



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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Legislative Session for Most Part Successful, Especially for Governor Kay Ivey

The 2019 Legislative Session was one of the most controversial yet productive sessions in memory. Governor Kay Ivey's first Session of the Quadrennial was a roaring success. It's hard to remember a governor getting everything they wanted since the George Wallace heydays. Wallace in his prime simply controlled the legislature. It was more like an appendage of the governor's office. Kay Ivey has apparently taken a page from the old Wallace playbook. By the way, that is probably apropos as Kay cut her teeth in Alabama politics working for and learning from the Wallaces. Governor Ivey started out the session by passing a gas tax increase which will fund major transportation/highway needs in the state. She ended the last week of the session by garnering legislation to give the governor control of the Pardons and Parole Board and then topping that off with legislation that will allow a vote next March on Alabama having an appointed state school board rather than an elected one. If this controversial amendment is approved by voters, then the governor will make most of the initial appointments. One would have to say that Kay Ivey has pretty much got a lot of influence with this Legislature. Kay's years of experience and probably more importantly her relationships with legislators is paying dividends for Alabama's female Republican governor. Any legislative session could be considered a success if both budgets pass. It is, by the way, the only constitutional mandate for a regular annual session. The Education Budget is record breaking. It is a \$7.1-billion-dollar budget with a \$500 million dollar increase over last year's budget. This largest in history budget gives teachers and education employees a four percent cost of living raise. It will also increase funding to the state's heralded pre-kindergarten program. Alabama Community Colleges will get a significant increase. Legislators seem to realize the importance of technical training in the state in attracting manufacturing jobs. State Senator, Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) and Representative Bill Poole (R- Tuscaloosa), the Chairmen of the Education Budget Committees in the Senate and House did an excellent job of shepherding the school budget through the legislative labyrinth. The General Fund Budget which generally lags behind the Education Budget

was also passed on a positive note. The budget calls for spending \$2.2 billion dollars. It includes a two percent cost of living increase for state employees as well as an eight percent increase for the state's understaffed prison system. Representative Steve Clouse (R – Ozark) is the veteran chairman of the House General Fund Committee. One of the downsides of the Session was the Legislature's inability to pass a Constitutional Amendment to allow Alabamians to vote to have a lottery like 45 other states, including all of our neighboring states. It would pass overwhelmingly if put to a vote. Alabamians are simply tired of seeing their money going into the state coffers of Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida. State Senator Jim McLendon (R-St. Clair) offered the best opportunity and most modern and profitable lottery proposal. However, his Bill was ignored in deference to the Indian Casinos legislation which was overtly written to continue to give these Indian Casinos a monopoly on electronic gaming in the state. The Indian casinos arrogantly flaunted their influence in the Legislature by offering a watered down, archaic, paper only lottery that would be obsolete within five years. McLendon's Bill would have generated \$250 million. The Indian Casino's Lottery would have given the state a paltry \$100 million at best for a few years. The House Democrats boldly and wisely killed the Bill with the hopes that if you are going to approve a lottery, that it would be one that would benefit the state and not the Indian gambling syndicate. In essence, the Choctaw Indian Casino's in Mississippi killed the lottery 20 years ago with last minute money before balloting. The Poarch Creek Casinos beat it this time before it could get out of the gate. The power that the Poarch Creek Indian casinos are building in the Alabama Legislature is dangerous. CBS 42 in Birmingham took a poll the last week of the session asking how their viewers rated the Legislature and Legislative Session. It was 86 percent negative. However, this is nothing new. Alabamian's have always rated the Legislature negatively. However, if you ask them about their own legislators they will either not know who they are or they like them.

July 3, 2019



Ronald A. Holtsford

final sentencing but then becomes insane after that. Can that person still be executed when due to their insanity and diminished capacity be executed when they no longer have the ability to understand why they are being executed?

Can A Convicted Murderer Sentenced To Death Be Executed If They Are Insane Or Have Dementia?



Under English common law it has been long held that one that is insane or having diminished capacity cannot be executed. But what about a person that is competent at time of the crime and at the trial and

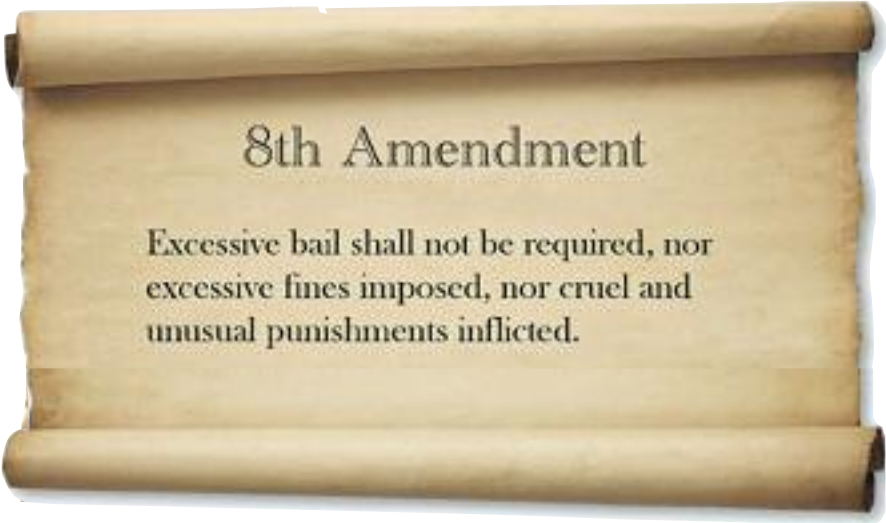
Madison was sentenced to death in 1994. During that time Vernon had several strokes, which resulted in symptoms of brain damage. His symptoms included slurred speech, blindness and he was unable to walk without assistance. He was originally scheduled for execution in May 2016 after a series of other appeals. Defense counsel attempted other appeals based on the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996 with the final execution date set for January 2018. When it was learned that a psychology professional that had testified for prosecution in past trials had been suspended from the practice of psychology, the defense counsel again sought relief in the state court but finding none petitioned the United States Supreme Court. The question being whether the Eighth Amendment prevents a state from executing a person who has no memory of the crime that they committed and whether the Eighth Amendment considers it cruel and unusual punishment to execute a person who does not remember the crime they committed. Justice Kagan wrote the majority (5-3) opinion saying The Eighth Amendment does not prohibit a state from executing a prisoner who cannot remember committing the crime for which he is to be executed, but it does prohibit executing a prisoner who cannot rationally understand the reasons for his execution, whether that inability is due to psychosis or dementia. The Madison case added the Eighth Amendment rationale for not executing an insane person who cannot recall the reason for their execution to include a person with dementia who also cannot remember the reason for execution.

The case was remanded back to the lower court to consider whether one with dementia and unable to remember the reason for his execution, is prevented from execution by the Eighth Amendment.

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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In the United States Supreme Court case out of Florida Ford v Wainwright, it was held that under the 8th amendment that a person that subsequently becomes insane cannot be executed as it was held that was cruel and unusual punishment. It was further held that Florida had not satisfied the minimum requirements for due process in determining Ford's capacity. In Ford, Justice Thurgood Marshall addressed the insanity issue saying it is "savage and inhumane". Justice Powell also wrote a concurring majority opinion saying, "the Eighth Amendment forbids the execution only of those who are unaware of the punishment they are about to suffer and why they are to suffer it."

That brings a different situation to bear, that being the United States Supreme Court case of Madison v Alabama only decided in February of this year. Vernon Madison was on death row for over thirty years having shot and killed a Mobile police officer who was supervising Madison's move from his girlfriend's home.



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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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

BITS AND PIECES, #8



As I write this Robservation, I am admittedly saddened by what fate possibly awaits me. I am not sure what to do actually since this is quite a new arena for me. You see, the other day I got this rather distressing phone call. The robot on the other side of the line said that because I have been using my social security number for a lot of fraudulent activities, not only was the IRS after me but the FBI, DEA and CIA. I guess I must be the El Chapo of Montgomery. The other four robocalls I got last week just mentioned the IRS and that an arrest warrant had been issued in my name but this time, since I clearly have so successfully evaded the apparent simpletons at the IRS, the big guns have now teamed up and are bearing down on me as I write. Of course, the robot is too stupid, or rather the person programming the robot, but people like most of us live in plain sight, fearing no enforcement actions because there is nothing we have done to fear. If true, they would only need to knock on my door and take me away. Sheesh!! IRS, FBI, DEA and CIA. I am one bad dude! I am wondering what in the holy heck someone would have to do to be on all these radars. Bash the demoncrats like I often do? Yeah, then there is that. But if you don't hear from me next month, I will be sitting quietly in GITMO with my ISIS and Taliban buddies. Enough of this. On to AOC Rides Again.

AOC – Speaking of stupid demoncrats, Alexandria Ocasio Cortez (a.k.a. the Occasional Cortex) is truly the gift that keeps on giving. Every time she opens that pie hole of hers, the insanity that exists between her ears comes out loud and clear. Supposedly she graduated cum laude from Boston University with a degree in economics. I simply don't see it. Not saying it didn't happen but, c'mon, really? I honestly cannot believe she got elected into office. That is what happens when only 12% or so of the people from her district showed up to vote.

The latest occasional cortex blather has to do with comparing the detention centers where we are holding people trying to enter the US illegally with Nazi



www.thecut.com

Alexandria Ocasio Cortez

concentration camps like Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, Mauthausen, Treblinka and the like. 99% of the time when someone with clearly no understanding of history tries to invoke Nazi atrocities or the actions of Adolf Hitler and compare them to modern events, the person who makes the claim usually comes off as a stupid, idiotic lunatic with nothing but air in their head. AOC proudly wears this stamp.

On Instagram, yes the place politicians need to be spending their time (yes that does go for the POTUS as well with his Twitter), the occasional cortex said that the U.S. government is "running concentration camps on our southern border." She doubled-down on her comment by then saying, "That is exactly what they are. They are concentration camps." She then said she wants

to talk to people "who are concerned enough with humanity to say that 'never again' means something." Not letting go and going down swinging, the hipster New Yorker then quipped, "The fact that concentration camps are now an institutionalized practice in the Home of the Free is extraordinarily disturbing and we need to do something about it." No matter how some so-called journalists may try to persuade you, when the occasional cortex used the word concentration camp, she was directly comparing the Nazi camps and not Soviet era Gulags or anything else. We know exactly what she meant. The fact that she used this analogy tells me she actually likely does not know of any other historical camps. <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/aoc-holocaust-survivors-respond-to-aocs-concentration-camp-comments>.

I will be honest with you guys. I don't know where to go from here. At one point I figured she was kidding around and just looking for some more screen time. How could anybody be so incredibly stupid and disrespectful? But then I realized she was friggen serious. Wow! From someone who has spent his entire life since he was about 9 or 10 studying the European war in WWII, I have to admit that I know just a little about the subject. I have stepped through the concentration camp at Dachau some four times, read dozens of books and articles, have watched countless holocaust documentaries and walked through the Holocaust Museum in Washington D.C. For this wretched person to compare what is going on in detention centers with Nazi concentration camps is disgusting. She has no idea what she is talking about and needs to be censured by the Congress.

Oh, but that won't happen. You know why? Because she is seen as a hero to some and many unfortunate souls, those with little to no brains of their own, actually agree with her.

As expected, another Bastian of ignorance, the equally obnoxious Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., not surprisingly has backed AOC in her position. Omar's comments, believe it or not are even more moronic than those of the occasional cortex. When asked about the comments, Omar said, (and no you cannot make this stuff up), "When you look at what is taking place, people are being put in camps. And when you think about the definition, if we separate it from death camps, I would say these are camps and people are being concen-

trated in them. And so that's the general definition." Wow! Let me get this straight. If you are in a camp, and you are concentrated with other people, by definition you are in a concentration camp. If a=b, and b=c then a=c. Not here, lady. So people, whether you knew it or not, when we were kids and went to summer camp, since we were concentrated with other kids, we were in fact in concentration camps. Here is a clue Omar, the people in Nazi camps were taken there against their will, could not leave and were killed by the millions at the hands of the German state. The people in detention centers are free to go back home anytime they want. Their problem is they want to stay here illegally.

I had a friend ask me how does this happen? I said, when people elect Holocaust denying, anti-Semitic, socialists and communists into the government, people who fundamentally hate everything about this country, why would you expect anything else? I don't. It is like the old proverb about the frog and the scorpion. The scorpion asked the frog for a ride across the lake. The frog refused saying that the scorpion would sting him and kill him. The scorpion assured the frog he wouldn't because if he did, both he and the frog would die. After much pleading, the frog relented and let the scorpion climb on his back. Halfway across the lake, the frog felt a searing pain in his back. He yelled out, "You stung me! Why? Now we are both going to die." Mournfully, the scorpion replied as he was slipping beneath the water, "I couldn't help it. It is in my nature." Yes people, folks like Omar and the occasional cortex are what they are. They are who they are. They are driven by forces they likely cannot and do not want to control and an ideology that is "blacker than the inside of a stovepipe at midnight." (As my grandma used to say.) I am sure this will not be going away anytime soon. More to follow.

Trump Restraint – Kudos for President Trump for showing restraint in the most recent Iranian showdown. Yes, Iran shot down one of our Navy RQ-4 Global Hawk drones the other day. This is not a Best Buy, \$200-dollar toy but an estimated \$220 million-dollar aircraft. After reviewing all information, the President made the decision to not strike Iran after initially calling for some retaliation. In an interview, he said he called off the strike 10 minutes before go. He said that since the aircraft was unmanned, he didn't want to kill any Iranians in a retaliatory attack. Had the Global Hawk been a manned aircraft, it would have been a different story.



www.wired.com

Global Hawk Drone

What I find interesting is how people have claimed Trump is too hawkish and wanting war with Iran and now after showing restraint, he is characterized as weak and hurting our position in the Middle East. I applaud his restraint thus far. In researching and writing my next book, let's just say I am more in favor of restraint for as long as it can be held. But if you want to look at weak and feckless, take a look at Benghazi, our response to the Russian shoot down on 17 July 2014 of Malaysian Flight 17 or the chemical weapon redline in the sand which was no line at all. 'Nuf said!

FYI – The count is now up to eight states and Washington D.C. that allow abortions up to the moment of birth for any reason. They are: Alaska, Colorado, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon and Vermont. "The preborn child in the United States does not have any rights until he or she exits a woman's body." Yes, that equates to 1.3% of the total or roughly 8,300 per year. Just in case you wanted to know.

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/three-myths-third-trimester-abortions/>

On June 20th, Montgomery hosted Andrew Belz from World Magazine at a luncheon at the Wynlakes Country Club.

The World News Group is a Christian media outlet that addresses not only faith and religion issues, but also a wide range of topics from education, to science and technology, to business and economy and of course family and society. Guest speaker and Journalist Kim Henderson, writes and broadcasts news and commentary for WORLD News Group's magazine and its popular podcast, "The World and Everything in It." World News Group is headquartered in Ashville, N.C.



From left to right, Andrew Belz, Eric Hunter of Jim Wilson & Associates, Kim Henderson of Jackson MS, and John Weiss from Montgomery who serves as Chairman of the Board of World News Group.

