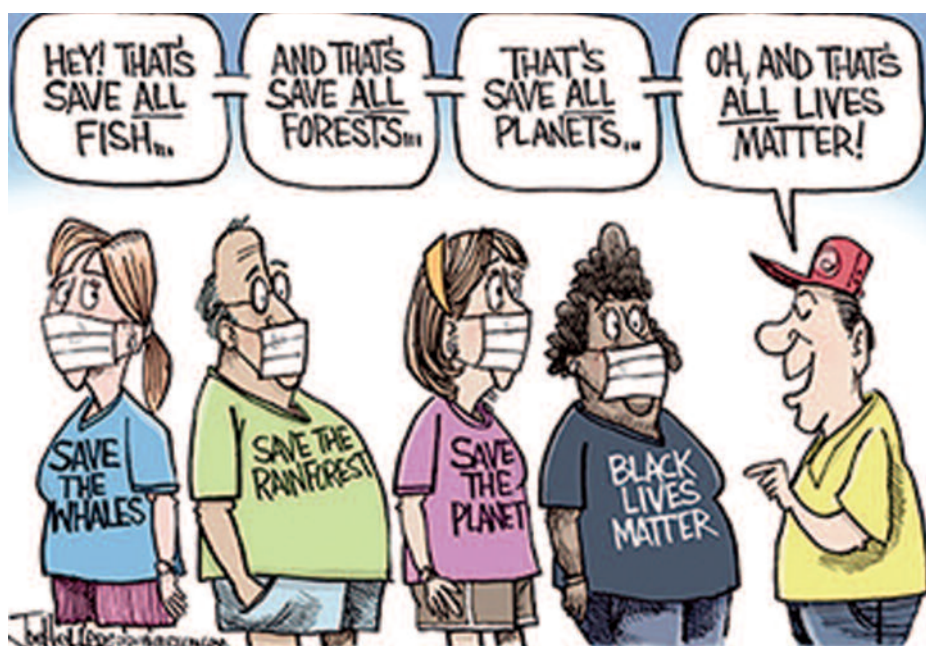
I also can not imagine my God looking favourably upon a nation of States which allows what we've witnessed done to George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN to Heyward Shepherd in Harpers Ferry, VA, without a course correction back toward a noble, virtuous path. The time is long overdue to take burden of Judas rhetoric off the backs of our righteous, patient black brothers and sisters. Lincoln's emancipation proclamation(s) gave nothing to those blacks already emancipated (some by their own efforts) but the long suffering, heavy baggage of a war fought to accomplish wealth transfers militarily (Lincoln failed to deliver politically) was somehow really fought to 'free' them. Sadly, many of my freshman and sophomore students (most a product of govt. schools) were adamant no free Blacks existed until after Lincoln's emancipation.

To those Blacks who were emancipated by the federal proclamation (instead of in the years to come as remaining States enacted their emancipation laws or taken to other places in the Americas to be emancipated in the 1880s) one can argue if the baggage of our deadliest president has been worth the legacy cost of this 'Judas rhetoric.' To those wanting to keep this legacy cost alive, I say ENOUGH! End the lie and madness. "Speak the truth and shame the devil," as Anthony Hervey said at the Birmingham monument five years ago just before he was killed - free Blacks had already earned their freedom; those not yet free were close to earning it without being used as rhetoric to cloak avarice.

Traditional Yankees I applaud, who fought for freedom and independence morphed into modern Yankees becoming the hegemonic mercantilist they once despised in England. More recently the T.E.A. (Taxed Enough Already) Party which began with Black members was taken over by traditional (big govt. conservative) Republicans and died. I asked the Republicans to stick with their Party as they clearly were not advocates of low taxation/limited govt. They understood what they doing - killing a movement which was becoming a threat. The Black Lives Matter movement in their righteous founding against brutality and murder (sadly, many police are victims of enforcing redistributive laws inflaming citizens instead of working the justice promoting task of protecting life, liberty and peaceful/voluntary exchange of property) will also be co-opted by the deleterious big govt. leviathanists if history is any guide. Our politburo cannot let just movements survive - it is indeed a matter of life and death. Liberty is among the most costly and elusive commodities in our hegemonic, increasingly less perfect union.

So when you see me take a knee for the Black Lives Matter movement, I pray you understand it is in the Spirit of what it represents to me as a servant of God doing my best to follow the path of Jesus to a better world. Similarly, when I sing the National Anthem it is not for what we've become, but knowing the Spirit of that 15 Star/15 Stripe flag is still somewhere in that 50 Star flag of corruption and hegemony. It amazes me after so many people of good character I've been blessed to know of all ages, colours, gender, races, religions, etc. in my life; most seem comfortable separating themselves from the blessing of knowing others outside their norm. Last column I wrote: The last two anthems/songs I'd publicly sung are "Lift ev'ry heart and sing" at Church and "Dixie" at a SCV meeting may make me the strangest citizen in all Alabama.

If that means there will be mostly white folks I hold dear at SCV, Southern Culture Center and 'Breakfast club' meetings and mostly black folks I also hold dear at Church, Lee County Voters League & Youth Organisation and NAACP meetings - I'll take it 'lumpy' if I must. Black Lives Matter in MY life - it is that simple. Just because others are fools to eliminate a huge block of fellow citizens who I know include souls of similar Joy and Spirit doesn't mean I'm also willing to be a fool of this sort. I am a long time admitted and humble fool for Jesus, the cause/reason I take a knee...



**Tuesday  
Oct. 13th**

**Open House Celebrating the  
21st Anniversary of The Alabama Gazette**

**11:30 am  
~ 1 pm**





By Daniel Sutter

development plus earn a profit. Patents helped spur the Industrial Revolution, demonstrating their effectiveness.

Over 160 candidate COVID-19 vaccines are in development, with more than a dozen in human trials. Our patent system has succeeded: investors funded scores of teams of smart medical researchers. The danger exists, however, that price controls may be applied to a COVID-19 vaccine, making investors less likely to fund future vaccine research.

Patent purchases date back to France in 1839. A government patent purchase rewards the inventor immediately, as opposed to over time with profits on sales of the product. A fair price should reflect profits over the life of the patent, adjusted downward to reflect the immediate payout and for uncertainty about profits. I advocate buying promising vaccines’ patents before testing for effectiveness, so the purchase price need not cover the cost of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval. Economic theory suggests that patent purchases should incentivize research as effectively as patents.

The FDA approval process now represents the major challenge for the candidate vaccines. The process involves three phases. Phase I tests the vaccine on a small group of subjects to ensure safety and antibody production in subjects. Phases II and III involve tests on first several hundred and then several thousand persons to establish effectiveness. This lengthy process is why many believe a vaccine could not be on the market until 2021.

The 1962 Harris-Kefauver Amendments authorized FDA regulation of the effectiveness of new drugs. The rationale is fear that pharmaceutical companies will sell ineffective drugs to an unsuspecting public for profit using manipulative advertising. This prospect seems particularly frightening with COVID-19. Absent regulation, many desperate Americans might pay thousands of dollars for an alleged vaccine. An ineffective vaccine could worsen the illness as “vaccinated” persons resumed normal activities.

# PATENTS, PROFITS AND PANDEMICS

A significant body of research by economists demonstrates that reputation works surprisingly well in the market for drugs. Hospitals and insurance companies police manufacturers’ bogus claims. Many free market economists, including me, believe Harris-Kefauver should be repealed. FDA regulation endures because many Americans deeply fear deceitful profiteering.

Let’s take this fear seriously and remove the potential for profit from approval of a COVID-19 vaccine with patent purchases. Purchases will reward medical researchers for their work devising candidate vaccines. The federal government could then devise an expedited testing process, recognizing that each day a vaccine is delayed during a pandemic can cost thousands of lives. We need not fear corporate profit seeking influencing the effectiveness evaluation.

We could hold an expedited approval “tournament” for several candidate vaccines, with selling the patent to the Federal government a condition for inclusion. Eliminating profit might also make human challenge testing more acceptable. In human challenge tests, researchers intentionally expose subjects to the virus after inoculation. The control group receives only a placebo and is thus deliberately infected with a deadly virus. I believe informed consent makes this acceptable, but others may view a drug company profiting from control group deaths as immoral.

Patent purchases should also ensure a vaccine’s affordability. All drug makers could access the formula without paying royalties, so a vaccine’s price should reflect only the normally modest cost of ingredients and manufacture. Competition will keep a vaccine’s price in line with cost. A company charging \$500 for a vaccine that costs only \$100 will get priced out of the market.

I see patent purchases as a win-win situation. Medical researchers get compensated, rewarding of knowledge creation. An expedited approval process could quickly identify an effective vaccine. And an effective vaccine should be as affordable as possible.

*Daniel Sutter is the Charles G. Koch Professor of Economics with the Manuel H. Johnson Center for Political Economy at Troy University and host of Econversations on TrojanVision. The opinions expressed in this column are the author’s and do not necessarily reflect the views of Troy University.*

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



By Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Republican State Executive Committee  
Former State Representative

## Hook, Line and Sinker

After 40 plus years of public service Joe Biden has found a new set of friends and policy advisors, the most radical members of the Democratic Party. This is a terrible sign for all freedom loving Americans. Their overwhelming desire is to transform the United Sates into a socialist nightmare.

