



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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continued from front page ... Big Issues Facing Alabama Legislature

There are also cursory but urgent economic development incentive laws that need updating. The State Senate led by Senator Greg Reed (R-Jasper) has made a priority of passing legislation that will limit and probably prohibit lawsuits against business stemming from COVID-19.

The paramount issues will be Reapportionment, Gambling and Prisons. The major issue facing the legislature is the Tar Baby known as the prison problem. The governor and legislature have been grappling with the prison problem for several years. Given the legislative absence, Governor Ivey has made executive decisions that some legislators are not totally enthralled with, especially regarding prisons.

The Governor thought they were on course to addressing the state's overcrowded, understaffed, and violent state prisons. However, the U.S. Department of Justice sued the state in the U.S. District Court in Birmingham in December. The suit alleges that Alabama violates the constitutional rights of prisoners by failure to protect them from assaults and abuse from other inmates, excessive force by correctional officers, and failure to provide safe and sanitary conditions.

This litigation is not unique to Alabama. The Justice Department has made a practice of overshadowing state prisons. Other states have been sued over similar situations. Overcrowding seems to be the over-riding culprit. Federal Courts have ordered states to reduce their prison populations because of overcrowding. California was given this mandate.

Alabama prisons hold more than 15,000 prisoners in facilities designed for fewer than 10,000. Governor Ivey has proposed building three men's prisons and replacing many of the 13 current prisons. She faces contention and opposition from legislators on this issue. She now will have another Big Brother looking over her shoulder, the U.S. Justice Department and the federal courts.

Governor Ivey's response to the federal suit is that it is premature and the state has been striving to resolve the crisis. Indeed, the Legislature and the Alabama Department of Corrections has stepped up recruiting of correctional officers and increased pay and bonuses to address the staff shortage. It has cracked down on contraband with a program called "Restore Order," which uses predawn raids by law enforcement officers to search for weapons, drugs, cell phones and other prohibited items.

Gov. Ivey said the new prisons will have better security and better technology and will allow for more education and rehabilitation programs. The new prisons will also allow for modern surveillance cameras and convex mirrors that can detect violence problems.

Hopefully, the Governor and Legislature will address the omnipresent issue of gambling. Alabama has grappled with gaming for decades. Most of the concentration has focused on whether or not to have a state lottery. While we sat idly by and twiddled our thumbs, every other state in America except the Mormon state of Utah has created a lottery and more. Every state around us, Tennessee, Georgia, Florida, and Mississippi have lotteries. Mississippi funds their entire government to a large degree by every form of gambling imaginable.

In the face of honesty and fairness, the legislature should clarify and rectify the wrong done to the gaming centers at Macon and Greene counties. The citizens of these two Black Belt counties legally and rightfully voted for a Constitutional Amendment to allow them to have gambling and electronic bingo. It is a flagrant disregard of the Constitution for their facilities to be thwarted in their efforts to proceed with their rights and ability to supplement their county's needs.

The legislature will need to remove the stranglehold and monopoly that the Indian Gambling Syndicate has on our state in order to proceed with allowing people to vote on gaming.



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continued from front page ... Prison Issue still a Tar-Baby by Steve Flowers

Judges also believe in strict prison sentences, especially in Alabama. Our judges are elected in the Heart of Dixie. Therefore, our prisons are overcrowded.

Our men's prisons are currently at 157% capacity. Governor Ivey and this legislature did not cause this problem. It has been building up and festering for years. The chickens have just come home to roost under their watch.

Alabama prisons have been overcrowded and understaffed for years. Ivey's predecessor, former Governor Robert Bentley, proposed legislation that would have built new prisons with a bond issue. Lawmakers considered several courses of action but never came up with a solution.

The major obstacles to finding a remedy through legislative action are the cost factor and the location of any new prisons. Having a state prison in your district is a political plum for any legislator, especially those in rural districts. A prison is an economic boom to locals. It not only provides a host of jobs, but also has peripheral economic benefits.

The state realized the seriousness of this problem in April of 2019 when the Department of Justice stepped in and said Alabama has to do something or they will. The Feds have in the past taken over Alabama's Prison System during the George Wallace vs. Judge Frank Johnson era. In recent years the federal government has taken over California's prison system due to overcrowding. The ultimate leniency threshold seems to be 150% capacity.

When the Justice Department sent the warning, we were at 175% capacity. During the 2019 legislative session the legislature, led by Senator Cam Ward, took some actions toward recidivism that has had an immediate impact. The Justice Department edict not only called Alabama out on overcrowding, they

also addressed the excessive violence and the lack of mental health treatment among the inmates. However, they hung their hat on the constitutional rights that Alabama's prisoners are not being provided adequate human conditions of confinement.

Therefore, the cornerstone solution is three new mega men's prisons. Governor Ivey took the bull by the horns and made an executive decision to proceed without legislative approval or input. She made the decision quietly and without discussion or hesitancy to go with private developers to build three men's new correction facilities. The proposed sites are in Bibb, Elmore and Escambia Counties. The Department of Corrections already has major prisons in all three of these counties, which makes it a logical decision. Three separate prime developers have been chosen by the governor to finance, build and maintain the three prisons that the state would lease and operate.

The states' cost for leasing these facilities would be capped at a total of \$88 million a year. The Department of Corrections and the Governor say they can pay for the leases on new prisons through cost savings.

A good many legislators do not like Governor Ivey's unilateral decision to proceed with contracting for new prisons without their consent. This is a big-ticket item that the legislature would like to be involved with since they are responsible for the funding and balancing of the state's budgets.

The legislature will also need to address other issues outlined in the Department of Justice edict. This major issue of overcrowding seems to be a big tar-baby that the state legislature and governor have to focus on and resolve in the year 2021.

COVID (COMEDY) relief



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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

WHERE DO WE FIND SUCH MEN?

With all the post-election negativity swamping the news daily, I started to write a Robservation concentrating on some of the buffoonery taking place in Washington. And I think we can all agree that at times it is too much to bear. I for the most part have stopped watching most news programs and I have found that even my beloved WSFA to be disappointing at times. Over the next several years, I will certainly have the opportunity to write on much of what is going on. But there is one thing I am going to restate here for the third time in my Robservations. Now that we know Biden “won” the Presidency, within a year, I still predict he will be out of the office and Harris will be in. I may miss the timing but I will bet anybody a McDonalds Oreo Flurry that President Biden will not finish his term. It is not going to happen. I don’t think it has ever been part of any plan. But this will be for another day.

So, while I sit here pondering reality, I decided to take off my angry political Robservation hat and put on my old reliable military history hat. Why? Because I like it. Military history has always given me a comfortable place to escape to and to look at the lives of some pretty awesome people in the process. With the study of history, we often think of the past as places where our heroes have risen above all obstacles by the very nature of their superior moral, physical and/ or spiritual qualities. We have a high regard for the hero while we somehow ignore or forgive them for their faults and shortcomings; no matter how glaring. We put them on pedestals and think of them, or wish for them, attributes and characteristics that may not exist. In turn, it becomes increasingly easy to give them credit where no credit is due. This is human nature and our study of history is replete with this idea of the “Great Man” doing things above and beyond the call of duty, somehow standing far above other men faced with similar situations and conditions.

In Sidney Hook’s, “The Hero in History,” the author examines two different historical personalities. One is described as the “Eventful Man” and the other as the “Event Making Man.” The eventful man, also called the determinist view, can be described as the person who is simply in the right place at the right time. He is merely part of much larger events dominating his era and is born to forces far beyond his control. This man’s conduct is influenced, determined and controlled by the outside pressures he is merely reacting to. This character needs either a crises, social forces, social machinery and/ or certain ideas, not necessarily his own, in order to fulfill his “destiny.” Although he may indeed be coping with outside stressors better than his counterpart and peers, in no way is he in control of them.

There must be some catalyst or series of events that alone propels the eventful man forward. In effect, the eventful man is merely a prisoner of his environment and will only become successful if he can navigate the myriad of situations presented to him. The eventful man in reality doesn’t cause his situation he merely rides it.

The event making man or the historical “Great Man,” on the other hand, is the character to which we ascribe almost supernatural powers. Not a mere pawn of his surroundings, the Great Man finds the courage and intestinal fortitude to control his own destiny and to successfully manipulate his surroundings to his advantage. Because of this ability to shape and control the events around him, the Great Man becomes a significant part of those larger events by driving them in one direction or the other. The Great Man, through his outstanding character, intelligence, will and/or abilities has the capacity to accomplish his specific goals or purposes rather than allowing himself to be manipulated by his surroundings.

In his book Preface to History, Carl Gustavson discusses four “maxims” concerning the historical great man. First, long term trends are far less likely to be controlled or determined by an individual hero. In other words, there appears to be a limit to just how much an individual can do by himself to shape the outcome of any historical event. Secondly, most cases of great influence throughout history are simply the right man at the right time. Third, “the occasional genius by extremely dexterous and willful actions, may achieve ‘historical mutation.’” In other words, can a person actually achieve world-changing greatness through his or her physical actions? Lastly, and perhaps most important maxim is that every historical situation is unique and must therefore be judged on its own merit. No universal formula exists for the determination of the characters that

will help shape and define a historical event. We must look at how the alleged “Great Man” affected or controlled his situation.

This brings me to my Robservation. A while back, my wife and I just watched the movie, “The Imitation Game,” and to be quite honest, we were both blown away; especially me. The story is about British mathematician Alan Turing who was responsible for breaking the German Enigma code in the early days of WWII. As a military historian, I have been fascinated by Enigma and the British Ultra Intercepts for years but until I saw the movie, I had really done no research into what it took.

But as I watched the movie, there was the question of the historical “Great Man” that entered my head. A lot of the writing above comes from my book on German super ace Hans-Joachim Marseille where I asked the question whether he could be considered the historical Great Man or just the Eventful Man. As I watched this movie, I was awestruck at what makes a man like Alan Turing work. What planet did this guy immigrate from and with what eyes did he see the world? What we have here is a man who in the 1930s envisioned machines that could think. What? Thinking machines, preposterous! He was mocked, accused of spying, taunted and laughed at. Then the Germans came up with a code that was considered to be unbreakable. They ran their messages through an ingenious machine called Enigma that consisted of a series of keys and rotors that gave the Germans the possibility of 59,000,000,000,000,000,000 combinations that was reset every 24 hours. The movie claimed with the current methods used by the British code breakers, it would take close to 20 million years to break just one day’s worth of code.

Enter Alan Turing. A man, very much like Sheldon Cooper on “Big Bang Theory,” Turing envisioned making a machine that could crack that German code within minutes every day. To make a long story short, despite a lot of interference and derision from higher ups and peers, Turing and his team did just that and broke the code. It is estimated that his breaking the German Enigma shortened the war by over two years and saved over 14,000,000 lives.

Again, where do we find such men? Aside from some of his personal issues and the travesty of how he was treated for being a homosexual (forced estrogen injections for chemical castration leading to his suicide in June 1954) here was a man who fits the bill as the historical Great Man in every way. I am not saying he was a great person. That is irrelevant. But from a historical perspective, Alan Turing, in my opinion is one of just a few Great Men from that era.

This socially awkward man from London, out of some master vision in his mind, from scratch, built the first real problem-solving computer. He didn’t just improve on somebody else’s idea; his creation was birthed in his mind. Wow!! Not only that, he did it in a time when thousands were dying daily in the war, victory was in doubt and he and his team knew that they held the key for the defeat of Nazi aggression. Turing was no mere pawn of his surroundings. He manipulated his surroundings to his advantage and controlled the events around him. Turing clearly became a significant part of those larger events caused by WWII and he drove them in the direction they needed to go. He did what was considered impossible by imposing his will on others.

But after watching the movie, I also thought a lot about other potential historic “Great Men” from that generation who also had such a significant impact on the world. German physicist Werner von Braun; considered one of the Fathers of rocket science. Yes, he built the dreaded V-2 rocket but he was also responsible for putting our first man on the moon. Physicist Robert Oppenheimer of the Manhattan Project; he led the team responsible for creating the first atomic bombs. Whether these men were Eventful or Event Making, I still stand in awe of their contributions to the world. They each had visions beyond their peers and turned those visions into reality.

And one last thing. When I think what these and others of their generation did to become so special, I have to look at their educational background and then ask myself are we today doing what it takes to create more visionaries like them? Remember, all these accomplishments were completed in the day before computers and they used nothing but pencils and slide rules. Impressive stuff. *To Alan Turing, though, the reason for this Robservation, hats off and thanks for all you gave the world, your vision of thinking machines and for ending the war years earlier than it otherwise would have ended. Historical “Great Man?” You better believe it.*

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Anyone entering a County building is required to wear a mask or face covering, have their temperature checked, and practice social distancing.

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:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click “Applications”
- Scroll down to “MCSO” or “Montgomery county sheriff “O”
- 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!

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.



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COURTHOUSE ANNEX I CONSTRUCTION

- As renovations progress on Montgomery County Annex I, located at 100
- S. Lawrence Street, the public entrance and security screening will
- temporarily move to the entrance on Adams Street between Lawrence
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Ronald A. Holtsford

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I Don’t Really Have Anything, Why Do I Really Need A Will?



I get that question all too often. Even poor people have more than they probably think. Do you have a home (even a mobile home)? Do you have a car or truck? Do you have any money in a bank? While there are some ways around transferring a home, vehicle or bank account to a loved one or loved ones

after death there are exceptions and even then it probably needed to be planned before your death and placed in the proper format. A proper Will takes care of those items in one document. It’s true that you probably still have to probate that Will after death to have a proper transfer, but a properly done Will can at least provide a solution for your “stuff” after death.

Without a Will (intestate), costs are greater for the probate process than if there is a Will. When no Will exists an heir has to step forward to be the personal representative. With no heir to step forward it becomes a little more complicated in that either the largest creditor or County Conservator may have to step forward. The availability of a County Conservator is based on County population. The Personal Representative has to be bonded based on value of the estate and an inventory of the estate with appropriate values must be filed within sixty (60) days after a Personal Representative is appointed by the Probate Judge. Short of unusual circumstances a Will does not require the Personal Representative to be bonded or an inventory to be done. The only intestate exception to bonding is for the Summary Distribution of a small estate, which is an estate under \$25,000. of probate assets. Remember that probate assets do not include beneficiary distributions (i.e. life insurance) or Payable on Death (POD) from a bank account, Transfer on Death (TOD) from investments or items titled to a Trust. Also not included is real property that divests to one with right of survivorship or with a remainder interest under a life estate deed. Probate assets do not include bank accounts with right of survivorship to another person or persons also on the account. HOWEVER, those bank accounts because their funding was by the deceased, must first be available for debts. If a co-owner takes the money and runs and there are debts then the estate must ask for it back, up to the fair share to pay debts or the estate may need to sue the one that has taken the money and not made it available for debts.