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

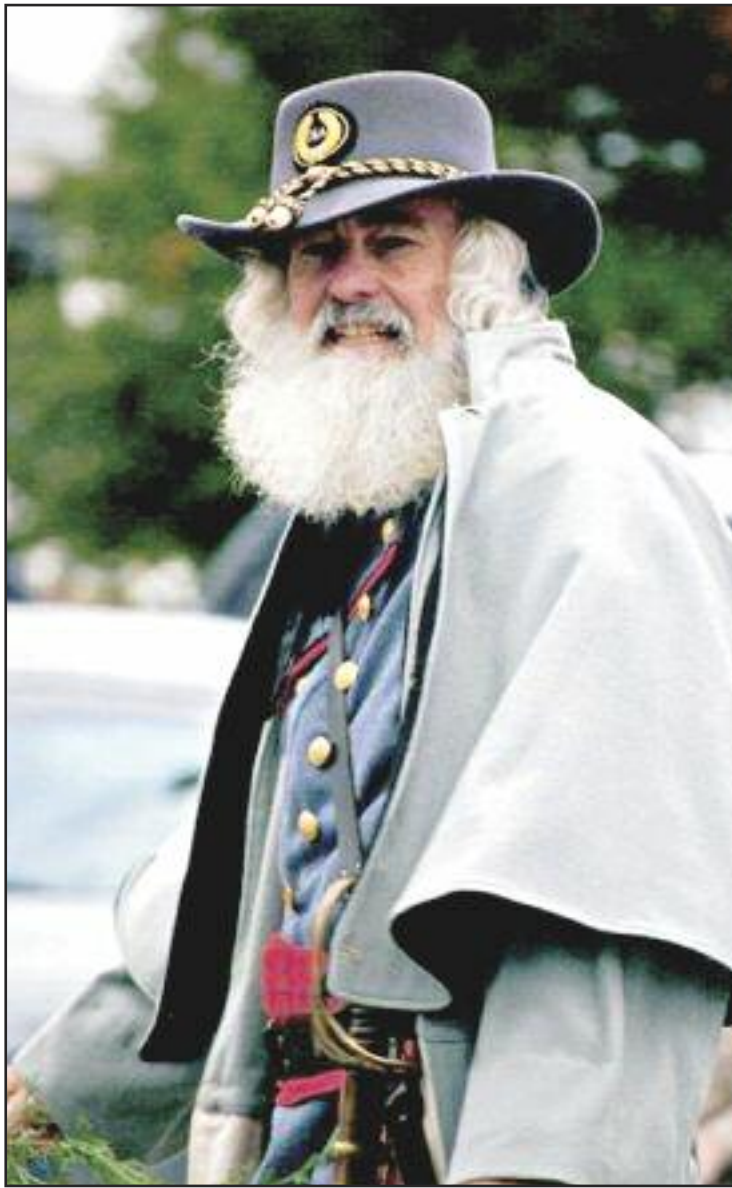
John Sophocleus

THINK

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Resting Under the Shade of the Trees...
William George “Bill” Anthony

21 September 1944 – 1 June 2019



Dixie lost a great patriot of Southern heritage and longtime champion of our Southern way of life. Many in the Sons of Confederate Veterans [SCV] Alabama Division and small government activists at large likened it to losing a modern Stonewall Jackson, similarly difficult to replace as the 1863 General. William George “Bill” Anthony, a Kentucky boy whose roots harken back to the Commonwealth of Virginia and shores of Greece, has crossed over the river, no longer among the living on the attenuating gray line among soldiers for liberty.

The world is a poorer place without Bill’s presence. To those who didn’t know Bill well, I’ll simply type you missed a noble, impressive soul; a man of letters and books yet a man of common sense and practical application. His home was a library with hundreds upon hundreds of books on a great many subjects. He was just as comfortable in a machine shop or on a tractor as he was in the halls and offices of our State capitol in Montgomery. He was a poet who authored many verses about his beloved Dixie; a man of independence with a penchant for teaching young people about their ancestry -- their history, culture and traditions. Much like Stonewall, Bill often seemed to be everywhere at once; the enemies of liberty never knew where or when he might appear prepared to engage. Bill was most effective at revealing and blocking attempts to erase history inconvenient to politburo members and their minions’ efforts to further empower government outside their authority.

Bill knew no fear of corrupt politicians, arrogant academics, biased media... willing to stand toe to toe with any enemy of freedom and the factually correct history *w.r.t.* fights for independence and Constitutional limits to curb tyranny - **esp.** when it applied to his beloved Southland. Anyone ‘fencing’ with Bill on issues of this sort was well served show up prepared and able to defend to their position. Bill was a very formidable adversary; fighting federal involvement in our State’s educational system, defending property rights from federal, State, county and local usurpers, spreading the facts about excessive/direct taxation, standing tall for liberty and personal freedoms.

Bill was among the most updated and well informed, always ‘locked and loaded’ to fire back at contrived misinformation cycles and increasing indoctrination/propaganda all too often purposefully timed/pressed when minions of big govt. and their allies in the media forecast no one will dare counter. Bill gave tirelessly and endlessly of his time and labour to many causes. True to the Stonewall analogy, even in the most pitched and heated of battles, Bill stood calm, cool, tactful and self-assured. Although best known among his compatriots in Alabama positively impacting many lives throughout the South, Bill received admiration and affection from those as far away as Ireland and Australia. I’m among those who will fondly recall him in his trademark planter’s hat and overalls at SCV events, parades, rallies...anywhere the Cause of Liberty could be celebrated or was attacked.

A bottomless well of energy, Bill was involved in a great many projects. He played a seminal role [1998] in staging “The Battles for the Armory” event every year and hosted School Days, the Reenactment and Period Ball on his land - an endeavour very dear to his heart. He led the way in the creation of Tallassee Carbine replicas. He was involved in flag raisings and enthusiastic friend with those in Flag Raising organizations from Alabama to Virginia. He was among those who took legal action against State legislators for misusing their office and subverting the Alabama Constitution I’ll write more on before closing. He shared his love of dancing and spread his knowledge of the old dances to our youth. He delighted in restoring old homes and furniture and was an accomplished woodworker as well as a pretty good machinist... list goes on and on.

Much of this column is a collaboration with Greg Creech, who claims the great privilege of knowing Bill two decades; best of friends from the very beginning connecting on so many levels, on almost every subject and issue. Greg oft teased Bill they were twin sons of different mothers, a brother Greg never had. I found it most heartfelt for Mr. Creech to claim he, “loved Bill to the limits a man is morally allowed to love another man. Bill was far more of a man than I could ever hope to be.” Bill was indeed an outlier who evokes me to type [Proverbs 27:17 KJV] “Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.” Bill’s steadfast devotion to decentralized government, State sovereignty and Southern independence knew no limits or time constrictions, no petty jealousies, no self-promotion or self-glorification. He burned most passionately with the Sprit and wisdom of the Founding Fathers.

Creech observed, “As is often the case, lesser men either held Bill in high esteem or sought to bring him down. But, even among those few of his own comrades who took advantage of Bill’s generosity or who sought to undermine Bill’s influence for their own personal glorification and gain, Bill never had a harsh word to say. Bill was always loyal...to his cause, to his comrades, to his principles and to his beliefs. Unwavering.”

One of the more remarkable events Bill Anthony was a part of in the effort to stop the pro-government thugs in our State occurred (Feb. 4, 2014 addressed in a past *Alabama Gazette* column) when a determined group of concerned citizens from around the State served/hand delivered a *Writ of Quo Warranto* to Senator Del Marsh signed and notarized by 12 courageous souls. Twelve righteous men who followed the teachings of our best servant of God finally ended Roman despotism. Men of good Spirit and sound integrity following the letter and Spirit of the rule of law can and sometimes do make a difference. Their efforts played a role in undoing legislative attempts to revise our constitution piecemeal (one article at a time instead operating within the process set in our State Constitution) and sent re-write special interests and their minions back to starting line.

Few (including lawyers) are familiar with Quo Warranto. I first came across the possibility of using it during our efforts in the SCotUS to get our Civil Rights

to property restored. According to the "*American Jurisprudence*" encyclopedia of United States law, a Quo Warranto is an order intended to prevent exercise of a power(s) not conferred by law. It is a legal instrument compelling someone of authority (in this case a legislator) to provide a document(s) which authorizes/empowers them to accomplish their stated end/purpose.

Action in Quo Warranto is **not** (in the strictest sense) a pleading and is heard ahead of any other cases on a court's docket to block further actions. Following the legal tradition/function of the ancient writ (order) the Quo Warranto action/inquiry is a fundamental voice of sovereignty (under our republic, sovereignty is held by the people) calling upon the defendant (*e.g.*, Senator Marsh) to answer/provide the authority for their actions. A formidable check upon ‘public servants’ to remain within their authority if used and allowed, plaintiffs (the sovereign people) are **not required** to either allege or prove any facts. The burden is entirely placed upon the defendant to disclaim or justify their actions. To justify the action(s), defendants must clearly define/assert their purpose and provide facts which authorize/empower the defendant toward his/her end. The defendant(s) must tender the documents/issues on what authority claimed by defendant(s) will be used to decide the matter.

The Quo Warranto stipulated Senator Marsh must present proof the Legislature has the authority to revise/rewrite the Alabama Constitution. Failure to produce their authority within fifteen days means (s)he acquiesces/

accepts the fact this authority does not exist or is not empowered to the defendant(s). When proof of authority is not provided, the individuals who submitted the Quo Warranto notify Alabama’s AG to place the matter before the proper judicial branch of government. If the AG follows the law, their office proceeds in stopping unlawful endeavours in the Legislature.

Indeed a blessing to know 12 righteous souls of this sort were still to be found in our State... we’ve just lost one. On Bill’s behalf I’ll make the call for replacements so the ranks may grow into an even more formidable force to block Montgomery big government conservative and liberal special interests from even more of their despotic ends. It was good to reminisce on the Quo Warranto fight with Don Casey (another of the brave twelve with other champions of liberty like Frank Dillman I hold dear) at Bill’s memorial service at his beautifully Spirited church in Tallassee. Young/old, black/white, Greek/Jew (Barbarian and Scythian for those who recall the Scripture) were in attendance at this warm, wonderful event filled with bittersweet joy. The most indelible moment in my recollection is all of our singing Hymns, Dixie and reciting the Lord’s Prayer in unison - not one scintilla of hate to be found.

I’ll soon be turning in my key bringing 30 years of teaching to a close, pressed to write letters of recommendation as I’ve done so many times at Clemson and Auburn University. As some may recall the most impressive text I’ve ever read is from a letter of recommendation for a Virginian to West Point. So while most have evoked the memory of Stonewall, allow me to evoke Robert E. Lee. The letter made the case to admit Lee because he was a “FINISHER.” How perfect, fitting and succinct. Bill was not a quitter. He never gave up. In the same Spirit of Mr. Creech, I feel most blessed and very lucky to have counted myself among Bill’s friends.

A poor wordsmith in comparison - I’ll ask Bill’s forgiveness posthumously if he finds this column poorly done. A selfish part of me wanted Bill (in the Spirit of Adams and Jefferson) to make to his beloved 4th of July he reveled in and venerated for as long as I can recall. It will be a little sobering this year as I customarily re-read the Declaration of Independence and think of all the genuine Patriots I know who’ve passed and are still alive. It may become more final in my mind as I move Bill Anthony from the living to dead worthy of remembrance. As the Greeks say, “*Eonia Imnemi*” - *i.e.*, may Bill’s memory be eternal through Jesus Christ he venerated most... I pray he’s well received by his Heavenly Father and finally gets a “sit down” chat with Lee and Jackson he so longed for in life.

Postscript: to those who’ve asked if I knew of the Bramblets’ 5/25 deadly crash after reading my June Alabama Gazette column. The column deadline was a week prior. I addressed yet another horrific crash at the infamous “T” of US 280 and AL 147 angering many decent folks again and sending local politicians running for cover. Heartbreaking to once again witness a medical helicopter departing this intersection to rush another terribly injured member of the Auburn Family to a Columbus trauma center. It hit closer to home than usual; one of the victims was the bride of longtime colleague [Prof. Beard] I hold in high esteem. My point was simple, the course of many of these deadly results were set long before in not following access management policies, bonding requirements, properly acquiring/using right of ways, estimating traffic control devices, etc. The cancerous growth isn’t reversible. Expect more deaths (as the percentages catch up with the distorted denominator) from car crashes, violence, overburdened law enforcement, etc. This wonderful college town quality of life ended many years ago...

GOD BLESS
AMERICA!



The Education Station... *By Bobbie Ames*

Bobbie Ames writes from The Hoffman Education Center for the Family, where the ministry promotes Christian Education that is foundational to the Historic Biblical Principle Approach. Consulting services are available through the Hoffman Research Library. She can be reached at P. O. Box 241405, Montgomery, AL 36124, or at *bobbiehames@gmail.com*.

ALABAMA BECOMES A STATE

Last month in the Education Page, we dealt with Alabama in 1817 to 1819, and the Alabama Territory becoming a state in our American Union. At this time, the population in Alabama was increasing and federal law required us to form a constitution. If that was written and approved by Congress, Alabama could operate a state government.

President James Monroe appointed William Wyatt Bibb to be governor of the Alabama territory. Governor Bibb moved to Alabama and settled on a plantation north of Montgomery, at Coosada.



William Wyatt Bibb

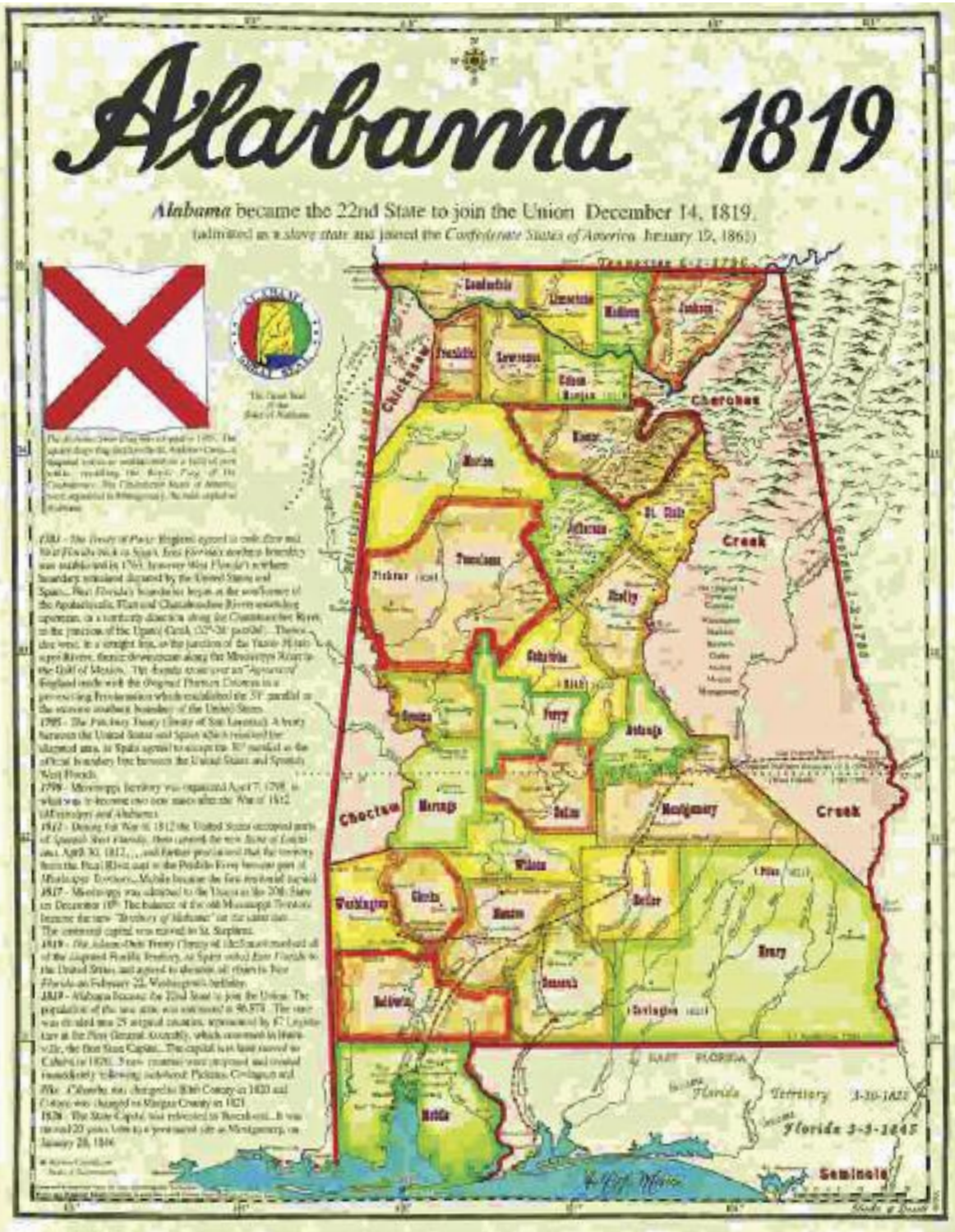
After two years as a territory, 1817-1819, Alabama petitioned Congress for statehood. Our neighbors in Georgia guided the legislation through Congress.