He clinched victory in the Democrat Party primary with the help of the “old guard”, the establishment wing of the Democrat Party. Once his nomination became inevitable, the former Vice President immediately began to turn further and further to the left, embracing a political agenda that should terrify all Americans. He has become a true “Bernie BAro”. Of course, Biden’s surrender to the radical left mirrors the progressive takeover of the entire Democratic Party — a coup that is now all but complete

He has promised two actions on his first day in office, the first a job killing executive order banning fracking on Public lands. The is the first step towards the radical left’s plan to ban all fracking. This would devastate our energy independence, cost tens of thousands of American jobs, and return us to dependence on OPEC and Arab sheiks for much of our energy needs. The second would be even more devastating. He would have the US rejoin the Paris Climate Accord. Under its terms the US would be subject to international regulation of our economy. Even worse China would not be subject to the same level of regulation. This would assure China, in a few short years, will overtake the US as the largest economy in the world. Biden would proudly return to the Obama doctrine of leading from behind seeking affirmation of our policies from foreign leaders not the American people.

Biden has specifically commissioned Bernie Saunders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to form the Unity Task Force. They have assembled a 130-page manifesto on how to deconstruct America as we know it. You can find a copy of it on Joe Biden’s official campaign website. They call it his “Party Platform.”

As my good friend fox news contributor and author Harrand Hill stated ‘It would have made Karl Marx proud. The so-called Unity Task Force’ agenda

includes “unprecedented” environmental regulation, a government takeover of healthcare, pathway to citizenship for illegal aliens, and much more.

Biden promises to place Robert Francis O’Rourke as the effective gun czar of a Biden administration. O’Rourke threatens to confiscate millions of firearms from lawful gun owners, including forcible seizures of the most popular rifles in America. Biden sees no threat from the Chinese Communist Party. In a public speech he has stated that “a rising China is a positive, positive development, not only for China, but for America.”

As chaos has spread across Democratic-led cities, Joe Biden remains mostly silent in his Delaware basement. He has repeatedly referred to rioters as “peaceful protesters.” He calls for “re-directing” police funding away from uniformed officers into metal health social workers. He has vowed to overturn Trumps immigration policies including placing a moratorium on deportations his first 100 days in office.

“Joe Biden would be nothing more than an auto pen, a Trojan horse for a radical agenda so radical, so all-encompassing that it would transform this country into something utterly unrecognizable,” Vice President Mike Pence said in a recent speech, warning Americans not to trust the Democratic Party and its presumptive nominee.

Bottom line the Media’s attempt to paint Joe Biden as a moderate is a farce. He has swallowed the radical lefts agenda hook, line, and sinker. We cannot let this happen. A vote for Biden would lead us down the same path as once thriving countries such as Cuba and Venezuela followed into a socialist wasteland. A vote for President Donald Trump is a vote for individual freedom, free market economy and the pursuit of the American Dream.



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by Steve Flowers

## We Have Six Living Past Governors. How Are They Doing?

Some of you may wonder how many past governors we have in Alabama who are still living and how they are doing. We have six living past governors.

**Governor John Patterson** is our oldest living chief executive. Patterson is 99 years old and living on his ancestral family farm in rural Tallapoosa County in an obscure area named Goldville. Patterson is a legend in Alabama politics. He was Governor from 1958-1962 and was at the forefront of the beginning of the Civil Rights issue. He has the distinction of being the only person to beat George Wallace in a governor’s race in the Heart of Dixie. When he was elected in 1958, he was 37-years-old and was dubbed the “Boy Governor.” Patterson was Attorney General of Alabama for a term prior to being governor and served several decades on the Court of Criminal Appeals after his governorship.

He spends his time on his farm reading and tending to his animals. In fact, visitors to his home will find he has a pet goat named Rebecca. She sits and listens intently to your conversation and her head will move and look at those talking as though she is part of the conversation. Governor Patterson is totally on top of his game and has attended numerous weddings and funerals in the past year. He recognizes and converses with friends and relatives.

**Forrest “Fob” James** served two terms as governor, although not concurrently. He was first elected in 1978 as a Democrat, serving 1979-1982, and secondly in 1994 as a Republican serving from 1995-1998. He is the only person in state history to be elected governor as a Democrat and a Republican. Fob is 85 and doing well. He lives primarily in Miami, Florida, and spends his days caring for his wife, Bobbie, and walking.

**Robert Bentley** was one of the most successful and respected dermatologists in the state prior to entering politics. Bentley served two terms in the Alabama House prior to his being elected governor, twice. He was first elected governor in 2010 and reelected, overwhelmingly, in 2014. He served over six years as governor and did a good job. He is 77-years-old and in good health. He has resumed his medical/dermatology practice in Tuscaloosa.

**Bob Riley** served two successful terms as governor. He was elected in 2002 and reelected in 2006, therefore serving as governor eight full years. He is only 75-years-old. He was raised in Clay County, and now lives in Birmingham with his lovely wife, Patsy. He has several lucrative lobbying contracts.

If anyone was ever born to be governor, it was **Don Siegelman**. He was born and raised in Mobile. He went on to the University of Alabama where he was SGA President and then went on to graduate from Georgetown Law School. He served in Alabama politics for 26 years. He was elected Secretary of State, Attorney General of Alabama and Lt. Governor prior to his election as Governor in 1998. He served one term as governor. Siegelman is the last member of the Democratic party as well as the only Roman Catholic to serve as Governor of Alabama.

Don is doing well at 74. I enjoy visiting with him over lunch. He enjoys time with his wife, Lori, and his two grown children, Joseph and Dana and his dog Kona. He has a book out entitled, *Stealing our Democracy*, which is doing well in sales.

Speaking of being born to be governor, **Jim Folsom, Jr.** was literally born in the Governor’s Mansion in May 1949, while his daddy, James “Big Jim” Folsom was governor his first term, 1946-1950. Jim Folsom, Jr. had an illustrious career in Alabama politics. He was elected and served several times as a member of the Public Service Commission and three terms as Lt. Governor, prior to becoming governor in 1993. He did an excellent job as governor and is credited with bringing Mercedes to Alabama.

**Little Jim** was a brilliant politician inherently being the son of the legendary “Big Jim” Folsom. However, most folks say his beautiful wife, Marsha Guthrie, is the better politician of the two. Jim and Marsha are doing well and live in their hometown of Cullman. Their son and daughter are grown and are doing well.

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





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 Montgomery, Alabama 36116

## NEW ONLINE SERVICE FOR REPLACEMENT SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS



The Social Security Administration introduced the expansion of online services for residents of Alabama available through its my Social Security portal at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). Andrew Saul, Commissioner of Social Security, announced that residents of Alabama can use the portal for many replacement Social Security number (SSN) card requests. This will allow people to replace their SSN card from the comfort of their home or office.

"We are here to serve the public and this option helps us improve service by offering a safe, secure, and more convenient choice for doing business with us online," Commissioner Saul said. "I am pleased to offer Alabama residents the added convenience of replacing a Social Security card through the my Social Security portal."

The agency is conducting a gradual roll out of this service; Alabama is one of the many states, including the District of Columbia, where this option is available. Throughout 2020, the agency plans to continue to expand the service option to other states. This service will mean shorter wait times for the public in the more than 1,200 Social Security offices across the country and allows staff more time to work with customers who have extensive service needs.

U.S. citizens age 18 or older and who are residents of Alabama can request a replacement SSN card online by creating a my Social Security account.

In addition, they must have a U.S. domestic mailing address, not require a change to their record (such as a name change), and have a valid driver's license, or state identification card in some participating states.

*My Social Security* is a secure online hub for doing business with Social Security, and about 51 million people have created an account. In addition to Alabama residents replacing their SSN card through the portal, current Social Security beneficiaries can manage their benefits online—change an address,

adjust direct deposit, obtain a benefit verification letter, or request a replacement SSA-1099. Medicare beneficiaries can request a replacement Medicare card without waiting for a replacement form in the mail. Account holders still in the workforce can verify their personal earnings history and obtain estimates of future benefits by looking at their Social Security Statement online.

For more information about this new online service, visit:  
[www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber).

SS CARD REPLACEMENT

NAME CHANGE ON SS CARD

FIRST SS CARD



**Request a Card Replacement** if your card has been lost or stolen, or if you need to update any card information.

**Request a Card Name Change** in case of marriage, divorce, adoption, or self-elected change.

**Request a New SSN Number and Card** for children of 12 years of age or younger.

## MACOA works to keep serving seniors safely during Covid-19.

The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)  
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**Our Mission:** The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues. **TOGETHER WE'VE DELIVERED OVER 4,000,000 MEALS!** And you can help, TOO! MACOA needs volunteers once a week to deliver meals. *If you can help, please call 334-263-0532.*

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<https://www.macoa.org/>

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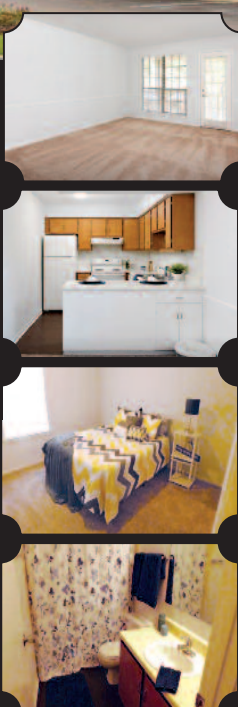
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Sheriff Derrick Cunningham



# Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff's Office

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Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy

Our office is open Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm. Our website [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) is a great source of information, as well as our app! If you haven't downloaded our app, please search your app store for "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" and download it today. Our app is user-friendly and an easy way to inquire about current inmates in the Detention Facility, find out if someone has an active warrant, as well as learn about various programs we offer at our agency.