I think as you read this and reflect on your assets, you realize you have more to consider than you realized. It is well worth a trip to see a lawyer and to get your estate plan in order.

As I have gotten older, I have thought more about not just a Will, but how your estate plan reflects your legacy. Will your heirs look at what you left and remark about your irresponsibility? When they look at your financial account will they wonder what you did with the money that you had? Will they say, Mom and/ or Dad never had much but look what they did with it and no wonder they were comfortable in retirement. Without even considering one’s stuff what will be said about your character.

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."

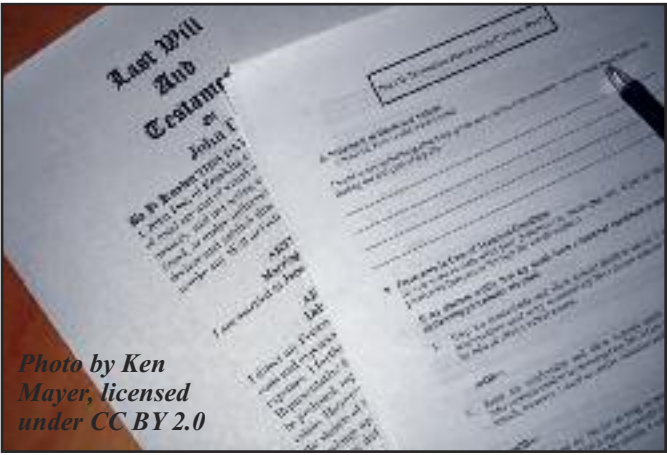


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later (still living in tents) in Jeremiah 35:15-18 we read this concerning the descendants of Jonadab son of Rekhab (called the Rekabites),

¹⁵ *Again and again I sent all my servants the prophets to you. They said, “Each of you must turn from your wicked ways and reform your actions; do not follow other gods to serve them. Then you will live in the land I have given to you and your ancestors.” But you have not paid attention or*

listened to me. ¹⁶ *The descendants of Jehonadab son of Rekab have carried out the command their forefather gave them, but these people have not obeyed me.’*

¹⁷ *“Therefore this is what the LORD God Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Listen! I am going to bring on Judah and on everyone living in Jerusalem every disaster I pronounced against them. I spoke to them, but they did not listen; I called to them, but they did not answer.’”*

¹⁸ *Then Jeremiah said to the family of the Rekabites, “This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘You have obeyed the command of your forefather Jehonadab and have followed all his instructions and have done everything he ordered.’”* ¹⁹ *Therefore this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: ‘Jehonadab son of Rekab will never fail to have a descendant to serve me.’”*

Jonadab’s commandments to his descendants were not Biblical commandments, but it was his love and zeal for God that allowed the Recabites to escape disaster. *What will your legacy be?*

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John Martin

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THE RALLY OF JANUARY 6

Today’s American people who are well informed can have no difficulty understanding that Donald Trump has been one of our most patriotic presidents in recent years. But because “The Donald” had refused to go along with our current corrupt elected and appointed officials and fought the Deep State with everything he had, the so-called “mainstream” news media and certain portions of our population have literally crucified him in their efforts

to shame and defeat him on all fronts.

The latest act of vengeance against our President has been the usurpation of his final political rally before leaving office. About a million Trump allies had gathered in front of our Capitol to show their support and wish him well.

All through the morning, the crowd grew larger, from across Constitution Avenue and back to the Washington Monument and side streets. The people strolled around, listened to speakers, waved their flags, and sang the National Anthem. For an hour, President Trump delivered a compelling speech addressing the details of the previous election fraud. When the call of nature interrupted them, they stood in lines at the available toilets to continue listening. The rally was organized and peaceful. Everybody was having a good time and behaving themselves.

But quietly, a darker side was preparing to upset the peaceful assembly. In the early afternoon, teams of bused in Antifa and other violent, Trump-hating insurgents who had disguised themselves by wearing MAGA caps and Trump T-shirts and carrying patriotic flags like everybody else, mingled with the crowd and worked their way toward the Capitol’s entrance, right up to the barriers that the police had erected to prevent entry.

Oddly, the police did essentially nothing to stop them. Instead, they removed some of the barriers and allowed them to go through with no resistance. In other areas, usurpers climbed the walls surrounding the Capitol. The police made essentially no effort to defend it.

About a hundred people or more walked through the front door and made their way inside. The imbedded radicals’ objective was to invade the House and Senate chambers and disrupt the hearings taking place and to generally make nuisances of themselves. Some smashed the windows on doors and committed other vandalism.

Law enforcement officials across the country were stunned by the blatant failure of the security around the Capitol – some saying they were “entirely unprepared” and “embarrassing.” Carmen Best, former Seattle police chief, watched the mayhem on TV and exclaimed, “I was wondering, where were the cops?” Even NBC News admitted it was shocking.

Four people died during the mayhem – three from medical issues and a fourth that was shot, some believe, by a Chuck Schumer security guard.

The so-called “mainstream” news media had their field day. They reported that the Trump supporters were rioting. Even worse, they insisted that President Trump had incited the riot, even though, instead, he was trying to calm the people down. But of course, the insurgents were not calming down. They were faux supporters who were doing all they could to exacerbate the violence. The media intensified their reporting to claim that Trump was committing insurrection. Even Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube added fuel to the fire by shutting down Trump’s accounts, thus helping to prevent him from telling the truth about what really happened.

One fact that must be noted is that the one or two hundred rioters were a tiny percentage of the estimated million people who were present. In spite of the weak security, very little damage was done. When the police finally ordered the huge crowd to disperse three hours later, it promptly departed and left the grounds litter-free.

That was a sharp contrast to the violent demonstrations in Minneapolis, Portland, and Seattle, where huge mobs set fires, destroyed property, looted and vandalized businesses, spray-painted vile graffiti onto monuments, shot and stabbed counter-protesters, and even bashed police officers on their heads with concrete blocks. Why did the same media report these incidents as “peaceful”? How much longer can we tolerate this Orwellian doublespeak?

On January 13, the House Democrats (a majority) wasted no time as they unanimously voted to impeach President Trump – for a second time, even though he had only seven days remaining in office. Ten RINO Republicans joined them. CNN displayed, “Trump impeached for inciting deadly attack on Capitol.” In its January 18th issue, Time magazine published a four page spread, “Trump Supporters Besiege the Capitol,” beginning it with, “A mob whipped up by the President...”

What happened to the security devices that we have had in the Capitol for many years – the walk-through detectors, ID checkpoints, scanners, and other devices that we must pass whenever we enter any courthouse or similar facility? What happened to the personnel that manned them? Why weren’t these common sense measures taken this time? Why?

Why were the police so lax in defending the Capitol? Had some of them been Antifa impersonating police? That might have been probable except for one thing: Just one day before the rally, Washington, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser had told federal law enforcement at the Capitol to stand down. Obviously, the police were ordered not to stop the mob.

There is only one logical answer: The incredibly powerful Deep State has embedded its tentacles into almost all aspects of our lives. It has asserted itself as our master, and that we are its subjects. It is in control of our government, our elections, our business, our money, our law enforcement, our health care, our travel around the world, our recreation, and just about everything else we do.

After last year’s fraud-ridden election, this year’s rally, and the almost immediate impeachment of one who dared to buck the “system,” our hopes to restore liberty, truth, justice, and the American way are drifting far out of reach.

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Those Who Make Peaceful Divorce Impossible Will Make Domestic Violence Inevitable



THINK

I ask forgiveness from any reader who recalls **JFK’s** famous 1962 quote, but paraphrasing seemed apropos after comments on last month’s column addressing ‘peaceful transfers of power’ bantered about by mass media, polit-buro members and pundits. I’ve wondered what my parents thought when hearing, *“Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable,”* from this soon to be assassinated President making such great gains toward freedom – *e.g.*, reducing the outrageous 92.7% marginal income tax rate, blocking moves to further debase our currency, growing weary of CIA, et al types after Bay of Pigs lies and deception along with the military industrial complex pressing for more resources to Vietnam – to enumerate a few specifics. Both of my parents passed last year in 2020 (58 years later), which spared them witnessing recent events foreshadowed by JFK. I contemplated if there was anything they could’ve done to avoid or further postpone this inevitable end. My mind defaulted to a favourite quote from Coretta Scott King, *“Freedom is never really won; it must be fought and won every generation.”* Perhaps generations to come will learn to successfully fight for freedom after understanding so many prior generations promoted, welcomed and embraced ever more tyranny and command economy policies/programs.

Nothing ‘miraculous’ in the hegemonic transfer of executive power we’ve witnessed these past several score. Removing the Trump crime family to reinstall the Biden crime family offers no more hope than reinstalling Ms. Pelosi as Speaker a couple years ago. The title was inspired by Harry Browne’s battered voter abuse campaign ad. Going back to the same spouse/family member who is beating and harming you, expecting them to change becomes foolhardy (and painful to watch) after enough iterations. Sending in the cops – *i.e.*, 25,000 troops, will give time to clean up the mess and allow black eyes and bruises to heal until the next triggering event. I’ve certainly witnessed enough in Alabama. I saw no hope for our State after the 2002 gubernatorial election result was manipulated (indifferent which goober, Don or Bob, was installed) and the righteous citizens of our State didn’t ‘Storm the Statehouse’ as Felon Hubbard would say. Fitting that Bob Riley (Red socialist) was the governor who changed one of our two statues in the Rotunda to an avowed socialist as our representative statue there on Jan. 6th to witness this domestic violence. Violence not seen since some from a US territory showed their disdain for federal occupation and control back in 1954.

Jan. 6th is what true civil war looks like after failure to allow peaceful exit of sovereign States or occupied territories. Civil war is fighting for control of the **SAME** government. Wise founding fathers’ design made civil war unlikely at best, foolish at worst – a State no longer wanting to be in the voluntary coalition would exit. The uninvited army into Maryland (April 1861) was the first to explicitly commit treason; the armies repelling this treason was not insurrection – they were not trying to take over their State government or trying to take the federal government they seceded from to coerce other States. State legislators or governors did not request federal government protection from the armies/soldiers serving their own State.

‘Civil War’ is the oft used poor nomenclature for the 1861 – 5 military conflict where it was **NOT** two factions fighting over control of the same government; in fact several States attempted to peacefully separate from, **not** destroy or control the federal government. Little wonder about initial seceded States’ (where the 1860 elected President wasn’t even on their State’s ballot, in an era of much more competitive ballot access) reluctance to again suffer high taxation defeated in 1783 and successfully defended against again in 1815. Lincoln was wisely refused an unconstitutional force bill. When this new executive shown willingness to commit (Art. 3, Sec. 3) treason to impose the

Republican Party’s desired mercantilist wealth transfers militarily – other States also desired peaceful exit. Few presidents showed more courage and sagacity than Buchanan trying to allow the peaceful transfer of central/federal power to a new coalition of States without bloodshed. After South Carolina seceded Buchanan asserted:

“Apart from the execution of the laws, so far as this may be practicable, the Executive has no authority to decide what shall be the relations between the Federal Government and South Carolina. He has been invested with no such discretion. He possesses no power to change the relations heretofore existing between them, much less to acknowledge the independence of that State. This would be to invest a mere executive officer with the power of recognizing the dissolution of the confederacy among our thirty – three sovereign States.”

President Buchanan understood an integral part of guaranteeing republican forms of government within a sovereign State is the right of the people in each State to independently determine their desire to remain in any coalition/confederacy of States. No Legislature or Governor (of a State like South Carolina, seceded from the USA/changed to the CSA or from a State like Maryland, still in the USA) asked for federal troops to address civil unrest or insurrection within their State when considering the Force Bill. Not getting the February 1861 Force Bill from Congress after President Buchanan makes it clear he will not commit Art. 3, Sec. 3 treason pressed Mr. Lincoln and the Republicans’ orchestration of military action before Congress reconvenes to accomplish their desired transfer of wealth and power.

President Buchanan adhered to the letter, Spirit and pre – Lincoln tradition of the Constitution, unwilling to fail his oath of office and step outside his authorization at perhaps the most difficult time since the Nullification Crisis. He understood there are no enumerated powers for the executive to act unilaterally, esp. in this manner not authorized. This is well reasoned by Buchanan in his following words:

“The question fairly stated is, has the Constitution delegated to Congress the power to coerce a State into submission which is attempting to withdraw or has actually withdrawn from the Confederacy? ...After much serious reflection I have arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress or to any other department of the Federal Government. It is manifest upon an inspection of the Constitution that this is not among the specific and enumerated powers granted to Congress, and it is equally apparent that its exercise is not ‘necessary and proper for carrying into execution’ any one of these powers.”

Small wonder pro – government historians unanimously place Buchanan as the worst president.

Alas, the Republicans (since inception) have been more interested in using the tax code to pick winners/losers and redistribute wealth to specific interests over the general welfare, how many lives are damaged/destroyed in the process are of increasingly less concern. Much wailing and gnashing of teeth has been observed about the five deaths on Jan. 6th. I couldn’t help but think how much blood has been spilled and sacrificed on this esteemed altar of democracy via undeclared wars, subsidized abortion, wrongful takings, treaty violations, *etc* these past several score as a **forced** coalition instead of the republican form of government joining independent, sovereign States guaranteed in the Constitution. There was a time we understood Greek history of standing divided, tall and strong against the united monolith of Persian tyranny. The Peloponnesian War further showed enough Greeks were also willing to stand strong and divided against the monolith of Athenian tyranny – sometimes the ‘good guys’ win...



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

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

MARXIST HATRED OF THE SOUTH

“I wouldn’t know, I’ve only ever killed communists.” Polish soldier Rafal Gan-Ganowicz’s likely facetious response when asked what it was like to kill a human being.

In a 2015 YouTube video, BLM (Black Lives Matter) co-founder Patrisse Cullors described herself and fellow organizers as “trained Marxists.” Radical leftists (e.g., Antifa) seem determined to destroy America and Marxists appear to have a long-standing hatred for Southern Christians.

Marxists, whose religion is Communism, supported Lincoln and the Union. After the Forty-Eighters (European Communists/Socialists) lost power, most who came to America joined the Republican Party. “Union Colonel Fritz Anneke had a personal relationship with Marx and was ‘a member of the Deutscher Kommunist, Marx/Engels circle.’” Texas resident, Adolph Douai, and Alabama resident, Hermann Meyer, were associated with Marx. Both were driven out of their respective States. Pro-Lincoln Marxist Joseph Weydemeyer had previous military experience and, while serving in the Union Army, “was assigned by Lincoln as commander of the highly strategic area of St. Louis. August Willich, who became a brigadier general, Robert Rosa, a major, and Fritz Jacobi, a lieutenant who was killed at Fredericksburg, were all members of the New York Communist Club.”