Alabama was given federal land to establish a state government, build a capital, provide for a state university, and other generous grants. Elected delegates met in Huntsville to form a state constitution. The three

branches of government were included: executive, legislative, and judicial. Women were not included in the government at that time. Alabama's first two senators were William Rufus King and John William Walker. John Crowell was elected to the House of Representatives.

Congress had approved Alabama's constitution and President James Madison signed the resolution admitting Alabama to Statehood.

This historic event took place on December 14, 1819. This early Constitution was very short and later would be studied carefully and later rewritten in 1901. That earlier Constitution caused many white and black citizens to be deprived of their voting rights. It is sad to think of how long it took to correct these injustices.



Who Will Be Defenders of Our Constitution? Separation of Church and State ~ There is no law

During a number of years in the Alabama territory that produced both growth and strife, great stability was emerging nationally. In 1785, James Madison, Father of the Constitution, presented a paper, to the Virginia legislature, "Memorial and Remonstrance." This displayed Madison's passion to protect Religious Freedom in our nation. Read the First Amendment in our Constitution. Madison is justly deserving being called "The Father of the Constitution."

James Madison's writing consistently extols the value of Christianity and the light of the Gospel to all people.



James Madison

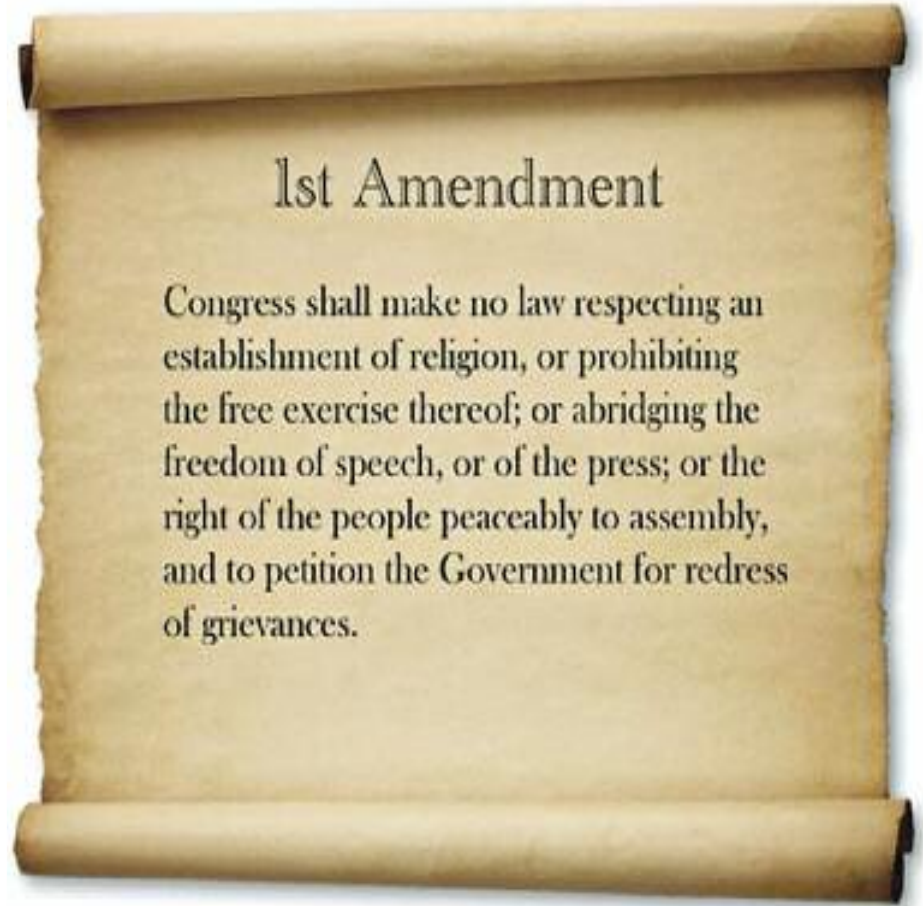
In 1784, after the close of the war, Thomas Jefferson introduced legislation in Virginia for the establishment of Religious Freedom. A major purpose of the bill was to abolish all taxation of Christian ministries and the ministers. Even further in the legislation, the law protected religious opinions beyond the control of the legislatures.

It is sad to this writer that so few school children are taught "true" history as the path to Religious Liberty. **The Bible is the source of individual liberty. Our American Federalism, our local self-government with union, is unique in the history of governments.** We trust that our readers will agree that it is a tragedy for young people to be deprived of their rightful heritage.

Let us emphasize that our government, as it was formed, is unique in world history. Individual parts had been in existence. We agree on that, but those parts had never been integrated or combined before. It had to await a people who were Biblically

educated. And then, this could be shared with other nations. This motto on our seal is E PLURIBUS UNUM. It means "out of many, one." It refers to the Union formed by the separate states.

*Enemies of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights hide under the so-called "Separation of Church and State" Law. **There is no such law at all.** Read the Constitution for yourself, and the Bill of Rights.*