If you have **Pistol Permit** or civil-related questions (evictions, subpoenas, etc.), please dial **334-832-1335** or **334-832-1337**.

If you have warrant-related questions, please dial **334-832-2579** or **334-832-2516**.

Our **Investigations Unit** will still be actively working, and if you need to speak with someone in that Division, please dial **334-832-2532**.

**Detention Facility Visitation:** Currently, our Detention Facility is closed for person-to-person visitation; however, video visitation is allowed. Additionally, inmates will still have access to the phone system to call their loved ones. As you know, we are doing everything possible to make sure that our inmate population as well as our employees are safe and to minimize exposure to as least as possible.

**Community Relations Events:** As you can imagine with the COVID-19 pandemic, our Community Relations events have been postponed or cancelled. We are monitoring the situation closely so please check back monthly for updates.

## SANITIZE AND STAY ALIVE!

All employees and anyone entering a County building will be required to wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature checked, and practice social distancing.



Photo by aka Kath

## Sheriff's Office APP

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

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County Sheriff" OR
- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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

## Social Media

We are in the process of preparing a new business Facebook page so please excuse our page being down temporarily. You can still visit our Instagram page to stay connected with the latest Sheriff's Office.

As a reminder, please wash your hands regularly, disinfect all public access areas not only at your job but at home as well. Don't forget to clean your hands thoroughly after pumping gas into your vehicle as everyone has to touch the same pump to refuel their vehicle. Finally, try to use your Bluetooth or speakerphone so your cell phone doesn't have to touch your face. These simple techniques could mean a lot!

| Social Media | Search                                          |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Facebook     | .....Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Alabama |
| Instagram    | .....Mcsosal                                    |
| Snapchat     | .....mcsso.alabama                              |
| Twitter      | .....MG_Twitter                                 |



We appreciate your patience during these stressful times.

## Montgomery Reaches Another Grim Milestone as Homicides Continue to Rise

Another sad milestone as the 54th Montgomery homicide occurred Sunday (Aug 16) evening at Oak Park in Montgomery. Homicide is simply one human taking the life of another. The *Gazette* does not limit homicide cases as defined by the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting guidelines. Nor is this report limited to the city limits. Instead, it included the entire county. This overall included two county deaths, one in Ramer (May 20) and the other in Grady (Apr 25). The tally also includes one or more vehicular deaths (Mar 1 and July 1), a stabbing (Apr 14) and a beating (April 12). An MPD employee not on duty was murdered in a domestic case (July 6). Not included is the incident where the MPD returned fire and killed a man who had shot and killed another person (Mar 8). A double homicide where both victims were teenagers occurred off of Hwy 231 below Southern Blvd (Aug 4). Death by other than gunfire is identified.

|        |                                                      |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan 6  | 700 blk of Coliseum Blvd                             |
| Jan 12 | 5900 blk of Monticello Dr                            |
| Jan 17 | 4200 blk Mobile Hwy                                  |
| Jan 18 | 2800 blk of Vaughn Plaza Rd                          |
| Jan 18 | 1500 blk of Mobile Hwy                               |
| Jan 23 | 2300 blk of Stella St                                |
| Jan 30 | 1800 blk of Hillsdale Dr                             |
| Feb 2  | 4000 blk of LH Hamilton Rd                           |
| Feb 11 | 700 blk of Sandra St                                 |
| Mar 1  | Eastern Bypass & Vaughan Rd (vehicular manslaughter) |
| Mar 8  | Greenbrook Dr                                        |
| Mar 9  | 900 blk W South Blvd                                 |
| Mar 11 | 1000 E Blvd (beating- died Apr 12)                   |
| Mar 19 | 2200 Woodley Sq                                      |
| Apr 1  | 2200 blk of Cherry St                                |
| Apr 10 | S Decatur and Arba                                   |
| Apr 14 | Regency Park Comm Ctr (stabbing)                     |
| Apr 18 | 200 blk of E Woodland Dr                             |
| Apr 25 | Community of Grady                                   |
| Apr 26 | 4000 blk of Norman Bridge                            |
| Apr 29 | 1700 blk of Jackson Ferry Rd/Witcher                 |
| May 3  | 1500 blk of Jean St                                  |
| May 6  | 2900 blk McQueen St                                  |
| May 6  | 4400 Danbury Ct                                      |
| May 19 | 1300 blk Woodmere                                    |
| May 19 | Seibles Rd and Narrow Lane                           |
| May 20 | Radio Two Rd N Peake Rd (Ramer)                      |
| May 29 | 3900 Norman Bridge Rd                                |
| May 30 | 700 blk of Grave's St                                |

|         |                                                   |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Jun 2   | 4100 blk Troy Hwy                                 |
| Jun 4   | 5000 blk Woods Crossing                           |
| Jun 5   | N. Panama & Madison                               |
| Jun 9   | 200 blk of Garden Home Circle                     |
| Jun 11  | 1100 blk of Victor Tulane Circle                  |
| Jun 19  | Elmore Cty Hospital (murder ocured in Montgomery) |
| Jun 20  | 1500 blk N Decatur St                             |
| June 28 | 5800 Blk Oakleigh Road nr Regency Park            |
| Jun 29  | 5800 Oakleigh Rd near Regency Prk                 |
| June 30 | Green Ridge Rd                                    |
| July 1  | Carmichael & Towne Place (vehicular / bicycle)    |
| July 4  | 3800 Blk of Old Selma Rd in Catoma Creek          |
| July 6  | 3100 Blk Gentilly Court                           |
| July 6  | 6700 Overview Dr (MPD employee)                   |
| July 10 | 6300 Atlanta Hwy                                  |
| July 13 | 900 blk Queensbury Dr                             |
| July 26 | 2200 blk Fairview Ave                             |
| Aug 2   | 300 blk East Ogden Ave                            |
| Aug 4   | 4700 blk of Park Towne Way (2)                    |
| Aug 6   | 2200 Woodley Square West                          |
| Aug 9   | 3200 blk Harrison Rd                              |
| Aug 14  | 4900 blk of Plaza Dr                              |
| Aug 17  | 1200 blk Bassett Dr                               |
| Aug 17  | Oak Park                                          |

Total for 2020 so far thru August \*\*54\*\*

Total for 2019, 45 victims

Sources: [www.gunviolencearchive.org](http://www.gunviolencearchive.org)  
[www.crimemapping.com](http://www.crimemapping.com)  
[www.montgomeryadvertiser.com](http://www.montgomeryadvertiser.com)

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On August 29th, city leaders gathered at Oak Park, the scene of the latest homicide, to discuss an initiative to promote peace and quell future violence. As city officials looked on, James May, of the Vision Outreach Group, explained very simply that it begins with us, it begins with the home, it begins with the leaders of our community.



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# “THE PEOPLE’S PAPER” THE ALABAMA Bazette

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**Dr. Lester Spencer**

Lead Pastor

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

## Soul Searching

### CRISIS IS A REVEALER:

## You can't control the wind. But you can adjust the sails.

This COVID-19 crisis has revealed a great many things about us. You have probably learned a lot about yourself in the last six months, right? Crisis does that to you. Crisis isn't just an accelerator, it's a revealer showing you some surprising things about yourself - some good, some not so good.

Since COVID struck in mid-March, many of us have seen more than a few habits, wants and preferences revealed. It may be wise to take stock in what we have learned so far.

You never know how much you love something until it is taken away. And for many of us, some of our most dearly held ways of doing life and work have been taken away overnight. Most of us have missed:

- Going to work at the office.
- Seeing our co-workers and friends.
- Attending in-person worship.
- Going out to eat at our favorite restaurants.
- Shopping at our favorite stores.
- Hanging out with our friends.
- Attending Weddings.
- Visiting relatives.
- Flying whenever we want to travel.
- Vacationing wherever we want to go.
- Enjoying a date night out at the movie theatre.

....and the list goes on!

Maybe this crisis has also revealed some not so good things about us as we have been asked to shelter in place, work remotely from home, do schoolwork online, wear masks in public, limit the size of the groups of people we hang out with, spend extraordinary amounts of time with our spouses and kids while stuck in the house (LOL). Through these six months it has been revealed to us that we have:

- Eaten way too much.
- Gained way too much.
- Become a Movie Critic by watching countless hours of Netflix/Prime Video/Hallmark.
- Spent way too much time shopping online or binging on the Shopping Network.
- Fallen asleep and snored in the middle of our tenth Zoom meeting for the week.
- Enjoyed and gotten used to watching church online in our pajamas
- Played countless hours of video games online with some dude from Russia.
- Focused way too much time on the 24/7 news cycle on CNN or Fox News.
- Become so addicted to take out at Krispy Kreme that they know our first name.
- Grown lazy in our pursuit of our best self as we have lived like a hermit in our sweat pants and slippers for six months.