Referencing Red Republicans and Lincoln’s Marxists: Marxism in the Civil War, by Walter D. Kennedy and Al Benson, some of the Socialists/Communists who supported the Union included:

- Assistant Secretary of War Charles A. Dana: friend of Marx, knew Frederic Engels, published Communist Journals with Weydemeyer.
- Brigadier General Louis Blenker, Union Army: encouraged German immigrants to join Lincoln’s army and the Republican Party.
- Major General August Willich: “The Reddest of the Red ‘48ers”; member of the London Communist League with Marx and Engels. Marx called him “A communist with a heart...”
- Colonel Richard Hinton: a Charterist Socialist; fled England. Associate of the terrorist, John Brown; post-war correspondent for a Boston newspaper.
- Allan Pinkerton: head of the Republican Ohio Department “spy service” under General George B. McClellan. The most famous Charterist. Pursued by British agents; fled to the U.S.; settled in Illinois; became an operator of the Underground Railroad conveying escaped slaves to Canada.
- Brigadier General Carl Schurz: helped Socialist Gottfried Kinkel escape from Spandau. Came to America in 1848...active in Republican Party development; high position in the Union army.
- Brigadier General Alexander Von Schimmelfenning: came to America from Germany after the 1848 uprising. Known Socialist history;

Republican J. Siebnick recommended him for Colonel of Pittsburgh German volunteers. Recruited two former Prussian Army officers to help recruit Revolutionary Socialists.

- Major General Franz Siegel: Involved in 1848 German revolts as a commander of Socialist troops; served in the German army and Socialist efforts to overthrow the German government.
- Commander Friedrich Karl Franz Hecker: known as “Red” and “Flagrant Friedrich”; law doctorate from Munich. Expelled from Prussia; came to U.S.; helped create the Republican Party. Promoted German newspapers, Socialist propaganda, and Lincoln’s election.
- Captain Gustav von Struve: born in Germany to a woman of nobility and her Russian diplomat mate. With Hecker, led the 1848 German up rising. Failed with second uprising, arrested, found guilty of high treason, awarded solitary confinement for five years; freed by fellow revolutionaries.
- General John C. Fremont: associated with the Communists Lincoln placed in positions of command in his army. The first Republican presidential candidate.
- The four Saloman brothers: Brevet Major General Frederick Charles Saloman of the Ninth Wisconsin; Brigadier General Charles E. Saloman of the Missouri Volunteers; Wisconsin Lt. Governor/Governor Edward Saloman; and Sergeant Herman Saloman.
- Colonel Fritz Anneke/Annecke: Communist League member; Baden Revolt veteran. He and wife, Mathilde, were European Communists. Skilled Prussian artillery officer; ideology caused him to lose his commission and be jailed. He and his wife separated. Mathilde started a school for girls, preaching socialism; joined Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony in their feminist cause. Converted to Communism by her husband.
- General William Tecumseh Sherman: On list of “approved” Socialist’ Communists published by the press of the Communist Party of the United States. Engels identified Sherman as one of theirs. Both Sherman and Sen. John Sherman, his brother, believed in a strong indivisible central government.

Marx wrote for Horace Greeley’s New York Daily Tribune (1851-1862) as he pushed for “democracy” (mob rule). Vladimir Lenin admired Lincoln; numerous Lincoln-Lenin Parades were held in New York City in the 1930s.

As Jefferson Davis observed, “The contest is not over, the strife is not ended. It has only entered upon a new and enlarged arena.” Let us pray we do not literally have to walk in our ancestor’s footsteps.

[Sources: Red Republicans and Lincoln’s Marxists: Marxism in the Civil War, Kennedy and Benson; Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, Taylor; and Southern Heritage 411.com (H.K. Edgerton)]

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WILL STUDENT LOANS BE FORGIVEN?

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.

Daniel Sutter

November's elections imply we will likely see some Federal student loans forgiven. Current student debt levels reflect the morphing of a reasonable program. Loan forgiveness may produce significant changes for higher education.

President-elect Joe Biden has indicated a willingness to forgive \$10,000 in loans per borrower via executive order. A Democratic Senate will likely result in Congressional action; Senators Charles Schumer and Elizabeth Warren want \$50,000 in loans forgiven. Cancellation of all loans may now be a possibility.

Before considering the consequences of loan forgiveness, let's consider why government should make student loans. America has long been described as the "Land of Opportunity," and as Arthur Brooks argues, Americans accept unequal economic outcomes more readily than Europeans. Many accept unequal outcomes because they believe people have a chance to succeed based on their own efforts.

Free enterprise has generated enormous prosperity but also wealth disparities. A rising tide does lift all boats. The Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom of the World finds that the incomes of the poorest ten percent are eight times higher in the most economically free nations than in the least economically free nations. Free markets also produce billionaires.

Inequality has become a topic of intense debate. Resentment of the rich could lead to high income and wealth taxes, which would significantly reduce economic freedom. Widespread belief in equality of opportunity short-circuits the politics of envy.



Education, including college, has long been an element of American opportunity. College is seen as a gateway to the middle class. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that persons with bachelor's degrees earn 65 percent more than those with only a high school diploma, a lifetime difference of \$1 million.

This difference in earnings explains why financial institutions would make college loans without government guarantees. Market-based loans would favor students: with stronger academic credentials; pursuing higher paying degrees; and with assets for collateral (e.g., well-off parents).

Libertarian professors might contend that a market for loans provides opportunity, while liberal professors might judge America inherently unfair. The perceptions of an opportunity society that matter politically are those of Americans, not professors.

To dig into these perceptions, imagine we could design an unbiased test predicting success in college very well. Suppose we administered this test to high school juniors one time and banned anyone scoring below a given threshold from attending college.

Does this sound fair? Such a system, I suspect, would strike many of us as somehow un-American. We celebrate the rags-to-riches stories or the football walk-on who ends up being an All-American. We value the opportunity to try even when the experts tell us we will fail.

Market-based loans must offer reasonable returns to attract investors. Yet ensuring opportunity involves giving students who are likely to fail an opportunity. Maintaining an opportunity society probably requires some bad loans to marginal students. Government guarantees enable such loans, and I consider investing in maintaining equality of opportunity worthwhile.

Unfortunately, the student loan program pays for tuition at expensive private colleges and for graduate and professional degrees. This goes well beyond ensuring basic opportunity and means loan forgiveness will benefit the well-off. Households in the top 20 percent of the income distribution hold \$3 of loans for every \$1 held by the bottom 20 percent. A quarter of students graduate college without debt, often because they worked or started at a community college.

Forgiving outstanding loans might make current students expect their loans to be forgiven too. This would essentially usher in free college.

Yet even government money is not free, and programs typically have mechanisms containing spending. For instance, the US Department of Agriculture supports selected crop prices but limits the eligible acreage. Washington's financial support of higher education has to date involved few cost-control measures; loan forgiveness may provoke such controls.

Student loans reflect a familiar pattern. A reasonable rationale for a limited program provides cover for profligate spending. The problems caused by not limiting access to government-subsidized loans may now cost taxpayers, and especially responsible student borrowers, billions.



Perry O. Hooper, Jr.



Republican State Executive Committee
Former State Representative

RESOLUTION Honoring President Donald J. Trump

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

President Donald J. Trump accomplished more than any President in our Country's history. He is the greatest President ever. As a member of the Alabama Republican Executive Committee, I will pass the Resolution during our Winter Meeting in February and I will work to get every State Republican Executive Committee in the Country to pass the same Resolution.



Photo by Sara Moses / FreImages

WHEREAS, President Donald J. Trump was one of the greatest and most effective Presidents in the 245-year history of this Republic; and

WHEREAS, President Trump put the American people and the American worker first in all his decisions and policies; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's "Operation Warp Speed" delivered safe and effective COVID -19 vaccines in record time, which was one of the most important feats in medical history; and

WHEREAS, President Trump enacted the largest tax cuts and reforms in American history by signing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law, cutting \$1.1 trillion in taxes over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, President Trump withdrew from the job-and-trade-killing Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and NAFTA, replacing it with the new United States-Canada-Mexico Trade Agreement; stood up to China bringing back manufacturing industry to the U.S. and increasing "Made in the U.S.A." production while securing access to new markets for America's farmers; and

WHEREAS, President Trump withdrew from the job-killing "Paris Climate Agreement, which would have cost the U.S. nearly \$3 trillion and led to 6. million fewer industrial sector jobs by 2040; and

WHEREAS, President Trump's policies led to record low unemployment rates for all Americans, including African, Hispanic and Asian-Americans prior to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, President Trump appointed three constitutional conservative justices to the U.S. Supreme Court who will serve and protect our country for decades to come: Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh and Justice Amy Coney Barrett; and confirmed more than 220 federal judges who will interpret the Constitution as written; and

WHEREAS, President Trump built up and bolstered all of the U.S. military branches around the world and launched U.S. Space Force as a new branch of the military; and

WHEREAS, President Trump built and restored America's standing, strength and leadership in the international community by withdrawing from the shady Iran nuclear deal, moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, initiating the Israel-UAE (and other surrounding nations) accord providing more stability and commerce in the Middle East; and

WHEREAS, President Trump accomplished more in 48 months than Joe Biden did in 48 years as a senator and vice-president.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ALABAMA REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, that President Donald J. Trump is highly honored and commended, and this resolution is offered to him in deepest appreciation for his dedication and sacrifice to our country in order to "Make America Great Again."

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Republican Executive Committee of each state; to each Republican member of Alabama's United States Congressional Delegation; and to President Donald J. Trump.

This resolution adopted this 27th day of February, 2021, by the Executive Committee of the Alabama Republican Party in session at Montgomery, Alabama.

_____, Secretary

_____, Chairman

Submitted by Perry O. Hooper, Jr, Montgomery County; Jeana Boggs, Elmore County; Suzelle Josey, Autauga County; John Killian, Fayette County; Dennis Beavers, Blount County; Linda Overton, Houston County; Ann Bennett, Lee County

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START
MONTH



Justice Will Sellers

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The Necessity of American Leadership in a post-COVID World

Thirty years ago, the world seemed like a more stable place.

The United States was at the height of international prowess and had deftly negotiated with almost the entire world to oust Saddam Hussein from Kuwait. President Bush and his foreign policy team had built an international coalition to acknowledge that aggression

against another sovereign state would not be tolerated. Even those countries that did not physically participate in the military coalition agreed to refrain from public dissent and allow the United Nations to live up to its charter.

The United States did not engage in appeasement or unilateral military action but initiated a precedent-setting effort that used international resolutions to express the world's outrage. But unlike most UN resolutions, which aren't worth the paper they are printed upon, the United States simultaneously organized a global military effort to give teeth to the resolutions.

At the same time, in another part of the world, East and West Germany unified. Long the focal point of Cold War tensions, the two Germanys agreed to combine and become a single country. This, too, was no small feat and required a significant amount of fancy footwork to make sure reunification didn't ruffle the feathers of friend or foe.

A few NATO allies were not at all excited about a unified Germany and its impact on the balance of power in Europe; and, for obvious reasons, several Warsaw Pact allies shared similar concerns. But once, Russia, the 800 lb. gorilla of the Warsaw Pact, gave its blessing, reunification could officially begin. Inasmuch as reuniting Germany was akin to the final prisoner exchange at the end of a war, Gorbachev consented to reunification and acknowledged the Cold War was over as the world moved in a vastly different direction.

Rather than dancing upon the grave of Communism, the United States engaged in careful, intentional diplomacy. It would have been tempting to replay the famous Nixon-Khrushchev kitchen debate, engage in triumphalism, and feed the narrative of American jingoistic swagger; but this was not the style of the Bush administration. When the Berlin wall fell and Eastern Europe began to roll back the Iron Curtain, the Bush team worked behind the scenes to provide aid and comfort to the newly liberated countries, but care was always taken to avoid offending the Russians.

This polite diplomacy allowed the defeated communists to save face and find a new, less aggressive role on the world stage.

Russia had been a longstanding ally of Hussein's Iraq, supplying it with weapon systems and financing the regime. One might expect that Russia would support Saddam and, perhaps, come to his defense, but Gorbachev chose first to broker a peace deal, which failed, and ultimately supported the conclusions of the UN resolutions. Perhaps most importantly, Russia stayed on the sidelines and did nothing to resist coalition forces.

This lack of action was unprecedented and signaled a complete change of tack by Russia. Unlike other Cold War hot spots, the Gulf War did not become a proxy war, but was a global effort; a real "united" United Nations coalition to act as a world police force to enforce the UN Charter militarily.

And it worked. Not only was there diplomatic consensus, but there was also military cohesion. The various and sundry coalition partners and their myriad of commitments and commands worked together, which resulted in Saddam being both isolated by the international community and overwhelmed by a lethal coalition force.

The Gulf War was over almost before it began. The sovereignty of Kuwait was restored, Saddam was humiliated, and it was reasonable to assume his international thuggery was over.

In fact, with the end of the Gulf War and the reunification of Germany, the world community seemed on the brink of a new paradigm in international relations. The United States was the only superpower left standing and reluctant as Americans were to take on a leadership role, the Bush administration was on the cusp of achieving what others had longed for: a stable and peaceful world with international cooperation and a global consensus on the role and implementation of the rule of law.

The world clearly seemed to be moving away from sentimental regionalism and toward a global economy with greater freedoms from governments that appeared to be democratically elected. The communism attributed to Marx and Lenin had died under the weight of a competitive international economy. Even China was developing a hybrid political and economic system that seemed to embrace some facets of capitalism while maintaining state control.

Regrettably, this brave new world that appeared truly transformed was only a mirage. Even though the United States was at the pinnacle of power, its leaders quit before solidifying their gains. As a peace-loving republic, America cashed in her peace dividend before maturity and took a holiday from history.

Too embarrassed to be assertive and advocate for our values, U.S. leadership chose to lead from behind. They assumed to our detriment that if our nation throttled back its role, others would join us. Rather than use our overwhelming might to force change on recalcitrant nations that questioned liberty and freedom, they choose consensus over taking charge—finding the lowest common denominator for action.

Even though past actions indicated otherwise, our leaders choose to bank on the good intentions of other countries with no history of personal freedom or democracy, much less the rule of law. Saddam was still in power, and like any good despot, he refused to accept defeat, consolidated what he had left, and continued to abuse his people with his power.