Read and treasure Amendment One to the Constitution.

~~~~~  
How do we support our Constitution today? What is involved with a true understanding of our Constitution today? And why does it really matter? When we are a dedicated Christian, and Biblically educated, and desiring to practice the two great commandments: to love God, and truly love our fellow man, then our Constitution will take on a new meaning, and surely live on and be cherished and protected for future generations. **Matthew 22: 36-39: 36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37 Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with**

**all thy mind. 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

In closing the article, we must admit that we are in danger today in our beloved country. Could we all pause and praise the Lord that we do have time before us today to begin again to evangelize, and to rededicate ourselves to be "people of the Book," as were so many of the Founders of our nation.





By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

## Major General Sheryl E. Gordon

Since August, 2017, Major General Sheryl E. Gordon has been serving as the Adjutant General of Alabama. Her distinguished military career in the Army Alabama National Guard spans more than 35 years, and during this time she has received the following US Decorations and Badges: Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal (with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster and four Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), National Defense Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Medal (with Gold Hourglass), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (with Numeral two), AL Veteran Service Medal (with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters), AL Special Service Ribbon, AL Faithful Service Ribbon (with Silver and Bronze Saint Andrews Cross) and AL Basic Training Ribbon.

General Gordon attended and completed training at the following military schools: Personnel and Administrative School Basic Course, Adjutant General Officer Advanced Course, Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, U. S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ordinance Officer Advanced Course, Chemical Senior Leader Qualification, Weapons of Mass Destruction Course, U. S. Army War College, Joint Task Force Commander’s Course, Army Force Management School, Army Force Management Course, Army Senior Leader Development Program-Basic (ASLDP-B), U.S. Judge Advocate School, Reserve Component-General Officer Legal Orientation Course (RC-GOLO), Harvard University and General and Flag Officer Homeland Security Executive Seminar.

Her remarkable military career includes not only service indicated in her extensive record of leadership in Army National Guard assignments throughout Alabama, but also, memberships in professional organizations. Her professional memberships include: Association of the U. S. Army (AUSA), National Guard Association of the U.S. (NGAUS), National Guard Association of AL and Association of Quartermasters. General has served in the AL National Guard as the Administrative Officer, Personnel Staff Officer and the Detachment Commander, Detachment 1, Troop Command, State Area Command, Montgomery, AL; the Supply Management Officer, S-1, 135th Supply and Services Battalion, Jasper, AL; Supply and Field Services Operations Officer, Supply Management Officer, and the Maintenance Management Officer, 122nd Support Group, Selma, AL; the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-4, the Liaison Officer, the Maintenance Officer,167th Theater Support Command, Birmingham, AL; the

Maintenance Officer, 731st Maintenance Battalion, Tallassee, AL; Commander, Detachment 1, 200th Theater Support Command Material Management Center, Homewood, AL; Garrison Commander and Commander, 200th Regiment, Fort McClellan, AL.

General Gordon was born to her parents, Frank and Charlotte Speed, in Selma, AL, and after graduating from Selma High School, she received a B.S. Degree in biology from Birmingham Southern College. Following graduation, she worked at the University of AL at Birmingham doing biomedical research. During her time there, she volunteered and joined the AL Army National Guard in 1980 following the footsteps of her father who was a Lt. Col. in the AL Air National Guard. The Alabama Military Academy provided an opportunity for her to serve two weeks each summer, one weekend per month for one year and to receive her commission as a 2nd Lieutenant.

Her husband, David, who also is a graduate of the AL Military Academy and she have one son. Whenever she has some rare leisure time, she joys relaxing at Orange Beach,AL, during the summers and hunting deer during the winters. General Gordon taught chemistry at the Benjamin Russell High School in Alexander City for 10 years followed by nine years as an Assistant Administrator. She completed her certification in Secondary Education earning a B.S. Degree and a Master of Science Degree in Administration from Auburn University at Montgomery, AL. Reflecting upon her teaching, General Gordon states, “I loved the contact with the students. A lot of the students that I had contact with are members of the AL National Guard.”

Looking back over her military service, General Gordon concludes, “It’s been really rewarding, and I have been blessed to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of AL, to have the experiences that I have had and to work with such outstanding people who are members of the Army and the Air National Guard. Being a female in the Army National Guard has been challenging particularly when going into a new assignment as a commander. Women have had to prove that they are competent. I am just thankful for the opportunity that I have been given.”



## Lt. Col. Carolyn McMeans

Lt. Col. Carolyn Means served as a nurse anesthetist in the United States Army Reserve for 14 years and in the U. S. Air Force Reserve for seven years. She adminis-



tered anesthesia for surgery not only for young 18 and 19-year-olds who were injured in combat but also to geriatric patients who years ago had served their country. She

joined the military because friends encouraged her. McMeans served two weeks each year in the military reserves at military medical centers at Fr. Bragg, N.C., for four tours, Lundstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, Fort Drum, N.Y., Osan and Seoul, South Korea, Incirlik, Turkey and other locations. She switched from the Army to the Air Force because serving in the Army Reserve often meant living outdoors in tents with a Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (MASH) and eating Meals Ready-to-Eat (MRE’s) while serving in the Air Force Reserve provided indoor living accommodations and prepared hot meals. McMeans states, “Serving in the military meant a lot to me. I got to see a lot of places and to experience a lot of things that I would not have. I got to meet a lot of great people. Although a military person is not paid a lot, I am now able to live comfortably.”

Means was born in Birmingham, AL, to her parents, William McMeans and Georgia Lee Raines. After her parents divorced, she was adopted by her aunt and moved to Highland Home, AL, and later to Cleveland, OH, where she lived with her cousins. McMeans graduated from John Adams High School, and she completed her training as an LPN at the Jane Adams Vocational School. McMeans moved to Buffalo, NY, to live with her dad. While she was working on her Associate Degree, she trained as an anesthetist. She was married Douglas Hearon for 14 years, and they had one son and one daughter before divorcing. Moving to California, she earned her B.A. Degree in nursing at Dominguez Valley University of CA. At Sacramento, CA, she became a traveling nurse filling in for nurses who were ill or on vacation serving there for 22 years.

Retiring from military service in 2004, she moved to Las Vegas, NV, for four years followed by moving to Prattville, AL, so that she could provide assistance to her two elderly sisters living at Montgomery, AL. During her leisure time, McMeans enjoys watching movies about military adventures, walking and exercising at the Y.M.C.A. in Montgomery, AL.

## Sophie Elizabeth Ryan

Sophie Ryan entered the United States Air Force at Lackland AFB, TX, in August 1987. After basic training, she attended technical school for medical technicians at Sheppard AFB, TX. Her first assignment led her to the “crown of Maine” at Loring AFB, ME, in the Strategic Air Command, where she was assigned successively to patient care in Labor and Delivery, the Family Practice Clinic and the Emergency Room.



This near-arctic location provided interesting war-time skills-development such as a winter bivouac in a snowy camp where medical staff practiced snow skiing, snowshoeing, orienteering, building and sleeping in a pine bough and snow shelter and loading patients into a medically configured C-5 Galaxy.

Sophie longed to live in Washington DC and was able to swap assignments with another medic who dreamed of moving his family to the great north woods. In 1990, Sophie took her family to Andrews AFB, MD, where she worked in the Emergency Room, managed the hospital’s Air Force Quality Management program and later moved into teaching and managing resuscitative medicine programs for the Malcolm Grow Medical Center.

While enjoying the assignment so much, she thought she’d try to stay there until retirement; however, the opportunity arose to take her family to Italy, and she couldn’t resist. In the summer of 1996, they were off to Aviano A.B., Italy, about 45 minutes north of Venice. Ms. Ryan started the assignment again managing and teaching resuscitative medicine programs on Aviano A.B. before moving to Air Force-contracted floors of an Italian hospital in the nearby village of Sacile. There she was the noncommissioned officer in charge of the inpatient multiservice unit and later the pediatric clinic where she was assigned during the Kosovo War. Interacting with Italian nationals and their medical services was a very positive and rewarding cross-cultural experience, as was living in a community within driving distance of a combat zone, despite the political protests that were spawned from it. This sad occasion afforded Sophie and her daughters a chance to assist at refugee camps in Slovenia and Croatia.

The time came to return to the U.S.A., and Sophie was assigned to Ellsworth A.F.B.,

SD, in the shadow of Mt. Rushmore. During this period, she continued patient care and clinic management in the Family Practice and Women’s Health clinics. After a short period, Sophie moved to her final destination at Maxwell AFB, AL where she was able to pursue her love of program management and statistical analysis as the Superintendent of Program Assessment at the Center for Enlisted Professional Military Education.

After serving 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, she retired at the rank of E7 in 2007. Ms. Ryan’s leadership in higher education continued after retirement from the military. She was hired as the Chief of Institutional Effectiveness for Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama, where she developed and managed a university-wide, comprehensive and systematic program for assessment of all academic programs and administrative and educational support functions. She authored significant portions of the Air University’s reaffirmation of accreditation compliance certifications and presented the institutional effectiveness program to onsite and offsite evaluators from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC), the regional accreditation agency for the southeastern US. In 2009 and 2015, the Air University’s programs were approved without recommendations. She also presented program evaluation plans during a substantive change on-sight visit in 2009 that resulted in Air University being elevated to a Level V institution. Ms. Ryan has served as lead evaluator in the area of institutional effectiveness for SACSCOC during on-sight visits for peer university reaffirmation of accreditation actions. She has served in a similar capacity during evaluation visits to military universities by Process for a Joint Accreditation (PAJE), an accrediting body for military curriculum directed by the U. S. Department of Defense’s Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In October, 2018, Ms. Ryan was a speaker at the Asia Pacific Conference on Curriculum Studies and Instructional Design. While there, she also represented Air University in discussions on military education with the Philippine Air Force’s Education and Training command in Manila, P.I. Ms. Ryan has completed the course-work requirements for a doctoral program in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in measurement and evaluation at Auburn University, Alabama.

Ms. Ryan, the daughter of Shannon and Karen Green, was reared in the Napa Valley, CA. She has two daughters and four grandchildren. She is a member of the Peter Forney Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. As Ms. Ryan reflects upon her 31 years as a military and civilian member of the United States Air Force, she states, “I feel a great sense of pride, purpose and a job well done. The Air Force is not only a career, but also a vocation and a family. We stress developing the whole person and, in addition to our military lives, being active in our communities, building healthy families, and looking out for one another. I highly recommend that young adults consider contributing to the security and freedom of our great country through military service, and I am certain that most will look back on even one tour in the U.S.A.F. with pride and gratitude that they became part of our country’s military heritage.”

*GOD BLESS  
AMERICA!*



### Nancy L. Burtron

Nancy L. Burtron, the Commandant of the Marine Corps League Detachment in Montgomery, AL, 2017-2019, is a woman with vast leadership skills and a heart for serving her fellowman. During her tenure as Commandant, her duties included conducting the meetings, training the members, representing the local Detachment at state and national Marine Corps League conferences, participation in Boy Scout



recognitions and decorating Marine graves at cemeteries in the Montgomery area. In addition, Burtron served six years on active duty with the United States Marine Corps. Burtron was born at Bridgeport, CT, to her parents, Roger and Jacqueline Hunt. Completing high school at Fairfield, CT, she worked briefly at the Westway Pharmacy as a clerk, cashier and stocker before volunteering to serve in the United States Marine Corps. Burtron served six years 1969-1975 as an Administrative Assistant and as a Drill Instructor. She provides the reason for her selection of the Marine Corps among the other branches of the U. S. military stating, “The Marine Corps is the toughest. The Marines are the elite.” Burtron completed the rigorous Marine Corps Basic Training and graduated from the Personal Administrative School at Parris Island, South Carolina. Her first assignment was personnel records management, payroll, travel, leave accounting and prep at Headquarters Company H&SBn, Marine Corps Base at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. Burtron was transferred to Fleet Marine Forces Pacific-FMFPac-Camp Smith, Hawaii, where she processed incoming and outgoing mail for the Headquarters, FMFPac and the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet (CINCPac). She worked in the Awards Section (rotations) processing Awards for Marines and Navy Personnel in the Vietnam

### Signe J. Nelson

Signe J. Nelson served as a U. S. Army nurse for three years and four months during WWII. She was born May 6, 1920, at Bucyrus, North Dakota and was reared at Northfield, MN. Her parents had immigrated from Norway. Her father served as a circuit Luthern minister. Nelson completed her nurse’s training at the Bethsaida Hospital School of Nursing at St. Paul, MN. Nelson’s joined the U. S. Army January 28, 1943. Her first assignment in the U. S. Army at the rank of Second Lt. included the responsibility in a general



ward as a nurse and supervisor of ward and mess attendants at Camp Crowder, MO. This was an orientation assignment for three months upon entry into the Nurses’ Corps. Her second assignment continued at Camp Crowder in the nasopharyngitis (upper respiratory and rhinitis) ward. She was promoted to the rank of First Lt. with her third assignment with the activation of the Finney General Hospital at Thomasville, GA, including opening and setting up wards and operating rooms, the Eye, Ear, Nose, Throat (EENT) Clinic. In addition, Nelson was involved in organizing the staff of attendants, requisitioning supplies, and placement of furniture and equipment. After the Hospital opened, in the E.E.N.T. Clinic, Nelson performed the duties of a charge nurse in assisting medical officers with surgery performed in the Clinic, giving treatments and medications, instructing and assisting corpsmen to be trained as assistants in the Clinic, making requisitions and appointments for patients, setting up treatment rooms and keeping charts up-to-date. Her next assignments included supervision in the orthopaedic ward treating and dressing orthopaedic plastic and surgical patients, making appointments for removal of cases and reapplication of casts or braces as was necessary. Following these assignments, Nelson performed duties in the cardio-renal, genitourinary and the gastro-intestinal wards. She was transferred to the Navy’s Northington General Hospital, Tuscaloosa, AL, December 16, 1945, where she supervised orthopaedic and plastic patients. Because WWII was ended, the Northington facility was closed, and Nelson was transferred to the Fort Benning Regional Hospital, GA, where her responsibilities included orthopaedic, genitourinary and surgical wards. Nelson married Frank Nelson April 21, 1946, and because females were not allowed to remain in military service if they married, she was relieved from assignment, proceeded to Fort Sheridan, IL, for discharge from the U. S. Army May 28, 1946. Nelson was promoted to the rank of Captain on June 5, 1946, and relieved from active duty June 6, 1946. Nelson and her husband, Frank Nelson, had one daughter and one son, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Frank was from Autaugaville, AL, and they moved to Montgomery. He worked at a U.S. Post Office, and Signe worked part time as a nurse after Jackson Hospital opened at Montgomery.



Theater. In addition, Burtron worked in the communications center housing the encrypted documents to and from the Commands at Camp Smith, in the mail sorting room (rotations) for unclassified correspondence, buck-tagging correspondence and disseminating information throughout the Headquarters. In June,1971 , Burtron returned to Parris Island where she was assigned for 2.5 years as a Drill Instructor for female Marine recruits after getting an age-waiver because she had not reached the required age of 21 for Drill Instructors. Burtron served as the Drill Instructor for a platoon of 85 female recruits with 70 completing the training. Because of her effectiveness as a Drill Instructor, Burtron was promoted to Sergeant (E-5) and to Senior Drill Instructor. Her last assignment was to G-3 MCRD PISC where she supervised the schedule and budget for the MCRD PISC Band. Burtron received the National Defense Medal and the Good Conduct Medal with star. Burtron’s active duty as a Marine ended briefly when she married and became pregnant because at that time female Marines could not remain on active duty after marriage and pregnancy; however, in 1973 when women received permission to stay on active duty with the Marines while being married and pregnant, she went into the Marine Active Reserves for six months, delivered her baby and went back on active duty retiring in May, 1975. During the ensuing civilian life, Burtron and her husband, Robert, had two children of their own and 10 grandchildren, but she actually reared over 500 children because of her work and service at the Utah Boys’ Ranch and foster and shelter parenting in her home. She sought employment taking care of youth at home so that she could care for her own children without having to send them to daycare. Burtron continued helping children serving as a counselor, a resident initiative coordinator, children’ program co-ordinator, an ABA therapist and blind services worker. Burtron moved to AL in order to live near her two children and grandchildren. Since 2006, she has worked with the AL Department of Transportation where she was promoted to Engineering Assistant and then to Engineering Assistant Senior. Burton has a card designating her as an official bridge inspector after attending 80 hours of required training,16 annual refreshing hours and four years of on-the-job training with a certified bridge-inspector. Her work encompasses the inspection and rating of AL bridges to ascertain if bridges can support the tonnage of vehicles and/or requiring posting. Using a special harness, she actually climbs down and personally inspects bridges as needed. She models culverts and publishes the rating results for private, city, county and state bridges. Burtron has a special heart for serving the under-served. Examples include teaching children with Autism, working at family retreats with Joni and Friends Ministries, and serving with others in a ministry for families with disabilities, Rooftop Friends in the local greater Montgomery community. Burtron states, “It was an honor to serve and to represent everything good about our country especially to train recruits, and this is carried over to my disability ministry as well as my work with the Marine Corps League where it is a joy to stand up with my fellow-veterans and to remember the reasons we joined Corps initially and to be able to honor those coming behind us.”