Yes this COVID pandemic has in many ways revealed the different sides of us. Perhaps it has revealed some good things and some growing edges too. While I believe what Denis Leary stated is true: "Crisis doesn't build character; it reveals it." The good news is this - I think it is also true that we can learn from what has been revealed about us during this season of adversity. I believe we can build upon what we have learned about ourselves, IF we will take an honest look in the mirror and take some action steps.

#### First, Be honest with yourself!

You must be willing to take a long hard look at how you are really doing in the midst of this crisis. This may take some time especially if you aren't very good at taking care of yourself or being kind to yourself. Ask - Where are you right now emotionally, physically, spiritually, mentally? What have you really learned about yourself, your life, your business, your schedule, your kids and your relationships? Take some time to reflect on these things. Some of you have been pushing so hard through this crisis and haven't yet paused to reflect plus, on top of that, you are probably just exhausted! Maybe you need a much deserved break, a day off, a vacation or a Sabbatical. Being kind to yourself starts by being honest with yourself!

#### Secondly, Take action steps!

You will need to take some action steps to help you and empower you to move forward. Seek some wise counsel from trusted and experienced friends or colleagues. Or maybe you need to seek out professional help with a Life Coach or a Counselor to assist you in navigating a healthy way forward. You can learn and grow from what has been revealed about you, and you can build on it.

For example, maybe you have learned from working remotely at home that your business doesn't need to buy or rent office space. On the flip side of that coin is that by working remotely from home you may have discovered that you have not been as effective and need to be with your team of co-workers to reach your maximum potential on the job. For students, you may have found out that you learn better in a class room environment and need the socialization with other students to be at your best. Some of you will learn that you need to make some adjustments to your lifestyle and start or get back to a regular exercise routine. Make a list of what your action steps need to be and then intentionally take those steps. Remember this. When a crisis comes, it reveals three kinds of people: The Pessimist. The Optimist. The Realist.

*"A pessimist complains about the wind.  
An optimist hopes it will change.  
A realist adjust the sails."*

*We are in the midst of this pandemic, and we don't know when it will end.  
We can complain about this crisis. Or we can hope it will go away.  
Or we can adjust the sails...  
We can't control the wind ....but we can adjust the sails!*

**Lester Spencer**

Lead Pastor  
Saint James Church

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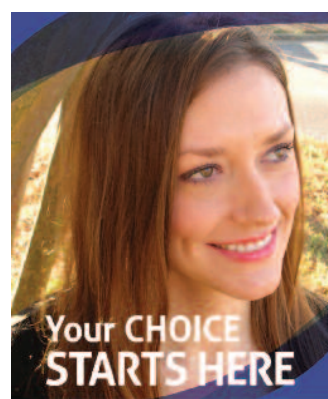
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# Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

## MSgt. Jimmy F. Meacham: Age 84

MSgt. Jimmy F. Meacham served 42 years in the U.S. military including four years in the regular Air Force, 18 years in the Air Force Reserves and 20 years in the AL Air National Guard. He received the following awards and medals: Meritorious Service Medal with Two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, USAF Commendation Medal with One Bronze Oak Leaf, USAF Achievement Medal with One Bronze Oak Leaf, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, USAF Recognition Medal, Korean Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Air Force Combat Readiness Medal with Bronze Oak Leaf, USAF NCO PME Graduation Medal, USAF Outstanding Unit Award with One Bronze Oak Leaf and Armed Forces Expert Markman Medal. In 2019, the South Korean ambassador came to Montgomery and presented the Ambassador for Peace Medal to him and others who had served there.



Meacham was born May 5, 1936, at Roanoke, AL, to his parents, Alvin Howard Meacham and Rena Odessa Meacham. He was reared in Roanoke, Talladega and Clanton, AL, graduating from Chilton County High School in 1954. After high school graduation, he voluntarily enlisted in the U. S. Air Force reporting for duty at Montgomery, AL, followed by Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), in TX, and at Chanute AFB in IL for 16 months where he was trained in computer technology for use in the intelligence field which was top-secret. Meacham was deployed to Clark ABF in the Philippines where he served 19 months including 12 months

that he volunteered to serve with a seven-man U. S. Marine Corps Reconnaissance Squad. After 16 weeks of U. S. Marine Corps Boot Camp and recon training while in the Philippines, Meacham completed 10 clandestine recon missions into N. Korea often being inserted by submarine and small two-man boats. Disclosure of any intelligence gained on these missions is still highly classified. Disclosure could have been punishable by courts martial. Meacham departed Clark AFB in April, 1958.



Meacham transferred to the Air Force Reserves at Birmingham, AL where he continued writing intelligence reports for the military. In September, 1976, Meacham transferred to the AL Air National Guard Base at Dannelly Field at Montgomery, AL, where he was the operator and supervisor with the Photographic Processing and Interpreting Facility of the 160th Tactical Recon. In 1982, the unit transitioned from reconnaissance to the 187th Fighter Squadron in which he served in the weapons branch as crew chief and supervisor. He was named Quality Control Supervisor for the Weapons Branch in 1991, and he served in this capacity until his retirement in 1996. Before retirement, Meacham served 90 days on Incirlik AB in Turkey during Operation Desert Storm where he served as Weapons Branch Chief as an Air Force Augmentee.

Meacham and his wife, Myra, have been married 64 years, and they have one child, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Since his military retirement, he has been an active member of the Eastmont Baptist

Church of Montgomery where he has served as a deacon. In addition, Meacham voluntarily served during 2003-2018 as an active law enforcement chaplain with the River Region Chaplain Service counseling police, deputies and firefighters in the Montgomery area. He also enjoys fishing and hunting deer, turkey and squirrels.

Meacham concludes about his military service saying, “When I was involved with the Marine Boot Camp training, I learned more than I have learned since. They trained us to be part of a team or to act on our own. They just let me know what I was capable of becoming, and it was a unique experience. To me, it was the highlight of my life. When I first went into the Air Force, I was taught about computers and the intelligence part which was unique. The military taught me self-reliance, and I just enjoyed it. It gave me focus and a purpose to my life.”

## Lt Col Edward G. Platt Jr.: Age 87

Lt Col Edward G. Platt Jr. served 23 years as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force including tours in Vietnam and Venezuela as well as serving as a professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy. He received the following medals and awards: Air Medal, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Commendation Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic Vietnam Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Republic Vietnam Gratuity Citation, Meritorious Service Medal (AF) Retirement.



Lt Col Platt was born May 2, 1933, at Ft. Lauderdale, FL, to his parents, Edward G. Platt Sr. and Jane Katherine, and he was reared there graduating in 1951 from Ft. Lauderdale High School. In 1955, he graduated from Sewanee: The University of the South, with a B.A. Degree in Mathematics and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant

in the U. S. Air Force. Lt Col Platt began active duty January 2, 1956. Platt spent his first month in Preflight Training at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, TX, followed by Primary Pilot Training in the T-34 and T-28 at Spence Air Base in Moultrie, GA, and then to Goodfellow AFB in San Angelo, TX, for Basic Pilot Training in flying the multi-engine B-25. He remained at Goodfellow to serve as an instructor for 2.5 years followed by an assignment at Bartow AFB in Bartow, FL, for two years serving as a military training instructor and check pilot at a primary pilot training wing in the T-37 twin engine jet trainer. Lt Col Platt was sent to Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, AL, for a three-month assignment at the Squadron Officer’s School. In 1961, Lt Col Platt graduated from Florida State University with a Master’s Degree in Mathematics followed by his teaching mathematics at the U.S. Air Force Academy for five years.

While still in FL, Lt Col Platt suffered a serious back injury when flying with another pilot in the two-seater, single engine jet trainer, T-33, to get his monthly required flight time completed. At 40,000 feet, the plane’s engine failed, and after a glide for about 20 minutes, the two pilots ejected just in time parachuting. Remaining in a body cast for six weeks, he healed enough to resume flying.

Lt Col Platt’s 14 month-service in 1967-1968 in the Vietnam War included his flying the C-130 Hercules four engine turbo-prop cargo aircraft on

supply missions. He completed combat crew training in TN practicing dropping cargo loads from high and low altitudes, and this was followed by survival training at Fairchild AFB in Washington. Lt Col Platt flew the unloaded C-130 from his home base at Taiwan to Vietnam where for three weeks each time, he flew cargo from three bases in Vietnam to Marines and Army personnel at other bases in Vietnam and also served as the liaison officer.

Lt Col Platt returned to teaching mathematics at the U.S. Air Force Academy for three years. He then served as the liaison officer with the Venezuelan Air Force for three years. His last assignment was at Gunter Air Station (Gunter Annex: Maxwell AFB) in Montgomery, AL, for three years where he worked in the Extension Course Institute (ECI) and became the Deputy Commander and the Commander, retiring December 31, 1978.

Lt Col Platt’s conclusions about his military service are, “Serving my county meant everything to me. I was very excited about being wherever I was.”