The U.S. foreign policy apparatus choose to look the other way when China reduced freedoms and clamped down on peaceful protests by killing demonstrators. Perhaps worse of all, Russia was allowed to drift away from true democratic reform and once again embrace autocratic rulers who used the trappings of democracy to gain power and whittle away at citizen self-rule.

Rather than continuing to advocate for American values on the international stage, our leaders, were content to be part of a timid chorus rather than standing as a loud voice for reason, practical diplomacy and strength.

The world is safer when America is fully engaged. The international community needs a strong America to provide leadership and, when necessary, to use the overwhelming might of its military. Our foreign policy aims must be clear and focused on self-interest and the significant implications of trade to expand our economy. With enlightened self-interest, America can provide global leadership and peace to the world. The United States can help create a stable world by advocating for a global framework which allows individuals within nation states to pursue their respective political economies, peacefully and under rules of enforceable equity.

Will Sellers is an associate justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama.



John W. Giles

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BIG GOP CROWBAR – PRYING TRUMP FROM SUPPORTERS

CAUTION!!! There is a new wave internally erupting and clamoring among GOP strategist, political consultants, highly financed K-Street corporate brokers and many elected headliner "Republicans In Name Only" (RINO's). They are attempting to drive a wedge between Trump and his 72 plus million base. Notions like, Trump is not the Republican Party, stop the conspiracy talk because Trump lost the election, get over it, the Deplorables are a cult,

and Biden won the election fair and square. This arrogant elitist tone is severely flawed and problematic because of one simple key; RINO's and company won Wall Street, but Trump earned the love, respect, unshakable support and loyalty of Main Street. The attempt to divorce Trump from his supporters is not going to work, we will talk a little more about this, but let's rewind back to the November election and fast forward to the inauguration.

November 3rd, many including myself turned off the news that night with the impression that Trump had enough electoral votes to be reelected as the 46th President. We awoke to the shocking news that 6 states stopped counting votes and the results may not be known for days. After the China Virus was unleashed prior to the election, there were some 400 election lawsuits filed in a half dozen states by Democrats, pressing the courts to relax voting requirements of witnessed or notarized absentee ballots and allowing mail in ballots. These legal maneuvers clearly bypassed the Constitutional process where only State Legislatures establish election law how the electoral votes are handled in each state. The post-election Plan A was then launched. Approximately 86 lawsuits were filed from the Trump allied camps in the six highly compromised states, there are several of those cases still active. I have been told by nationally acclaimed lawyers that proving voter fraud cases in court is like proving deformation of character slander suits; it is very hard to accomplish. In a fierce time pressed environment to save the country from the socialist style governing model promised by Biden, Plan A was in place until January 6th.

January 6, 2021, my wife Deborah and a few grandmotherly friends went to DC to support the President and our GOP members of congress who planned to constitutionally challenge the final certification of the Electoral College votes. There was a rally behind the White House early that morning, where the President spoke, and there was a follow-up rally scheduled at 11:00 at the capitol. Deborah reported, the first rally had militant insurgents dressed in black gear, smoking marijuana, going through the crowds loudly saying, "Okay patriots after this rally we are going to the capitol and have another rally." Deborah knew these were not our people. On the walk to the capitol these same steroided up jack-booted militants were saying, "Hurry up patriots, we are going to the capitol to have a rally and storm the capitol, not their house, our house." The masses, including my wife ignored this handful of folks. When arriving at the capitol, these same folks suited up with gas mask and other combat accessories, breached the fencing and some innocent Trump people did follow, not my wife and her team. As you know, the militants took over the peaceful efforts, vandalized, shots were fired and now we have someone dead. This well-choreographed made for movie insurgency was designed to look like it was led by Trump supporters, it was not. One day we will know who funded this effort setting the stage to blame Trump, and now labeling us as domestic terrorist. The dark curtain was now pulled over the constitutional effort to object the questioned electoral votes triggering the 12th amendment. Now Plan B was imminent.

We all woke up Thursday morning January 7th, soberly searching for answers, realizing we have been unfairly beaten in the dark of night. With the help of the liberal media, Hollywood, social media tycoons, Wall Street, K-Street and GOP deserters like Mitch McConnell and Liz Cheney, the narrative was set in stone; Joe Biden won. Did we observe him correctly outperforming Obama, come on man. Imagine that, running a pretend virtual part time nationwide presidential

campaign from his basement, capturing the most votes ever cast for any presidential candidate. With video footage and thousands of sworn testimonies inked into affidavits over fraudulent ballots cast, 72 million of us are supposed to just put on our mask, get on our knees and OBEY! Wait a minute Mister, this is not China, Russia or Venezuela; this is the United States of America.

Plan B, for a season, we will be on defense. It will likely consist of the following, yes they will unconstitutionally attempt to squelch our free speech, and we will be targeted, subdued in some fashion and in some cases punished. Having 50-50 in the US Senate, coupled with the 60 vote rule, congress will not get anything done for the most part. Everything in the House, brute forced by Nancy and AOC will hopefully just be noise. The Impeachment is DOA, but Trump can make his case on election fraud and that he did not incite any riot. Biden on the other hand has already signed 42 bazaar executive orders averaging about 3.5 a day since the inauguration. He will govern and impose his executive orders on a daily basis. We will have some punitive hardships ahead like losing good jobs (15,000-20,000 so far), small businesses closing, inflation, low consumer confidence, gasoline most probably soaring to \$5.00 a gallon and the DOJ will look like the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Furthermore, Plan B, looking toward future elections, the GOP in every state needs to forcefully review everything from qualified voter registration, purging unqualified voters, voter identification, certified absentee ballots, voting machines and software to insure there are no illegal votes and all legal votes are accurately counted. We have to restore voter confidence in the process. Some have suggested the formation of another party; this is not a sound strategy. We will only dilute just like the Green Party dilutes the Democrats. The Republican Party Platform is perfect for economic, social, moral and constitutional conservatives. This is our party, this is our platform. We have allowed the GOP strategist, political consultants, highly financed K-Street corporate brokers and many elected headliner "Republicans In Name Only" (RINO's) to control the reins of our party. They have colored in squares on issues, played us every election cycle, just so they can return to their aristocratic lifestyle of the rich and famous. We also have to gut the financial influence of K-Street, they are running the government, not We The People. Not anymore!

Plan B for future candidates are going to look much different. We are going to prepare tools to investigate candidates, measuring their character, ethics and courage; determine their staying power, where is their line in the sand and what are they willing to die for? Secondly we are going to dive deep into the conservative issues with candidates. No longer can you check off a box, we are going to get neck deep into issues with candidates and grade their depth. It takes years to develop a penetration in conservatism. Thirdly, we are going to get with these folks face to face or remote in live interactive interviews, in the district or statewide. We will swim deep with them in front of their constituency beyond websites, social media and 30 second TV spots. Life is short, and we are done with GIVING AWAY coveted seats of governing, allowing them to eat the dainties of the king, getting wealthy and enjoying reelection as incumbents.

So to the ruling class in the GOP, put away your crowbar, we are not divorcing from Trump. Rather than attempting to rebrand the rules of engagement, why don't you figure out why common folks in America love Trump and why he is their champion. If you care to stroll down this trail please read an article I wrote about this subject: Trump's 2020 Gallup Poll Popularity – Three Reasons. As mentioned in the article, Reagan has been the 40 year prototype for GOP candidates, now Trump has set a new template for governing in conservatism with action. Like all of us, he is flawed, you may not like his personality or certain traits of his style, but he earned his unflinching support of the rank and file of America, he did not pay for it with K Street money. He earned their trust.

Under Plan B, "We The People" have the crowbar.



Stan Hurst
Associate Sports Writer



From Pigskins to Rawhides



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

What's Next in Sports?

Super Bowl Match-Up

Pre-game notes

After a COVID troubled National Football League season we've come down to the final two teams left. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers will host the Kansas City Chiefs in the big showdown in Tampa, Florida. This is the first time in the 55 years of the Super Bowl play that one of the participants will host the event. Played on Sunday February 7, it is expected to be quite a slugfest, as I predict at this writing.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers' off season acquisition of Tom Brady from the New England Patriots is the primary reason the Bucs are in the Super Bowl. Regarded as too old and losing his skills, the Patriots made little or no effort to sign Tom Brady at the end of his contract at the close of 2019. Well, he was welcomed in Tampa and has worked the Tom Terrific magic once again this season.

The 14 - 2 Kansas City Chiefs are a 3-point underdog to the 12 - 4 Tampa Bay Bucs as of this writing. The Chiefs lead the league in passing yards per game at 303 yards per game, compared to the Bucs 289 YPG ranked number two. The Chiefs average 29 points per game and the Buccaneers average 30 points per game. So this game would be a "pick-em" if it were held a neutral site. That Buccaneers home field advantage accounts for them being 3-point favorites at this point. We will have to see what the spread is in Las Vegas prior to kickoff Sunday.

This promises to be a great contest and as talented as Patric Mahomes is, and he is all of that plus some, you just can't ignore what Tom Brady has accomplished this year, learning a new offense under head coach Bruce Arians. His first season at Tampa was 2019 where he finished 7-9. Considered an offensive genius, Arians had to adjust his down the field "bomb" philosophy and create a game plan around Tom Brady's strengths, and it looks successful from my vantage point. I can wait for this one!

Packers and Aaron Reconciliation

The Green Bay Packers finished the season 13 - 3 losing to Tom Brady and the Buccaneers in the NFC championship game. The Packers, who finished ninth in passing yards per game at 256 and eighth in rushing yards 132 per game, were unable to score a touchdown late in the fourth quarter of the final game against the Bucs. The Packers faced a fourth and goal inside the 5-yard line and elected to kick a field goal instead of go for the touchdown. Unless you watched the game in its entirety, this could be, and was second-guessed. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers had three cracks at it from inside the 6-yard line, all three poorly thrown balls. On third and goal Rodgers had a clear running lane to score but elected to force the ball with an errant pass.

It appeared to me Rodgers lost his composure after coming off the field and was virtually useless in the Packers final position. Rodgers has one win in four attempts in the NFC Championship Game. Asked about the call after the game he responded, "not my call." This game was close for most of it and the Packers could only score a field goal after intercepting Tom Brady three times in the second half. Rodgers is rumored to be a poor teammate. I don't have an opinion. What I watched was a quarterback wound too tight in the second half who played poorly. Just my preverbal two-cents worth.

✂ and here are the results ✂

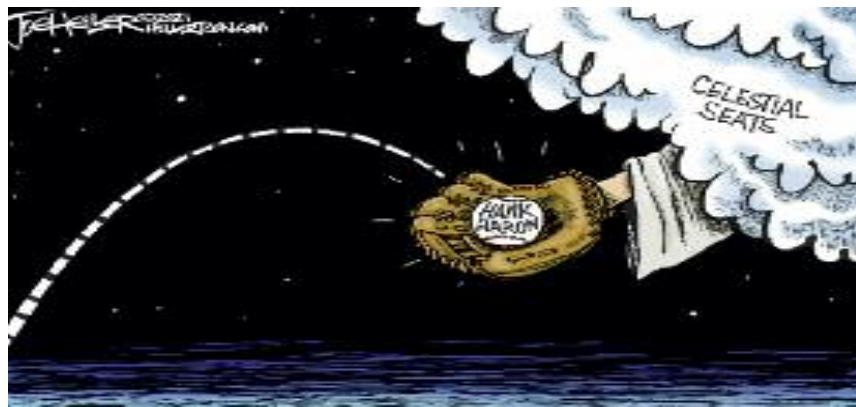
Hammerin' Hank We'll miss you

Major League Baseball Home Run leader and Mobile Alabama native, Hank Aaron passed this month, and he will surely be missed. The 86-year-old right-hander passed away January 22, 2021.

Hank Aaron is the home-run king of Major League Baseball totaling 755 Home Runs eclipsing Babe Ruth's 714. Hank Aaron hit 30 home runs a season for 15 seasons. He also hit 24 or more home runs every season from 1955 through 1973. Aaron had a total of 3,771 hits and his lifetime batting average is .305. While Barry Bonds hit more home runs, he did so admittedly with the aid of steroids, as did Mark McGwire who broke Roger Maris' record of 61 home runs in a season. History is not and will not bode well for the "steroid years" and those who cheated using them. My opinion, Hank Aaron is the home run king of MLB.



Hank Aaron of Mobile, Ala.
By Unknown author - Texas Rangers via trading-carddb.com; Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74986506>



MBL Late Season Start

As of this writing and my final opportunity to finish here, the Major League Baseball season is likely to start late. MLB likely will make the decision to delay spring training for pitchers and catchers. Spring training is scheduled to start of February 27th, with pitchers and catchers showing up ten days early. MLB is suggesting the early start for batteries (pitchers and catchers) might be delayed. While no official word has come down yet, that's the current thinking with MLB powers. It's going to be another season greatly impacted by the COVID pandemic. The good news is that we've done this before and know what that looks like.

There is no word yet on minor league clubs and this could very possible be another season without our Montgomery Biscuits playing.

2021 Season and Beyond

We've learned to adapt and it's encouraging to see college basketball in full swing. The 2020 sports season was a learning experience to be sure. I don't know what normal will be nor when it will get here. I'm convinced normal will not resemble what we enjoyed in pre-COVID years. Somehow we will be better for having gone through this experience. Hopefully several years from now when we look at the asterisks for 2020 and probably 2021, all of us can say that it was awful but we survived. The road was fraught with tragedy and uncertainty, but we held our heads high and endured and prevailed.

Next Time ...

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Honoring Our Heroes

MAJ Ell White II & SGM Lenora White



Major Ell White II

Major Ell White II served 25 years, 11 months, and 11 days in the U.S. military including over four years in the Navy, over five years in the AL Army National Guard and over 15 years in the Army. His Military Area of Concentration (AOC) was Senior Human Resources Manager. His military medals, awards, and ribbons included: Bronze Star and Combat Action Badge after participating in firefights, ambushes, and combat operations during his tour throughout Areas of Operation in Afghanistan. Other awards included Navy Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist Badge, Army Parachutist Badge, Army Arctic Warfare Tab, Meritorious Service Medal, two Army Commendation Medals, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, two Army Achievement Medals, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation Award, Army Superior Unit Award, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation Award, Navy Battle "E" Award, Navy Good Conduct Medal, two National Defense Service Medals, two Southwest Asia Service Medals, Armed Forces Service Medal, Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon Award, four Army Service Ribbons, four Overseas Service Ribbon Awards and NATO Medal. He was also awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Kingdom of Kuwait Liberation Medal from the Kingdom of Kuwait.