### Rosa M. Scott

Rosa M. Scott served 20 years in the United States Air Force. Having graduated from Grambling University with a B.S. Degree in Institutional Management in 1962, she then worked at Buzzard’s Bay, MA, and also three and one-half years at Harlem Hospital in New York City in the area of dietetics service where she assessed and treated dietary and nutritional problems of patients and served as a relief person for the staff in various capacities. Rosa’s military career began when she joined the U.S. Air Force in 1971 with assignments at Westover A. F. Base, MA, Sheppard A. F. Base, TX, Scott A. F. Base, IL, Homestead A. F. Base, FL., Lackland A. F. Base, TX, twice at Clark A. F. Bass at the Philippine Islands and Maxwell A. F. Base, AL. She continued working in food services at hospitals at those Air Force bases. During this time, she received a Master’s Degree in Human Relations from Webster University. She retired from the Air Force in 1991 at Maxwell A. F. Base and returned to live at Montgomery where she volunteered with Baptist Hospice for 25 years and also worked



at SAM’s as a food distributor for 10 years. Rosa enjoys traveling, sight-seeing, reading and crafts. Having been born at Pleasant Hill, LA, to her parents, Henry Jefferson Scott and Lizzie Clark and been reared at Natchitoches, LA, Rosa has traveled from those two very small LA towns to cities all over the world. Rosa was married for two years to Jarried Rivers. Rosa expresses appreciation to the U. S. Air Force, saying, “Being in the Air Force meant service to country, creating new experiences from what I was used to having, world-wide travel and exposure to meeting all kinds of folks. I would meet local families at the bases, and they would take me under their wings treating me as their own. The “people” aspect is the part about the Air Force that I miss.”



### Nancy E. Denenny

Nancy was born September 7, 1949, at Greenville, AL. Her parents were Marvin and Marjorie Denenny, and she traveled all over the country because her father was in the U. S. Air Force. In 1967, she joined the U. S. Marine Corps at age 18 completing basic training at Parris Island and served for two years working with computers at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot at San Diego and at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in CA. Denenny stated, “Being in the Marines meant helping my country.” She stated that back then women were not allowed to be married while in the military. After discharge, she received training in computer programing at John Patterson Technical school and worked for the state of AL and for Montgomery County. She was married to James Rhodes, and they had three children and three grandchildren. She has been employed at stores selling craft and hobby materials. Her family has four generations of people serving in the military. She enjoys knitting, painting, crocheting, and working with ceramics.







Steve Long

# Woods & Waters with Steve



## Lets Protect Our Resources

Conservation. It's a word with a whole lot of different meanings to different people. While the general idea might be the same, it's a distant after thought for many Americans. To those of us in the outdoors, hunting, fishing, hiking or camping, conservation is a constant effort to maintain the precious resources we have.

As a member of QDMA, conservation is one of my primary goals. After all, you can't go deer hunting if there aren't any deer left! The amount of research and education we invest in is tremendous, but the constant effort pays off in spades.

### Conserving Natural Resources

Precautions should be taken to conserve all the natural resources. Renewable resources like solar and wind energy should be used as an alternative for commercial purpose. This would help in conservation of natural resources thus protecting mankind and the other living creatures on the earth. Our future is in our hands to protect and conserve the resources for the coming years.

We've seen Alabama become, and remain, a deer hunting destination, which brings in plenty of cash flow to both our State and local businesses. With careful management, it'll surely stay that way, too.

There are plenty of challenges, of course. Chronic Wasting Disease, or CWD, is a serious illness that can absolutely decimate a deer population. It spreads easily and quickly throughout the herd, silently eliminating the deer population, out of our sight. Careful management and regulatory action can help stymie the spread

of CWD, and Alabama has so far been up to the challenge. Keeping deer from being brought across state borders, for instance, has been a wise move.

Speaking of regulatory action, Alabama's red snapper season is going incredibly well, so far. There are some real big fish being caught down in the gulf, and we have our state government and its it's hard working officials to thank for that. The federal regulators wanted to keep us to a meager handful of days to fish, using the data they had. However, through programs like Snapper Check, the data obtained convinced the powers that be to let the State determine the season for itself. Conservation, when all the gears are moving smoothly, lets us enjoy our hunting and fishing heritage, not only today, but tomorrow as well.

Naturally, we've still got plenty of work ahead of us. As most of you Turkey Hunters know, we're in the middle of a rough spot for turkey conservation. Simply put, there ain't a lot of turkeys out there. Both the experts and us good ole boys agree that something is going on out in the woods, and it's going to take some work to address it. Between habitat loss, over predation, and some unusual weather, the turkey population has seen better days. If we drop the ball on this, we will probably end up like it was decades ago, when seeing a bird was near a miracle, much less harvesting one.

Fortunately for both the critters and us, there's a lot of help to be given in the name of conservation. Private organizations like QDMA work hard everyday to help improve and maintain deer herd numbers and quality. The state also has plenty of fine folks in charge of public lands and the wildlife in our state, doing everything they can to protect what resources we have.

Ultimately, the responsibility for conservation falls to each one of us individuals. If hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities are gonna be around to enjoy for years to come, we've all gotta work together to see it through. My work with QDMA has only strengthened my resolve to help maintain what we have, and I encourage all of you to keep conservation on your mind this year, going forward. Engaging in programs like Game Check, Snapper Check, and the like can only help out the cause. If you're fortunate enough to be a part of an organization like QDMA, spread the word and study up.

The way I see it, the Outdoors is a gift to all of us, and I intend on leaving that treasure for those who follow behind us, better and richer than I found it. I hope all of you can share in that belief as well, because, if we Outdoorsmen win the fight for conservation, then every one of us also wins. So get out there, keep those woods and waters looking good, and go get'em!

# Kritter Korner

## Bennett's Wallaby/ Red Necked Wallaby

Bennett's wallabies, sometimes called red-necked wallabies, are medium-sized marsupials found along the eastern coast of Australia, and on the island of Tasmania. They are members of the macropod marsupials' family, which also includes kangaroos and wallaroos. Though they may be best known for hopping, wallabies, kangaroos and wallaroos can also crawl and swim. In



general, wallabies tend to be smaller than kangaroos and wallaroos and can be distinguished by their darker muzzle and paws. Its name is due to the reddish fur on its shoulders and nape. The rest of its body is fawn gray, except for its white chest and belly. Its tail is gray on top and white below. Its paws are gray, with black at the ends. Its muzzle is dark brown. The ears of these wallabies are longer than those of others of the kangaroo family. Bennett's/ Red-necked wallabies live in eastern Australia from the New South Wales to

Queensland border area, through to South Australia, and in Tasmania. There is also large introduced population in New Zealand where red-necked wallaby where declared a pest, and small colonies in Scotland, England, Ireland and France. Red-necked wallabies prefer subtropical, cool temperate, wet and dry forests, as well as woodland with adjoining grassy areas. These wallabies are usually solitary but they may live in "mobs" or groups of up to 30 individuals. The males are aggressive towards each other and fight by "boxing" well after becoming fully mature. Wallabies have a hierarchy, usually with the larger ones being the more dominant. Grooming and play takes place amongst individuals of a similar ranking. These animals are mainly crepuscular, resting during daylight hours under cover, although they can often be seen foraging until late morning and starting to forage again late in the afternoon. Red-necked wallabies cool off by licking their paws and forearms when they are nervously excited or

in hot weather. They are not very vocal, tending to use actions and body language to communicate. They growl, chatter and hiss if provoked. Groups of Wallabie's are called" a mob, troop or herd. The Red-necked wallabies are grazers, and eat mostly grasses and herbs. A newborn must crawl to its mother's pouch, where it will nurse continually for about 7 months. The young are not very developed when born and they complete a large part of their growth in the pouch. At about 7 months old they are large enough to stay out of the pouch for a short time. They are completely weaned at the age of 10-12 months. The females may stay in their birth range for life but males leave when they are two years old. Females reach maturity at about 14 months of age and males at 19 months. There seem to be no big threats to this species. On Tasmania and New Zealand, however, these animals are sometimes killed under license due to being a pest of crops or pasture, and they are commercially harvested for meat. Bennett's/ Red-necked wallabies drink water if they need to. Juicy roots supply them with water during dry spells. Bennett's/ Red-necked wallabies have acute hearing and poor eyesight. They are generally secretive animals, being sensitive to disturbance. Wallabies' teeth grow like an elephant's, with new molars pushing old ones out of the mouth eventually, and replacing them. During their life-time they grow four sets of teeth. When alarmed, like rabbits, wallabies stamp their feet for several

bounds, as a warning to others of potential danger. Wallabies swivel their ears to pick up very quiet sounds. Wallabies have stomachs with chambers. When they eat, they regurgitate food which is chewed and swallowed again. Red-necked wallabies are sometimes called Wallabia rufogrisea. The Tasmanian group is also called Bennett's wallaby.



Ron VanHerwyn



## Ron's Kritter Kids (wildlife education)

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Ed Jones  
Football Writer

# SEC AT A GLANCE

Another football season is bearing down on us again. To me, it seems as if I watched the “beat down” that Clemson put on Alabama in the national championship game last month. This year my non-football months were more interesting than before, due to the success of the Auburn basketball program and the Auburn baseball team. For the first time in my life I have watched almost all of the NCAA Baseball Tournament to see who will be national champion. The College World Series ended on Wednesday, June 26th with Vanderbilt winning and upholding the reputation of the SEC. This column had to be turned in to go to press on Wednesday, June 26th. That's a quick turnaround for me. However, all my gears are devoted to football for the next nine months.

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



Tua Tagovailoa  
ALABAMA

Of course, all football fans, coaches and players are focusing on championships now. Every college team is 11-0 in July. In August we will begin to eliminate teams. Auburn opens with Oregon. The loser will have a difficult time earning a spot in any kind of championship game. Even though it is a non conference game, it is hard to climb back into contention starting 0-1. It has been done but the teams that have accomplished this monumental task have been extraordinarily good. Oregon and Auburn do not fit in that category.

Before I look at the national college football picture, I always study the Southeastern Conference teams. Some of these teams will have a direct or indirect influence on the NCAA National Championship Playoff anyway. It should be called a four team tournament. But, I can live with playoff.

Before the first pre-season practice, two teams stick out like a sore thumb. Alabama and Georgia are far and away the best teams in the conference before the first kick-off. They will probably be there at the end as well. The following is my take on the SEC East and the SEC West.

## WEST

Alabama has to be considered number one in the West. They have the best coach. They have the best program. They have the most talent. Most of all, they have a schedule that is ranked number 44 in relation to its difficulty. They are just behind TCU and Penn State and just above Oregon and Oklahoma. Therefore, Alabama will be favored in every game again this year. Here is the “gauntlet” that Alabama must go through to reach the playoffs: Duke in Atlanta, New Mexico, at South Carolina, Southern Miss, at Texas A&M, Tennessee, Arkansas, LSU, at Mississippi State, Western Carolina and at Auburn. **Coach Nick Saban's** boys will probably work up a sweat in College Station against an overrated coach in **Jimbo Fisher**. They will have a fight on their hands in Tuscaloosa with LSU. They will probably play their toughest game at Auburn. I would love to be the coach with Alabama's talent and Alabama's schedule.

The quarterback rating is number two. **Tua Tagovailoa** is the best quarterback in the country in my opinion. The running back rating is number four. The receiver rating is number one. The offensive line rating is number six. The defensive line is rated number three. The linebackers are rated number one. The defensive back rating is number three. The special teams are rated way down at number eighteen. Special teams are a problem for the Tide. My guess is that Saban will have them ready for the first game.

Not counting the special teams, the average rating for Alabama as far as talent that is ready to perform at their best level is 2.7. This means that at this time in July 2019, Alabama's talent level and preparation level is well within the top three teams. This rating system is not related in any way to the schedule difficulty or the coaching staff. Therefore you can easily see why Alabama will be rated one or two in the first Associated Press College Football Poll. Following Alabama will be LSU. Like him or not, **Coach Ed Orgeron** is getting the job done in Baton Rouge. He has assembled an excellent coaching staff. They have done a great job in recruiting. They are getting transfers and junior college players to fit needs. And, they are hungry. Beware of the Tigers!

The next teams are as even as can be. Therefore, I will list them at 3 - 4. Texas A&M surprised some people last year with a 9-4 record. **Coach Fisher** inherited a lot of good football players from the departed **Kevin Sumlin**, who is now the head coach at Arizona. The red, white and blue Wildcats of Arizona have a pretty color combination but the combination of talent and coaching will keep Sumlin searching for a bowl every year. The "Aggies" have the fourth toughest schedule in the country. Even so, the “Jimbo” fanatics are expecting great things from this year's team. They will have to be happy with just good things. A repeat of 9-4 is possible but not probable. When you play Clemson, Auburn, Alabama, Mississippi State, Georgia and LSU, the possibility of five or six losses is on Jimbo's plate.

Auburn is tied for third place with Texas A&M. **Coach Gus Malzahn** has done a good job of recruiting during his tenure, but he has not been able to take good talent and make them play great. Unfortunately, the same fate awaits the Auburn faithful this year as well. The Tigers may have the best talent Malzahn has assembled, but two freshmen quarterbacks fighting for the starting job, does not bring fear to Auburn's opponents. **Joey Gatewood** and **Bo Nix** better have good quality helmets because they will be somewhat handicapped by maybe the toughest schedule in the country. Auburn plays Oregon in Arlington, Texas, at Texas A&M, Mississippi State, at Florida, at LSU, Georgia and Alabama. There is a possibility of six or seven losses on that schedule. Malzahn will need “2013 luck” to improve on last year's 8-5 season. I was in favor of hiring Gus Malzahn seven years ago. He had done a great job with Auburn's offense and had won the Sun Belt Conference title at Arkansas State. However, Arkansas State does not play Alabama, Georgia, LSU and Florida. Unless a miracle happens, Malzahn will lead the Tigers to a record of 8-4 at best, and 5-7 at worst. Maybe they can play Purdue again in a bowl! The rest of the West will be in this order; Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Arkansas.

## EAST

As was the case for the last many years, the "Beast of the East" is the Georgia Bulldogs. Even before **Coach Kirby Smart** left Alabama for his alma mater, Georgia has been a thorn in Alabama's side. It will be again this year. Smart has been smart enough to copy Nick Saban in every way as he revived the "Dogs". This will be his fourth year and maybe his best team. Even so, he has Notre Dame, Florida, Auburn, Texas A&M and a renewed Georgia Tech to deal with. Just like Alabama, Georgia should be favored in every game, but the football is an elliptical spheroid, and it never bounces the same way each time. **Quarterback Jake Fromm** is in his third year as a starter which makes him eligible to enter the NFL Draft at the end of this season. I think that he will leave regardless of how the season goes for Georgia. He definitely has a future in the NFL. The Georgia quarterback position is ranked ninth in the country. I think it should be much higher. I like Jake Fromm a lot. Georgia's running backs are ranked second to Wisconsin and slightly ahead of Clemson and Alabama.

The main problem with Georgia is their talent at wide receiver. They lost some to graduation, some to NFL draft and at least one good receiver was dismissed for bad conduct. Freshmen and a good group of transfers will have to step up and give Fromm something to throw to, or Georgia will have to depend on its ground game too much. They can win with the offensive line that is coming back. They are rated the number two offensive line in the country behind Oregon and just ahead of Clemson and Michigan. Georgia has the sixth rated defensive line, the sixth rated linebacker core. Georgia 's defense will be salty again in 2019. Two problem areas for the Bulldogs is their secondary and their special teams. If Kirby can shore up those two aspects of his game, the "Dogs" can be one of several national contenders.

Nipping at the heels of the Dogs is the Florida Gators. **Coach Dan Mullen** is the most underrated football coach in America. His forte in the past has been his ability to develop quarterbacks. **Feleipe Franks** looked like a quarterback last year after impersonating one for two years. Mullen has had an important affect on Franks. The 6-6, 240 lb. Franks has become the leader of the offense. With his size, he could develop into an NFL prospect under the tutelage of Coach Mullen. The schedule is very favorable to the Gators. Opening game with Miami in Orlando will be a good test. Auburn on homecoming, LSU in Baton Rouge, and Georgia in Jacksonville will be dicey but manageable. Look for Florida to contend for the East title in a big way.

The rest of the East is a bundle of teams that could be good but not yet ready for prime time. Missouri will be much improved with Clemson transfer **Kelly Bryant** replacing the NFL bound quarterback **Drew Lock**. With Bryant, the Tigers can have a much more balanced offense. The defense is already good. With a little luck, the Tigers could be very good . Their toughest games this year will be at Georgia and at home against Florida in back to back weekends.

South Carolina, Auburn and USC have the toughest schedules in the country in 2019. The Gamecocks can be good but look bad facing Alabama, at Georgia, then Florida at home the next week. They finish with Texas A&M in College Station and Clemson in Clemson. Tennessee will be better. Kentucky will be worse. Vanderbilt will be...Vanderbilt.

Tee It Up Boys!



Jake Fromm  
GEORGIA



Feleipe Franks  
FLORIDA



Joey Gatewood  
AUBURN

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Martha Roby represents Alabama's Second Congressional District. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, with her husband Riley and their two children.

# Advocating for Alabama's Military Installations

In Congress, I consider it a tremendous privilege and responsibility to represent a district that is home to two of our country's finest military installations – Fort Rucker down in the Wiregrass and Maxwell-Gunter Air Force Base in Montgomery. Even beyond the Second District, Alabama as a whole has a significant military footprint, and we should all be very proud of our state's role in defending our freedom.

I just recently had the opportunity to attend the Change of Command ceremony at Fort Rucker. Major General David Francis is now the Commanding General of USAACE and Fort Rucker, taking over the post from Major General William Gayler.

I have enjoyed working with Gen. Gayler, and I appreciate his steadfast leadership. I wish him the very best as he moves forward with his impressive career. Of course, congratulations are also in order for Gen. Francis. I look forward to continuing to build a strong relationship with him as we work together to advocate for Fort Rucker. It was a really exciting time to be in the Wiregrass, and I was glad to be on-post again to visit with some of our district's military leaders.

Shifting focus to another part of our state, I also recently had the opportunity to speak on the House floor during consideration of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee Fiscal Year 2020 funding bill to raise awareness for the facility updates needed at Dannelly Field in

Montgomery to support the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter mission.

In December of 2017, we received the exciting news that the 187th Fighter Wing at Dannelly Field was selected as a preferred location for the bed down of the coveted F-35 mission. The first aircraft is scheduled to arrive in the next few years, and Dannelly Field needs a correctly sized and properly configured maintenance facility to support and repair this next-generation fighter. The existing facilities that currently service the F-16 Red Tail's squadron are inadequate.

Aircraft maintenance is housed in three temporary trailer facilities, maintenance shops are 43 percent undersized, and the required tool storage is kept in aircraft parking spaces inside the hangar.

As we await the arrival of this cutting-edge aircraft, and as we continue through the Fiscal Year 2020 appropriations process, I look forward to working alongside my colleagues to address this pressing issue. We must provide our men and women in uniform adequate and acceptable working spaces so they can perform their jobs accurately and efficiently, and I will continue to advocate for these necessary facility updates at Dannelly.

The military installations in our district and across our great state perform vital work for the security of this nation, and I will always advocate for their proper support through my role in Congress. It is a true honor to have this platform to fight for the men and women who serve us all.



## Too Many Laws

By John Martin

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

This year's legislative session has been one of the most counterproductive we have had in recent years—from the rammed in gasoline tax increase, to overspending, to more extreme seat belt penalties, to the brain-dead 1.5 mile limit for driving in the left lane of a highway. These and other violations of our liberty are not only terrible, but they were shoved down our throats by our mostly Republican representatives and senators by ridiculously huge margins. And then, our governor, Kay Ivey, just signed them without giving a moment's thought about their grave consequences. Hey, Kay, what happened to your veto pen?

For example, look at the left lane fiasco. Much of the time, both right and left lanes are full of traffic. Being forced to cut back into the right lane before 1.5 miles are up is going to entice a great deal of reckless lane changing and accidents, especially when there is limited or no room in the right lane to safely return to it. Functionally, this is turning a four lane highway into a two lane one. Can you say, "Traffic jam?"

Have the people we elected, after only a few months, completely forgotten why we put them up there? We did not elect them to pass a bunch of new laws, but to do exactly the opposite—arrest and roll back spending, taxes, and the rampant growth of our state government, and repeal the abusive laws we already have. We the people have said it again and again at political rallies and various events. They had given their word that they would heed our advice.

And what did they do the very next year (this one)? LIAR, LIAR! PANTS ON FIRE!

These actions are all the more painful because they were imposed almost immediately after the last election, and now, we have to suffer and sit on our thumbs for three and a half more years before we get an opportunity to vote them out in the next election.

And where are the Tea Party people? Why aren't there any protests anymore? Why aren't the people demanding accountability, and for that matter, even impeachment?

The burden of too many laws is catastrophic. Having too many laws makes them difficult to enforce. True, the abusive laws should not be enforced anyway, but what often happens is that law enforcement frequently enforces the victimless offenses that produce revenue for the officers and provide warm bodies for the prison industrial complex while neglecting genuine criminal actions. If you want to back that argument up, ask yourself why the United States has a greater percentage of its population in prison than any other nation.

We have a serious problem with our state government. Now more than ever, we must cut it down to manageable size before it eats us alive. But how can we do it when we have to endure three additional sessions before we can even take action at the polls?

When our state constitution was written in 1901, legislative elections were held every four years, just like they are today. But regular legislative sessions were also pegged at every four years (quadrennially). And they were limited to a maximum of 60 days—that's 60 days for a period of four years. The people were not subjected to four regular sessions and a number of special sessions before they had the opportunity to replace those who proved to be corrupt.

Unfortunately, in 1939, the Alabama electorate recklessly ratified regular sessions every two years (biannually), and later in 1975, annual sessions. But elections remained only once every four years. That is too much time for politicians to rip the people off before they get replaced. As a result, we have suffered massive increases in government abuse and corruption.

There is a simple way we can mitigate this problem: We could require that our legislature meet only just prior to the primary of a general election. This will allow the people to enforce accountability while their minds are still fresh. Corrupt officials would no longer be able to force the voters to wait for lengthy periods and then forget their misdeeds.

Regular sessions would begin in January, last no more than 60 calendar days, and occur only in years of general elections. A regular session must always be followed by a primary and a general election—no exceptions. And no more than one special session (maximum 30 calendar days) shall be allowed between elections.

If we must have annual sessions (which in my opinion are way too many), then we must hold those elections every year. If we choose biannual sessions (my preference), then we must hold legislative and gubernatorial elections every two years (Many other states do this.).

Or we could stick to our four year election cycle. But if we do, then only one regular session shall be allowed, and only during the election year—and only one special session during the four years.

In addition, we must stop electing people by pluralities. We must always require a runoff in every election where no candidate receives a majority of the votes.

We also need ballot access reform. If a person is a legal voter and over the age of 30, then he should not be barred from ballot access in a general or special election. He should not be required to collect signatures or pay a fee to get on the ballot. He should be allowed to run as an independent or in whatever party he chooses.

These reforms would also apply to county and municipal elections. This will still not guarantee accountability, but it will be a huge improvement over the system we have now.

Unfortunately, getting this proposal into practice is likely to be problematic. Since it is our legislators who make the laws, they are the ones who would have the task of making these reforms. But politicians, most of them aspiring to be self-serving rulers, are not likely to be generous enough to allow more competition from the people—that is—until the people become bold enough to demand these reforms.

# Shut up and get to work!



By Perry O. Hooper, Jr.  
06/12/2019

Democrats have proven that they will do just about anything to obstruct President Trump's agenda in order to win in 2020, no matter how dire the consequences are for the country. It also does not matter to them that the Mueller Report was a complete and total exoneration of the president and his campaign. They still waste valuable time yelling collusion and obstruction. The will of the American people for the Trump agenda is of little consequence to the Democrats and their willing allies in the liberal media.

As House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy stated "Democrats are in a tailspin, and their 'leadership' is out to lunch. They have achieved practically nothing since taking over the House, and their obsession with impeaching this president is paralyzing any progress we could be making as the United States." House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer even admits "The debate over whether to impeach Trump dominates all discussion within the House Democratic Caucus," not the important work that needs to be done for the country.

The American people want action on the real issues facing this country. While Americans scream for border security where now 1,000 illegals are showing up every day demanding asylum; House Democrats give us the so-called American Dream and Promise Act. The Act makes millions of illegal immigrants eligible for amnesty, far exceeding the roughly 750,000 so-called dreamers. This bill also provides a pathway to citizenship for illegals that is unavailable to legal immigrants. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimated the cost of this bill to be \$34.6 billion in the first year alone. Democrats have no way to pay for this. The bill calls for zero enforcement, it does not include a dime for border security or ICE. It does not close loopholes or reform asylum laws. It provides a path to citizenship for violent criminals and gang members. What a disgraceful



bill, but it passed the house with blessing of the House leadership.

Democrats have demonstrated where their priorities are: Making sure that people who break our immigration laws — including those with criminal records — are rewarded. The American people want the wall built no ifs ands or buts. We must close the loopholes that allow illegal immigrants to demand asylum and be released into the U.S., where 90% do not to show up for their asylum hearings.

Alabama and America are in dire need of a National Infrastructure Bill. President Trump has been working since day one to develop a strong national infrastructure plan. Just an hour before the all-important meeting to begin the infrastructure discussion, Nancy Pelosi accused the president of a crime, and engaging in a cover-up. This of course occurred after the release of the Mueller Report. She then shows up and pretends like nothing's happened and let's just sit down and talk about roads and bridges. That's not how you negotiate in good faith and she knows it.

Poll after poll shows the American people want more control over their health care. House Democrats however have introduced legislation to restore the government mandate to buy the policy that they have designed for you. They are also planning to hold hearings on the complete government takeover of the health care system the 34 trillion-dollar so-called Medicare-for-all boondoggle. While the president was at Omaha Beach with other world leaders commemorating the 75th Anniversary of D-Day and the Normandy Invasion where 9,300 brave Americans died for our freedom, Speaker Pelosi's was back home publicly calling for the president to go to prison. What an embarrassment.

Speaker Pelosi, shut up. Get your house in order. Get to work. America is tired of silly partisan political games. It is time for you to put America first.



# THE ALABAMA Gazette

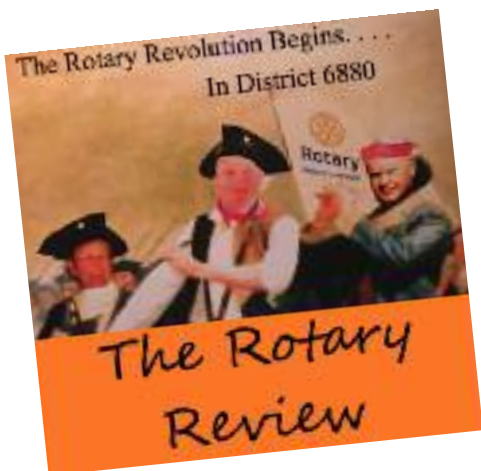
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Montgomery, Autauga, Elmore, Crenshaw, Tallapoosa, Pike and Surrounding Counties

## Community Lifestyles



## "Rotary District 6880 Year in Review in Pictures"



**Join the Rotary Revolution** was the theme for my Rotary year which just concluded on June 30. But we finished with a BANG!

In our final volley, members of the Montgomery Rotary Club

donated blood to the Red Cross on June 27th here in Montgomery where our Revolution began some twelve months ago.

WHAT IS A REVOLUTION WITHOUT SHEDDING A LITTLE BLOOD?

In summary, our district encompasses an area from Clanton to Mobile with around 50 clubs contributing their time and resources around the community and around the world. We had a record setting year in total giving by the District for causes near and far. We started three new clubs geared toward those under 30.

We hosted a 13 state convention with leaders representing over 65,500 Rotarians including our International President Mark Maloney from Decatur. We celebrated successes and worked on projects to aid others throughout the District and beyond in areas like education, clean water and literacy. Further, our Global Grants have supported initiatives to provide medical teams and equipment to places like Mexico, Nigeria and Madagascar. Some members even helped immunize children from the polio virus, a 40 year trek led by Rotary to rid the world of that dread disease. As you can see, fun and fellowship is a big part of what Rotary is. It is an ideal organization for someone like you to network and find purpose. Join Us and Connect With the World so you can *Be an Inspiration!*

I want to thank all those who have made this a successful year: The Club Presidents, first and foremost. It is a thankless job, but it also has so many endearing benefits. Second, our 11 Assistant Governors deserve a great deal of recognition for they have gone the extra mile to assist clubs move forward and stay on track. Many of these dedicated individuals will be returning next year, which is a real blessing for DG Skip Dotherow. Third, the District Leadership Council is made up of Rotarians who have taken that next step to see and embrace so many facets of our great District, Zone and Rotary world by reaching out and Making a Difference.

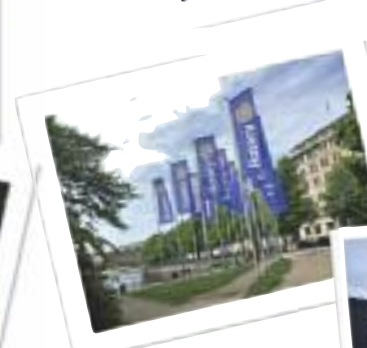
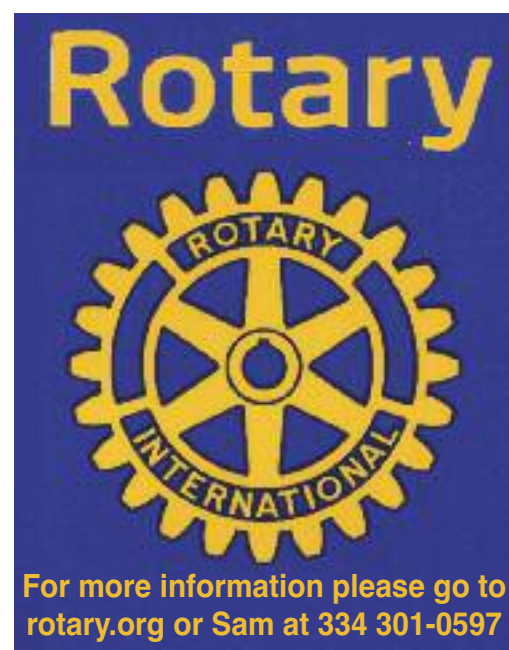
And finally I want to recognize with my heartfelt thanks to those brave enough to step into the Governors chain of command to commit to a three of four year adventure that will change their lives for the better, forever, and those around them.

Our RI Theme this year, Be The Inspiration, lead me throughout the year. I will draw to a close by thanking God for His saving grace, my wife for her patience and humor, and Rotary for giving me this exceptional opportunity to put "Service Above Self".

Sincerely,  
District Governor Samuel Adams  
District 6880



**It's been great-  
Rotary Rocks!**







**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**



# Montgomery County Alabama Sheriff's Office

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:**  
[www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)

**(334) 832-4980**



**Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy**

## Senior Fishing Rodeo

**Tuesday, September 10, 2019**

**6:00 a.m.-12:00 noon**

**Montgomery County ponds, Highway 231 South across from the Sweet Creek Farmer's Market.**

Our Senior Fishing Rodeo event will be held at the Montgomery County ponds, Highway 231 South across from the Sweet Creek Farmer's Market. Montgomery County senior citizens are invited to grab their rods, reels and bait and come out and join the fun and fellowship with Sheriff Cunningham and Staff!



We hope to see you there!

## Thank You!

Thank you to those they came out on Saturday, June 22nd, to attend our Youth Fishing Rodeo. Sheriff Cunningham and Staff welcomed many families again this year! It's always heartening to see everyone come out and assist our youth with a day full of fun and fellowship! If you weren't able to make it out this year, please check our website later in the year for next year's Youth Fishing Rodeo date.

## Firearms Familiarization Course

**Register NOW for any of our 2019 Firearms Familiarization Courses!**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### Course Requirements:

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



### 2019 Course Dates:

**July 13                      September 7**  
**August 10                October 12**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Pistol Permit Questions?

**334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337**

**Course Questions or to Obtain an Application?**

**Lisa Crenshaw@mc-ala.org**

**334.832.1339**

**Your safety is our primary concern; therefore, we ask that you do not bring children to this class.**

## 2019 Exchangite of the Year

Sheriff Cunningham received the honor of being named the 2019 Exchangite of the Year. The Exchange Club recognition took place at the 98th Annual Convention at beautiful Lake Guntersville State Park. Sheriff was quoted as saying, "If you surround yourself with great people great things will happen." Thanks again, Exchange Club of Montgomery for this great honor!



## Sheriff's Office APP

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

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery county sheriff"

**OR**

- Click "Application Manager", if it doesn't take you directly to the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn on "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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



**Montgomery County AL Sheriff's Office**

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## AUTAUGA COUNTY



# Autauga County Alabama SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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**[www.autaugasheriff.org](http://www.autaugasheriff.org)**

162 W 4th St, Prattville, AL  
**(334) 361-2500**



**Sheriff Joe Sedinger**

## Prattville to Honor Founders of Fireworks Celebration

Prattville will celebrate 30 years of fireworks in 2019 with a full day of activities and an amazing fireworks show on Thursday, July 4. It all started as a salute to Prattville's sesquicentennial and the birthday of its founder, Daniel Pratt.

The City of Prattville is proud to salute the original Fireworks Committee as Grand Marshals of the 2019 Independence Day Parade. Willis Potts, Buddy Buckner and Joe Mathis, were the original fireworks committee. Pat Owen joined the committee soon after and he and Joe Mathis remain as active members of the Independence Day Committee today. We are proud to honor all four of these gentlemen now, 30 years later.

In 1989, the community came together for a grand celebration at what was then Stanley Stadium with music, a birthday cake, an historical dramatic production with a cast of more than 100 local residents, and a grand finale fireworks display. With Glenda Potts as the Chairman of the celebration and many local businesses and residents helping, the celebration was a huge success.

Thursday, July 4, the City of Prattville will celebrate the 4th of July and 30 years of fireworks beginning with a parade at 9:00 a.m., Lions Club barbecue and patriotic program at 10:00 a.m., and cardboard boat races at 10:30 a.m. The festivities will continue at Stanley-Jensen Stadium that evening beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a free concert and children's play area and culminating with a grand fireworks display at dark! Bring your blanket and lawn chairs and enjoy this free event. There will be food vendors or you can bring a cooler, but no alcoholic beverages or glass containers are allowed.

For more information, contact the Special Events Office at **334-595-0850** or visit **[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)**.

## Citizens Academy



**PRATTVILLE POLICE AND FIRE  
CITIZEN'S ACADEMY**

**AUGUST 13TH - OCTOBER 1ST  
TUESDAYS 6:00 PM**

The Autauga County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the upcoming Citizens Academy which will be held on Tuesday evenings from August 13th - Oct 1st starting at 6pm at the Sheriff's Office. You will learn about all facets of the Sheriff's Office, to include the history, patrol, investigations, narcotics, jail operations, and how we work with the court system. We will also be allowing our applicants to participant in a ride along with a deputy. You can print out the application from the Autauga County Sheriff's Office Facebook Page, or stop by the Sheriff's Office to pick up an application. We can also mail applications upon request. You must be 21 years old to apply and be an Autauga County resident. The Deadline to apply will be August 1, 2019. The Citizens Academy will be limited to the first 20 applications.

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**GREG BOWEN  
334-365-4610**

**740 MEMORIAL DR.  
PRATTVILLE, AL 36067**

## 4TH OF JULY EVENTS

**Wednesday, July 4, 2018**

### 17th Annual 4th of July Parade

Begins at 9am and winds through downtown. Registration is required, but no entry fee.

The theme this year will be Happy Birthday America/Happy Birthday Autauga County. Grand Marshals will be Past and current County Commissioners.

### Lions Club BBQ and Arts & Crafts

at Pratt Park from 10am-2pm

BBQ & Camp Stew sale, music, patriotic program, children's fun area and arts and crafts

\*\*\*\*\*

### CARDBOARD BOAT RACES

Teams will construct their boats on site with cardboard and duct tape. Races begin at 10:30am. Registration required. \$5 per boat. Pool open 1-3pm.

### FIREWORKS at Stanley Jensen Stadium

Gates open to public at 6pm and fireworks start at dark. Enjoy a concert by **CREATIVITY**, children's fun area and food vendors. **Free admission!**

For more information, contact the Parks and Recreation Department at (334) 595-0800.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR CHECK US OUT ON...**



**[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)**



## Creekwalk CONCERTS

*Free Summer Concerts!*

June 11—Kyle Mercer  
June 25—Danl Musiq  
July 9—American Dream Factory  
July 23—Becky Folmar  
& the Bama Sound  
6:30-8:30 pm



Located on the Creekwalk behind City Hall.  
Bring a Blanket or Chair and Enjoy the Music!  
**334-595.0854 ★ [www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)**

## 2019 YOUTH ART CAMP

**For KIDS ages 7-12!**

**Camp Registration Fee: \$75**  
(per week, includes all supplies)

at the Prattville Creative Arts Center

**June 17-21 & July 15-19**

**334.595.0850**

**[www.prattvilleal.gov](http://www.prattvilleal.gov)**







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



## ANDREW M. SAUL SWORN IN AS COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Andrew M. Saul was sworn in today as the Commissioner of Social Security at the agency's office in Washington, D.C. He will serve a six-year term that expires on January 19, 2025.

Commissioner Saul expressed his gratitude at being chosen to serve as the Commissioner of Social Security. "The Social Security programs touch the lives of almost every American – serving in this position is a tremendous privilege and an awesome responsibility," said Commissioner Saul. "I am humbled by the opportunity to help the agency to deliver critical services to the American people."



Commissioner Saul brings a vast amount of experience to the position. At the federal level, one of Commissioner Saul's greatest achievements was his work with the Federal Thrift Investment Board (FTIB). In 2002, Commissioner Saul became Chairman of the FTIB, which administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). The TSP provides military and federal employees the opportunity to save for additional retirement security. Commissioner Saul led the board to modernize systems and restructure

executive staff. Through effective changes, he increased participation and reduced participant costs.

In addition to his federal service, Commissioner Saul has served and worked within numerous state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private sector businesses. He started his career in the private sector, growing and managing two large publicly traded apparel chains for over 20 years. He served

as Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Finance Committee of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York's regional transportation system and the country's largest public transportation network. He also served as Vice Chairman of the Mount Sinai Health System and Chairman of its Audit and Compliance Committee. In addition, he was a Trustee and Chairman of the Audit Committee of the National Gallery of Art. He formerly served as a board member of the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York.

Commissioner Saul will be responsible for administering the Social Security retirement, disability and survivors insurance programs that pay over one trillion dollars annually in benefits to approximately 64 million beneficiaries, as well as the Supplemental Security Income program that provides cash assistance to more than 8 million people with limited income and resources. The agency has a national workforce of about 63,000 employees and 1,500 facilities across the country and around the world.

Commissioner Saul is from New York. He is a graduate of the Wharton School of Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, and serves on its Board of Overseers. He and his wife of over 50 years, Denise, have two adult children and three grandchildren.



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Soul Searching

# Things Happy People Do

“Don’t Worry. Be Happy!” Remember that song? It was written and sung by **Bobby McFerrin** and was a huge hit in 1988! It is still a popular song at parties, bars and football games.

It sounds so easy. Just don’t worry and you will be happy. But the truth is there are a lot of unhappy people, aren’t there? I do think most folks really want to be happy, but many just don’t know how.

Happiness, many believe, is related to luck or a positive attitude or providence. But I believe happiness is very simply a choice. We can choose to live in a certain way. We can make choices everyday that will affect whether we are happy or unhappy. Happy people make choices everyday that empower them to be happy.

My friend, **Shane Bishop**, Senior Pastor at Christ Church, Fairview Heights, Illinois, writes a blog which is very popular. On that blog he wrote an article not too long ago that went viral with over one million hits. His catchy title was: *“12 Things I See Happy People Do (that unhappy people do not)”*. I’ll leave it with you to read for yourself, and believe me, it is worth your while.

Here are my observations on the topic that have been formed by watching happy people for decades.

1. **Focus on what you have and not on what you don’t.** Unhappy people are unthankful people. The practice of counting your blessings is a great start. Get out a legal pad and write down all the good things in your life. Often unhappiness sneaks in when we lose sight of all the good things in our life and become focused on one or two difficult things.
2. **Question the sources of your expectations.** Most unhappy people want things they don’t have...and they want them bad. Are these expectations realistic? Who is selling them to you? I hope not the media. Having a miserable existence because you are not living into a pipe dream, is really tragic.
3. **Be Generous. Study after study has come to the same conclusion.** Selfish people are miserable. Happy people give of their time and resources to a cause greater than themselves.
4. **Remember happiness is not a destination.** The happiest people I know are those least conscious of their own happiness. Happiness is learning to enjoy the ride, not reaching your destination.
5. **If you don’t like your life, change it take control of your own life.** Do you want to learn to play the piano? Take lessons! Do you regret not

getting a college degree? Get one. Do you want to improve your spiritual life? Start going to church. There is really no one holding you back but you.

6. **Slow down. You just can’t smell the roses at a full sprint!** If you, like me, are a workaholic type, build time into your Outlook to do nothing. Get a hobby. Enjoy your friends and family. Happy people have learned how to occasionally chill.
7. **Realize there are no shortcuts.** If you were honestly disappointed you didn’t win the billion dollar Power Ball, you are not getting it. Getting your education, working hard, putting in the hours, pursuing your dreams, saving and giving are always in style.
8. **Stop feeling entitled. No one owes you anything.** Just assume you are not going to get any help, that you will receive no inheritance and that no one is going to give you a break. Now go make your life happen! If anything else comes (and it probably will), it is all bonus!
9. **Think Significance. Significance is achieved by leaving the world better than you found it.** People who feel their lives really matter are the happiest people of all!
10. **Forgive. Forgiving those who have hurt you, breaks their power over you.** Forgiving yourself for your failures, frees you for future success. Ask God to forgive you. Ask those you have hurt to forgive you. Make restitution where you can. Move on.
11. **A great attitude is a choice, not a disposition.** We can control our feelings or we can be controlled by them. Happy people CHOOSE to have great attitudes.
12. **Speak Life. When you speak, choose words that uplift, encourage and bring positive energy into every situation.** My mom was right, *“If you don’t have something nice to say, you shouldn’t say anything at all.”* People who speak life are like human air fresheners.

As you begin a new week, you have an opportunity to invest in your own happiness or to make yourself miserable. If you choose the former, you will make others happy as well. If you choose the latter...well, you know.”

Thank you Shane!



Judge  
Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for July

by Peggy Givhan

The Fourth of July marks the midway point of summer. Celebrations abound on our country's birthday, fireworks, bands, parades, flags, bunting, and of course food. Think barbecued ribs, chicken, hot dogs, potato salad, Cole slaw, and of course home churned ice cream. However, this is a critical time in the garden, so let's not be a slacker. Now is the perfect time to prune back flowers that will go on to have a strong second wind of bloom. Many of these flowers will go into the fall, which not only saves money, but the mature plants are bigger and better. Plants such as: dragon wing begonias, plumbago, petunias, zinnias,dusty miller, and impatiens. The rule of thumb is to trim them back about 1/4 to 1/3, and for begonias it is best to snap them off at the joints. The next step is to apply a light liquid fertilizer due to the extreme heat. Another good thing about this pruning is the plants get thicker and will start sprouting out new growth in a couple of weeks.

One of the mainstays of my garden at the farm for summer bloom is the re-seeding Pacific Giant zinnia. I removed or transplanted the seedlings that germinated in the wrong areas, and let them do their thing. With fertilizer, water, and sun plus a little weeding, voila, a perfect colorful scene. Also, I planted perennial ageratum a couple of years ago. These have re seeded and populate a wide swath of this garden. The Lamb's Ears which do not die back in winter, fills much of the front border. Lamb's Ears, or Stacys, do not grow well in wet areas. They prefer areas that are more dry and will tolerate both sun and shade. For accent, I found some old fashioned yellow Yarrow, which are easy to grow and have much more showy bloom heads than the regular Achillea. Until I tire of having all of these country garden flowers which are also great for flower arrangements, I will stick to this plan for years to come.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH-- PORTULACACEAE



Also known as Moss Rose, this annual could not be easier to grow. It is a low growing and spreading plant, often relegated to pots or hanging baskets. It has both versatility as far as light requirements, both sun and shade. The colors are not quite as vivid if it dwells in more shade than sun. Another trait is that of drought resistance. When we had a beach house, I planted tubs of Portulaca on a deck, and only watered on the weekends. The natural habit of this plant in to drape which lends itself to being planted in pots. I have used it in pots for a colorful hanging border with dramatic elephant ears or canna lilies in the center. The Moss Rose does have on negative and that is it closes up at night, and we all know pretty women must get their beauty rest.

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY AND GOOD GARDENING.

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# Southern Cuisine

When I want to introduce a recipe, I tell a story about how I found or why I use the recipe. It is a roundabout way to the topic I want to discuss. However, there are times when the story has a very thin line that leads to a recipe or a topic. This is one of them. There are many ways to make your experiences in a kitchen enjoyable, rewarding, and shareable. Start by using simple recipes and healthy ingredients. Here are two ways to include your friends and family, especially your children, in preparing everyday meals.

Some years back, I was doing a presentation on cooking calamari to a class of fifth graders. What do you do with five pounds of raw dissected calamari but cook it? After the demonstration, the teacher asked the students if they had any questions for “Chef” about cooking in general or being a chef. They did, of course! One of the questions was, “Why did you start cooking?” Now trying to be funny and lead into another story, I said,...



...“I started cooking because I am hungry when I wake up in the morning.” That did not quite compute to a group of fifth graders, so I had to explain. I have always been an early riser and but not my parents, especially on weekends. If I wanted something to eat when I got up, I had to cook it myself. One of the appliances my parents would let me use by myself was a 12-inch Westinghouse electric skillet. It was the perfect size to make four pancakes. Since there was no Bisquick or other baking mixes available where we lived, I made the batter from scratch. My father usually made the batter when we were going to have a weekend family breakfast. I learned his recipe and used it for my pancakes. Most of the time the pancakes looked like pancakes, but sometimes they did not act like pancakes. They would be so dense; they were better drink coasters than breakfast food.

As soon as we moved back to the United States and discovered store bought baking mixes, the scratch made pancake batter was another outdated memory. Now with the concern people have about what is in the foods they eat, scratch made bread, biscuits, waffles, pies, cakes, and even pancakes are gaining popularity. An argument I hear about the store bought mixes is shelf life and convenience. Read the ingredients of a store bought baking mix and ask yourself if you really want all of them in your body. In addition, I have eaten baking mix pancakes that brought back memories of drink coasters! A common mistake when making pancakes is over-mixing. When the directions tell you there will be some lumps in the mix, leave some lumps in the mix! Do not make up the mix and then put it in the refrigerator waiting for the sleepyheads to get up and come to breakfast. Do not store the baking mix in the refrigerator. The cold will deactivate the baking powder and your pancakes will be coasters.

We will begin with a simple scratch made pancake batter.

## SIMPLE & GOOD PANCAKES

**INGREDIENTS**

- Two cups White Lily® Enriched Bleached Self-Rising Flour
- Three tablespoons sugar
- One-cup milk
- Two large eggs, lightly beaten
- ¼ cup melted butter

Yield: about 6-9

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Pre-heat lightly oiled griddle to 400F.
2. Combine flour and sugar in medium bowl.
3. Combine milk, egg in small bowl.
4. Add liquid ingredients to flour mixture and stir to just combine.
5. Add melted butter and stir just until well blended (batter will be lumpy).
6. Ladle ¼-cup batter for each pancake.
7. Flip once when bubbles appear in batter.
8. Serve when golden brown.

Note: I add the melted butter after the other ingredients are mixed; adding the butter to the milk is like trying to combine oil and water. In addition, the milk is cold and you want the butter melted for easier mixing. It may seem like a trivial matter but it works.



National Hot Dog Month. So try your hand at any of these celebrated foods this month; Beans 'n' Franks (July13), Barbecued Spareribs (July 4), Fried Chicken (July 6), Pecan Pies (July12), Corn Fritters (July 16). and do not forget my favorite day, July the 21st, National Junk Food Day.

## MOZZARELLA

Total Hands-On Time: 30 min  
Yield: About 1 pound

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1-gallon whole milk not ultra-pasteurized
- 1 1/2 tsp powdered citric acid dissolved in 1/4 cup cool water
- 1/4 tsp liquid rennet diluted in 1/4 cup cool water (if using rennet tablets, follow conversion instructions on the package)
- 1 to 2 tsp cheese salt (not iodized)

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Slowly heat the milk to 55 degrees Fahrenheit in a stainless steel pot. While gently stirring, slowly add the citric acid solution to the milk, and mix thoroughly.
2. While occasionally stirring, raise the temperature of the milk to 90 degrees over medium-low heat. The milk will begin to thicken like yogurt in about five minutes.
3. Remove from heat and in forward and backwards motion, gently stir in the diluted rennet. Do this for 30 seconds. Let stand, covered until milk sets, 5 to 10 minutes. Slice the milk curd with a palette knife into ¾-inch cubes. Stir curds gently but leave cubes intact.
4. Return pot to the heat; cook at medium stirring gently until temperature reaches 109 degrees. About 5 minutes. Remove from heat.
5. Scoop out the curds with a slotted spoon and put in a colander over a bowl. Press the curds gently with your hands, squeezing out as much whey as possible. Pour saved whey back into the pot and heat to 175 degrees.
6. Shape the curds into several small balls, rolling them between your palms. Put them, one at a time, into a ladle, and dip them in the hot whey for 5 to 10 seconds. Then gently fold, stretch and knead the cheese over and over (as in kneading bread) with your hand. (You will want to don rubber gloves at this point, as the cheese will be extremely hot.) This distributes the heat evenly throughout the cheese, which will not stretch until it is too hot to touch (145 degrees inside the curd).
7. Repeat this process several times until the curd is smooth and pliable; knead in the salt after the second time. The cheese is done if it stretches like taffy. If the curds break instead of stretch, they are too cool and need to be reheated.
8. When the cheese is smooth and shiny, roll it into balls or logs. Though tasty warm and fresh, it can be stored in the refrigerator after it has cooled and then wrapped tightly in plastic wrap.

The is the hot and humid time of the year and it is very important to remember rules for safe foods. Pay attention to the time that food is left out of refrigeration and the temperature that it is stored at. The same goes for your body. Do not stay in the heat for long periods at a time. Get plenty of rest and drink plenty of water.

Different flours will produce different pancakes. “White Lily” is soft wheat flour whereas “Gold Medal” is hard wheat flour. A much lighter consistency is noticeable when using soft wheat flour in biscuits and bread.

What I want to point out is that a recipe from Betty Crocker for pancakes, using Bisquick, stills calls for the addition of sugar, baking powder, milk, oil, and eggs. The latest price I have seen for a 6-pound box of Bisquick was \$6.72 for six pounds. The “White Lily” was \$2.72 for 5 pounds. So what are you gaining?

**TIP OF THE DAY:**

If your recipe calls for the addition of herbs, spices, and nuts, remember to either TOAST, ROAST or BLOOM them first. For whole seeds and nuts, swirl them around in a dry skillet over medium-high heat until you can smell the aromatic oils. Use them whole or grind in a spice grinder (a coffee grinder that you do not use to ground coffee) or in a mortar and pestle.

Roast your ground spices in a thin layer on a dry sheet pan a 400 degrees for 4-8 minutes or until their color darkens. Blooming your spices calls for you to put your spices in hot oil at the bottom of your pan and cook for a few minutes until they are fragrant and then finish the rest of the recipe in that pan. I use this method in my Tex-Mex recipes.

I made my monthly trip to Trader Joe’s and they were displaying fresh homemade mozzarella sticks. The cheese was fresh and had a nice snap when you bit into it. It was a little salty, but they took it right out of the packaging and served it. Rinsing off the liquid from the packaging would have reduced the salt. The key word here is “homemade”. I am willing to bet that the cheese was not made in someone’s home kitchen. However, using the ingredients listed on the package, you can make this cheese at home.

Making cheese is a good family activity, and it can be as fast and almost as easy as making pancakes. A stainless steel pot, some measuring spoons, cheese-cloth, and a dairy thermometer (reads up to 220 degrees) is the only equipment you need. Paneer cheese and Queso Fresco are the easiest cheeses to make. For Paneer all you need milk and lemon juice or vinegar. The recipe for mozzarella is a bit longer only because temperature plays an important part in the cheese making. Also, some pulling and kneading give mozzarella its springiness. I am including the recipe for mozzarella because it is a familiar cheese and is more versatile. The steps are heat, stir, wait, heat, stir, wait, and eat. Your children can still help with making mozzarella.

They can read temperatures, mix and by using a palette knife, they can cut the curds. Be careful when handling the cheese because of the high temperature. And like most recipes, having your utensils and ingredients at hand makes for an easy go at it. Also read the recipe and become familiar with all the steps.

What better foods to celebrate in July than National Baked Bean Month and

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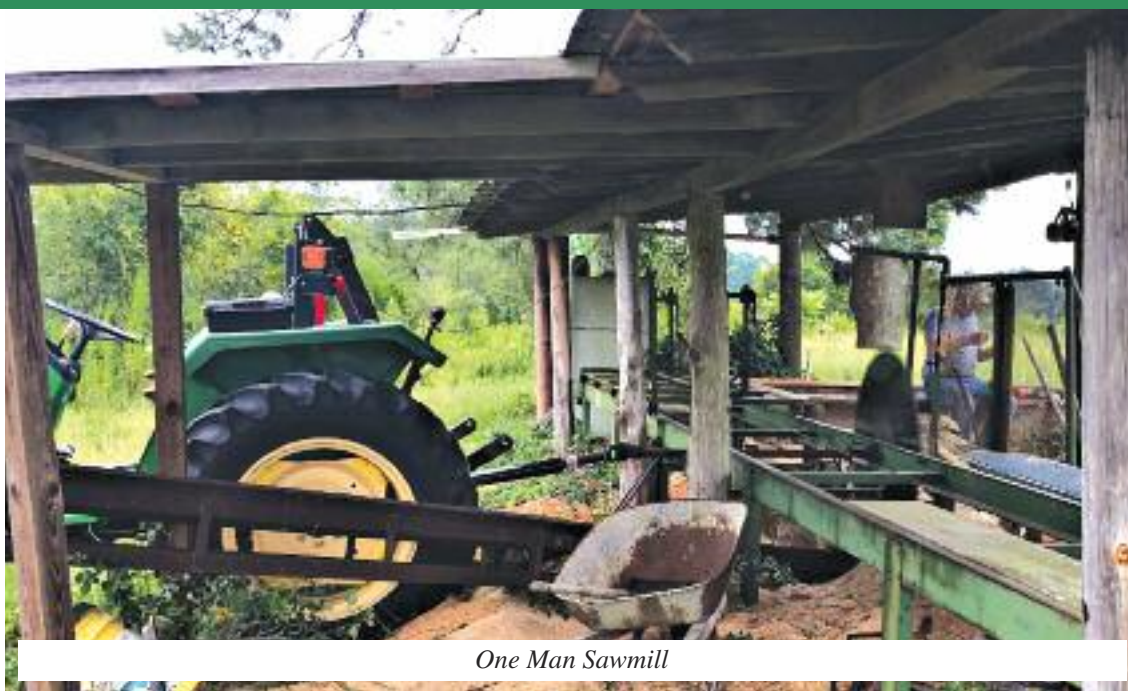


# Kayo - One Man Sawmill - Last Generation



*John W. Giles*

As we travel down the road of life, we often meet extraordinary people, who enrich our path beyond measurable standards. This is an amazing story about a rare, yet simple man named Kayo, who in my estimation is a legend. One day his skills, trade and livelihood will be extinct like so many other rural treasures, when he passes on. I have wanted to commit this story to paper for quite some time but needed to ensure the timing was right and did not want overlook any of these rich details of this story steeped in the traditions of the Deep South. This allegory is truly a message of living out the gospel as a



*One Man Sawmill*



*Kayo and John*

retired, but he works every day doing something.

As a newly adopted member of his family, Kayo called me to come over on a Saturday night to the one room house, which is now his cabinet shop, he said “John Giles we are going to be making music.” I knew about playing music, but he called it making music. It was old fashion fun, much like the



*Kayo turning a log*

Christian, touching so many. The contents here should be a book, but I will try to compress this into a short story mega-blog.

Seventy-two years ago, Charles A. (Kayo) Sipper was born in a one room farmhouse (now Kayo’s Cabinet Shop), located in central Crenshaw County. His father nicknamed him Kayo inspired by the newspaper cartoon. Today on Sipper Ridge stands a cluster of homes, barns, sheds and sawmill where three Sipper brothers currently live. Four of Kayo’s five siblings were also born in this one room home, in addition, his father and his nine siblings who were born here as well. The Sipper family has occupied these seventy acres of promise land in Crenshaw County since 1860, when his great-great grandfather came to these parts to homestead.

Crenshaw County is fertile concentrated ground for Churches of Christ. Kayo’s childhood dream was to preach the gospel and have a family. That he did. He attended and graduated from Alabama Christian College in Montgomery where he met his bride Olivia in 1967; they married in 1969 (50 years), have two sons, Josh, Sam and five grandchildren. Kayo has been preaching the Gospel for over 50 years and was at one church alone for 30 years.

I first met Kayo when we bought our farm in 2004; we were looking for someone with a large wood planer to dress out wood we accumulated after Hurricane Ivan. I am not sure why, but even today he calls me John Giles. My friends call me John, but in this region of the south, I am generally referred to as Mr. G, Mr. John or Mr. Giles, but Kayo has always called me John Giles, to me it’s comical! Being a complete stranger to the area and seeking common ground, I mentioned I was friends with John Harrison, who I met in 1989. For years he was a local banker and mayor. That is all it took, from that point forward, I was immediately adopted into the family. He barely knew me when he delivered a wagon load of rough saw timber, we bought to wrap the outside of our home. He first showed me some tips on how to shiplap this pine and then he asked me if I had a compound miter saw, at that time I did not own one. After only knowing me for a just a few minutes, he voluntarily wanted to loan me his saw, I was speechless at his trust and for being such a giver to a stranger. He has over the years loaned me his personal tools that I did not have in my arsenal. In addition, he would always undercharge me for his materials, products and services; he is a role model giver.



*Saw Running*

You must experience this to appreciate it, but Kayo will take a log, cut it on his one-man sawmill, stack it to dry, dress it out on his planer and make finished cabinets and furniture to perfection. From the woods, to the kitchen, amazing! Kayo recently helped me make some beautiful benches from a downed poplar tree; we sawed up the logs, dried it, planed and built beautiful Pinterest style benches for Deborah. These one of a kind benches will be heirlooms for my children and grandchildren. As a side note, Kayo always said it was a one-man sawmill that would work three men to death, he is right. While woodworking, he would tell me lets measure twice and cut once; and he purposely put me on what he called the idiot end of the measuring tape. Officially, Kayo is 72 and

old Saturday night barn dances, but in this case, locals would come together, play instruments and sing music. As a hobby, Kayo and his brother would build from scratch handmade guitars, to date they have made 30, one of a kind guitars.

Talking hospitality, they often wanted us to come play Mexican Train Dominos during a weeknight and then join them for music making on Saturday night. Before his mother passed, she would make her three sons a huge country breakfast every Saturday morning at 7 am sharp. I was invited to one of those historic Saturday morning breakfasts; I still remember Mrs. Addie Mae Sipper’s homemade biscuits and gravy. One Saturday morning I was over there making some gift trays with Kayo, and in walks his brother with homemade biscuits stuffed with fried salmon. His brother does this every Saturday morning and carries a batch down to the local hardware store for fellowship and some good eating. The Sipper family was consumed in being given to hospitality.

One day, I called looking for Kayo and Olivia didn’t know where he was, mind you it was pouring down rain. About ten minutes later he called me, and I asked him where he was. He said, “I was sitting out on the porch John Giles, watching the rain and thinking about nothing,” is that classic or what? Every Monday morning you could always count on Kayo coming by the bank sharing an antique tool or object that was certainly dated but had a very distinct purpose and a great associated story.

As if life was not full enough, Kayo’s other hobby was restoring old Rockolas. He has a collection of about (4,000) 45 RPM records. You can imagine what the background ambience was during our Mexican Domino games. We had all of our bank staff dress in 50’s – 60’s clothing one Friday, Kayo brought his Rockola to the bank lobby for a day of entertainment for our customers and employees. What fun!

Today, we see new epidemics and disorders emerging from couch potatoes watching too much mindless TV or playing additive video games on the computer, tablets or smart phones, not Kayo. If Kayo is watching TV, it is probably Andy Griffith or Gun Smoke. Kayo in his simple living also has a simple menu, he will eat most any kind of meat and vegetables raised on the farm, but don’t even think about taking him for Mexican, Chinese or Shushi, no dice.

In life, we should all strive to live out the Ten Commandments, embracing the purest of biblical principles, and qualities in order to spill over to others. It is commonly known in these parts that Kayo for years has demonstrated his devotion to God, wonderful provider and protector of his family, character, integrity, work ethic, honesty, given to hospitality, giving and serving others, prudence, good stewardship, kindness and daily living out the Golden Rule, just to name a few.

Kayo and Olivia fostered a rich environment for their sons to obtain a fine education and to be launched into magnificent careers to provide for their family, which understandably does not include Kayo’s Cabinet Shop & Sawmill. Sadly, though on a more sobering note, when God does call on Kayo to exchange the temporal for the eternal, his unique vocational composition as a one-man sawmill generation expires.

We sometimes wait too late to bestow earned accolades to those whose life has enriched us. George William Childs stated, “I would rather have a plain coffin without a flower, a funeral without a eulogy than a life without the sweetness of love and sympathy. Let us learn to anoint our friends beforehand, for their burial, post-mortem kindness does not cheer the burdened spirit, flowers on a coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary way.

Only when the Lambs Book of Life is opened will we know who all we have touched in life. For Kayo, the calculations will be staggering when you factor in 50 years of ministry, weddings, funerals, baptisms, customers and friends.

So, Kayo, in keeping with George William Childs, please allow me to anoint you beforehand, I am honored to be one of so many you have meaningfully touched... you have me for life.



*Kayo Shop Sawing*



*Kayo and Tommy*



*Kayo Benches*





**Patricia Killough**  
*Community Editor*

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

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



*Sarah Kate says Happy 4th of July*

# Home Town Community News

## July Birthdays



- |                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Alan Moore<br>Butch (Mary) Moseley<br>Linda Foxworth                                                                         | 14 Annie Burchard<br>Miriam Head (89th)<br>Lansdon O'Mailia                                                                     |
| 2 Ralph Davis<br>Lexie Turnipseed<br>George Pugh<br>Voncille Talley                                                            | 15 Joan Collier<br>Farley Pugh<br>Summer Rice<br>Paige Stringer                                                                 |
| 4 Audrey Grant<br>Peggy Hubbard<br>David Johnson<br>Lynn McKinley<br>Cindy Smith                                               | 16 Charlie Lamar<br>Sherry Tucker                                                                                               |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris<br>Kathy Ingram<br>Joyce Todd                                                                               | 18 Linda Carleton<br>Ann Marie Dean<br>Laurie Smilie Sanders (92nd)<br>Sharon K. Walker                                         |
| 6 Pres. George Bush (73rd)<br>Vicki Davis<br>Skip Mainor<br>Glenn Stringer<br>Amber Wooten                                     | 19 Geneva Henderson<br>Mary Lamar<br>Emma Ruthe Walker                                                                          |
| 7 Knox Crowe<br>Carolyn Grant<br>Willie B. Jackson<br>Taylor Mills<br>Brian Mosley<br>Greg Mosley<br>Cindy Young<br>Betty Vann | 20 Tony Mitchell<br>22 Freddie Strength (70th)<br>Vangie Walmsley                                                               |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd<br>Helen Dibole<br>Fred Setzer                                                                               | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove<br>Helen Broadway<br>Zachery Dibole<br>Matthew Grant<br>Rusty Moseley<br>Jim Scott                     |
| 9 Joe Douglas<br>Katherine Kirk<br>Kathryn Ann Sikes (6th)<br>Doris Wallace (90th)<br>Irene Woodham                            | 24 Barbara Garrett<br>25 Sara Boyd (91st)<br>Ashley Corbin<br>Rod Nowakowski<br>Becky Windham<br>Brantley Woodall<br>Ty Woodall |
| 10 Jeffery Horton<br>Pam Stewart<br>Al Webb                                                                                    | 26 Jason Adams<br>Judy Mann<br>Stacy Dickinson                                                                                  |
| 11 Abby Boyd<br>Luke Frady<br>Ann Green Tucker<br>James Tucker<br>Trenton Windham                                              | 27 Jimmy Norman (61st)<br>28 Arnold Fuller<br>Melanie Higgins                                                                   |
| 12 Cary Dean<br>Bonnie Williams                                                                                                | 29 Hilda Glover<br>30 Shawn O'Mailia<br>Emory Tucker<br>Ronnie Wallace                                                          |
| 13 Jeremy Dickinson                                                                                                            | 31 Brenda Davis<br>Meloney Gwin<br>Caroline Vocino<br>Marie Hudson<br>Stephanie Randall                                         |

## River Region 4H Shooting Club



*Pictured are Russell Joiner and his grandfather, Jimmie Joiner, of Pike Road.*

Russell represented the River Region 4H Shooting Club at the Alabama State Games at Lake Guntersville on June 8, 2019 . Russell won the gold medal in the 22 pistol competition in the 13-15 year age group and his grandfather won the 22 rifle competition in the 60+ age group. Congratulations, great shooting.

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                  |                                   |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris               | 19 Don & Nancy Rabren             |
| 3 Everett & Alice Cole (47th)    | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes         |
| Dennis & Karen Weber             | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims          |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (11th) | Shannon & Cindy K. Miles          |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston        | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise            |
| 10 Fred & Jeanette Waldo (59th)  | 28 Archie & Charlotte Mote (63rd) |
| 12 Dorothy & Glenn Fuller (61st) | 31 Zachery & Jennifer Gibbs       |
| 16 Laird & Sarah Bone            |                                   |

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

Pugh, Mary Louise Myers (95) .....died May 31, 2019  
Anderson, Boyd (82).....died June 1, 2019  
Sellers, William Walton "Walt" (79) .....died June 3, 2019  
Swain, Jerry Stanton (73).....died June 3, 2019  
Sheppard, Suzanne Marie (63) .....service was June 6, 2019  
Lee, Christopher Aaron (19) .....died June 9, 2019  
Killough, Marian I. (87) .....died June 11, 2019  
Harper, Consuello J. "Connie" (89) .....died June 17, 2019  
Myrick, Jean Burt (94) .....died June 17, 2019  
Sripling, Martha (88) .....died June 17, 2019  
Tetter, Margaret Louise "Monkey" .....died June 17, 2019

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## In Memory Of

Michelle Lynn White June 1, 2019  
Robert Karl Isenhardt June 3, 2019  
Frances Ophelia Findley June 03, 2019  
Sharon Sue Bolton June 4, 2019  
Peggy Joyce Turner June 4, 2019  
Pamela Marie Terry June 4, 2019  
Jean Gola June 7, 2019  
Mae Merle McDaniel June 7, 2019  
Sara Abney June 8, 2019  
Arnold Lyvoid Futral June 8, 2019  
Bob H. Berdeaux June 8, 2019  
William Monroe Thornton June 10, 2019  
Sally Ann Cranage June 12, 2019  
James Robert Nobles, Sr. June 12, 2019  
Trevor Lamar Turner June 13, 2019  
James Everett Jackson June 14, 2019  
Ronald Alexander Langley June 16, 2019  
Tammy Whittle Collazo June 16, 2019  
Billy Kenneth Benson, Jr. June 18, 2019  
Oliver Britt Gilliland June 19, 2019  
Marvin Jerry Duncan June 22, 2019  
John E. Denham June 26, 2019  
Thomas Frank Studdard June 28, 2019  
James Donald Anderson June 30, 2019



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## *Years and Laughter:*

**Gardening and fishing may be the secrets to a life well-lived**

*By Amanda Walker*

**They tell me the road was paved right before I moved here.** Prior to then it was dirt. It is still not nice enough to call a farm-to-market road, but once upon a time there were cotton fields along each side.

I guess that is why nobody here ever complains too much about the potholes. The road is one way in and one way out. Nobody just happens to be passing through. If someone is seen, they are known...or they are lost.

At the end of the road after the pavement ends, and down a short drive, is a house. Nothing fancy. I want to expound upon how not fancy it is, but I am so taken with the place I don't think I objectively can. It is no antebellum. It houses no ornately carved European antiques. It is much more authentically Alabama. More simple than most can appreciate, with a wealth few can see.

If the walls could tell the stories they've heard and recount the history they have seen, we would all likely shudder. There is a gate out front that locks, but there is no picket fence. She runs a chain through a hole in the gate and around a post, then locks it with a padlock.

Most afternoons, if weather allows, you will find Carrie Mae Pettway rocking on her front porch. Several lazy cats keep her company, as she watches the evening surrender to night before her supper. Supper routinely consists mostly of vegetables she has grown.

Outside of her eight children – five girls and three boys, all of which she will proudly tell you about – her garden is her joy. "I've had my own garden since I was six-years-old," she said. "I've just always loved to grow things."

Wednesday, June 12, Ms. Pettway turned 89. She was born in Beloit, Alabama – a community in rural Dallas County. She was the youngest of 12 siblings. Two of her older sisters are still living. The three of them remain close. It was her marriage that brought her to Wilcox County, though she has been widowed for several years.

Just last week, she pulled the last of this season's onion crop and dug what was left of her potatoes. They were ready, and at the time it had turned dry. She replanted the space where they had been with running butter beans. She said she had been praying for rain for her corn. She also claims it worked. The corn stalks tower over her head.

Her garden spans almost a half acre. She has a fence around it – mostly to keep out deer, wild hogs, and small varmints from coming in through the adjoining woods. The fence is made of dog wire and salvaged sheets of rusted tin.

She works in it daily. She keeps it free from weeds and the rows in shape using only a garden hoe. Or as she said, "Ain't nothing been in there but a hoe." Her hoe with the handmade handle is a story within itself.

"People are always saying, 'Let me give you three dollars for a handful of your greens,' – but I won't take no money. I give them away or I will trade, but I'm not taking money. That is why I have been blessed with what I've got to give."

Outside of gardening, one of her other joys in life is fishing. She enjoys fishing for bream in the pond behind my house and in return, she welcomes me into her garden – which I consider a privilege.

Happy Birthday Ms. Pettway. You are one of the best of the rest of us.

Amanda Walker is a contributor with AL.com The Selma Times Journal, Thomasville Times, West Alabama Watchman, and Alabama Gazette. Contact her at Walker-world77@msn.com or at <https://www.facebook.com/AmandaWalker.Columnist>.



## *Trisston's Tidbits...*

### *"Free Indeed"*

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

**What comes to mind when you think of the 4th of July?** Perhaps you think about a day off from work with picnics, fireworks, and American flags displayed in front yards along your neighborhood or city streets. What awesome signs of the patriotic spirit! When I see these, there is one word that comes to my mind...**"Freedom!"**

**"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:33**

We live in the United States of America where we can voice our opinions freely and can vote for the people of our choice. These are very good reasons why we should never take our freedom for granted.

Have you thought about the American flag and all that it stands for? This emblem of the greatest nation on earth is placed on graves of our honored dead who fought for us to remain a free nation, and it flies high during times of peace, as well as war.

There is another real freedom we can have. We can display it every day of the year. It's our freedom that we have **"In Christ"** to live a life to glorify Him, so that His banner of love, truth, and peace can be seen by all. Just like the flag that represents freedom, Jesus is a banner over us, protecting and shielding us. He is the *"Glory and the Lifter of our heads"* at all times. Let freedom ring out in your heart today and every day!

**"But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high."** Psalm 3:3

Many Blessings & Happy 4th of July!

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START  
MONTH

# RELAX! JUST FOR FUN!

THEME:  
HEALTH AND FITNESS

### ACROSS

1. Undesirable row
5. \*Genetic stuff
8. \*Public health org.
11. Fairy tale start
12. Aphrodite's son
13. Once more
15. Bakery unit
16. \*Blood component, pl.
17. Like plum turned to prune
18. \*Type of fitness class
20. Type of hot sandwich
21. Not taken and taken
22. M in rpm, abbr.
23. \*Beginning of a workout
26. \*A, B or C
30. \_\_\_\_ Khan
31. Not wholesale
34. Russian governmental agency
35. \*Juice cleanses, e.g.
37. Michael Jackson's early hit
38. \*Green entree
39. Never without n
40. Remove from political office
42. Computer-generated imagery
43. Gets ready for publication
45. \*An apple a day keeps this one away
47. Boiling blood
48. Fire in one's soul
50. Spanish lady
52. \*End of workout
55. \_\_\_\_ de la Frontera, Spain
56. What pep talkers do
57. Bye in Palermo
59. \*Estrogen producer

60. Spot to hang a heavy picture
61. Grams, e.g.
62. 4 qts.
63. Greek letters on campus
64. Like baby's bottom

### DOWN

1. Between Fa and La
2. Door opener
3. International Civil Aviation Org.
4. Twist out of shape
5. Scary movie consequence
6. Socially acceptable behaviors
7. Make haste, in a letter
8. Be unsuccessful
9. \*Prescribed food selection
10. Common conjunction
12. "The Shawshank Redemption" theme
13. "\_\_\_\_ One" on a ticket
14. Lesser Antilles island
19. What band does
22. A cool one, as in money
23. Nilla \_\_\_\_, sing.
24. Tequila source
25. Torn down
26. Cheney or Pence
27. Defraud
28. Idealized image
29. Rock bottom
32. \*Soaks in D
33. \*Traverse and oblique muscles
36. \*Personal helper
38. "The Day the World \_\_\_\_ Still"
40. Beehive State native
41. Befuddled
44. Has bats in the belfry
46. Croci, sing.



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48. \*Largest artery in human body
49. Scallywag
50. Deity in Sanskrit
51. \*Like dental exam
52. Spew profanities

53. Drunkard
54. Lack of guile
55. \*Not a walk in the park
58. Baseball Giant and hall-of-famer

## BOX SCRABBLE WORDS

dfwlieli  
8A

blogla  
3A

sgoecsnr  
5A

urfmo  
1B

sbeecxsei  
2A

pcrotru  
8A

aywblal  
8A

esdrsrse  
5A

ohsigotn  
8B

*All Box Scrambled words appear in this issue of the Gazette.  
Unscramble the words above.*

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*Winner will be announced in the next issue.*

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## Crossword Answers