In 1977, Lt Col Platt and Lew Shaffer became the Founders and Directors of Son Shine, an evangelistic ministry. For 25 years, these two men and their wives, Barbara Platt and Sandy Shaffer, devoted their lives to full time Christian ministry through Son Shine Ministries, an organization based on Core Values and eight Commitments namely, to follow Biblical Truth in Scripture, to Love God, to Acknowledge Our Dependence upon God, to Engage in Process-Based Ministry, to Help Strengthen Couples, to Help Strengthen Families, to Support God’s Work through Churches and to Honor God by our Use of Time and Resources. Platt went on missionary missions to the Philippines in March, 1997, and to Vietnam in February, 1998. The ministry involved conducting weekend seminars for married couples and families at churches in the USA and at chapels at military bases throughout the world.

Lt Col Platt and his wife, Barbara, have been married 63 years, and they have two children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. They have been active in service to others at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church in Montgomery, AL.



Our Veterans love reading the *The Alabama Gazette!*

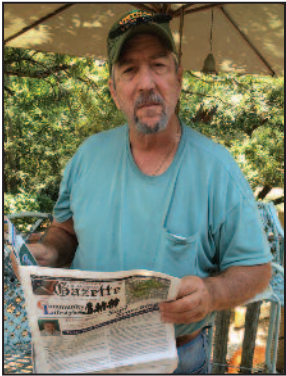
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## Lt Col Donald Lee Applegarth: Age 82

Lt Col Donald Lee Applegarth served in the U. S. Army for 20 year including one tour in Vietnam. He received the following awards and medals: Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Joint Service Commendation and Army Commendation Medal with First Oak Leaf Cluster.

Lt Col Applegarth was born August 30, 1938, to his parents, Leroy and Delpha Applegarth, in Waldron, AR. He was reared there by his grandmother, Mrs. Ida Bobbitt. He accepted Jesus Christ as his personal savior in March, 1950, in the First Baptist Church. After graduating from Waldron High School in 1956, he was given a scholarship from the Baptist Church to attend Ouachita Baptist College where he graduated from Ouachita Baptist College (Ouachita Baptist University) with a B.A. Degree in Business Administration. He completed the Advanced Army ROTC program, and during his senior year, he served as the Cadet Colonel of the ROTC unit and was designated as a Distinguished Military Graduate in 1960.

Lt Col Applegarth began his military service June 9, 1960, and attended the University of Arkansas for one year where he studied Business Administration in the graduate program. He then reported for duty to the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, GA, where he completed the Infantry Officer School and the Ranger School in December 1961. Next, he reported to Ft. Dix, NJ, for transportation on the troop ship, the USNS Darby, to Gelnhausen, Germany, for duty with the 48th Infantry, 2nd Armored Rifle Battalion, 3rd Armored Division. This assignment was shortly after the building of the wall separating East and West Germany. In the 48th Infantry, he first served as a 81mm mortar Platoon Leader. During this assignment, he was tested for the Expert Infantry Badge, and he was one of 18 who passed among the 302 Infantrymen who took the test. He also served as the battalion Personnel Officer which prepared him to serve as the Combat Command B Adjutant where he completed his detail as an Infantry Officer. In May 1963, he received orders for service in the Berlin Brigade Finance and Accounting Office. At this time, Berlin was divided into four districts with each under the control of Russia, Britain, France or the USA. During this assignment, he served as the Disbursing Officer, Accounting Division Chief and finally as the Finance and Accounting Office.

Returning to the USA in July 1965, he was assigned to Fort Benjamin Harrison, IN, at the US Army Finance School for attendance to the Finance

Officer Basic Course. After the completion of this course, he was assigned to the Finance School as an Instructor in the Data Processing Division. He studied the Auto coder Language at the IBM Education Center and also studied Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL). He taught ADP classes for two years. He was sent to Vietnam in August 1968 for almost one year serving as the financial analyst at MACV Headquarters. Returning to the USA in August 1969, he reported to Fort Lesley J. McNair in Washington, D.C. where he served in several financial positions supporting the Army Comptroller including one year on the Army Staff. While there, in 1973, he graduated from The George Washington University with a Master's Degree in Automatic Data Processing. He then completed education at the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, in 1973 followed by assignment for three years to Fort Polk, LA, where he served as the Installation Finance and Accounting Officer and Division Finance Officer and was promoted to the rank of LTC. In 1976, he was in the Office of the Comptroller in the Defense Logistics Agency for two years and then in the U.S. Army Military Personnel Center for two years where he was responsible for assigning LTCs to various positions within the US and overseas.

In December 1980, he retired from military service and began his civilian career with Electronic Data Systems (EDS) which became Hewlett Packard late in his career. During 1980-1996, he performed on numerous contracts with various agencies of the U.S. Government including the U.S. Army, US Postal Service, Department of Defense, U.S. Air Force, US Department of Transportation and the US Department of Education. In 1997, he moved to Montgomery to continue working on the Student Loan Account with the Federal Department Education and managed various parts on this contract until his retirement at the end of August 2012, after almost 32 years with EDS/HP.

Lt Col Applegarth has three sons and seven grandchildren from a previous marriage. His wife, Linda, and he have been married 36 years and he serves as a stepfather to her two children and step-grandfather to her two grandchildren. He enjoys reading, watching sports and exercising, and he is member of the Eastmont Baptist Church where he serves as an administrative deacon and as a substitute Sunday School teacher. He has developed close friendships in each church where ever he has been a member.

Lt Col Applegarth concludes about his military service saying, "I was proud to serve my country. The many friendships that were developed during my service are among the best that I have, and they have continued."

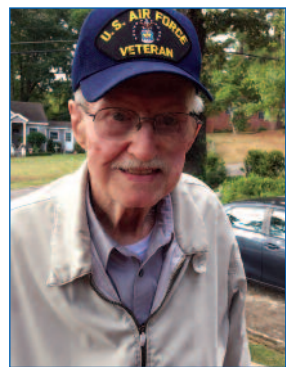
## Honoring Veterans who have passed ...

*Jesse C. Perkins passed away August 7*

Perkins served as an Air Policeman (now Security Police) in the U. S. Air Force for over 14 year. He was born July 18, 1932, and passed away on August 7, 2020 at age 88.

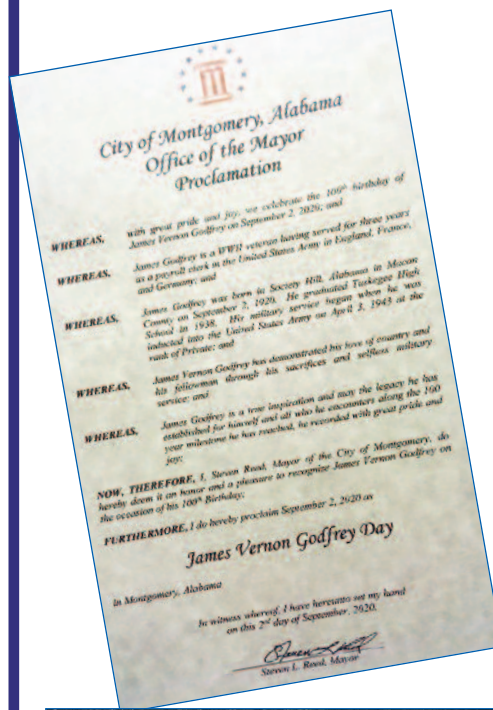
Perkins was married to his first wife, Beverly Jean Hart, for 53 years until she passed away, and they had three children, five grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. His second wife, Donna, and he were married over 11 years. During retirement, Perkins has remodeled houses, fished and traveled to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

Jesse Perkins was featured in the November 2019 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



## James Vernon Godfrey turned 100!

On September 2nd, to commemorate this momentous occasion, the Montgomery Police Department conducted a drive-by parade in front of his home in his honor. In addition, Mayor Steven Reed issued a special proclamation declaring Sept. 2nd as "James Vernon Godfrey Day" in Montgomery. Please join us at *The Gazette* in wishing him a very happy birthday!



## Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

**James Vernon Godfrey: Sept. 2nd**

**Herman Naron: Sept. 5th**

**Robert Wesley Marcus: Sept. 6th**

**Leo M. Headley: Sept. 17th**

**John Lakeos: Sept. 18th**

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# Southern Cuisine

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

*Our economy depends on cash flow. Our farmers, ranchers and other small businesses need as much help as we can afford. Buy local and help your fellow Alabamians. Also, don't forget to donate to your local food bank whenever possible!*



*A common topic for food websites, particularly during the heat of summer, is foods to avoid during a heat wave. I do not necessarily disagree with some of their reasoning, but to me the first thing I want to eat during the summer months is something cold. You can guess I want just the opposite during winter. This is not a hard and fast rule but that is usually my first choice. A common food types to avoid during hot weather according to these websites are spicy foods. I would have to quit eating during the summer. I make my salads spicy. Every salad I make has a spicy dressing, fresh sliced peppers, and a spicy flavored vinegar. I'm making a cayenne pepper infused white wine vinegar right now. I even have a hot honey. There is a thought that actually drinking something hot, like tea, will cool you down. The fine print to that*

*theory is you have to be wearing light clothing and be in a hot dry climate. The dry part negates that theory for anyone living around here. I'll stick to my sweet tea.*

*I am narrowing down my offerings this time to sauces, dressings and condiments. Cold ones at that. In one of the recipes there is some heating involved but kept to a minimum, like melting butter. But of course, I came across a cold soup that I am interested in trying, and yes, it is a spicy cold soup. So back to the butter, this recipe is for a dressing on a spinach salad. You can pick what other ingredients you put in your spinach salad but give this dressing a try. Most recipes for spinach salad have a bacon dressing.*

*So first up, is a brown butter dressing ...*

## WARM BROWN BUTTER DRESSING

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 tablespoons
- (2 ounces) unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon honey
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar



Photo by Sarah E Crowder, the *kitchn.com*

### METHOD:

1. Heat the butter in a small saucepan or skillet over medium heat.
2. Once the butter has melted, begin whisking and continue cooking until it becomes light brown and smells nutty, about 3 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and whisk in the mustard, honey, and vinegar until emulsified.
4. Drizzle the warm dressing over the salad, toss to combine, and serve immediately.