Major White was born May 27, 1972, in Chicago, IL, to his parents, Henry Oliver White and Dolly Mae (Donaldson) White and he was reared there until the age of six when his family moved to the Joffree Community in rural Prattville, AL (Autauga County), where he graduated from Billingsley High School with an Advanced Diploma. He enlisted in the AL Army National Guard June 18, 1989, and he served with ALARNG while attending high school and college. He received an Associate Degree of Arts and General Studies from Marion Military Institute in May 1997 and a Bachelor of Arts in Humanities and Social Studies from Auburn University at Montgomery in September 1999. He received a Master of Arts, Human Resources Management from Webster University in April 2007.

Major White has received academic honors and awards from institutions and other organizations. These included: Honorary Doctorate Degree of Divinity, Universal Life Church, Omicron Delta Kappa, membership in National Leadership Honor Society, Adjutant General Officer's Basic Course, Commandants List, Department of the Army ROTC Distinguished Military Student Award, The Society of the War of 1812, the Outstanding Student Award, the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Silver ROTC Medal and the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society membership.

Major White began active duty with the Navy September 18, 1990. His Navy Boot Camp was at the Naval Training Center at Orlando, FL, followed by Seamanship Apprenticeship Training simultaneous training for three months. He reported to the USS Yellowstone AD-41, at Jeddah, Saudi Arabia during Operation DESERT STORM. After graduating from Broadened Opportunity Officer Selection training at San Diego, CA, he reported to the USS Kitty Hawk CV-63 homeport at North Island, San Diego, CA, with a western Pacific cruise in 1994.

His service with the AL Army National Guard included work with the 1241st Postal Company, in Montgomery, AL, his senior year of high school 1989-1990. He served with the 1994th Personnel Service Detachment at Montgomery, AL 1995-1998, and he served with the 214th Military Police (CS) Company in Alexander City, AL, 1998-1999.

Major White's service in the Army included three deployments, namely, to Korea, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. He served with HHD 1st Personnel Group at Fort Lewis, WA, HHC, 8th Personnel Command at Camp Coiner, Korea, Bravo Detachment, 516th Personnel Services Battalion, at Camp Humphreys, Korea, Soldier Support Institute, Captain Career Course, at Fort Jackson, SC, the Coalition Forces Land Component, Third U.S. Army, at Camp Arifijan, Kuwait, HHC, U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort McPherson, GA, Military Transition Team Training, 1st Infantry Division, at Fort Riley, KS, 2nd Brigade, Regional Corps Advisory Command-East at Patika and Ghazni Provinces, Afghanistan, Senior Human Resource Management Course, Soldier Support Institute at Fort Jackson, SC, HHC, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, HHC, 16th

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Sergeant Major Lenora White

Sergeant Major (SGM) Lenora White served 28 years in the U.S. Army with deployments to Korea for three tours, Saudi Arabia during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and Iraq for two tours. Her military Occupational Specialty was Material Storage and Handling Specialist (76V), Automated Logistic Specialist (92A) and Senior Logistics Supervisor (92Z). SGM White's medals, awards, badges and ribbons included: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal (6th Award), Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award), Army Superior Unit Award, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star (3rd Award), Kuwait Liberation Medal, South West Asia Service Medal w/Bronze Service Star (3rd Award), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (4th Award), Recruiter Gold Badge, Recruiter Ring, Morrell Award Medallion for Recruiting Excellence and the Air Assault Badge.

SGM White was born May 19, 1966, in Chicago, IL, to her parents, Lenon and Ora Diane Gardner, where she was reared until the age of four when she lived in St. Louis, MO, for two years and then moved to Peoria, IL, where she was reared and finished Peoria Manual High School in May 1985.

SGM White's military service began when she volunteered and enlisted in the U.S. Army January 12, 1988, with Basic Training at Fort McClellan, AL. Her duty stations included assignments with the 102nd MI at Camp Hovey, Korea, HHC 8/101st Avn Bn, Fort Campbell, KY, Charlie Company 702nd Main Support Bn, Camp Casey, Korea, HHC 8/101st Avn Bn Fort Campbell, KY, 98th Maintenance Company, Fort Richardson, AK, Seattle Recruiting Battalion, Lacey Recruiting Company, Lacy, WA, 8th Army Wightman NCO Academy (Warrior Leaders Course, Camp Jackson, Korea, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Fort Hood, TX, 565th Quartermaster Company, Fort Hood, TX, HHC III Corps, Fort Hood, TX, and 32nd Army Air Missile and Defense Command, Fort Bliss, TX.

SGM White's deployments and combat locations were: 8/101st Avn BN, Fort Campbell, KY-Deployment to Saudi Arabia Desert Shield/Desert Storm, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), Fort Hood, TX-Balad, Iraq, (OIF), 565th Quartermaster Company, Fort Hood, TX-Talill, Iraq (OIF), HHC III Corps and Fort Hood, TX-Victory Base (Bagdad, Iraq). She was a Convoy Security Company First Sergeant, which protected supply distribution operations with armed convoy vehicles, serving a year of intensive convoy operations on the most dangerous MSRs in Iraq. SGM White retired from military service February 1, 2016.

SGM White has an extensive educational background. While serving in the military, she graduated from the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Class 59 at Fort Bliss, TX. She has attended the First Sergeant Course, the Operation Contract Support Course, Tactical Combat Service Support Communications Course, Total Army Instructor Training Course, Transport/Storage of Hazardous Material Course, Equal Opportunity Course and Unit Prevention Leaders Course. SGM White received a B.S. Degree in Criminal Justice from Troy University in 2008 and a Master of Arts Degree in Management and Leadership from Webster University in 2008. She is currently enrolled in a master's degree counseling program at Troy University-Montgomery. She started in the Clinical Mental Health program to later serve veterans and juveniles and switched over to the School Counseling program because of her experience as a Senior JROTC Instructor. SGM White has served as the Senior JROTC instructor at Hillcrest High School in Evergreen, AL, and now she currently serves as the Senior JROTC instructor at Calhoun High School at Letohatchee, AL.

SGM White and her husband, Major Ell White III, have been married almost six years. She has two stepsons, Ell White III and Devin White, and one son, 1st Lt Christopher J. Johnson, who is currently serving as a U.S. Army Commissioned Officer in Field Artillery Officer at Ft. Hood, TX. Since her military retirement, she has held memberships in churches and other organizations. She continues to serve her community through mentorship of youth and through assisting with Voter's Registration Initiatives, and she continues with her husband delivering food to those in need including veterans. She has mentored girls between the ages of eight and 12 at the West End Boys and Girls Club of Montgomery, and she serves her community through membership in the Ambassador Worship Center at Prattville, AL. She is

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COL John A. Brantner & COL Karen S. Brantner

Colonel John A. Brantner

Col John A. Brantner served 30 years in the United States Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was first as an Avionics Officer with the gunship aircraft, and he then served with aircraft maintenance and finally education and training with A.F.R.O.T.C. for the last six years of his military

career. Col Brantner served a one-year tour and eight additional TDY tours in Vietnam. His military decorations, medals, awards and ribbons included: the Legion of Merit with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Humanitarian Service Award, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with service star, Vietnam Service Medal with four service stars, Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short, Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Long, Air Force Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with service star and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Brantner was born November 12, 1944, to his parents, Jack and Kathleen Brantner, in Ft. Walton Beach at Eglin Air Force Base (AFB) FL. Because his father served in the Air Force, his family moved frequently within the United States and abroad, and he graduated from South Dade High School, in Homestead, FL, in 1963 followed by graduation from the University of AL in 1967 with a B.S. Degree in biology. Later, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Management from the University of Southern California and was a resident graduate of the Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College and the Air War College.

Following his university graduation as a Distinguished Graduate in the Air Force R.O.T.C., he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant beginning his military service at Kessler AFB, Biloxi, MS, where he completed training at the Avionics Maintenance School. He was then reassigned to Lockbourne AFB, OH, with the 18th Special Operations Squadron with AC-119K gunships. In December 1969, Col Brantner was transferred to Phan Rang Air Force Base, Republic of Vietnam as chief of the Avionics Maintenance Branch serving with the 14th Special Operations Wing for one year, December 1969-December 1970.

Col Brantner served at the Headquarters Pacific Air Forces at Hickam AFB, HI, for 3.5 years from December 1970 until 1974 as a Maintenance Staff Officer directly supporting the AC-130 and the AC-119 gunship aircraft Southeast Asia. Next, he was selected for faculty duty with the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, AL, and served as a Section Commander and then as Chief of the Programs Branch followed by attendance at the Air Command and Staff College. After graduation in 1979, Col Brantner was transferred to the 33rd Tactical Fighter Wing at Eglin AFB, FL, serving as an F-15 maintenance supervisor, Equipment Maintenance Squadron Commander, Aircraft Generation Squadron Commander and then as the Assistant Deputy Commander for Maintenance. In July 1982, Col Brantner was assigned to Randolph AFB, TX, as Chief of Maintenance Management Division, Headquarters Air Training Command (ATC) and Director of ATC's Maintenance Management School.

Col Brantner was selected to attend the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, AL, beginning in August 1984 and remained there on the faculty. At the Air War College, he served in a variety of key positions in developing, scheduling and teaching the curriculum. He was Chief of Resource Management Studies, Director of Curriculum Programs and Dean/Director of Associate Programs in charge of the Air War College seminar and correspondence studies worldwide. His responsibilities included the senior officer professional military education for 1,600 seminar students and an additional 2,200 students enrolled by correspondence.

Col Brantner's final years of military service were with the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (A.F.R.O.T.C.), which is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force. More than 15,800 cadets are trained and educated at 133 colleges and university campuses throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The Jr. R.O.T.C. provides citizenship training and an aerospace science program for more than 91,000 high schools students at 609 high schools and at selected Department of Defense dependent schools overseas. Col Brantner served as the commander of Air Force R.O.T.C. Detachment 10, University of AL from June 1991 to 1994. He served at Maxwell AFB, AL, as the commander of the Air Force R.O.T.C. Southeast Region from August 1994 to May 1996 and vice commander of Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps from May 1996 to February 1997. Completing his military service as commander of the Air Force R.O.T.C. from February 1997 to July 1997, Col. Brantner retired from military service July 1997 at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Col Brantner has been married to his wife, Col Karen Brantner for more than 41 years, and they have one son, David. Since his retirement from military service, he completed a four-month Master Gardening course at Jasmine Hill Gardens at Wetumpka, AL. He has been actively involved in Christian service with membership at Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church where he has served on the staff for five years using his Master Gardening skills in the landscaping of its campus. He is currently the President of the Sowers Sunday School Class, and he has served on the Board of the Family Teams for Life/Christ whose purpose is to build loving Christian families. He and his wife have gone on mission trips to Cuba and Haiti, and both work with children in Frazer's Transformation Montgomery, a community development program. He also is an avid pickle ball player winning gold medals in single and doubles in Alabama's Senior Olympics.

Col Brantner reflects upon his military service saying, "My Dad was my hero and an excellent role model for me. He was a patriot who loved America and served proudly in the USAF for 27 years. When I was getting ready to graduate from college, I chose to follow in my father's footsteps and serve our great nation in the USAF. It proved to be challenging and rewarding and one of the best decisions of my life."

Colonel Karen S. Brantner

Col Karen S. Brantner served 24 years in the United States Air Force including one tour at the Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB) in Korat, Thailand, during the Vietnam War. Her Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) included Administrative Officer, Executive Support Officer, Public Affairs Officer, Education and Training Officer and Plans Officer. Her military awards, decorations and ribbons were: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, Vietnam Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Brantner was born February 16, 1945, in Wausau, WI to her parents, Marvin and Hazel Sandquist. She was reared in rural WI near Aniwa, WI, and graduated from Birnamwood High School in 1962. She received a B.S. Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, WI, in 1966 and a M.A. Degree in Journalism from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, she graduated from the United States Air Force Squadron Officer School with honors, was a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College and completed the Air War College seminar program in 1984 with an outstanding rating.

Col Brantner volunteered for military service enlisting as an officer candidate in the United States Air Force August 11, 1966, in Wausau, WI, and she was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. October 21, 1966, through the Officer Training School at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX. Subsequently, she was assigned for two years as administrative officer for Headquarters Squadron, 3345th Technical School, Chanute Air AFB, IL. In 1968, she became administrative officer for the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing, Korat Thai Air Force Base, Thailand. Her next overseas assignment was service as assistant executive officer for the Operations Division at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium for four years where she served with military and civilian personnel from 13 NATO countries.

Col Brantner returned to the USA in June 1973 to attend the Squadron Officer School at Maxwell AFB, AL, followed by an 18-month Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) Masters Degree program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was then transferred to Langley AFB, VA, to serve as the deputy public affairs officer for the 4500th Air Base Wing and subsequently in the same capacity for the 1st Tactical Fighter Wing.

From November 1977 to August 1979, Col Brantner was assigned to the faculty of the Squadron Officer School (SOS), Maxwell AFB, AL, where she served as the section commander, deputy wing chief and finally as the first female squadron commander in the history of SOS. From August 1979-June 1980, she attended the Air Command and Staff College (ACSC) at Maxwell AFB.

After graduation, Col Brantner was transferred to Headquarters, Armament Division at Eglin AFB, FL, as deputy director of public affairs and chief of media relations. In December 1980, she was selected as the base executive officer and transferred to the 3201st Air Base Group, the largest support organization in Air Force Systems Command. In June 1982, she was transferred to Randolph AFB, TX, to serve as the chief of publicity for USAF Recruiting Service until she joined the Air War College (AWC) faculty at Maxwell AFB, AL, in June 1985 where she was Chief of Evaluation and Chief of Plans. She served with extremely sharp faculty and staff as well as carefully selected International Officers and students from other branches of the military. Her final assignment was Director of Plans, Programs and Mission Support at the AWC before retiring January 31, 1991, at Maxwell AFB, AL.

Col. Brantner has been married to her husband, Col John A. Brantner, for over 41 years, and they have one son, David. Since her military retirement, she has focused on their family, both immediate and extended. Being an available and supportive wife and mother has been her top priority. As an active member of Frazer Memorial United Methodist Church, she is a member of the Sowers Sunday School Class, has engaged in one-on-one mentoring with younger women, premarriage mentoring for engaged couples with her husband, gone on missions trips to Cuba and supported Transformation Montgomery, a community development program.



She has participated in Moms-in-Touch for the past 22 years, a group of friends that meet on a regular basis to pray for their families as well as her church, city, state and country. Throughout this service, she has welcomed time for spiritual growth through Bible study and prayer. She serves the Lord in many ways and loves investing in the lives of others.

Col Brantner's conclusions about her military service are, "Serving this wonderful country of ours was indeed a privilege of a lifetime. The benefits that I received far exceeded my highest expectations. My military service opened my eyes to how blessed that I am to live in America. I had opportunities to travel to many countries in different parts of the world and to meet so many wonderful people. The Air Force trained me to do a wide variety of new things, namely: It sent me for a Master of Arts Degree in Journalism, helped develop my leadership skills and gave me the chance to practice and teach good communication skills, help recruit quality people for the Air Force and make life-long friends. What a remarkable adventure it was! I don't take for granted the freedoms that we Americans enjoy, and I have great respect and appreciation for the military men and women who serve us today."



Major Eli White, III . . . continued from page 1B

Combat Aviation Brigade, Student Detachment, Command General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS, and HHC, Joint Task Fort-North. Major White retired with an honorary discharge from military service at Fort Bliss, TX, December 31, 2014.

Following retirement from military service, Major White has continued to serve as the Fatherhood Program Facilitator with the Family Support Center at Prattville, AL, since September 2020. He served as Human Trafficking Advocate at the One Place Family Justice Center in Montgomery, AL, August 2019-August 2020. He was an Adjunct Professor at Alabama State University August 2015-August 2018, and he has served as a Residential Services Coordinator for Montgomery ARC in Montgomery, AL March 2015-December 2015.

Major White and his wife, Lenora, have been married almost six years, and he has two sons, one goddaughter and one stepson. He travels, actively gives back to his communities in a myriad of selfless ways, spends time with his youngest son and goddaughter and rides his motorcycle. He serves on the Ministerial Staff at the Ambassador Worship Center in Prattville, AL. He has been active in community service as vice-president of the Billingsley High School Reunion and Scholarships Committee, Board Member of the Central AL Crime Stoppers, Board Member of the Autauga County Democratic National Committee, Veteran Mentor of the 19th Judicial Circuit and a volunteer for the Salvation Army aiding disaster clients affected by Hurricane Laura in Lake Charles, LA and assisting homeless individuals and families. White also cares deeply about his communities by helping to feed the homeless, purchasing food baskets and distributing food baskets to less fortunate families, purchasing and passing out bookbags to children in need, and ministering, helping, and assisting homeless as well as domestic violence and trafficking victims.

Major White has been recognized for his extensive community service as exemplified by receiving the following awards: AL News Network & Vance Law Firm "Pay It Forward" recipient, Shaaban Temple #103 Outstanding Service Certificate, Desert of Alabama Noble of the Year, Standing Together Against Rape (S.T.A.R.), Victim Advocate Appreciation Certificate, Ft. Bliss Army Community Service, Ft. Bliss Special Olympics Volunteer Appreciation Certificate, El Paso Holy Arch Masons Chapter No. 90, Loyal Service and Support Appreciation

Certificate, Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem, Volunteer Appreciation Certificate and Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, Meritorious Service Alumni Award.

When reflecting upon his military service, Major White says, "Serving is a calling and an honor. Serving is a continual calling. Serving is not for the weak-hearted. Serving has been an intimate, microcosmic relationship of the universe, the good, the bad and the ugly."

Sergeant Major Lenora White . . . continued from page 1B

a member of Beta Nu Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. where she is the Chair of #CAP College Admission Process. She is also a member of Shaaban Court #126, Daughters of the Auxiliary Court, Oasis of Montgomery, Desert of Alabama, where she is the 1st LT Commandress. She recently became a member of Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Inc. The Elite Professionals, and she is a member of Alpha Kappa Chapter, Montgomery, AL.

SGM White describes her military experiences saying, "The major highlights of my military career were teaching at the NCO Academy which is where it all starts for junior leaders. This was the foundation of leadership where I was able to coach, teach, and mentor our Junior NCO's to grow into our future leaders. I also genuinely enjoyed being a First Sergeant which was where I was able to lead our great Army soldiers, as well as coach, teach and mentor them into our future leaders. As a result of being a great First Sergeant and leader, several of my NCO's graduated from the US Army Sergeants Major Course, and I am so proud of their accomplishments. This is success to me. My success was seeing my soldiers and NCOs become successful leaders in the US Army. As I have stated, my soldiers' success in the military is my greatest highlight and accomplishment, and I would not trade my 28 years in the military for anything. It has truly been a blessing from God to be able to serve my country. I have always told my soldiers and NCOs, 'Always lead from the front and be an example for soldiers to emulate, and always remember if your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.'"

Former Prisoner of War: Roy McGinnis

Roy McGinnis, a WWII veteran who survived 19 months of imprisonment in Stalag 17, celebrated his 98th birthday January 18, 2021. McGinnis was a gunner on a B-17, which was shot down, served 27 years in the U.S. Air Force and served as the first Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs. An American flag was flown over the Alabama Capitol on January 14, 2021 in his honor. His article was published in the December 2018 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*.

(right) Roy McGinnis with the American flag, citation from Governor Kay Ivey and a commemorative coin from Admiral Kent Davis, Commissioner of Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs.



(below) Dr. Martha Poole Simmons, American Red Cross volunteer, presents McGinnis with a proclamation from Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed, declaring January 28, 2021, to be Roy McGinnis Day in Montgomery.



Chief Master Sergeant (CMSGT) Raymond Martin, U.S. Air Force, enjoys reading the January 2021 issue of the *Alabama Gazette*, featuring his article written by Dr. Martha Poole Simmons.



Helen Lattal's 101st birthday parade was featured in the January issues of the newspaper. She was overjoyed to relive those precious memories in the pages of the *Alabama Gazette*.

If you know of a Veteran who deserves to be honored, please email: alabamagazette@gmail.com

Honoring Miss Bobbie . . . continued from page 1A

Mr. and Mrs. Ames founded Perry Christian School in 1965 where Mrs. Ames taught and administrated. She was the mainstay of this ministry as it moved to Selma, Montgomery, and finally to Emerald Mountain. She dedicated her life to Biblically centered Christian education, and impacted the lives of countless children during her fifty years of faithful service. Mrs. Ames was also active in Republican political circles, having served as President of the Federation of Republican Women at the county and state levels, and as Republican National Committee woman from Alabama, from 1968-1972. Her vast knowledge of America's Christian history and decades of experience in Christian education enabled her to write for *The Alabama Gazette* for many years on issues of education and history from a Biblical worldview. In 2020, her writings were compiled into the book *Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage*.

Final care and arrangements have been faithfully entrusted to the care of Selma Funeral Home. There will be a Celebration of Life in the near future for family and friends. Mrs. Bobbie's full obituary can be viewed here: <https://www.selmafuneralhome.com/obituaries/Mae-Ames/#!/Obituary>



Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

Miss Bobbie's articles featured in the monthly pages of the *Alabama Gazette* were published in a book, *Land That I Love*, by Nordskog Publishing.

This book that generations to come will treasure can be ordered at this link:

<https://www.nordskogpublishing.com/product/land-that-i-love/>



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Montgomery Symphony Association

www.montgomerysymphony.org/

★ ★ ★ BEYOND THE SCREEN INTO THE STARS! ★ ★ ★

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Our Galaxy is Not at Rest

We don't feel it, but our planet, our sun, our solar system, and even our galaxy is not at rest. We all know (I hope) that our planet is rotating on its axis, giving us day and night. But just how fast (or slow) is the earth rotating? Let's start there.

Speed is equal to the distance traveled over the time taken. The "time taken" to calculate the speed of the earth is the amount of time it takes the earth to complete one revolution; 23 hours and 56 minutes. The "distanced traveled" will be the circumference of the planet; 24,901.46 thousand miles at the equator. To illustrate, let's imagine we are suspended in space above the earth looking down at a point or city on the equator.

As mentioned above, it would take nearly 24 hours for that point or city to come back around to be directly beneath us again. So, dividing 24,901.46 by 24 tells us the speed of earth's rotation; 1,037.56 miles per hour (at the equator). At that speed you could travel from New York city to Los Angeles in a little less than 2 1/2 hours.

As the earth rotates on its axis, it is also orbiting around the sun. One trip around the sun is 584 million miles (2pi x 93 million = 584, 336,233), and it takes us 365 1/4 days to complete one orbit. So every year when you celebrate your birthday, you are also celebrating one trip around the sun. Doing the same math we did above, the earth travels approximately 1.6 million miles each day. Dividing that by 24 (hours in a day), the earth is orbiting the sun at a blazing speed of nearly 67 thousand miles per hour. But, hold on there's more.

The sun, therefore our solar system, is also orbiting the galactic center of the Milky Way galaxy. All stars in the Milky Way orbit the galactic center but not at the same speed. Those stars closer to the center rotate faster than the farther away. The Milky way is about 100 thousand light years (5.8 trillion times 100,000=587,862,537,318,360,700

miles) across, and our sun is located approximately 30 thousand light years (5.8 trillion times 30,000=176,358,761,195,508,220 miles) from the galactic center. To that end, our solar system is orbiting the galactic center of the Milky Way at close to 490 thousand miles per hour. At that speed, the sun hence our solar system, orbits once around the galactic center of the Milky Way every 225 million years. In case you're wondering, that period is called a "Cosmic Year".

But even our galaxy is not at rest. The galaxies in our part of the observable universe are speeding outward at a speed of almost 620 miles per second.

So with all this dizzying speeds, why don't we feel it. The answer is that it's all relative. In other words, everything on earth is moving at the same speed relative to everything else on earth. Think of it this way. Imagine you are on board an airplane making that trip from New York City to Los Angeles. (Social distance and wear a mask.) When the aircraft reaches its assigned altitude and is traveling at a constant speed, you wouldn't even know you were racing through the sky. You could unbuckle your seat belt, get up and walk down the aisle and you wouldn't notice the speed. The reason is simple; you, the plane, and everything inside the plane is moving at the exact same speed. If you look out the window, you would see the movement, the clouds passing by or the ground below you passing along, but you wouldn't feel it. When the plane starts its descent, and begins slowing down you will definitely immediately feel the change in speed. If you are still out of your seat and walking down the aisle, you would likely lose your balance and fall back into your seat (or in someone else's lap).

In astronomy, we see the effects of the rotating earth when using telescopes or binoculars to view celestial objects. If we have our equipment sitting on a simple tripod, within seconds the object we are viewing will be out of our field view. Constant manual adjustments have to be made in order to compensate for earth's rotation. To overcome the rotation and eliminate the need for constant adjustments, astronomers use Equatorial mounts. Equatorial mounts have small motors on the tripod to compensate for the earth's rotation, keeping the object steady within our field of view.

<https://www.troy.edu/student-life-resources/arts-culture/wa-gayle-planetarium/index.html>

[GaylePlanetarium](https://www.facebook.com/GaylePlanetarium)

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www.montgomeryareafoodbank.org/NeedHelp.html

By **Kylle' D. McKinney**
 kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov
 (334) 479-1242--Cell
 (334) 272-7630--Fax



*Alabama Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration
 4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100, Montgomery, Alabama 36116*

Your Newborn and Their Social Security Number

Getting your newborn a Social Security number is important for their future. If your child is born in a hospital, the easiest way to apply for a Social Security number is right at the hospital.

When you give information for your child's birth certificate at the hospital, you'll be asked whether you want to apply for a Social Security number for your child. If you say "yes," you will be asked to provide both parents' Social Security numbers, if you can. Even if you don't know both parents' Social Security numbers, you can still apply for a number for your child.

There are many reasons why your child should have a Social Security number. You need a Social Security number to claim your child as a dependent on your income tax return. Your child may also need a number if you plan to do the following for your child:

- Open a bank account.
- Buy savings bonds.
- Get medical coverage.
- Apply for government services.

You can find more information by reading *Social Security Numbers for Children* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10023.pdf.

Please share this information with people who are expecting a child. Applying for a Social Security number at the hospital will save them time and let them focus on the new member of their family.



Workers in Your Home and Social Security

Do you plan to pay a cleaning person, cook, gardener, babysitter, or other household worker at least \$2,300 in 2021? This amount includes any cash you pay for your household employee's transportation, meals, and housing. If you will pay at least \$2,300 to one household worker, you have some additional financial responsibilities. You must do all of the following:

- Deduct Social Security and Medicare taxes from those wages.
- Pay these taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.
- Report the wages to Social Security.

For every \$2,300 in wages, most household employees earn credits toward Social Security benefits and Medicare coverage. Generally, people need 10 years of work to qualify for:

- Retirement benefits (as early as age 62).
- Disability benefits for the worker and the worker's dependents.
- Survivors benefits for the worker's family.
- Medicare benefits.

You can learn more about reporting household worker income by reading Household Workers at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10021.pdf.



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Get Your Social Security Benefit Statement (SSA-1099 / SSA-1042S)

Tax season is approaching, and replacing your annual Benefit Statement has never been easier. The Benefit Statement, also known as the SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S, is a tax form we mail each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from us in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to the Internal Revenue Service on your tax return.

If you live in the United States and you need a replacement form SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S, simply go online and get an instant, printable replacement form using your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. A replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S is available for the previous tax year after February 1.

If you don't have access to a printer, you can save the document to your computer or email it to yourself. If you don't have a *my Social Security* account, creating one is very easy to do and usually takes less than 10 minutes.

With a personal *my Social Security* account, you can do much of your business with us online. If you receive benefits or have Medicare, your personal *my Social Security* account is also the best way to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Get your benefit verification letter.
- Check your benefit and payment information.
- Change your address and phone number.
- Change your direct deposit information.
- Request a replacement Medicare card.
- Report your wages if you work and receive Social Security disability insurance or Supplemental Security Income benefits.

If you're a non-citizen who lives outside of the United States and you received or repaid Social Security benefits last year, we will send you form SSA-1042S in the mail. The forms SSA-1099 and SSA-1042S are not available for people who receive Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Visit www.ssa.gov to find more about our online services.



Making the Most of America Saves Week

This year, America Saves Week runs from February 22-26. The week is an opportunity for organizations to promote good financial habits. It's also a great time for people to assess their own saving status, as planning and saving are key to a successful retirement.

Each day of the week will focus on a different aspect of saving:

- Monday – Save Automatically
- Tuesday – Save for the Unexpected
- Wednesday – Save to Retire
- Thursday – Save by Reducing Debt
- Friday – Save as a Family

It's never too early to start planning for your retirement. Set a goal, make a plan, and save automatically. People with a plan are twice as likely to save successfully. Pledge to save for America Saves Week at www.americasavesweek.org.

We have many tools to help you with your goals as you save for retirement. You can access our online information and resources at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement.

It's never too late for you and your loved ones to begin saving. Younger workers may think they have time to put off saving for their future, but the sooner they begin, the more their money can grow. Visit our website for young workers at www.ssa.gov/people/earlycareer for resources that can help you secure today and tomorrow.



Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.

Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov

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Southern Cuisine

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Photo by: Maaillustrations/FreelImages



Here is February, the Canned Food Month, National Cook A Sweet Potato Day, the Return Shopping Carts to the Supermarket Month, and the Hot Breakfast Month. With these month-long celebrations there is Oatmeal Monday, the second Monday of February, and the 3rd weekend of February is National Margarita weekend. Then Super Bowl Sunday is National Pork Rind Day (aka National Pork Rind Appreciation Day).

Have you figured out why I have mentioned all these holidays? You are right – except for returning the shopping carts, you can’t eat them but they do carry the food while you are shopping.

The main topic is for Canned Food Month. As you know, I have been an advocate for a stocked pantry. I went to the store for only two items out of all the recipes. And it was not a canned good.

Before I go any further, my wife asked about Valentine’s Day. I don’t make

My first recipe takes parts of three food holidays and makes a breakfast bar. I found this recipe in an issue of a San Antonio newspaper from 1974. The title of that article was “Breakfast Bars Get You Going.” It said you can make these on a weekend and can enjoy them all week! I got a kick out of the title for the recipe.

Old South ’Lasses Breakfast Bars

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 c. softened butter
- 1 c. brown sugar, pack firm
- 2 eggs
- ½ c. honey
- ¼ c. dark molasses
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 large ripe bananas
- 2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ c. flax seed
- ¾ c. rolled oats
- ¾ c. chopped dates
- Powdered sugar



Photo: David & Anne Spooner

Yield: Makes up to 32 bars depending on size

METHOD:

1. In a large mixing bowl, cream together butter and sugar.
2. Add eggs, beating until light and fluffy.
3. Mix in honey, molasses and vanilla. Mash bananas and stir in.
4. Blend together flour, baking powder and salt: add to banana mixture, blending well.
5. Stir in wheat germ (or flax seed) and rolled oats; then fold in chopped dates.
6. Spread batter in a greased 13x9 inch baking dish.
7. Bake at 325° for 35 to 40 minutes, until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.
8. Cool slightly, sprinkle with powdered sugar. When cool, cut into bars.

Next, we celebrate Canned Food Month. My pantry is stocked with an assortment of canned beans with different spices and types of beans. It is the same for the diced tomatoes and the corn. Since I had kidney beans and black beans in the recipe, I opted to use Bush’s Pinto Chili Beans. Any bean will do, just make sure it is a can of Chili Beans, the spices add to the final product. I found a can of Fire Roasted Kernel Corn but I could not taste it in the chili. The original recipe called for a 15-ounce can of plain diced tomatoes but I used a 10-ounce can of diced tomatoes with green chilies.

Five Can Chili

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 (15-oz.) can kidney beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 (15-oz.) can black beans, drained & rinsed
- 1 (15-oz.) can Pinto chili beans
- 1 (10-oz.) can diced tomatoes w/green chilies
- 1 (15-oz.) can corn, drained
- Chili powder, to taste

Yield: 9 servings

METHOD:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. In a large pot, combine all canned ingredients. Simmer the chili over medium heat.
3. Add chili powder to taste and stir.
4. Continue to heat until heated thoroughly. There is not much liquid in the chili but it will thicken somewhat as it heats up. You may want to add a little more liquid (stock or water) to make up for using a smaller can of tomatoes.



Photo by David & Anne Spooner

Sweet Potato Cookies with Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ¾ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 c. Bruce’s Yams Cut Sweet Potatoes in Syrup, drained & mashed
- 1 c. (2 sticks) butter, melted
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 8 oz cream cheese, softened
- 4 Tbsp. unsalted butter, softened
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. cinnamon



Photo: David & Anne Spooner

3-4 c. powdered sugar (frosting)
Ground cinnamon to sprinkle on frosting.

METHOD – Sweet Potato Cookies:

1. In a medium sized bowl, whisk together flour, cornstarch, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg and salt. Set aside.
2. In a large bowl whisk together sweet potatoes, butter and granulate sugar. Add egg and vanilla extract.
3. Beat in flour mixture until well combined. Cover bowl with foil or parchment paper and refrigerate for one hour or overnight.
4. Preheat oven to 350°. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper.
5. Using a medium cookie scoop, drop dough by onto prepared cookie sheets. Grease the bottom of a flat glass with butter and gently press cookie dough into flat disks about a half inch thick.
6. Bake cookies for 10 to 12 minutes or until tops are set. Transfer to wire racks to cool.

METHOD – Cinnamon Cream Cheese Frosting:

1. Beat together cream cheese, butter, cinnamon and vanilla until well combined. Add powdered sugar and beat until smooth.
2. Generously frost on top of each cookie and dust with extra cinnamon if desired. Serve immediately and store any leftovers in the refrigerator.

This next recipe is not celebrating a food holiday. It is aimed to all the parents and grandparents that are home schooling their children. It can be a fun activity or a lesson in cooking/reading and math/measurements. This is the recipe I had to go to the store to buy the two ingredients I did not have in my pantry. My pantry was lacking Animal Crackers and vanilla yogurt.

Animals in the Swamp

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 oz. vanilla yogurt
- 1 Tbsp. chocolate instant pudding mix
- 24 animal crackers

Yield: 4 servings

METHOD:

1. Wash hands with soap and water.
2. Combine yogurt and pudding mix.
3. Serve ¼ cup of “swamp” to each child with 6 animal crackers.
4. Dip crackers into the “swamp” and enjoy.
5. Refrigerate any extra “swamp” within 2 hours and eat within to 3 to 4 days.



Photo by David & Anne Spooner

The ANIMALS IN THE SWAMP and the FIVE CAN CHILI recipes are courtesy of UNL Food from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. If you noticed in the directions, the first item is always wash hands with soap and water. You should instill this activity in your children every time they start an endeavor in the kitchen. It would even be better if you did, too!

Home Town Community News

Please send Patricia your family birthdays, anniversaries and weddings to alabamagazette@gmail.com
The Alabama Gazette will make every effort to include your submissions as space permits.

Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Happy Anniversary

14 Gordon & Vicki Davis	20 Hayden & Dee Ward
Clark & Anita Jones	21 Tom & Bettye Garlington
Josh & Jamie McCandless	Gilbert & Ethel Sellers (65th)
16 Gordon & Becky Burton (42nd)	22 Jerry & Debra Morrison (36th)
20 Chuck & Susan Gambrell	28 Pat & Butch Moseley (62nd)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Sara Margaret Auerbach	16 Randy Smith
George Evans	17 Brian Betz
Mary Johnson	William L. Carl (84th)
2 Thelma Alexander	Chuck Glasscock (57th)
Brewer Box	Kathi Farley
Shelby Smith	Willa Faye Munson
Alvin Turner	Anastasia Meadow Takacs (5th)
3 Del Atkinson	Gavin Noah Takacs (5th)
Sybil Foshee	Alice Tyson
Rebecca Hughes	Jean Warren
Helen Lankford	18 Chip Norris
Genye Messick	Kermit Paramore
Wayne Robinson	19 Anita Jones
Pam Pouncey	Barbara Pugh
4 Paige Box	Chuck Lear
Anna Haigler Johnson	Dawn Johnson
Helen Rahn Millican	20 Ann Moore
5 Peggy Agent	Hayden Ward
Jean Fuller	Todd Windham
Cruise Johnson	21 Victoria L. Carl (21st)
Beth Norris	Alyssa Lear
Lila Webster	Jessica Burgess
6 Amanda Edwards	Jerrell Campbell
Morgan Lee Madison (10th)	Jane Russell
Donna Spradley	Shirley Yarbrough
7 Rhonda Black	22 Ellen Adcock
Mary Helen Fleming	Douglas Evans (71st)
Shelvie Freeman	Jean Finlayson
Rick Marshall	Hettie H. Harrington
Rodney Powell	Tim Meadows
8 John Barnes	Willie Stephens
Claudine Nobles	23 Dorothy Bennett
Sharon Owens	Virgil Culpepper
Janet Phillips	Bill Duncan (98th)
Abigail Roux	Nathan Horsley
9 Lori Meadows	Ann Spheres
Lucille Wilson	24 Katherine Andrews
10 Jim Soule	Cheryl Jarrell
Mittie B. Stockman (94th)	25 Bettye Garlington
Jeanne Villar	John Higgins
11 Glen Hataway	Lewis Mulleck
Steve Law	Shanny Sansom
Earline Wood	Willie Pearl Shepherd
12 Chas Hammock (12th)	26 Erma Dillard
13 Susan Gambrell	Cassidy Gwin
Dot Hill	Dean Moore
14 Carolyn Bowden	Carolyn Watson
Michael Coker	27 Portia Goss
Lyda Crowe	Evans Hartzog
Drew Martin	Jamie Hall
Hamil Martin	Mary Horton
Dorothy Sparrow	Carol Spencer
Zac Swearingen	28 Joy Carlisle
15 Mildred Durden	Mary Daniels
Mike Green	Debi Nowakowski
Nancy Rabren	Weldon Payne
Susan Terrell	Charlene Schofield
16 James Ellis Fleming (15th)	Freddie Oswalt
Joan Kirk	29 Mandy Azar
Clark Jones	



Happy Belated Birthday!

Jeannette Long: Jan 11th
Rev. Nick Hughes: 19th

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

John C. Morrow: Feb. 2	Karen S. Brantner: Feb 16
Joe Panza: Feb. 2	Eugene F. Crooks: Feb. 16
Dudley Frank Christian: Feb. 6	William L. Carl: Feb. 17
George C. Winn: Feb. 6	William Ellis Duncan: Feb. 23
James Harris Combs: Feb. 15	Andrew E. Lindsey: Feb. 25

Honoring Veterans Who Passed

Veteran (Gazette issue)	Date of Passing
Winfred Lowe (Feb 2019): <i>Feb 2, 2021, would have been Lowe's 95th birthday.</i>	Jun 7, 2020
Donald Charles King (Nov 2019) <i>Feb 21, 2021, would have been King's 86th birthday.</i>	Jun 8, 2020
Morgan C. Barnes (Dec 2019):	Jan 4, 2021
Thomas Benjamin Blake: (Jun 2019):	Jan. 13, 2021
Rev. Dr. Roy Sublette (Oct 2019):	Jan 31, 2021



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!

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or visit: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugle, and provide date, location and time of internment.

Alabama Gazette's Sympathy to the families of...

Mills, Sandra "Sandi" K. (72).....	Dec. 26
McFadden, Judge Frank Hampton (95).....	Dec. 28
Fletcher, William Luther "Buddy" (78).....	Dec. 30
Dicks, Jr., Nolan L. (72).....	Dec. 31
Cardinal, Clare Bowman (92).....	Jan. 4
Chandler, Billy Ferrell (80).....	Jan. 4
Jinright, Perry Clyde "PC" (96).....	Jan. 5
Millerakis, Tony Kamburis (57).....	Jan. 7
Cumbus, Alice Elizabeth Griggs (102).....	Jan. 8
Reynolds, III, Daniel L. (94).....	Jan. 8
Stansell, Donald "Don" Montgomery (75).....	Jan. 10
Cope, III, Robert E.L. (84).....	Jan. 15
Jones, Evelyn Alene (77).....	Jan. 15
Pepper, Stephen "Ray" (68).....	Jan. 15
Pettus, Teresa Lynn Bragg (61).....	Jan. 15
Conoly, David Alan (55).....	Jan. 16
Holland, Bonnie Lou (90).....	Jan. 16
Guthrie, Gwendolyn "Gwen" McNeill (86).....	Jan. 17
Rhodes, Spears Randall (97).....	Jan. 17
Jenkins, Charles Rhoten (77).....	Jan. 18
Cohan, Bobbi (83).....	Jan. 19
Hutcheson, Jr., Everett Vinson "Hutch" (93).....	Jan. 19
Culp, Annette Daniel (95).....	Jan. 20
Gafford, Anne Perdue (87).....	Jan. 20
Reid, Wynelle Williamson (85).....	Jan. 20
Rogers, Helen Julian (89).....	Jan. 20
Blankenship, Ramona Bailey (78).....	Jan. 20
Ashhurst, Jr., Walter Thomas (71).....	Jan. 22
Robinson, Krystin Jo (35).....	Jan. 22
Crook, Sue Jeanette (72).....	Jan. 23
Murphy, Willard Flynn "Buddy" (71).....	Jan. 23
Parker, III, William Marion (78).....	Jan. 23
Dees, Jr., Alvin Howard (74).....	Jan. 24
Lamar, Lewis Wardlow (84).....	Jan. 25
Steward, Sandra Kay (75).....	Jan. 25
Gillespie, Virginia Ann (82).....	Jan. 26
Mauldin, Sally Jo Gidley (92).....	Jan. 26
Raborn, Lamon Earl (86).....	Jan. 26
Rhodes, Martha Jane Johnson (96).....	Jan. 27
Fain, Jr., James Clyde (91).....	Jan. 28
Floyd, Michael (50).....	Jan. 28
Griffin, Dudley Williamson (92).....	Jan. 28
Summerlin, Joseph Byron (81).....	Jan. 29

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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.

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In Memory Of

Betty H Windham.....	Jan.3, 2021
Leslie Carol Brewer.....	Jan.3, 2021
William Alexander (Alex) McClurg.....	Jan.3, 2021
Sara Elizabeth Powell Robbins.....	Jan.5, 2021
James C. "Jimmy" Wiggins Jr.....	Jan.6, 2021
Donald Hawk.....	Jan.7, 2021
James Woodrow Forbus.....	Jan.7, 2021
Ella Frances Fisher.....	Jan.10, 2021
Patricia Blondel "Pat" Harden.....	Jan.11, 2021
Samuel Earl "Sam" Brown.....	Jan.12, 2021
Lucille Wilson Culver.....	Jan.12, 2021
Margaret Gaines Eads.....	Jan.12, 2021
Louise H Bozeman.....	Jan.13, 2021
Diana Loree Fuller.....	Jan.14, 2021
Robert David Bolan.....	Jan.14, 2021
William Peavy.....	Jan.14, 2021
Billie Jean Barnes.....	Jan.15, 2021
Carl David Hastings.....	Jan.15, 2021
Ethel "Frances" Benton.....	Jan.15, 2021
Howard Jones.....	Jan.15, 2021
Baron Preston Sr.....	Jan.16, 2021
Debra Jean Luckie.....	Jan.16, 2021
Tanya Ann D'Arciprete.....	Jan.17, 2021
James Edward Harrison Jr.....	Jan.19, 2021
Paul Jackson Perrett.....	Jan.20, 2021
Betty DeLois Brown.....	Jan.22, 2021
Emily Dean McKay.....	Jan.23, 2021
John Morris Pritchett.....	Jan.23, 2021
Frances Virginia "Ginger" Woodfin Manning.....	Jan.24, 2021
William Jeffrey "Jeff" Moncrief.....	Jan.25, 2021
Shelby Jean Kincaid Bryson.....	Jan.26, 2021
Gordon William Wright, Sr.....	Jan.27, 2021
William Henry Fuller Jr.....	Jan.28, 2021
Freda Jean Grigsby.....	Jan.29, 2021
Jack Andrews.....	Feb.1, 2021

TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears & Laughter: We the People Get Along Just Fine

Now that he is in office, Joe Biden has the task of trying to unite the United States. He says it is his intention. He is committed to it.