Other recipes for dressings that are mayonnaise based can be tweaked by using a flavored mayonnaise. The possibilities are endless. Dijon mayo, Chive mayo, and Horseradish, Herb, Dill, Black Pepper, Honey Mustard, and Sun-dried Tomato mayonnaise to name a few.

Peanut butter is one of my all-around favorite foods. It can be spread on white bread to be enjoyed by kids everywhere. It can be used as a shaving cream and mouse trap bait. It can be used as an ice cream cone sealant (a dab at the bottom of the cone will keep the melting ice cream from leaking out the bottom.) I saw a website that had different concoctions of a peanut butter and something else sandwich. There was cream cheese and peanut butter spread that when combined with lettuce and tomato, you have a lunchtime meal. The spread between two slices of French toast with sliced fruit, you have breakfast.

So, it is only fitting that you make a peanut butter sauce.

## PEANUT BUTTER SAUCE

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1/2 cup natural peanut butter, unsweetened (only two ingredients: peanuts & salt)
- 2 tablespoons tamari soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons sriracha or any sweet chili sauce
- 1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
- 3 garlic cloves minced fine
- 1 teaspoon ginger powder or same amount of minced ginger
- 2-4 tablespoons warm water



Photo by Anne Spooner

### METHOD:

1. Combine all ingredients except water. Whisk to fully combine.
2. Add water, 1 tablespoon at a time, until desired consistency is reached.

*I found some frozen spring rolls at Costco that this sauce is made for!*

My garden has shrunk over the years. I had high expectations when I first started a garden in my yard. Three rows wide and about twenty feet long. Even tried to grow corn. Now it's down to three large garden pots and four smaller ones. The three large pots are tomatoes and in the smaller pots are two poblano plants and some beautiful bushy basil plants. With the large basil plants I have, my best bet is to make pesto and freeze it. Try it with this next recipe!

## BASIL PESTO

*There are not many variations of a basil pesto recipe. About the only ingredient that changes are the nuts. Some people use almonds, some walnuts. But I did read an article discussing blanching the basil or using it raw. I read that blanching gave the pesto a deeper green color but the raw basil pesto had more flavor. So, it is raw basil today. If you like a smooth pesto, stream the oil into the running food processor. For a slightly coarser pesto pulse in the ingredients but add the oil at the end and pulse until everything is just combined.*



Photo by Anne Spooner

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 cloves garlic
- 6 cups fresh basil leaves
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2/3 cup pine nuts (walnuts may be substituted)
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup extra-virgin olive oil

### METHOD:

1. In a food processor, finely chop the garlic.
2. Add basil leaves and chop until fine.
3. Add cheese, pine nuts, salt, and pepper; pulse until the consistency of a coarse paste.
4. With the food processor running, slowly pour olive oil through the feed tube and continue mixing until the oil is completely combined with paste.
5. Store in airtight container in refrigerator for up to one week.

Pesto freezes well. Freeze in ice cube trays, and then store frozen pesto cubes in plastic freezer bags in freezer for up to 6 months. Pesto may also be frozen in small jars or plastic containers for up to 9-12 months.

As I was saying about a cold soup, this hits the spot. Easy to make, bright, spicy, and satisfying.

## SPICY CUCUMBER-AVOCADO SOUP

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 firm-ripe California avocado
- 1 other avocado for garnish
- 1 3/4 English cucumbers (1 1/2 lbs), cut into 1/2-inch pieces
- 1 (8-ounce) plain low-fat yogurt (1 cup)
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh chives
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- 1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
- 1 chopped fresh jalapeño with seeds (amount according to taste)
- 1 cup small ice cubes

*Garnish: diced avocado*

### METHOD

1. Peel and pit avocado.
2. Blend all ingredients in a blender until very smooth, about 1 minute.
3. Serve immediately.



Photo by Anne Spooner

## And from the “Everything you know is wrong” department.

*There are vegetables that are healthier to eat cooked than eaten raw. Even if mushrooms are not really vegetables, they are higher in vitamin C and other antioxidants when quickly steamed or microwaved. Cooking broccoli increases vitamin E. And cooking tomatoes increases the availability for your body to use the lycopene in the tomatoes. Cooking bell peppers increases the pepper's ability to bind bile acids which helps to lower cholesterol. And cooking spinach breaks down the leaves cell walls thus releasing vitamin E and beta-carotene for your body to soak up.*

*And we end with a dressing, a sauce, a pesto and a soup. Course One – Hors d'oeuvres: Use the pesto for your hors d'oeuvres, such as a bruschetta. Course Two – Amuse-bouche: Cucumber-avocado soup served in a shot glass or espresso cup. Course Three: Use the dressing on your salad. For the Main Course: use the peanut sauce for your chicken satay or spring rolls. There, you have your next meal. All you have to decide on is dessert. May I suggest a Honey Bourbon Peach Galette.*

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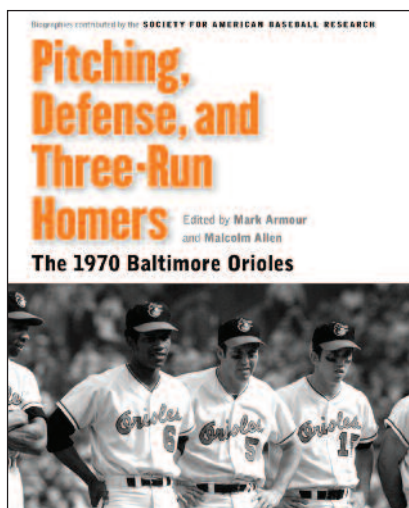
**Stan Hurst***Associate Sports Writer*

Never in our lifetimes have we seen the Sports World turned upside-down and inside-out.

I find myself disjointed from the sports world. It's difficult to analyze any of the teams we follow in the normal pattern of past experience. I have to shrug my shoulders at the attempts to do so; it's almost delusional. So I'll not write about position players and depth charts and potential recruits. It's frankly indecorous to report in this fashion.

The NBA is playing in a bubble to protect players from the COVID infection. I've stopped watching and I've stopped following the NBA. Recently there was a walk out to display solidarity with some of the protests going on in America today. My thoughts on this situation are that these millionaires playing in the NBA should separate themselves from the game and support and protest as they see fit. Play the games, and then protest and show solidarity all they want. The facts are the NBA is living off television revenue; as no fans are allowed. Fans are not allowed to attend for the 2020 and the 2021 season. The players should be mindful of these facts. With ratings for NBA games in the tank, the next television contract will likely not be nearly as lucrative.

MLB is alive and sufficiently interesting enough to watch all the games available. Fans are not allowed to attend the games and similar to the NBA, Major League Baseball is living off television revenue. I'm watching all the games I can schedule in my day using the MLB network. The games are exciting, and MLB seems to have a good handle on the game. The 60-game schedule is close to the end, with 14 games left. The Rays, the Athletics, Indians and White Sox are leading the American League.

Photo by: *Amazon.com*

NCAA Football is alive, but on life support. We will be missing the Big 10 and the PAC 12 this season. It appears the SEC is sticking with the Conference only games, with a maximum fan attendance of 20 percent plus or minus a percentage point or two. And tailgating is prohibited. Alabama opens its season with an away game at Missouri. Auburn starts off at home against Kentucky. Both games are scheduled for September 26th. At the time of this writing it sure appears the SEC has a reasonably good handle on the conference.

And of course there is a lot of lunacy going on in the NCAA world. Texas in the Big Twelve conference recently announced draconian measures with its Football program. Texas is eliminating more than 70 coaching positions; those remaining are getting a compensation reduction of fifteen percent. When I was in the automotive industry, we referred to that as "getting a haircut." Tom Herman the head coach is looking at a pay reduction of more than \$800,000



# From Pigskins to Rawhides

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



## Playing by the COVID-19 Rules



*Sadly, most of the stadiums across the country will remain virtually void of fans in the months to come as communities and competitors enforce COVID-19 guidelines.*  
Photo by Andy Shaffer, *Freeimages.com*

dollars. Now I'm not the smartest guy in the room, unless I was at Texas. Pay cuts result in poor performance; and I am confident that no one is exempt from this malady.

I have personally experienced in getting "hair cut" during the 1979-1980 recession. I guess we finally understand the meaning of "Hook Em Horns."

I think the conference only schedule in the SEC will be amazing to watch. I plan to watch every game. I think at the end of the season, it won't be who's undefeated, rather who has enough players to play. The SEC is the toughest conference and this will be like a NASCAR race from the old days; everybody is banged up. And just as a final thought; how can Ohio State be ranked number one in the first polls, but they are not playing anyone. Now, they rarely play "anyone" with most non-conference games coming from Cup Cake U. But they are really not playing any games this season. But they are ranked number one?

The NFL appears to have a solid plan with the season starting in two weeks. Looking at it now, I believe we will have four kids from Auburn and Alabama as starting quarterbacks. Tua at Miami, Jalen at the Eagles, and either Cam Newton or Jarret Stidham starting for New England. For what it's worth, my money is on Cam.

At the moment, New England and Green Bay have plans to allow fans to attend the games, at twenty percent capacity at their respective stadiums. Currently most of the teams are not allowing fans, however I suspect that's a very fluid situation.

For all of these professional as well as NCAA teams, it's going to be a bumpy ride this season. As 2020 has shown us, nothing is like it used to be, nothing is normal, and everyday has surprises.

### Next Time . . .



*Pictured above is Gaylord Family Oklahoma Memorial Stadium, also known as Owen Field on the campus of the University of Oklahoma. Roaring crowds such as these will not be seen nor heard this football season as COVID-19 has forced teams to put in place very strict rules for attendance both in the stadiums and out in the parking lots. Many are not allowing tailgating this season – A time-honored tradition of countless students and alumni that will certainly dampen the spirits of this year of fans everywhere.*

Photo by Mike McKee, *Freeimages.com*

**Judge Peggy Givhan**

alone, outside in the sunshine and fresh air. No need for masks here. So the healthiest hobby right now in the United States, I say, would be gardening.

I think this year, more than others, we should express patriotism and national unity, by displaying flags, colorful bunting on porches, balloons, and perhaps red, white and blue wreaths on our front doors. And of course we can express the American theme through flowers in pots and in flowerbeds.

In past articles, I believe I have focused on the shady garden, and I want to mention that these can be as spectacular as a garden in the full blazing hot sun. For one thing, the shade garden is more comfortable to work in. One time, I took an outdoor thermometer and placed it in the shade and then changed it to a sunny location. I was amazed that there was 17 degrees difference between the two areas. This year, I concentrated on my shady beds and believe they were totally successful. I created a serpentine style border to highlight masses of lime wizard coleus with blocks of a variegated hosta and royal standard hosta in the back. On either end of the flowerbed were a couple of extra large terracotta pots, 28-30" in diameter, which were filled with bright pink impatiens. This set the stage for some sparkle. Another semi-shady bed was planted with pink caladiums with green veins, which are super simple to grow and to maintain. Just wait to plant bulbs in late May, and water daily until they emerge from the soil. Because they create immediate shade onto the ground as they grow, one does not have any weeds. Throughout the extreme heat of the summer, just make sure they get watered daily.

## Southern Gardening

*Potpourri for September*

*by Peggy Givhan*

### PLANT OF THE MONTH—LILIES OF THE NILE



*Photo by The Marmot*

Lilies of the Nile or Agapanthus africanus have delightful blue-to-lavender flower stalks rising above dark green strap like leaves. This plant had been established in the lily family, but later was given its own family, Agapanthaceae. It hails from Africa, and South Africa is the only place that this lily occurs naturally.

Also known as the African lily, it is fragrant, blooms from mid summer through late fall and makes a wonderful cut flower. It does need fertilizer in the early spring and is hardy from zone 7 to zone 10. It was discovered and brought to Europe in the 1600s, where it was quickly dispersed to the world. I grow mine in pots, and just mulch heavily in the winter.

**Good Gardening  
and  
Happy Labor Day**













Patricia Killough  
Community Editor

# HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com)

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

## September Birthdays

- 
- 1 Joe Boyd (81st)

2 John Hannon

3 Dian Majors  
Leslie Riley

4 Jimmy Dick  
Gary French  
Tim Riley  
Britney Williams

5 Joyce Moore (80th)

6 Ethleen Bazzell (81st)  
Bonnie Edwards  
Diana Elliott  
C. J. Faulk (86th)

7 Tanner Grant  
Richard Kirksey  
Ruby Law (67th)

8 Adam Broadway

9 Kendra Devon Lamar  
Jesse Southern (96th)

10 Terry Dotherow

11 Traci Weafer

12 Catherine Jane Grubbs (14th)  
Brian Hudson

13 Donna Mulcahy  
Debbie Partridge (63rd)

14 Elaine Webb  
Amanda Whitfield (36th)

15 Shannon Flores (48th)

16 Phyllis McCalman  
Dick Payson (86th)

17 Mike (Pete) Moore  
Mandy Stringer (17th)

18 Don Dawkins  
Dale Jones  
Jace McClelland (7th)  
Betty Russell  
Eddie Spivey

19 Beth Cline  
Bobby Hudson

20 Lynn Davis  
Carol Hudson

21 Marlee Day Smith (11th)  
Kristen Taylor  
Sarah Kate Taylor

22 Bertha Reagan Bell  
Tom Garlington  
David Webb

23 Era Hall  
Kirksey Jones

24 Barbara Berg  
Ava Catherine Crowe (12th)  
Lynda Maddox  
Catherine Preston  
Chrystal Rahn  
R. J. Seevers

25 Brenda Abrams  
Linda Abrams  
Marilyn Blair (98th)  
Rocene Fowler  
Betty Gafford  
Sue Meredith  
Baxter Moseley (25th)

26 Emily Lamar (98th)  
Barbara Mitchell  
Frances Smith (104th)

27 Roy Stephens (91st)

29 Elvin Stanton

30 Scott Borders (58th)  
Lydia Brown  
Kim Butler  
Susan Feaga  
Hunter O’Neal (16th)  
Mike Smith

Happy Anniversary

2 Joe & Jean Douglas

3 Howard & Martha Stripling

4 Don & Barbara White

6 Thomas & Louise Light

7 Gary & Lyda Crowe  
Ralph & Brenda Davis  
Steve & Paige Stringer

10 Mike & Linda Reynolds

14 Terry & Tammy Boyd (2nd)

16 Skip & Connie Mainor (3rd)

17 Andy & Lori Meadows

18 James & Sarah Glass (10th)

20 Jason & Stephanie Selvage (17th)

21 Tony & Janie Drake

22 James & Sherry Tucker

24 Larry & Linda Browder  
Jimmy & Linda Perdue (51st)

25 Chuck & Betty Holmes (38th)

26 Jose' & Susan Guevara

28 Morgan & Ashley James  
Chris & Kelley Grantham

## Remembering Ed ...

This time of year is bittersweet. For more than a decade, readers of *The Alabama Gazette* looked forward to the fall and what Ed would say next ... would his predictions be spot on again?

This year we can’t help but wonder if Ed is rolling over in his grave. What would he say about the overwhelming changes and challenges facing college football.

What is football without Tailgating? So The Big 10 finally has a legitimate excuse to run scared of the Tide and other SEC teams?

Ed would have really had some powerful words about this whole Pandemic and how it has interrupted more than a century of tradition.

As we prepare this issue for press, it is truly bittersweet at this office. As diehard football fans, this will be an interesting fall. But moreso, this staff is missing the tapping of Ed’s electronic type-writer, interpreting Ed’s handwritten corrections, Ed walking in with a cheerful tune, and Ed napping on The Gazette sofa.



So we dedicate what there is of this football season to you and your lasting memories, Ed. At least now, you can be at every game and sit at every 50-yard line.

And, Ed, if you have any influence whatsoever, please send Alabama a kicker!



## Sweet Miss Bobbie ...

Readers this past year have surely missed Miss Bobbie’s Educational column as much as we have missed having her around the office. We wanted her followers to know that Miss Bobbie is doing very well. Every few weeks, we answer the phone to hear her sweet voice. She always asks after Ms. Loretta and let’s us know how much she still enjoys *The Gazette* each month.

For those who cherished Miss Bobbie’s knowledge and wisdom as much as the rest of us, be sure to order a copy of her book, *Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage* (see bottom page 3B to order your copy.)

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

- Dzialo, Mark Andre (56) .....July 15
- Pate, Allen “Sharkey” (85) .....July 24
- May, Willie Jean Caro (87).....July 25
- Wilson, Betty Sue (73) .....July 25
- Vollenweider, Beatrice “Betty” Mary Stann (83) .....July 26
- Vinzant Jeffrey Pat (59) .....July 28
- Davis, Lila Lee Sides Carmack (96) .....July 29
- Chambers, Billie Davis (94) .....August 1
- Johnson, Robert “Bob” Clinton (93) .....August 1
- McLaran, Doris Lynette Matthews (93) .....August 1
- Pool, Benjamin “Ben” Erwin (74) .....August 1
- Shegon, Gail Stewart (82) .....August 3
- Coker, Carol Sue Brown (76) .....August 4
- Armstrong, Rev. Larry Edward (81) .....August 5
- Lane, Janice Barber (85) .....August 8
- Bagwell, Susan Crow (78) .....August 12
- Blake, Thomas “Tom” Louis (63) .....August 12
- Smart, Anne Nipper (99) .....August 12
- Wood, J.E. (77) .....August 12

- Butler, Donald “Don” Ray (64)\* .....August 14
- Sellers, Mary Claire Watson (92) .....August 14
- Stephenson, Jr., Cecil “Keith” (68) .....August 14
- Guthrie, Sr., Donald “Don” Gregg (88) .....August 15
- Sharpe, Jamie Wingard (94) .....August 15
- Trump, Robert (71) .....August 15
- Patterson, Carolyn Crawford (65) .....August 16
- Gibson, Mazie Barnes (84) .....August 18
- Spinks, James Harrison “Harry” (92) .....August 18
- Taylor, James “Jimmy” Milton (80) .....August 20
- Nolen, Lt. Col., USAF (ret) Rodney “Rod” Stephen (73) .....August 22
- Reinhardt, Sr., James “Jim” Michael (91) .....August 23
- Melton, James “Keith” (69) .....August 24
- LaSaine, Dorothy Bogan (93) .....August 25
- Pouncey, Voncile “Bonnie” (84) .....August 27
- Moore, Willodine “Dean” Kent (89) .....August 28

\* Paula Jean Butler (86) passed September 15, 2019, and she had previously been laid to rest in Smyrna, Georgia but was brought to Alabama to be placed next to her son, Don Butler.

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

In Memory Of

Mary Gilliland.....August 30

Thomas Hooks.....August 28

Virginia Moody.....August 26

Kenya Barfield.....August 25

Donald Rawe.....August 20

Vernon Roberts.....August 19

Steven Durbin.....August 17

Janice Barnes.....August 16

Paul Anderson.....August 10

Samuel “Sam” Gibbons.....August 8

Donnie Wallace.....August 4

Mary Stephenson.....July 31



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## Tears and Laughter: Some of My Best Friends Are People!

By Amanda Walker

Personally, I started thinking things were getting out of balance in the pet department when they put refrigerators at the end of the pet food aisle to keep the latest dog food cold. I mean, I am all for feeding the animals fresh food, but where does it stop? Or does it?

People love their pets. I am no exception. My dog, Buddy Rogers, is a fine dog...although I am not exactly sure what kind of dog he is. It seems pretty obvious that he has a fair amount of pit in him. I say that mainly because of the shape of his fat head. But he also has a few bird dog tendencies. He will point. His nose will be aimed and his back straight and his tail pointed, and he will have one of his front feet raised looking all frozen. He won't necessarily be pointed at birds, it may be a squirrel in a tree or sometimes maybe a lizard or a frog.

I refer to Buddy Rogers as my companion animal. He hangs close to me at all times – usually he is passed out asleep, but near. I trip over him often, but he is a good listener and never complains about what I watch on TV. We like the same music, and he seems to like talk radio as much as I do. But Buddy will occasionally go hunting with my son's dog, a Treeing Walker Coonhound named Lurleen B. Walker. The B stands for Belle, which we call her. She doesn't acknowledge it in anyway. She ignores most commands completely, but she has a very sweet disposition. She will stand at the bottom of a tree with Buddy Rogers when he points to show me a squirrel, but she will not tree the squirrel. She will not rare up on a tree for a squirrel. But deep in the night, far in the woods, you can hear her strike. She can throw her head back and howl with the best.

My husband has a normal dog. I can't remember the name on the papers because it is German, but we call him Tank. He is huge and solid black and strong. Like most Shepherds he is watchful. He is looking, even if he chooses not to react. When he barks his tone has meaning. He has a commanding presence. People are afraid of him, but all of the other dogs like him. He...is a good dog. But let it thunder or an airplane fly over and he crumbles like a cookie. He will practically tear down a door to get inside. He needs medication, but we love him.

There are three types of dogs around the Walker residence. Those that show up and never leave, those we adopt, and those we pay too much money for... like my daughter's dog Charlie. I do not want to say that a dog is worthless. But Charlie is a Shih Tzu, and the best I can tell so far, Charlie is worthless. The animal is spoiled. He expects treats. He is so little you have to be careful not to step on him. He darts back and forth through rooms in the house at full speed like a cat. He's picky. He gets hot too easy. He has too much hair and he is clingy. He does not have the intelligence of Tank, he is not a strong listener like Buddy Rogers, and he can't hunt or howl. I am not even sure he can bark. But he has this stupid little grin that will completely melt your heart, and that somehow makes him worth it. All of the dogs get along well, except for Buddy Rogers who is not a fan of Charlie. Never has been. He has not been willing to stay in the same room with him since his he got here three months ago.

I want to get a picture for Christmas cards of the four of us with our dogs. I want the front porch decorated and everybody dressed festive. I have been working with the dogs trying to get them used to posing out there together, and things are really progressing. I just need to figure out how to get Buddy Rogers to stop diving off the porch and into the shrubs to hide every time Charlie touches the steps. It is a work in progress. I will keep everybody posted.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with *AL.com*, *The Selma Times Journal*, *Thomasville Times*, *West Alabama Watchman*, and *Alabama Gazette*. Contact her at [Walkerworld77@msn.com](mailto:Walkerworld77@msn.com) or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Ms. Wheelchair America/  
Alabama 2005

## Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows  
[www.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://www.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

## “Finding a New Groove”

When I was a young child, one of my favorite things was my parent's old record player. I can remember looking through the dusty, old vinyl records. Then, playing and dancing to the “oldie but goodies” for hours.

Occasionally, one of the vinyl records “got stuck.” You know....this is when the record player plays the same 6 notes over and over until the needle is adjusted.

If you think about it, playing the same 6 notes over and over is not a problem that only happens with old records. I've been known to “get stuck” in a certain frame of mind. Sometimes I spend countless hours dwelling on the same 6 negative thoughts. The psychologists call this “rumination.” It wastes a lot of time, and it really doesn't accomplish anything good. It always makes me feel worse.

How can we help ourselves when our psychological record gets stuck? We fix it the same way we handle a vinyl record that gets stuck. You lift the needle out of the rut. But be sure not to move the needle back into the past. Move it forward into the future. Set it down in a new groove, a better groove.

Philippians 4:13-14 reminds us, “Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

Are you trapped in the same kinds of negative thoughts? Ask God to help you get unstuck and listen for a more joyful song. Then... let the dancing begin.

*Many Blessings!*



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## The Surprising Senior Year



Beth Thomas

I had a moment the other day in which everything just became real. The realization hit me rather suddenly, and I had to take a few minutes to process it. I applied to graduate last week, and even though I've known that this year of school would be my senior year, it hadn't really occurred to me until I clicked the “submit” button. I was sent an email telling me someone would be in touch with me in the next few weeks about things I needed to know or do before I could graduate in the spring. It really shouldn't have shaken me as much as it did; I've always looked forward to the things I would do after I graduate college. I dream of starting my career, owning my own little cabin in the woods somewhere with no one around but my pet dog and stingray (yes, a stingray). I think about what kind of car I'd like to buy as my first that I bought with my own money, and I wonder what kind of people I meet when I move out of my parents' home. For some reason, though, knowing that by this time next year I will have graduated, moved out, and not have to think about homework or exams every again startled me.

I talked it over with one of my friends, who will also be graduating in the spring, and we spent too much time talking about things we could do to avoid the thought of graduation. We were both joking, of course, because we've worked hard to get to this point. We didn't deal with crazy deadlines and difficult classes for years to drop out now. While we were talking, I suggested that it might be because neither of us can remember a time when we didn't have to go to school. I've been attending some form of school since preschool, and I've finally reached college, which will be ending in a few short months. Honestly, I think that is the source of my emotions. What am I going to do when I don't have professors and classmates to see every day or tests to study for?

Since that realization, I've calmed down and come to terms with the inevitable end of my formal education. I may not have professors, classes, and late-night cramming sessions for tests, but I know that I'll continue to learn in my profession. I'll have bosses, co-workers, and new things to learn. As with all major changes, I'll get used to the new situation in my life and move on. I am truly excited to graduate; this achievement is something that I have worked hard to reach, and I still have time to enjoy what's left of college until I reach graduation.



Photo by Dixie Champagne

*Students returning to campuses across the U.S. this fall find that so much has changed in six months or so, as many students have opted for online or hybrid classes for the fall semester. Pictured is The University of Alabama in Huntsville.*



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Oct. 13th**

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*is a local youth foundation, founded in 2012, by Montgomery resident Charles Lee. TMC is all about planning for our teens futures and also for the well-being and togetherness of our community. TMC will create and organize projects related to skills, talents, intellect and*

professionalism. TMC hosts approximately 2-3 local community service projects and fundraisers per month in which the teens will participate. In return for the teens' hard work, TMC! will make many talent and skills programs available to them. All of this is free of charge. That's right. It's free. The teens pay nothing. Among other classes and programs, TMC offers: dance programs, vocal programs, professionalism and preparedness classes, scholastic tutoring, and health and fitness classes. We have continued to add skill and talent classes during our growth. Mr. Lee has hand selected the finest adult mentors and instructors for these programs. TMC encourages teens to make wise choices and embrace their youth by providing these activities in an attempt to help them spend their time constructively, rather than becoming involved with gangs, crimes and other wrongdoings. TMC will help develop and prepare teens to enter adulthood and be prepared for life's challenges. TMC wants to help create model citizens for a brighter future in Montgomery. TMC encourages our members to become responsible and work toward their goals by providing an outlet from life's hardships.

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