I think it is possible.

I really do. I don't know how much President Biden will have to do with it, but I do think peace is possible.

Mainly I think it is possible because I see us getting along. There may be pockets of civil unrest across the country, but mostly it is politicians who aren't getting along. We the people get along fine. If you can find a way to tune-out the news and get offline for a while, you will see what I mean.

Take Camden...here we are down here in the Black Belt. They call it a food desert because we have so few grocery stores. We have to travel to get medical care. We have high unemployment. We have schools that are challenged, there is very little for our kids to do, we are not an area immune to drugs or gangs, but we seem to get along okay.



Photo by Jenny Z / freeimages.com

And Wilcox County is not a place that is without history. This is the deep South. The old South. But we are all here by choice. There is more of a focus on moving forward than looking back over the past. We have mentally evolved.

We smile at one another – from behind our masks. We hold doors for one another at stores in town. It is not unusual to see someone in line with a loaded buggy and a fist full of coupons let the person behind them skip ahead so they won't have to wait.

We give each other the right-of-way at intersections and four-way stops. We wave. And if you ever have a flat tire, someone will stop and help. Or if they can't help, they will just keep you company.

I don't think it is confined to Wilcox County. People are friendly about everywhere. And I don't mean online where it is easy to hide behind a screen. I mean in real life in the real world.

The last time I was in Atmore, there was a woman – smoking a cigar – sitting on a bench outside of the front entrance of the casino. And hey...you can draw the line wherever you like. Most women who smoke stop somewhere around the Marlboro Light and a pack of reds divide, but to each her own.

What I can report, is that this wasn't a Black and Mild, nor was it one of those little exotic rolls you can get at smoke shops, no...it was a cigar. And there was a huge bird tattooed on her forearm. It could have been a chicken. It might have been a peacock. I don't know. Maybe it's a work in process. I didn't ask. Point being is at first glance, she and I looked different. I would think there are chances she and I have different takes on politics.

But she offered her umbrella for me to run to my car for a sweater. When I returned it to her, I thanked her and we walked back inside together. "Good luck," she said as she went on her way.

"And to you, too," I said, as I went mine.

We don't need the President to help us get along.

We need the two sides of government to get along.

There has been talk of a third party. If the third party is made up of everyone disgusted with the two parties currently running the place...it might would make for a uniting change.

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 or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



Ms. Wheelchair America/
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Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Nothing Less Than Perfect"

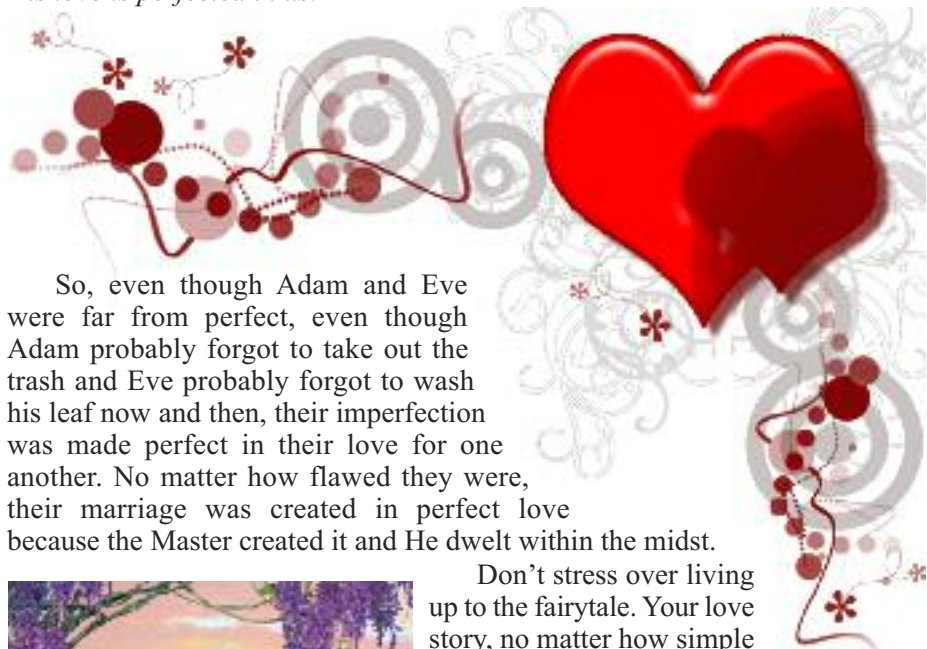
As children, we all dream about happily ever after. We pine away waiting for the knight on the white horse or daydream about love that is never anything less than perfect. When you think of perfect love, who do you think of? While many of you probably said Cinderella and Prince Charming; when I think of perfect love, my thoughts turn to Adam and Eve.

You might say that's kind of a bad choice for "perfect love." But if you think about it, Adam and Eve, while best known for the single worst mistake in history, were still the first couple ever made for each other in the literal and spiritual sense. God made Eve especially for Adam. She was made for him and from him. Their relationship was God's handiwork and despite the whole apple thing, they created quite the life together.

"And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect." 1 John 4:17

Just like many love stories today, I have never turned a pumpkin into a carriage and my husband has never trotted in on a white horse to save me from some wicked queen. However, I have turned lemons into lemonade many days, and he makes up the cutest songs to sing around the house. We don't always see eye to eye. We don't go dancing on Friday nights or awake every morning to breakfast in bed. He may snore...a little. I may nag...a little. He watches Sports Center, and I watch HGTV. But while we two are far from perfect, we love each other perfectly. God created our marriage in His perfect manner, in His perfect way ... as only He can do.

God tells us in 1 John 4:12, *"If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us."*



So, even though Adam and Eve were far from perfect, even though Adam probably forgot to take out the trash and Eve probably forgot to wash his leaf now and then, their imperfection was made perfect in their love for one another. No matter how flawed they were, their marriage was created in perfect love because the Master created it and He dwelt within the midst.



Don't stress over living up to the fairytale. Your love story, no matter how simple or how elaborate, was designed by God. He perfected it. He wrote it. He even illustrated it and signed his name on your copy. He's the author and the finisher.

Happily ever after doesn't always come with ballgowns and white horses. Most of the time, it comes with sweat pants and minivans. But that's OK, because if it comes from God, it's perfect and nothing less.

Many Blessings & Much Love!

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Our mission is to educate, promote awareness, and provide hope and encouragement for individuals and families coping with breast cancer.



Support Group Meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month, free of charge to all breast cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members, friends, or anyone interested in supporting our mission. Speakers include breast cancer survivors sharing their personal stories and lessons learned, physicians, such as oncologists, surgeons, radiologists, and other speakers on topics related to breast cancer. A time of "fellowship" encourages meeting others affected by breast cancer.

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Dr. Lester Spencer

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

Soul Searching

Random Reflections From A Deer Stand

I'm writing this article from a deer stand as I look out into the woods and onto a small green field on a beautiful and sunny winter day!

I love deer hunting, and I just love being in the woods! There is something about men and women hunting and the connection many of us have with the wilderness.

Now I know a lot of women who love the woods, too, and I know a few that love to hunt as well. My wife, Janeese Spencer, doesn't like to hunt, but she has a very special appreciation for God's creation – the forest, the mountains, the rivers, the lakes and the streams. She would rather be hiking a trail, backpacking or camping in the woods then just about anything else. Fortunately, we live in the country where we can both enjoy God's creation every day!

Men are from the Wilderness/ Women are from Eden

Maybe women and men enjoy the wilderness for slightly differing reasons.

We read in Genesis 2:15 that God created Adam, which in Hebrew means Man, in the wilderness and then placed him in the Garden of Eden. Then God formed Eve from the side of the man inside of the Garden of Eden paradise. So Man was created in the wilderness and the woman was created in the beautiful, garden paradise. Maybe that's why many men I know tend to be more rugged, tough and rough around the edges while many women I know are more graceful, exquisitely strong and love colorful and beautiful things! Man and women were both made in God's image, but they are very, very different. As John Eldredge says, *"women are the crown of God's creation!"* I could agree with him on that! I know I love my wife and she has blessed me in so many ways. And because of her I am a better man and hopefully have a few rough edges rubbed off.

With all this in mind, maybe men love the ruggedness of nature and the raw challenges in the wilderness, because it reminds them of where they came from and what makes them come alive. Whereas women may love the exquisite beauty of nature and God's creative detail because it reminds them of the garden from which they came and that's what makes them come alive!

Whatever may be the draw to nature, many men and many women are drawn to spend time in wildness of God's creation. And while I enjoy many activities outside in nature, one of the ways I like to do that is to sit in a deer stand when I hunt.

So here I sit in a deer stand reflecting on why I enjoy the wilderness and hunting so much.

1. Soul Health

It's good for my soul to sit quietly and still in the woods. *"Be still and know that I am God,"* the Psalmist writes. Most of us are so busy and distracted by way too much stimulation in our lives: revolving news cycles, social media, divisive politics, along with the constant checking of emails and texts. Not to mention Zoom calls, meetings, deadlines and other pressing concerns. For our spiritual health, we all need to make time to shut it all down, be still and reflect on God's goodness and blessings. It's good for the soul! There are many ways you can do that but one of the ways I do it is in a deer stand!

2. Enjoy Creation

One of the greatest gifts God has shared with us is this magnificent creation! When hunting or hiking or just relaxing in nature, you have the opportunity to soak it all in as you listen to the birds chirping, owls hooting and coyotes yelping. As you take in the views of the forests, the mountains, the lakes or the oceans, you are reminded of God's power and splendor! For me, it not only replenishes my soul, but it fills me with gratitude and a deeper appreciation for the very gift of life itself. We live on the only lush blue-green planet that we know of in the universe, and it is teaming with life, rivers and oceans, plants and trees, fish and birds, animals and, of course, humans! All the other planets are desert wastelands either too scorching hot or too frigidly cold. There is nothing like planet earth where God placed us. It is a Garden of Eden.

This global pandemic has reminded us all (or should have) of how precious life is, and how quickly it can be gone. *Jesus said he came to bring life so we may enjoy it to the fullest! (John 10:10)* So, may we enjoy life and creation to the fullest and one of the ways we do that is to get out there and see the natural world God's created for us to treasure and protect.

3. Reflect on Life

One of the things I do when I'm in a deer stand or otherwise enjoying alone moments out in nature, is to reflect upon my life, my relationships and my purpose.

I ask myself questions like, "How do I feel about my life right now? Am I happy? Satisfied? What's right, right now? What's not feeling right, right now?"

I ask myself about my relationships. "How is my relationship with God right now? Am I putting Jesus at the center of my life right now? How am I doing as husband, father, friend, co-worker right now? How can I improve? What do I need to work on?"

I ask myself, "Am I fulfilling my purpose right now? Am I making a difference right now? Am I looking like, acting like, sounding like Jesus right now? How am I serving other people right now?"

Just Pray

Then I pray! I just talk to God about whatever is on my heart or my mind about any of these things that I have reflected upon. And most importantly, I try to get still and quiet and just listen to what God may want to say to me.

Last Thought

A lot of people that don't hunt think that hunting is about shooting a deer or other animal. Sure that is part of it. But 99% of the time you are just watching the deer and other animals and many times you don't pull a trigger especially when deer hunting. Just seeing the deer is a big part if it. 99.9% of hunting is the sheer joy and fun of being out in God's creation. I have gone whole deer hunting seasons without pulling the trigger once. Plus, most hunters I know are great sportsmen, law-abiding citizens, ethical hunters and superb conservationists. Most of us just love to be outdoors in the wilderness!

Whether you like to hunt or not, take some time to regularly get outdoors and reflect on life! It will do you good!

Blessings,
Lester Spencer



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Judge
Peggy Givhan

February is often called the transition month, moving the world forward toward spring and away from the dark winter months. Notice that the days are getting longer, but we still have cold weather which I term any temperatures below 50 degrees. I just love the mild weather of the Deep South where nights can get below freezing but daytime temps are in the high 50s. It is rare that we have to contend with heavy snow and ice, which takes its toll on not only winter flowers and plants, but our backs if we have to shovel snow. Let's not forget to mention that February is also the month of love. Perhaps a homegrown valentine gift would be more personal. Go out to your garden and cut a fragrant bouquet of narcissus and other early blooming bulbs such as tulips or crocus. I have always had a soft spot in my heart for these harbingers of spring.

TIME TO DEBUG YOUR YARD AND GARDEN.

I have, over the years, promoted spraying Volk Oil, a dormant oil, after the first hard freeze. We have had that and most of the area's shrubs and trees fall into this dormant category. The window of opportunity is now until the first of March. You will need a hose end sprayer, which can reach 20 feet upwards, in order to coat the trunks and branches of deciduous trees and shrubs such as hydrangeas, roses, oaks, cedars. And it is even more important to cover the leaves of non deciduous trees and shrubs such as azaleas, camellias, kiss me at the gate, mahonia, yucca, nandina, viburnum, sago palm, boxwood, pittosporum, yew, cherry laurel, gardenia, hollies and many more, because insects can lay more eggs on the leaves. Of course a deciduous plant is one that loses its leaves during dormant or winter months. I spray fences, grass, and anything that can harbor insect eggs. Once this is completed, no white flies, fleas, and best of, it will make a dent in the population of roaches. How does this spraying accomplish the task? It is a simple answer: the oil coats the eggs of the pests, and therefore, the eggs do not hatch.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for February

by Peggy Givhan

PLANT OF THE MONTH – GYPSOPHILA

This drought resistance woody stemmed flowering plant has the charming name of "Baby' Breath". A perennial, it thrives in sunny, well-drained situations and best of all, they thrive in lime soil. Once it matures, the plant spreads and makes a wonderful filler in the garden beds. Baby's Breath, *G. paniculata*, revels in a cloud of tiny white single flowers that can be cut and used in flower arrangements. A larger variety, called "Bristol Fairy, gets to 3 feet in height with double blooms. It is rare to find these plants in local nurseries or the box store gardens department. However, garden catalogs feature these plants.



Photo by www.everwilde.com/

HAPPY GARDENING AND HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY