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# Gazette



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The entire Staff of **The Alabama Gazette** and **Tidbits** wishes all of our readers, advertisers and contributors a very **Happy New Year!**

Thanks to each of you we look forward to a wonderful 2022! If you own a business, we would love the opportunity to help network with you throughout multiple counties. Please check out the special we currently are offering on page 12!



# G WINS!


## 33 to 18



### NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### REVENGE OF THE GEORGIA BULLDOGS

The second showdown this season between the Alabama Crimson Tide and the Georgia Bulldogs happened on January 10, 2022, in Indianapolis, Ind. Georgia was favored to come out on top of the Tide, and, despite a really slow first quarter, the Bulldogs managed to find their feet, racking up the most points of the entire game in the fourth quarter to claim the 2022 title for the first time in more than 40 years! Congrats, Bulldogs!




## ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

### DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M RIGHT


Women in our country for a long time have certainly gotten the short end of the stick. No doubt. From pay issues, to the right to vote and equal access to jobs in every job market in this country, I will admit that women, like blacks and other minorities, have thankfully made great strides securing their rights to work and contribute to our society. For a long time, the military was one of the final frontiers of inequality in the work place for women. When I went to Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1983, we had a couple of women in my class and one female instructor pilot in my T-38 flight. Although women went through the same training as the men, they were barred from flying combat aircraft. No matter how good their grades were or what they wanted to fly, women were restricted in what they could fly. In many cases, this in turn limited how far many of them would go in the military. That folks, is discrimination.

... Turn to Robservations on **Page 3** to read: “Don’t Hate Me Because I’m Right” and decide if you agree with Rob’s controversial topic this month.



### ROE v. WADE was decided January 22, 1973:

Roe v. Wade was a Supreme Court case that expanded the “right to privacy” and determined that women have protected constitutional rights to make their own decisions regarding their pregnancy. In light of the sexual revolution during this time, *Roe v. Wade* divided the nation between ethics and faiths.



### HB23 – currently in front of the Alabama legislature


**SYNOPSIS:** Under existing law, it is unlawful for any person to intentionally perform or attempt to perform an abortion except where a medical emergency exists. This bill would prohibit a physician from performing an abortion if a fetal heart beat has been detected or if no test for a fetal heartbeat has been performed, except in circumstances where a medical emergency exists.

Full text can be found here: <https://legiscan.com/AL/text/HB23/id/2454063>

Photo by Wolfgang Moroder / <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

See page 6B for more information about Abortion ...

### REMEMBERING BETTY WHITE ... LOVED BY ALL!



“ANIMALS ARE NEAR AND DEAR TO MY HEART, AND I’VE DEVOTED MY LIFE TO TRYING TO IMPROVE THEIR LIVES.”  
— BETTY WHITE

The nation mourned the loss of our beloved Betty White on New Year’s Eve Day. As the unexpected news swept across social media and news outlets, people young and old were stunned and saddened by the passing of an icon who was only weeks away from celebrating 100 years on this earth. In honor of Betty and what would have been her 100th birthday, fans are encouraging everyone to donate at least \$5 to a local rescue or animal shelter in their area in her name on January 17th.

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Don't forget Valentine's Day!

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See page 7B for Details!





## 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.

[www.steveflowers.us](http://www.steveflowers.us)

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



## State Senate Will Have Little Turnover in 2022

[The year ] 2022 was anticipated to be an exciting competitive election year. However, it is going to be a yawn of a political year. If you thought there was no competition for the constitutional offices and the House of Representatives' seats in next year's elections, then you have not seen anything like the lack of turnover in the Alabama State Senate. Incumbency will prevail.

In fact, the power of incumbency in the Alabama State Senate is on par with the incumbent return percentage for Congress, which is probably comparable to the Russian Communist Politburo. There are 35 state Senate Seats, 27 of the 35 are held by Republicans. Out of the 27 Republican state senators, 24 are running for reelection and all 24 probably will be reelected. Almost all of them have no opposition.

The Democratic minority has just as high a reelection bar. Of the eight Democrats, seven probably will be running unopposed. The only Democrat not running will be Priscilla Dunn who has not been to the Senate this entire four-year term. Most of the first-term State Senators have never met her. According to rumors she is in poor health and cannot attend. The 150,000 people in Senate District 19 in Jefferson County have been without a voice or vote in the Alabama Senate for four years.

The three retiring Republican State Senators are giants. Del Marsh, Jimmy Holley, and Jim McClendon's shoes will be hard to fill. These three seats will be filled by new Republicans. The 27-8 super Republican majority will continue.

State Senator Del Marsh (R-Anniston) has been a leader in the Senate for 23 years. He served as President Pro Tempore of the Senate most of that time. He ran a very effective ship of state.

State Senator Jimmy Holley (R-Elba/Coffee) is an icon. He was a master of Senate rules. He also was a mentor to a good many young senators.

State Senator Jim McClendon (R-St. Clair) will be sorely missed in the state senate. The gentleman from St. Clair served with honor and distinction for eight years in the State Senate and 12 years before that in the House of Representatives.

This freshman class of senators has bonded and works cohesively with the veteran leaders. The Freshman Class includes Will Barfoot (R-Pike Road), Tom Butler (R-Huntsville), Sam Givhan (R-Huntsville), Dan Roberts (R-Jefferson),

Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman), Randy Price (R-Lee), Donnie Chesteen (R-Geneva/Houston), David Sessions (R-Mobile), Jack Williams (R-Mobile), Chris Elliott (R-Baldwin) and Andrew Jones (R-Cherokee/Etowah). Senator April Weaver (R-Shelby/Bibb) won her seat recently when Cam Ward left to become head of Pardons and Poles. April Weaver previously served in the House of Representatives. She is the only female GOP Senator. She has a bright future. All twelve of these new senators have done an excellent job and all will be reelected. Ten of the twelve will probably run unopposed.

There are some exceptionally talented and dedicated veterans in the Senate that will coast to reelection. Most, if not all, will be unopposed. This stellar group of legislative leaders include President Pro Tem Greg Reed (R-Jasper/Walker), Senate Majority Leader Clay Scofield (R-Guntersville), Senator Clyde Chambliss (R-Autauga/Elmore), Senator Steve Livingston (R-Scottsboro/Jackson), Senator Shay Shelnutt (R-Jefferson), Senator Tom Whatley (R-Auburn/Lee), Senator Gerald Allen (R-Tuscaloosa), Senator Greg Albritton (R-Escambia) the Chairman of the Senate Finance General Fund, Senator Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) Chairman of Senate Finance Education, and last but certainly not least, the legendary Jabo Waggoner (R-Vestavia), who chairs the Senate Rules Committee.

There will be some outstanding veteran Democrats returning to the State Senate. There are several giants, who include Senator Bobby Singleton (D-Greene), Senator Vivian Figures (D-Mobile), Senator Rodger Smitherman (D-Birmingham), and Senator Billy Beasley (D-Barbour).

Senator Kirk Hatcher (D-Montgomery) is new to the senate. However, he bears watching. He is gregarious, likeable and a quick study. He will be effective for the Capitol City.

The senate abounds with outstanding leadership on both sides of the aisle. The lack of competition the members are garnering is a testament to their good work. This returning group of leaders could well portend for a successful future quadrennium. With this kind of experience and leadership, they will also be an independent group. They will not be a rubber stamp for governor.



Justice Will Sellers

**This article recalls the Philippines off-year election in 1951. It is a little known story about how the good guys avoided a communist take-over. Regrettably, these lesson were forgotten in Vietnam some 10 years later. I hope *Alabama Gazette* readers will find it of interest.**

Seventy years ago, the Philippines came within a whisper of being the pre-game for Vietnam.

But much like the dog that didn't bark or the accident that didn't happen, few people appreciate how close the Philippines came to communist domination. That this didn't happen is testimony to the effective combination of American soft power and ethical local leaders who captured the hearts and minds of the people.

As in many countries during World War II, all sorts and conditions of indigenous resistance fighters challenged the occupying Axis powers. Included among these patriotic guerrilla fighters were committed communists who saw the fascists as another hurdle in the struggle to achieve the workers' paradise. Once the war ended, these various revolutionary movements became the spawning ground for political leaders.

As is so often the case, most pro-western groups quickly declare victory and move forward to cash their peace dividend while forgetting the need for eternal vigilance and continuous engagement. The communists never do this because their version of peace is only a steppingstone toward total control and ultimate domination of the political machinery of government.

The Philippines had been an American territory, and, prior to the war, was well on its way to independence. The Japanese occupation delayed this, but once American forces liberated the country, civil government was restored. In fact, General Douglas MacArthur, insisted that civilian administration, as opposed to military governance, be returned immediately to avoid any appearance of imperialism.

Ultimately on July 4, 1946, the Philippines became a sovereign state and no longer a U.S. commonwealth. Regrettably, several political factions that had proven so effective in fighting the Japanese refused to lay down their arms and participate in a constitutional government.

And as the Philippines was recovering from the devastation of war, aid of all sorts flooded into the country to begin the process of reconstruction. As critical as this foreign aid was to revive the economy, the magnitude of the funding created an environment of political corruption as many in the ruling party personally benefited from the largess.

As a war torn, third-world country with limited experience in self-government, the leadership of the Philippines on many levels became abusive as position, power, and pesos were used to maintain control. Somewhere along the way, the constitutional ideas about popular elections and consent of the governed gave way to fraudulent elections and a power structure that forgot about the people. And as the citizenry witnessed rampant corruption, they lost faith in the government and were easily swayed to revolutionary ideas which promised the usual equity and equality for all.

Into this deadly combination stepped the communist guerrilla leader Luis Taruc, who used his military skills and personal charisma to charm the peasants into joining his revolution to end their exploitation. Because of corruption, the

Philippine army was as ineffective as it was demoralized. Given the amount of military assistance, the armed forces became an employment agency such that maintaining national security and fighting the revolutionaries took a back seat to graft, corruption, and social engineering.

Those who had fought the Japanese and wanted to maintain their independence saw their army overrun by Taruc's Huk insurgents. The army had the resources it needed, but with low morale, it was difficult to maintain the discipline necessary to win.

But some leaders of the Philippines understood the threat and realized their country was on the brink of disaster that would send them backwards, gutting their independence, and voiding their constitution. Sensing this clear and present danger, Congressman Ramon Magsaysay developed a plan to fight the communists. He realized that corruption, especially within the army, had to be stopped.

Initially the ruling government would not listen to his ideas, but once the success of the insurgents carried them to the outskirts of Manila, the leadership changed tack, and Magsaysay was appointed defense minister. In this position, he very quickly reformed the armed forces and rooted out corruption. Using skills learned as an insurgent against the Japanese, he realized that winning the countryside and making the peasants his allies was critical to successfully defeating the communists.

His efforts to both defeat communism and embrace the peasants were aided by an American Air Force Colonel, Edward Lansdale. Rather than have American aid siphoned off to line the pockets of corrupt officials, Lansdale used funds to help the peasantry with food, advocated land reform, and provided the people with the means to sustain themselves. Using psychological warfare tactics, he reduced the effectiveness of communist forces by not only cutting off rural support, but also re-educating captured terrorists to secure their acceptance of Magsaysay's reforms.

The team of Magsaysay and Lansdale was wildly successful. By restoring the people's confidence in a constitutional government and standing against corruption, they paved the way for a reform movement that started in November 1951, with the elections of an anti-corruption and reformist Philippine senate. This election became a referendum on Filipino leadership and was significant in sweeping in a government that would fully support Magsaysay's plans for development.

This election marked a turning point as national support receded against corrupt officials in both the government and the armed services. Once the army was restored as a fighting force and not a social benefit organization, the communist Huk's days were numbered. When the government showed respect for the peasants by giving them ownership of their land and not abusing them, they gained allies and eliminated the fertile ground which nurtured and sustained the communist threat. This combination of government reforms and military action allowed the Philippines to avoid the terrors of internal revolution that could further devastate their developing country.

The success of Magsaysay's plans to provide for the people and defeat the communists made him so popular that two years later he would be elected president. That the Philippines did not become a communist quagmire is a testament to Magsaysay's success in respecting the people, eliminating the prestige of corruption, and establishing the foundation for a strong democratic republic.

Will Sellers is a 1985 graduate of Hillsdale College and an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. Will Sellers is best reached at [jws@willsellers.com](mailto:jws@willsellers.com)



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# ROBSEVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

## DON'T HATE ME BECAUSE I'M RIGHT

*Do you guys remember the 1980s-ish, super-sexy Pantene shampoo commercials featuring actress Kelly LeBrock? She stared into the camera, fluffed up her hair and said, “Don’t hate me because I’m beautiful.” I’m sure 99% of all red-blooded American guys liked that commercial.*

*But unfortunately, today, I am not writing about shampoo, nice hair, pretty women or anything of the sort. Today I am going to write about something concerning our military that I have written about in the past. The topic for sure is a hot-button subject and I am sure many of you guys and gals out there are going to vehemently disagree with me on this subject. I remember one time talking about it with Kelvin Elkins on his radio show and some lady called in and called me some very unflattering names. But you know what, I can take it. Like the title says, don’t hate me because I’m right.*

Women in our country for a long time have certainly gotten the short end of the stick. No doubt. From pay issues, to the right to vote and equal access to jobs in every job market in this country, I will admit that women, like blacks and other minorities, have thankfully made great strides securing their rights to work and contribute to our society. For a long time, the military was one of the final frontiers of inequality in the work place for women. When I went to Undergraduate Pilot Training in 1983, we had a couple of women in my class and one female instructor pilot in my T-38 flight. Although women went through the same training as the men, they were barred from flying combat aircraft. No matter how good their grades were or what they wanted to fly, women were restricted in what they could fly. In many cases, this in turn limited how far many of them would go in the military. That folks, is discrimination.

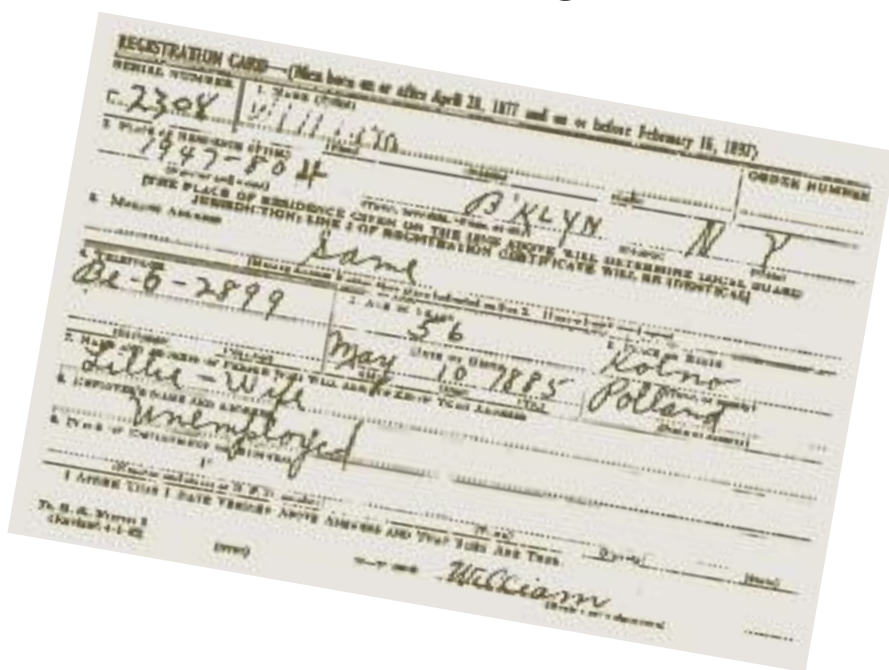
Finally, in 1993, people pulled their collective heads out of you know where and authorized women to fly combat aircraft. That year, Jeannie Flynn (now Jeannie Leavitt) became the first female USAF fighter pilot while Cara Hultgreen became the first Navy fighter pilot. Since that time, we have females flying every aircraft in the Air Force and Navy inventories and we have even had at least two female USAF Thunderbird pilots.

Back in 2012, the US Army decided to open jobs to women in some of its all-male combat units. Since practical experience already showed there was much cross over anyway, the Army simply decided to make it official. This change is expected to open up close to 14,000 new jobs for women although some 250,000 jobs reportedly remain closed. Some of the jobs opening up are tank mechanics, artillery and rocket launcher crewmembers. Yes, the world, rightfully so, is opening up to everyone who wants to contribute.

This brings us to 2021 and the draft Defense Authorization Bill. In the draft version, a provision was made that would require women to register for the draft. Unfortunately, and yes, in my opinion, Missouri Senator Josh Hawley and several other congressional Republicans to include Ted Cruz and Tom Cotton, unfortunately opposed the provision; effectively killing it before it gained any real traction. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2022 initially included a provision to “modernize the Selective Service System” by requiring women ages 18 to 25 to sign up for a draft but Senator Hawley filed an amendment on 29 October to keep the American mindset in the Neolithic Age. The bill was an attempt at modernization of the selective service program by supporting “the mobilization needs of the Department of Defense by including women if the all-volunteer model is no longer able to recruit enough people during a time of national crisis.”<sup>1</sup>

Hawley wrote, “It is wrong to force our daughters, mothers, wives, and sisters to fight our wars. [Women] have played a vital role in defending America at every point in our nation’s history. But volunteering for military service is not the same as being forced into it, and no woman should be compelled to do so.”<sup>2</sup> Wow.

So here I sit in my study and unfortunately have to ask a most important and extremely unpopular question. ***Why is it that ONLY men, aged 18-25, are required to register for the Selective Service System (SSS)?*** In other words, register for the draft? I’m throwing this out there only because I really have not heard a good excuse as to why not. Much like Hawley’s statement, most arguments lack any substantial logic. Look, according to the SSS, male citizens and immigrants, documented and undocumented, residing in the U.S. and its territories must register. Why not women, too? For crying out loud, even illegal immigrants are required to register. “WHO MUST REGISTER? Male U.S. citizens and immigrants, documented and undocumented, residing in the U.S. and its territories must register if they are age 18 through 25.”<sup>3</sup> I love the quote on the registration form that reads, “FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY by registering all eligible young men, the Selective Service System ensures a fair and



equitable draft.” Does it really? If it excludes 100% of the women in our country, how exactly is that actually fair and equitable? It’s not!

All I am saying here is that women have rightfully fought for the right to participate in combat roles. They have reasoned that they have as much right to fight for this country as do men. Since they have successfully argued their case to fight for this country and fly some really cool airplanes while doing it, how can anyone rationally protest that women should be excluded from registering for the draft? They can’t. The logic there does not exist. This people, is also discrimination.

I have had people tell me, “I don’t want to see my daughter in combat.” Well, most folks don’t want to see their sons in combat either. Besides, if a draft ever occurs, not everybody will be drafted into combat roles. There will be plenty of need for non-combat personnel should the proverbial balloon ever really go up. In fact, the vast majority of military jobs are non-combat related. I have also had people tell me, “Not all women want to go into the military.” Again, I say, neither do all men. Not all men are fit for combat and neither are women. But once again, not all people drafted will be put into combat and more importantly, what is good for the goose is good for the gander. Here is a perfect example. In the next great war, which will hopefully never happen, we are going to need a lot of smart, tech savvy people. I am sure that many of our smartest, computer hacker, computer programming stars in this country are women. In a highly complex cyber type war, why in the heck would we not want to have women fighting this type of war from the safety of their office hundreds or thousands of miles away from the fight? To ignore this resource, in my opinion is stupid. Without the draft, would these brilliant assets ever willingly step up to the plate so-to-speak and join of their own volition? Maybe, maybe not.

The bigger point here is this. Since women fought for this right, how can they selectively choose which military requirements they are willing to support? Can you imagine if Al Sharpton said that no blacks should be required to register for the draft since not all blacks want to serve in the military? What about all Asians or folks from a certain city or state? That would be like the Governor of California telling the federal government that no men from his state will ever again register for the SSS because California doesn’t believe in war. Sorry folks, but equal rights exist, or rather should exist, in every situation and every case. Equal rights should not be enforced only when you want it to serve your myopic political agenda.

Do I really want to see women drafted into combat? No, but neither do I want to see men drafted into combat. But should the draft ever again be necessary, I think all of us will have “bigger fish to fry” than this single issue. But living in the greatest democratic republic on this planet should ***require*** potential sacrifices of ***all*** its citizens; male and female. No group should be allowed to pick and choose which sacrifices they want to make. In my view it is all or nothing and if women really want America to be the sex-blind society they have fought so hard to create, they should be the first ones to step up to the plate and say, “Yes, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with our brothers, do what is right and register for the draft.” Certainly, most women should willingly admit that they have more of a vested interest in this great country of ours than the illegal immigrant who is required by law to register.

***Now that I’ve stated my case, I’m ready for the eggs and tomatoes. Let ’em fly. Change my mind.***

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/defense-bill-would-require-women-sign-draft-despite-gop-objections-1656610>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.sss.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Form-1-Registration-Fillable.pdf>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Fourth in a Series

The U.S. Congress, on July 25, 1861, passed the *Crittenden-Johnson Resolution*, also known as the *War Aims Resolution*, stating it had no interest in interfering with the internal affairs of the States, which would include slavery; and the purpose of the War was to return the seceded States to the Union.

*“This war is not being waged in any spirit of oppression, or for the purpose of conquest or subjugation, or the purpose of overthrowing or interfering with the established institutions of those States but to defend and maintain the supremacy of the Constitution and to preserve the Union with all the dignity and rights of the several States unimpaired, and as soon as these objects are accomplished the war ought to cease”*

Horace Greeley was the editor of the *New York Tribune*, the largest newspaper of the day, and an ardent abolitionist. He urged President Lincoln to end slavery. Lincoln wrote a reply to Greeley on August 22, 1862, saying he had no interest in freeing slaves, but would do what he thought effective in winning the War, whether that involved freeing some, all or none of the slavers.

*“My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not to either save or destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave, I would do it; if I could save it by freeing all the slaves, I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would do that. What I do about slavery and the colored race, I do because it helps save the Union.”*

Capt. Henry C. Semple Camp 2002  
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## IS IT GOOD TO THINK ABOUT ANY LEGAL ISSUES FOR THE NEW YEAR?

*Without specifics about yourself I'll make this answer generic in a personal and in a business sense.*

I presume you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) and as you do you also think about your legal estate planning. After all you are a year older; you may have gotten married, had a new child,

**Ronald A. Holtsford**

had a child reach the age of majority (19 years), gotten divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the workforce and be off your payroll. Even if the child is off your payroll you may keep them on your health insurance until they reach age twenty-six (26) as a buffer or necessity if you still have a family plan but it may be that you decide not to continue to carry the young adult child if the plan has changed and the cost can drop significantly. Your financial estate planning goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate.

**For 2022 the gift tax exclusion moves up from recent years to \$16,000.00 a person, as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) not requiring the filing of a Gift Tax return or up to \$32,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year.** There is a lifetime basic exclusion and generation skipping tax (GST) limit of \$12.06 million in 2022. There may be a tax advantage for the wealthy in that and if this seems to be something that might be helpful to your financial planning you should seek the advice of an accountant or other tax/ financial professional (may include a tax attorney). For 2021, there was a \$11.7 million total estate tax exemption per individual; 2022 will provide a \$12.06 million tax exemption. The total GST and total estate tax exemption are inclusive in total in that they cannot exceed \$12.06 million The portable portion mentioned above may be available to a surviving spouse who may be able to combine through election their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$24.12 million. See your tax professional after the death of the first spouse if your assets are in the millions. Remember that life insurance is considered for estate tax purposes if you have control over the policy (i.e. ability to change the beneficiaries, cancel the policy, etc). Some individuals have large insurance policies and in the past not inconceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over prior limits but the possibility could even exist with some wealthier individuals. If you die in 2022 with an estate of greater than \$12.06 million (or \$24.12 million for a second to die spouse) then that amount over \$12.06 million will be taxed at 40%.

With President Biden and the Democrats in control, there are some items that may well change and as of this writing are speculative. **Rather than the annually successive increase from \$12.06 million this year, set to be rolled back in 2026 to \$6 million per individual,** it is a distinct possibility that things may roll back earlier; but when and how much is anyone's guess. Other items that have been thrown around include a rollback to \$3.5 million, a 45% tax on amounts greater than whatever the excluded amount is for the year you die or changes to capital gains tax rates.

With that said you need to pull out your Last Will and Testament and review it. **If you have had any life changes (marriage, divorce, death, large inheritance, new child, etc.) a new Will may be in order. If you don't have a Last Will and Testament you need to have a lawyer prepare one as soon as possible. Why do you need one? Because if you don't then the State of Alabama has one for you.** Some of the spousal examples under the rules of intestacy (dying without a Will); (1) first \$100,000 to spouse and then 1/2 of the remaining estate to the living parent(s) when there are no children, (2) if children then the spouse gets \$50,000 and 1/2 of the rest, (3) if one or more of the children are not yours then the surviving spouse only gets half of everything, period. This is probably not the estate plan you have in mind. There are internet sites and software programs that can also assist with a Last Will and Testament but there is no guarantee that it will pass muster regarding state rules on probate nor a guarantee that it will do what you want upon your death. The best chance of meeting estate goals is through a lawyer and if you are of moderate means, you may be surprised that it is less expensive than you think. In the long run a Will may save money since an intestate estate when probated requires the bonding of the Personal Representative and an inventory of the decedent's estate. I run into too many old or non-attorney prepared defective Wills when it really counts and there is an attempt to probate the estate. Obviously such probate is not without issue. If you have an out of state prepared Will it should be acceptable for probate since under the Full Faith and Credit Clause (Section 1, Article 4) of the United States Constitution a valid Will prepared in one state is valid in Alabama. There can be issues so a review with an Alabama attorney is always a good thing to do.

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

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

**If retirement is nearing and you will also receive Social Security, consider that the 2022 Medicare Part B will move from the 2021, \$148.50 to \$170.10 per month dependent on whether the senior is subject to the statutory "hold harmless" provision.** With higher income brackets so does the cost for Part B increase. If you need nursing home (skilled nursing) care under Part A, days 1-20 are fully covered provided you continue to meet Medicare's requirements for those days; the co-payment for days 21-100 (if you qualify) will be \$194.50 per day (\$185.50 per day in 2021). After day 100 you are 100% on your own unless you have some other means of long term care payment. If you have not already checked on long term health care insurance you should do so now. It not only will cover nursing home care but can also cover assisted living or in home care. If you consider this insurance also look carefully at the options since they may be equally as important as the policy itself. This includes inflation increases which are very important or even the option of continued coverage for a certain amount of time when one with "forgetfulness" forgets to pay the premium.

With the exception of a few states and the District of Columbia, the individual mandate under the Affordable Care act (Obamacare) was changed in 2019 to zero. That of course continues to be contentious in that without the mandate it is argues that the ACA is null. Four states and the District of Columbia have state mandate penalties though Vermont has no penalty attached to their mandate. The time to make health care changes under the ACA is extended for open enrollment until 15 January 2022 and unless you have a qualifying event or become eligible under Medicaid/ CHIP after the open enrollment period passes this will be the last opportunity until the 2022 period begins in November. Older Americans may be eligible both for Medicare and Medicaid and impoverished Americans may be Medicaid eligible when they cannot afford premiums under Obamacare and some Americans are eligible for insurance from the market place with subsidized premiums.

**If you are currently in business or considering a business, what about entity?** A sole proprietorship offers pass through taxation but no limited liability. Your personal and business assets are at risk in a lawsuit. A Limited Liability Company (LLC) or a Registered Limited Liability Partnership (RLLP or LLP) offers the same pass through tax advantages as well as limited liability. A "C" corporation offers the same limited liability but there is taxation on the corporation and taxation on the shareholders. If you are in one of these entities and about \$80,000.00 plus salary talk to your accountant about the possibility of an "S" corporation election. Current tax considerations suggest that pass through entities not involved as professional service businesses (accountants, attorneys, etc) such as sole proprietorships, LLC's, LLP's and S corporations may take an additional significant percentage off their income. Because pass through entities are taxed at the owner's tax rate this will give an additional percentage decrease in taxable income.

In addition to the advantages of pass through taxation and limited liability there may also be some self-employment tax advantages since some of the income can be paid to a shareholder-employee as a profit distribution. The Internal Revenue Service however looks for Shareholder-Employees that pay themselves substandard salaries for their position in order that they can take more from the company as a distribution and save more on Self Employment taxes. The IRS will consider a reasonable income based on IRS summarized factors considered by a Court case from the Eighth Circuit, which advised shareholders to give them careful consideration in establishing their compensation.

The factors are:

- (1) Employee qualifications;
- (2) The nature, extent, and scope of the employee's work;
- (3) The size and complexity of the business;
- (4) Prevailing general economic conditions;
- (5) The employee's compensation as a percentage of gross and net income;
- (6) The employee-shareholder's compensation compared with distributions to shareholders;
- (7) The employee-shareholder's compensation compared with that to non-shareholder employees or paid in prior years;
- (8) Prevailing rates of compensation for comparable positions in comparable concerns; and
- (9) Comparison of compensation paid to a particular shareholder-employee in previous years where the corporation has a limited number of officers.



An "S" Corporation election only exists through the IRS and has specific requirements. So you can be an existing LLC, C Corporation, etc. but elect via the IRS as an "S" Corporation. Ask your accountant about whether it is right for your business.

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

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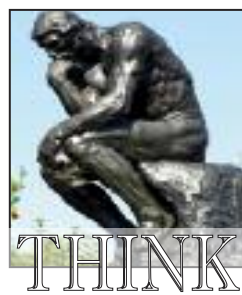
As always if you do not have an attorney, ask a trusted friend or family member or contact the Alabama State Bar, Lawyer Referral service.

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# SCOTUS: WHAT WOULD SOLOMON DO?



Many thanks for all the wonderful correspondences on my Christmas 2021 column: *Christ is Born, Glorify Him!* Pleasantly surprised how many included kind inquiry on my “*Tough Roe to Hoe*” column [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/10/01/opinion/tough-roe-to-hoe/2231.html>] evoking Solomon’s wisdom. This third king of Israel reigned circa 968-928 BC, heralded for his wise judgments. One of the more notable Solomon decisions I wanted readers to recall comes from **1 Kings 3:16-28** reproduced (New American Standard Bible) below:

*“16Then two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17The one woman said, ‘Pardon me, my lord: this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. 18And it happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. 19Then this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. 20So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant was asleep, and she laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. 21When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead! But when I examined him closely in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne!’ 22Then the other woman said, ‘No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son.’ But the first woman said, ‘No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son.’ So they spoke before the king. 23Then the king said, ‘The one says, ‘This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one’; and the other says, ‘No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.’” 24And the king said, “Get me a sword.” So they brought a sword before the king. 25And the king said, “Cut the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.” 26But the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son, and she said, “Pardon me, my lord! Give her the living child, and by no means kill him!” But the other woman was saying, “He shall be neither mine nor yours; cut him!” 27Then the king replied, “Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother.” 28When all Israel heard about the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, because they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

Relishing a break from writing more “*Boob & Mike Show*” episodes or “*Malice in Hubbardland*” chapters, I submit dialog for a Judge Solomon Show I pray readers would find more substantive than the usual TV fare broadcast by Judge Judy, *et al.*

**Solomon, Third King of Israel:** So Mary, you come before my court for an abortion order to fatally evict the recently discovered child from your womb.

**Mary of Magdalene, Texas:** Yes your Excellency. My body, my life and my property; My choice.

**Solomon:** Where’s your physician (theatrically scanning the faces in his court for effect) to provide evidence that allowing this child to reside in your body, on your property, puts your life in great danger?

**Mary:** I can’t provide any physician willing to do this your Excellency. [Mary tried relentlessly to find a physician to lie on her behalf, but all feared the skills of King Solomon’s cross-examination and discipline for malfeasance in his court] **It’s just NOT fair!**

**Solomon:** In keeping with your sense of ‘fairness’ Mary, shall I call for my sword to slice you and the child into equal halves... each half to bear the consequences of your *freedom of choice*?

**Mary:** No! I’ll simply flee (looking down still contemplating the severity of this radical egalitarianism) to Sodom, Mexico or Gomorrah, Kansas...

**Solomon:** You may be able to flee Mary, but no killing of this sort will be allowed or subsidized in my kingdom. The righteous abhor murdering any soul property owners want evicted, no matter the trespasser’s or unwanted squatter’s age. Given your prior “**No!**” answer, it is easy to imagine you in trespass or squatting would not want to be murdered. Do you have anything to add before the court decides?

**Mary:** No... (again looking down in disappointment)

**Solomon:** Mary of Magdalene’s request for fatal eviction is **DENIED**. I’m amending her petition to request proper eviction of this person from her property which is **granted** as of this date. Mary will be compensated for the remaining duration of this unwanted squatter, in other words, until born. Compensation is the same rate as my lowest grade infantryman provided housing, health care, etc. who may be called into hazardous duty. If, upon birth, Mary wishes to keep her child instead of relinquishment to clerics - she will be awarded custody and return of all compensation will be forgiven. Do you understand my decision and Spirit of fairness Mary?

**Mary:** Yes Excellency.

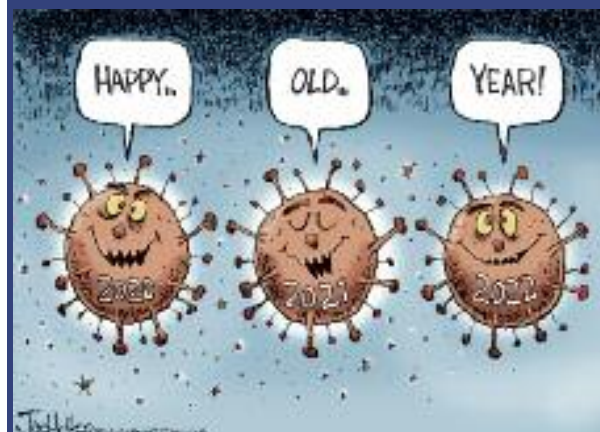
**Solomon:** Very well Mary, go forth in Peace and I pray to never see you again in this court under such circumstances.

I close in similar Spirit wishing all my cherished *Alabama Gazette* readers a prosperous 2022 filled with many blessings!

**Postscript:** thanks also to those who appreciated how difficult it was to write about someone I held in such high regard (Bo Jackson) supporting Felon Hubbard’s early release.

[<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/11/01/opinion/bo-knows-corruption/2255.html>] Observations on how efforts to block this column were every bit as strong and revealing as Hubbard’s (and his minions) efforts to redact and keep citizens in the dark are profoundly correct.

## COVID (COMIC) RELIEF



## Never Forget



## “The Informed Southerner”

### CRT, DEI, and Marxist Indoctrination

*Any society which suppresses the heritage of its conquered minorities, prevents their history or denies them their symbols, has sown the seeds of their own destruction. – William Wallace*

**John M. Taylor**

Governments seeking to destroy history typically start with the “low-hanging fruit.” The demonization of the South has been in play for decades. The South and the North were/are different—two separate and distinct countries always made sense. Many see the smearing of the South merely as a starting point to spread the cancer. For example, attacks on Christian Southerners like Robert E. Lee were destined to become attacks on the Founders (Washington, Jefferson, etc.). The ultimate goal has always been to destroy Western Civilization.

Most attempts to undermine Western Civilization have arisen from the God-less philosophy of Marxism. Many living today remember the November 18, 1956, commentary from Russia’s Communist leader, Nikita Khrushchev: “We will take America without firing a shot. We do not have to invade the U.S. We will destroy you from within...” Although some refuse to believe it can happen here, others know it can. As Patrick Henry warned, eternal vigilance is the only means of safeguarding liberty.

How can this nefarious takeover be achieved without “firing a shot”? The short answer is to infiltrate the education system, control the media, and use “Hollywood” to promote the plan. It is obvious that movies, television, commercials, etc., promote a distinct agenda that almost always demonizes White, Straight, Christian Males. This effort began to take form in the 1970s and has escalated over time.

Long-planted seeds of authoritarianism have come to fruition. The elitist Fabian Socialists (Beatrice Webb, George Bernard Shaw, Jack London, etc.) played a role in the migration toward socialism. They preferred an evolutionary transformation instead of the revolutionary approach of Marxism. Relative to the education system, the German Frankfurt School with Max Horkheimer, Herbert Marcuse, Theodor Adorno, Walter Benjamin, Georg Lukacs, and others began in 1923. They realized the folly of economic Marxism and sought to infiltrate the culture itself, thus we have Cultural Marxism. As Ludwig von Mises noted, “Every socialist is a disguised dictator.”

We now witness the “fruits” of Cultural Marxism in the form of Critical Race Theory (CRT), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and the demonization of Western Civilization through “wokeness” and “cancel culture.” A present and highly controversial example of Marxist ideology is the 1619 Project. “CRT developed out of Postmodern Theory which began in the 1960s...Postmodern Theory embraces the concept that the only objective truth is society is comprised of systems of power and privilege...” and “race is a social construct created by White supremacists...” (Pluckrose & Lindsay) Furthermore, it alleges that social interaction is based on oppressors versus the oppressed. Unsurprisingly, White

heterosexual men are considered the primary oppressors and others are the oppressed. The main instigators of postmodern thinking include Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, Jean-François Lyotard, and Richard Rorty. As Stephen R.C. Hicks explained, “post-modernism is anti-realist, holding that it is impossible to speak meaningfully about an independently existing reality.”

CRT promotes a negative view of the U.S., minimizes the historical significance of outlawing slave labor, categorizes everyone by race and defines all interactions under that umbrella, is hostile to opposing points of view, claims all Whites are oppressors and cannot feel oppressed (tell this to the Irish, who have many genetic commonalities with the English), and claims Blacks and other non-Whites are simply powerless victims. CRT is anti-reality and anti-human liberty. Paul Gottfried insists CRT is worse than Marxism given the unpunished destruction and theft of private property connected to those pushing this agenda.

In conjunction with CRT, DEI has been foisted upon private life, business, government, etc. Emanating from the colleges, which have been infiltrated by Marxists (presumably as Khrushchev predicted), these diversity “jobs” are ubiquitous. From a personal standpoint, I witnessed this at Russell Corporation, when one of the CEOs bought into policing speech, and suggested refraining from the use of certain words (e.g., girls). This “Thought Police” mentality was straight out of George Orwell’s *1984*.

The number of Soviet-styled tactics foisted on the U.S. at this time is mind-boggling. One group was identified by Booker T. Washington: “*I am afraid there is a certain class of race-problem solvers who don’t want the patient to get well, because as long as the disease holds out they have not only an easy means of making a living, but also an easy medium through which to make themselves prominent before the public.*” (The Texas Piney Woods Blog)

Although the enemies of Western Civilization attack from multiple angles, there is a group working to restore common sense and sanity. They are Alabamians for Academic Excellence and Integrity (AAEI) and their website is: <https://alabamiansaei.org/>. Check them out and determine how you can best support this worthwhile effort.

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Opening comment: William Wallace, [azquotes.com](https://azquotes.com).

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## Herschel Walker for Georgia and America

Founder Let the People Speak  
Former Alabama State Representative  
Alabama State Republican Executive Committee

Alabama Trump Victory Chairman 2016  
Alabama Trump Elector 2016  
Alabama Trump Team Leader 2020

I am doing everything in my power to assure that Republicans take back the United States House and Senate in next year's midterm elections. The road to taking back the Senate goes through Georgia and Herschel Walker. Herschel is a patriot, and he is running for Senate for all the right reasons. He loves America and he loves Georgia. When asked about why he is running by radio host Clay Travis he stated "My life ain't about me. It's about helping other people." He knows that current Left Wing Georgia Senator Raphael Warnock is not there to help Georgia, but to ram the Democrats socialist agenda down America's throat.

I had the great fortune of attending a Hershel Walker rally hosted by as Herschel stated, "The greatest president in American history Donald Trump." Herschel first professional football game was played for Donald Trump's New Jersey Generals, and they have remained friends for over 40 years.

Herschel's friends and supporters from all over the country assembled in President Trump's home in Mar-a-Lago to show their support. I especially enjoyed meeting former Boston College and professional quarterback Doug Flutie. Herschel and Doug were both Heisman trophy winning college football players and New Jersey Generals teammates. I also met All time Atlanta Braves great Tom Glavine who traveled to Florida to support his friend Herschel. The event was filled with confidence and optimism as everyone knew that Herschel Walker is the right man at the right time, and he is going to be the next Senator from the great state of Georgia.

*It was both an honor and a privilege to be able to spend time with two great Americans—Herschel Walker and President Donald J. Trump!*



Hooper pictured with Herschel Walker (left) and Doug Flutie (right) at a recent event.

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## BIG PHARMA'S WAR AGAINST HUMANITY

*Just last year (2021), in an interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla made the following statement: "We are very proud of what we have done.... There is no other company that can claim to have done so much good to humanity as we have done."*

John Martin

So much good to humanity? Really—like monopolizing the Epipen and jacking up its price from \$100 to \$600—and now teaming up with government fascists to forcibly administer its version of Jim Jones' cyanide-laced Kool-Aid.

Let's check out Pfizer's track record. In November 2020, Bourla publicly claimed that the Pfizer vaccine was 95% effective and was so good that world-wide authorization for it should be implemented immediately.

Despite hasty and incomplete trials, exaggerated reports of Covid mortality rates stirred up a public frenzy to get the "life-saving" shots. This unexpected mad rush of people to grab the still experimental vaccine generated an instant windfall. Pfizer sold hundreds of millions of shots at the taxpayers' expense and posted record profits.

But a year later, doctors soon discovered that the antibodies within the vaccine faded after about six months. Pfizer responded by issuing boosters, which lasted another six months. The company had created a recurring gold mine that could rake in huge profits indefinitely, especially if it could entice government officials to mandate the shots for everybody, or at least penalize those who refuse them.

We have more bad news. Even with the boosters, Covid "breakthroughs" have regularly taken place in many patients. So much for the 95% effectiveness claim.

Israel, a leader in vaccine compliance, has used the Pfizer almost exclusively and suffered the most outbreaks and highest infection rate in the world, and by a considerable margin.

These shots are dangerous. Once the people continue them, their natural immune systems can be damaged or even destroyed. Already, we have evidence that natural immunity can easily handle the new Delta and Omicron variants. But people tainted with the mRNA shots are being hammered as the chemicals in them override their natural immunity. They could destroy the health of America's entire population—330 million—along with many millions more in other parts of the world.

How could any company get away with such reckless, dangerous, and oppressive behavior? And Pfizer is not the only one; it just happens to be the leading offender. And the really scary part is that our government and many others around the world are enforcing it with draconian severity.

These shots can impose serious dangers, including tiny blood clots that grow over time in the capillaries that can cause aneurisms, strokes, heart attacks, various types of disability, and even death. They have been reported with all three Covid vaccines—Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson.

Our government created the Center for Disease Control to protect the public from health threats and to save lives. In the beginning, it worked very well. But now, and just recently, we have opportunistic mega-corporations not only deceiving the public, but actually endangering our entire population. And the CDC is not only turning a blind eye; it is actually endorsing it. Today, it seems that a reincarnation of Dr. Josef Mengele is running the programs that were originally designed to keep us safe. Is the USA about to become the next Nazi Germany—where dangerous medical experiments, gene-disrupting "vaccines," isolations, lockdowns, mandates, mask-ups, business shutdowns, school closures, travel restrictions, internment camps, bans on proven and tested medicines and therapies that actually work, and violations of the most fundamental of human rights are being imposed? Is the pharmaceutical industry going to continue to endanger and abuse millions of Americans in their quest to generate huge profits? Is Dr. Anthony "Mengele" Fauci going to let these outrages continue and become the world's next Angel of Death? Will our President, Congress, and Supreme Court do anything to stop this outrage?

Cherie Zaslawsky reported: "But in case you missed the background on this one: Fauci funded the creation of a bioweapon, which is what GoF (Gain of Function) is all about—first at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

under Ralph Baric—and then, when this dangerous research was declared illegal in the U.S., Fauci cleverly outsourced it to the infamous bioweapons lab in Wuhan, China."

Fauci also led the charge to discredit and ban proven, inexpensive, and safe treatments for his new biological warfare—Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine (HCQ), which was saving lives around the world. Thus he set the stage to force-feed us the new Frankensteinian, never tried before mRNA vaccines.

Fauci did approve Remdesivir, which is very new, still under current patents, and is thus extremely expensive and therefore profitable. Besides its cost, Remdesivir is also dangerous. It has a tendency to damage patients' kidneys sufficiently to kill at least 25% of them. And it has even been given to hospital patients against their wills.

Dr. Bryan Ardis believes that Remdesivir is the #1 cause of deaths in Covid wards, and not the Covid itself. He also said that hospitals are being bribed to administer Remdesivir instead of other drugs.

Just how dangerous are the Covid vaccines? Right now, it's too early to tell. So far, the vast majority of people who have received them has shown no obvious ill effects. But what is the risk over a long term—ten or twenty years? How much do the risks and side effects escalate for those who receive multiple shots?

The blood clot issue alone needs some serious study over a lengthy period—perhaps ten years or more, even 20. We cannot tolerate forcing our 330 million people to become guinea pigs for greedy medical corporations.

Dr. Richard Fleming explicitly stated that the Covid vaccine is a greater threat to humanity than the virus itself: "Today I present a study by 26 scientists that people vaccinated with the Covid 'vaccine' are 'more likely than unvaccinated persons to be infected by variants.' This is consistent with country data that shows that most hospitalized Covid patients are vaccinated."

Paul Craig Roberts states, "The medical establishment has avoided researching the connection between the vaccine and the emergence of variants and breakthrough cases, just as the establishment denies the high rate of adverse vaccine reactions, including deaths. The study's conclusions confirm scientist Geert Vanden Bossche's conclusion that the vaccine suppresses the body's natural antibody response.... Variants are not recognized by the vaccine antibodies, and the vaccine has programmed the body's natural antibodies to shut down.... According to the UK data, the weakened immune response of the vaccinated is why 63.5% of Covid deaths are among the fully vaccinated.

"Humanity will be sick forever, and Big Pharma's share of the budget will exceed the trillion dollar share of the military/security complex."

Finally, death is not the only consequence of this war on humanity. It is a threat to our most precious resource—our freedom—which is worth even more than our lives. Throughout history, millions of people around the world have fought wars and died to maintain it. It is so precious that some people have chosen suicide to avoid subjugation.

***Could this be the beginning of the greatest holocaust in world history?***

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## Letters To The Editor

PLEASE SEND US YOUR THOUGHTS ON ANY ARTICLE PRINTED IN THIS PAPER.

Send your comments and letters to: [algazettesubmit@gmail.com](mailto:algazettesubmit@gmail.com)

To the Editor:

It is about time we recognized the true heroes of the Republican Party. They are not the dopey louts who rampaged through our nation's capital and the moral cowards who still cover for them. They are not the ranting demagogues exploiting the emotions of the resentful. They were the unsung people not seeking attention, but doing their jobs: from poll workers to police officers. They were Republican state legislators and governors who did not bend to pressure to overturn the elections in their state. They were Republican judges who did not allow mere allegations unsupported by credible evidence to deny votes that happened. They were a Vice President who stayed loyal to the Constitution and the rule of law above

## Speak Up and Speak Out ... We Want to Hear from You!

9 December 2021

any man. They were Republican congressional representatives and senators who did not fear to try and hold their own president accountable, and dared to stand on their conscience instead of follow the majority in their party. They did not win. But they showed more bravery than the majority in their party who did.

It is Republicans like those who could save the soul of the party from being lost to a band of fascists, if they find the nerve to do so. My father was a lifelong Republican who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the sacrifices that generation made to defeat fascism, I'm glad he was not alive to see his party dishonored by America's Mussolini. — J.T., Ocean City, NJ



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



**Chief Deputy Kevin J. Murphy**

### Community Relations Events

We are slowly getting back into the normal routine prior to the COVID pandemic. Our Drive-Thru Halloween Spooktacular was a great success this year as was our Fishing Rodeos!

Our Firearms Familiarization Course has begun again with courses being held once a month; however, we do not hold courses November-January, due to the weather and the holidays. You can still apply for the course and you will be contacted once the next course is scheduled. Please call 334-832-1339 for more information or to request an application.



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Sheriff Terry L. Mears



## Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers ... Revisiting 2021 Political Passings

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

### We Lost Some Good Ones in 2021

As has been my custom for 18 years, I like for my year-end column to be a remembrance of Alabama political figures who have passed away during the year.

We lost some good ones this year. We lost our oldest past governor, John Patterson in June. Governor Patterson passed away at age 99 at his ancestral home in rural Tallapoosa County surrounded by his family.

Patterson was Governor from 1959-1963. He defeated George Wallace in the 1958 Governor's Race, which featured a field of 14 candidates. He is the only man to beat George Wallace in a governor's race. Patterson was Attorney General of Alabama prior to being elected Governor. He subsequently was appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by Wallace and was reelected numerous times and retired as a Judge of the Alabama Court of Appeals. He was a treasure trove of Alabama political history. He was Governor during a turbulent time in Alabama history.

Former Alabama Attorney General Jimmy Evans died in February at 81. Evans was a native of Montgomery and was Montgomery County District Attorney prior to being elected Attorney General.

Retired Alfa lobbyist Milton Parsons passed away in March at 91. Milton was renowned on Goat Hill as a straight arrow and straight shooter. He was an honest, trustworthy, Christian gentleman. He was Alfa's chief lobbyist for 50 years. He was a devoted family man and devout Christian.

Former Troy mayor, Jimmy Lunsford died in May at 78. He was mayor of Troy for 30 years. Economic development was his forte. He was a tremendous steward of the city's finances. He left Troy in good shape financially.

Former Mobile congressman Sonny Callahan passed away at 88 in late June. He was one of a long line of popular and effective congressmen from the first district. The list includes Frank Boykin, Jack Edwards, Jo Bonner, Bradley Byrne and Sonny. Congressman Callahan served 10 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. Prior to his two decades in Congress, he served in the Alabama

House of Representatives and then six years in the State Senate. He was successful in the trucking business in conjunction with his legislative and congressional career.

State Representative Thad McClammy of Montgomery passed away at 79 in August. McClammy represented parts of Montgomery County for 27 years. I had the privilege to serve with Thad in the legislature. He was a real gentleman. His word was as good as gold. He had a tremendous turnout for his funeral. State Senator Kirk Hatcher did a fabulous job singing two favorite hymns.

Former State Legislator and longtime Geneva County Probate Judge Harold Wise died in August at 96 years old. He lived an amazing and colorful life. He was a loved and respected Geneva County political figure. He was the uncle to Supreme Court Justice Kelli Wise. Kelli adored him. He was her mentor. She says he sparked her love of politics and her desire to have a career in public service.

Retired Winston-Marion County Circuit Judge Bobby Aderholt passed away in September at 85. He was a 50-year public servant, as well as lay minister. People say he probably married or buried half the folks in and around Haleyville and that part of Northwest Alabama. There was a tremendous turn out for his funeral. He was revered. State Senator Greg Reed sang at his funeral. Judge Aderholt was the father of our senior congressman, Robert Aderholt who is completing his 25th year in Congress.

Former State Senator Jim Preuitt of Talladega died in September at 86. He was also a State Representative and Probate Judge of Talladega County. He was a successful businessman and family man.

*We lost some good ones this year.*

***Happy New Year!***

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# From Pigskins to Rawhides

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

## And Then There Were Two ... Bama Faces Georgia in Title Game

Stan Hurst, *Associate Sports Writer*

*The Tide prevailed against The Cincinnati Bearcats 27 – 6 in the New Year’s Eve Cotton Bowl in Dallas Texas.*



With a whole lot of hoopla, Cincinnati trash talking and a little uncertainty the game would come off due to another rise in Covid outbreaks, we were treated to yet another amazing victory by the Alabama Crimson Tide. The Tide 2.0 featured a rejuvenated offense line and a running attack that was powerful and relentless. This was certainly not expected by me, and, obviously, the Bearcats, as well. It’s not surprising the fashion in which 2021 finished. There were cancelled bowl games, last moment replacement teams in bowl games, and lots of COVID to go around.

Brian Robinson rushed for 408 yards, the most by any Alabama player in a bowl game. The fifth-year senior has rushed for 1275 yards, averaging 5.1 yards per carry this season, so far. Robinson is quite a story, patiently waiting his turn as the starter. He carried the ball 249 yards this season, bearing most of the load for Bama’s run game. A significant change from the 91 carries in 2020, playing behind Najee Harris. Robinson had 14 touchdowns on the ground and caught 31 passes for 268 yards, which included 2 touchdowns.

Robinson was quoted after the game:

"We just know how to fight, man," the fifth-year senior said, via Tuscaloosa News. "We know how to fight 'til the end. We know how to come together as a team, as a unit. Man, we're just warriors. We fight until the end with everything we do. That's why we're going to win the natty — repeat."

The Tides offensive line had a dramatically improved outing against the Bearcats. I think they challenged themselves to be the Tide OT that we are accustomed to seeing.

Heisman Trophy winner Bryce Young and company were successful moving the ball through the air, producing 181 yards and three touchdowns. While watching, it was apparent the running was very effective, so stick with it.

And all of this must be prefaced of course; we are living through an amazing time in Alabama Football History since Coach Saban arrived on the scene to coach the Tide 15 years ago [today], January 3, 2007.

In the telling of the Cotton Bowl, obviously it’s important to concede; much to the chagrin of some fans, that it’s difficult to grasp the complexities of a successful college football program. Believe it or not, that’s one of the reasons there are press conferences after each game.

Sometimes the questions just aren’t very good.

I understand that coach Saban, Bill O’Brien and his team created this specific offensive package for the Bearcats defense, to exploit their defensive configuration, and the Cincinnati team just could not adjust to this “new look” Tide running attack.

Alabama has morphed from its “quick strike” offensive under offensive coordinators Lane Kiffin and Steve Sarkisian to a more moderate passing attack under O.C. Bill O’Brien. I think Alabama’s offensive change is dictated more by injured personnel than philosophy at the moment.

Remember Alabama lost 11 players from last year’s class. And there have been injuries to some of the starters on the offensive line. We lost right guard Emil Ekyior; additionally, the right tackle was lost late in the game as well. These are just from the Cotton Bowl. The good news is that Coach Saban is expecting some of the walking wounded back to play in Title game.

While the Crimson Tide’s passing game has been hugely successful, if the Tide is able to run against Georgia, this will absolutely change the metrics of the game.

Next Time .....

**John Madden**

**04/10/36 – 12/28/21**



**Sports lost a remarkable man and great voice on December 28, 2021, when John Madden passed away at 85 years old. Not only was he a football commentator and a professional football coach, including a Super Bowl championship, he was also a notable voice in many ads and video games. Madden is also remembered for his appearances in a number of movies and commercials. Our condolences to his wife, Virginia Jo Fields, and all of his family and friends.**

# ALABAMA ACADEMY OF HONOR 2020 AND 2021



**Josiah “Jo” Robins Bonner, Jr.**



**J. Gary Cooper**



**Bryan Stevenson**



**Lloyd J. Austin, III**



**Julian Butler**



**John H. England, Jr.**



**Marillyn A. Hewson**



**Lionel Richie**



**Selwyn M. Vickers**

### A Brief History of the Academy *(excerpt)*

The Academy of Honor was created by the state of Alabama “to bestow honor and recognition upon living Alabamians for their outstanding accomplishments and service.” The bill establishing the Academy was passed in the 3rd special session of the Alabama Legislature in 1965 and signed into law by Governor George Wallace on October 29, 1965 . . . Three years passed before the Alabama Academy of Honor was formally organized . . . The law creating the Academy stipulated that all governors would automatically be considered elected to membership. Up to one hundred additional members could be elected, but the number of members “from the political field” was limited to no more than twenty-five percent of the membership.

Due to Covid concerns, a ceremony to induct the Class of 2020 was not held. Instead, it was combined with the 2021 Induction Ceremony, which occurred on Thursday, December 9, 2021, in the Alabama Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel in Montgomery. A video of the ceremony is available for viewing on the official Alabama Academy of Honor website and article source: [www.alabamaacademyofhonor.org](http://www.alabamaacademyofhonor.org).

Bryan Stevenson, Class of 2020, was the keynote speaker during this year’s ceremony.

### **Class of 2020** *(top row, left to right)*

Josiah “Jo” Robins Bonner, Jr.

J. Gary Cooper

Bryan Stevenson

### **Class of 2021** *(2nd & 3rd rows, left to right)*

Lloyd J. Austin, III

Julian Butler

John H. England, Jr.

Marillyn A. Hewson

Lionel Richie

Selwyn M. Vickers





**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
*Lead Pastor*  
*St. James United Methodist Church*  
*9045 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL*

# Soul Searching

**2022 – Make It The Best Year Ever  
(Here is how you do it!)**

## Get Outside

I recently read that the average person spends 93% of their life indoors! Wow! That is unbelievable. And sad. That means that if you live to be 100 years old, you will have spent 93 of those years indoors and only 7 years in God’s amazing and beautiful creation. God created us to be outside and to enjoy His creation. Our souls need it. Our bodies need it. Our minds need it.

In the 23rd Psalm we witness one of the most important ways God soothes our souls, **“He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside still waters, He restores my soul.”** In other words, God often soothes our souls in the great outdoors.

The Psalmist also writes, **“Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them, let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.”** – Psalm 96:11-12. See all the references to nature?

In the Gospels, we see that Jesus spent most of his time outdoors and often taught outdoors too. He taught from a boat. He taught on the shores of Galilee. He taught in the fields. He often referred to animals and wildlife as he taught because people could see those sheep, birds, crops, vineyards and trees from where they were sitting.

When he wanted to rest and rejuvenate, he would usually go to a remote place in the wilderness or the desert. After his baptism Jesus headed to the wilderness to be alone, mediate and pray. **“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.”** Luke 4:1.

For me, I have to get outside to detox and feel my soul relax. I guess that’s why I have always enjoyed backpacking, camping, hunting, fishing, canoeing, sailing and golf. Being out in God’s creation just fills my cup and restores my soul. I feel closer to the Lord in the wild places.

In 2022, I am going to do something good for myself. I am going to get outdoors more often than I did in 2021. ***I want to encourage you to look for ways to enjoy the outdoors more often in 2022.*** Soak up some rays at the beach. Go for hike in the mountains. Take a walk in the neighborhood. Read a book on your back porch. Go fishing, hunting, backpacking, golfing, skiing, boating or enjoy some outdoor sport.

## Build Margin

Build some margin into your schedule so it is not slammed full. We fill our schedules, because we are worried that we won’t get everything done we need ***to get done in a certain period of time. But Jesus warned us about worry. “Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of it’s own.”*** – Jesus, Matthew 6:34

When you put things on your calendar give yourself some space in between activities, meetings and events. Here is one piece of advice I have tied to follow to help me in this. Plan your time with family, rest time, vacations and reflection time first and get it on the calendar. Then you can add the things you need to do and have to do for work and your profession. This will give you margin which will protect you and make you even more fruitful in your work because you will have built healthy margin into your schedule.

Try it in 2022. Build some healthy margin into your lifestyle so that you can breath and enjoy what you are doing without racing to the next thing and the next thing. I believe you will discover that you will be more fruitful in your work and happier in your life!

***Build margin in your life and put it on your calendar in 2022!***

## Have Fun

**“God created everything for our enjoyment,”** says Paul in 1 Timothy 6:17. Did you know God wants you to have fun? He wants you to enjoy your gift of life! So, make it a priority to have some fun in your day, your week, your month your year.

You need to figure out what drains you and what fills your tank. The things that fill your tank are usually things that you enjoy doing and are fun to you. Imagine your body is like a big reservoir full of liquid energy. Near the bottom side of that reservoir is a hole with a hose attached that is letting that liquid energy flow out of you as you give of yourself to your spouse, children, family, work, ministry or service to others. It may be that all those things you are giving yourself out to are good things that you should and ought to be giving to.

However, if you are giving out of that reservoir all the time and you are not replenishing it, what is going to happen? It (you) will eventually drain out completely. So, you must find ways to replenish the energy in order for you to be able to continue to give of yourself to others you love and to the causes you care about. Ideally, you can discover how to tap into that which gives you energy and passion so that your reservoir can continuously be refilled so you are eventually giving out of your overflow instead of draining your reservoir.

If you and I will learn to make having fun a priority for our mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health, I believe we will discover that we can live healthier and happier lives, and we will begin to live and give out of the overflow! ***So, what do you love to do? How do you like to have fun? Plan it. And put fun stuff on your calendar for 2022.***

***Well, there are several ways you can keep filling up your reservoir as you begin to live and give of yourself out of the overflow. Get outside. Build margin. Have fun.***

And here is one more.  
***This one is often neglected but is most important....***

## Engage in Worship

The Bible makes it clear that worship of our Creator is a top priority: **“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”** – Psalm 150:6

**“God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth.”** – Jesus, John 4:24

**“Do not neglect gathering together for worship as some people do...”** – Hebrews 10:25

Those who regularly attend a religious worship service, according to one recent study, live longer and healthier lives. One study reported that you could add four years to your life by regularly engaging in worship. CNN stated in a study they conducted that, “Doctors are increasingly aware of the importance of religion for the well being of their patients.”

But here are the facts. Churches had a whirlwind year along with everyone else in 2020 and things still aren’t back to normal. Even before the pandemic, however, worship attendance was dropping rapidly across the USA. Regular weekly worship attendance is down from 45% in 1993 to 27% in 2020. Less than 20% of Millennials attend worship, and Millennials are the majority of the country now. Churches are averaging about 37% of their pre-covid attendance with some are reaching as high as 50% to 60%. To sum it up, worship attendance has been declining for several decades and the pandemic just accelerated it.

While churches may be adjusting to new worship attendance practices, the truth is that people are still hungry for God, want to know their purpose and many want to grow spiritually. Engaging in worship and being connected with a church family that empowers and encourages you can make all the difference in your life.

***Therefore, I want to challenge you to make engaging in worship and connecting with a church family on a regular basis a top priority for yourself and your family.*** In our church family at Saint James Church, I have witnessed countless times where families in our church go through a crisis, a challenge or a death and our church family surrounds them with prayer, support, care and love as we seek to offer hope, help and hospitality. I have also seen our church family on a regular basis joyfully come around people and families to celebrate a birth, a wedding or some other important milestone.

Conversely, I have also know many people who have no church family and often suffer alone through a tragedy, a crisis or a death. It is so sad to witness this, but it happens all the time. I honestly do not know how people make it through crisis, tragedy and loss without a loving church family around them. They do not know what they are missing. But it doesn’t have to be that way.

***God designed us to do life together in a community of faith. Please prayerfully consider engaging in worship and connecting with a family of faith if you do not already have one. And if you have a church family but rarely attend, then make it a priority to re-engage. You are needed and you need them too. More than you may know!***

Blessings,  
**Dr. Lester Spencer,** *Lead Pastor*  
Saint James Church

Dr. Spencer is Lead Pastor at Saint James Church in Montgomery, Alabama and writes the **Soul Searching** column for *Alabama Gazette* each month.

Join Saint James Church Sunday Morning

8:00 Outdoor Cafe

11:00 Traditional service

10:00 Contemp service

9-9:30 Open Communion



Judge Peggy Givhan

A new year with new beginnings and hopefully a year we see Covid in our rear view mirror. My sincerest wish is for each and every one of you to experience a happy and prosperous 2022.

Back in the garden, there some things we all need to take care of. If you have chilled tulips for 4-6 weeks, go ahead and plant them this month either in pots or in the garden beds. A good technique, which I have mentioned in the past, is over planting tulips with pansies, dianthus or even dusty miller. The effect is quite stunning with a ground cover of low flowers and the spiked look of the upper tier of the tulips. This garden design of over planting can be used in the beds with low annuals and over planted with taller flowers such as Gaura. Overplanting with the shorter flowers and taller ones is also great for very formal beds.

Daffodils and other bulbs can be planted now, again in outdoor pots, in beds or in naturalized areas. I prefer to naturalize the daffodils outside of the flowerbeds. All looks beautiful during their bloom cycle, but when they die down, the leaves turn yellow and brown for about a month. One must remove the blooms but allow the leaves to die back in order to feed the bulbs for next year's blooms and to assist in the bulbs multiplying. If the yellowing leaves are trimmed back (as they are unsightly) next year's blooms will be stunted.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for January

### PLANT OF THE MONTH CHRISTMAS CACTUS – SCHLUMBERGERA BRIDGESII

The Christmas Cactus is a succulent and a cousin to the cacti that thrives in the deserts. They bloom for long periods of time around Thanksgiving and Christmas indoors with some of the most exotic blooms in nature. It is truly a plant that keeps on giving. They are easy to propagate either rooting in water or in potting soil. To speed the process, which normally takes about 2 weeks, the cuttings should be placed in a sunny window. If you are propagating in soil, take a cutting where there are knots or calluses and plant it in the soil and water until slightly moist. They prefer a drier environment. Do not over water or let the soil get too soggy as the stem will rot rather than root. They are peculiar in that they like to have crowded roots or what we would call root bound and love clay pots since these are porous with good air circulation. In addition to the moist soil, they love misting from a spray bottle and watering only at the base of the plant. To keep the plant with continuous bloom, be sure to deadhead all of the spent blooms. People keep Christmas Cactus year round mainly for their interesting leaf structure.



Photo: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Happy New Year and Good Gardening!



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

# Honoring Our Heroes



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

## Captain Nimrod Thompson Frazer (92)

Captain (Cpt) Lt. Nimrod Thompson Frazer served three years in the U. S. Army including the Army National Guard and the regular Army with service in Korea during the Korean War. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Tank Platoon Leader. His military decorations, medals, badges and commendations included the Silver Star given for his gallantry in action, a Presidential Unit Citation and the Parachute Badge. He received a letter of appreciation from Kim Dae-jung, President of the Republic of Korea.

Cpt Frazer was born in Montgomery, AL, December 10, 1929 to his parents, William Johnson Frazer and Margaret Frazer. He attended schools in Montgomery and in Wilcox County, AL, graduated from Wilcox County High School in 1948. He attended Huntingdon College in Montgomery, AL, and left college in December of 1950 to join the Alabama National Guard when it was called to active duty. After Basic Infantry training at Fort Jackson, SC, he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Knox, KY. He was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on February 14, 1952 before assignment to the 82nd Airborne Division and the 44th Tank Battalion at Fort Bragg, NC. He volunteered for Korea and served there for ten months with the 140 Tank Battalion.

After leaving the Army, he served in the Army National Guard in the Special Forces. He was discharged September 20, 1953 and then returned to service in the AL Army National Guard. Returning to civilian life, 2nd Lt. Frazer used the G. I. Bill and resumed his studies at Huntingdon College and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Business in 1953. He resumed his military service rejoining the AL Army National Guard and was promoted to Captain in the 20th Special Forces. He also used the G.I. Bill in attending Columbia University and then in earning a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University in 1956.

Cpt Frazer has had a long and successful career in investment banking, continuing even until now in 2021. He began his career working with the brokerage firm, Sterne Agee and Leach, followed by working with Thornton, Farish and Gauntt, an investment banking firm. In 1976, he cofounded the investment banking company, Frazer Lanier Company, with Clifford Lanier, Jr. Then, in 2008, Cpt Frazer formed a real estate brokerage, The Jobs Company LLC, in which he continues his success located in the historic Union Station building in the heart of Montgomery, AL.

Cpt Frazer and his wife, Lee Martin Frazer, have five children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is modest and is hesitant to talk about his achievements and honors. He received an honorary degree, the Doctor of Humane Letters from Huntingdon College May 14, 2000 which is given to those who have distinguished themselves through humanitarian and philanthropic contributions to society. He was recognized as a Senior Warden by St. John's Episcopal Church in 1996. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Alabama Historical Commission and the Mary Ann Neely Historic Preservation Award from the Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery, AL in 2018. The Daughters of the American Revolution awarded him its highest decoration, the Congressional Medal of Honor. The University of Alabama named him to the Alabama Business Hall of Fame, and Marion Military Institute named him to the Alabama Military Hall of Honor.

Cpt Frazer's conclusions about his military service are, "The Army taught me how to manage people and to lead people." His family has a rich heritage of patriotic service to their country. His brother served valiantly during WWII, and his father, Sergeant William J. Frazer, served with the 167th Infantry Regiment with the 42nd Division during WWI earning a Purple Heart at the battle of Croix Rouge Farm in France.

Cpt Frazer has written two books about WWI. He described the Rainbow Division's heroism in his book, *Send the Alabamians: WWI Fighters in the Rainbow Division*, published in 2014, and *The Best World War I Story I Know*, published in 2018, describing the grit and determination the 35th, 1st and 42nd Divisions doughboys. In addition, he has provided the funding for the acquisition and erection of sculptures of two WWI soldiers: the Rainbow Soldier and the Return from the Argonne, at the Union Station in Montgomery where Alabama Infantry in the 31st Dixie Division and mostly African-American soldiers in the 366th Infantry Regiment of the 92nd Division who fought in the Argonne had departed from this train station to join the Rainbow Division. He funded another such sculpture of WWI Pilots, the Daedalous, which was erected at Maxwell Air Force Base, and there he was awarded the Legion of Honor, France's highest honor, August 27, 2017. This medal was given because of his efforts to keep alive the memory of French and American soldiers who fought and died in WWI and for commissioning a memorial to the Rainbow Division near Chateau Thierry. He funded the Jim Butler monument of the Rainbow soldier at Croix Rouge Farm at Fere en Tardenois in France.

# end #



## 1st Lt Norma Lynn Lundy (82)

1st Lt Norma Lundy served two years, nine months and 23 days in the United States Air Force. Her Military Occupational Specialty Code was Staff General Duty Nurse.

1st Lt Lundy was born March 4, 1939, to her parents, Alfred Eugene and Margaret Berney in Knoxville, TN, and she was reared with a family of four brothers. During her first five years, the family moved to Birmingham, Atlanta and Montgomery while her father worked as a type-writer repairman. After WWII, her family moved to Montgomery where she was reared and educated. She attended Chisholm Elementary School, Capitol Heights Junior High School, Lanier High School and Robert E. Lee High School. Her family then moved to Memphis, TN, where she graduated from White Station High School in 1957.

At Memphis, a friend took her to visit St. Jude's Children's Hospital and this visit had such a dynamic impact upon her, she decided to become nurse which resulted in her achievements in pediatric and geriatric medical care. She graduated from Jefferson Davis Hospital School of Nursing at Houston, TX, in 1964. For one year, she worked in pediatric research at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston where she took care of two sets of Siamese twins and many other children including newborn babies who carried the Rubella virus. After working at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City, she enlisted in the U. S. Air Force February 13, 1966. Her decision was based upon her many years of having an uncle who was serving in the U. S. Air Force visit her family and share his experiences of traveling worldwide.

1st Lt Lundy's three-month basic training was at Gunter Air Force Base (AFB), AL, followed by assignment at Amarillo AFB, TX, where she worked in a variety of medical areas. While there, she met her husband, John Lundy, and they were married 23 years. They had two children and three grandchildren. He was also an officer in the Air Force, and they were deployed together to Wheelus Air Base, a United States Air Force base located in British-occupied Libya and the Kingdom of Libya. At one time, it was the largest US military facility outside the US. It had an area of 20 sq. miles on the coast of Tripoli. They lived in a WWII trailer measuring eight feet by 35 feet on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea.

1st Lt. Lundy became pregnant and then delivered a baby in a U. S. military hospital in Weisbaden, Germany. Because the military at that time would not allow females in the military to remain in service if they had children while serving, she was forced to resign from military service December 3, 1968. With tears in her eyes and a quiver in her voice, her reflections upon her military service are, "I knew that I could make a contribution to the well being and to the lives of the people who serve. Once I discovered nursing, it was a natural avenue that I could go do that. When I took care of those Airmen torn up from serving in Vietnam and the pilots who crashed in the desert in Libya, I knew that I was doing good for the country. I was inspired to be a nurse without even thinking about the fact that it could be my avenue to go and see the world. I got to see all of the Middle East. Holland, Germany and Spain. I was interested in other cultures and how people lived."

After leaving Libya, 1st Lt. Lundy's husband was transferred to Malmstrom AFB, at Great Falls, MT, for four years followed by assignment to Little Rock AFB, AR, for four years, and then to Sheppard AFB, TX, TDY in the summer of 1974. While in AR, she received a B.S. Degree in Gerontology from the University of AR at Little Rock. Her husband's next assignment was to Elmendorf AFB, AK, for 10 years. This move to Anchorage, AK, proved to be a major turning point in 1st Lt Lundy's life because this is where she resumed her career in the medical field and started working in community care for the aging. She worked for the city of Anchorage as the Director of Senior Citizens Programs.

Using a federal grant of \$10,000, she completed certification as a Gerontological Nurse Practitioner from the University of Washington in 1985. 1st Lt Lundy's 13 years in gerontology encompassed first working at Anchorage's Pioneer Home, one of five Pioneer Homes serving older adults in cities in Alaska. She worked with a gerontologist-physician for 12 months. She opened a private practice and served as a nurse practitioner at the nursing home, Mary Conrad Center. She served as the Medicaid Commissioner for the state of Alaska and opened a new nursing home in Anchorage. She did what needed to be done for senior adults in Anchorage for seven years.

1st Lt. Lundy went to Kauai, Hawaii, to teach staff at Wilcox Hospital how to take care of nursing home patients for three months. She went to Honolulu and became the Vice President of Long Term Care for the State of Hawaii. This was a private corporation for a lobbying group for all of the hospitals and nursing homes in Hawaii. She traveled to every Hawaiian Island and taught geriatric nursing at each nursing home for a year. In 1991, she returned to Kauai working as nurse practitioner at Wilcox Hospital Long-Term Care, but Hurricane Iniki struck Hawaii. It was the most powerful hurricane to ever strike Hawaii. She was involved in the evacuation of 90 nursing home patients and their care, and for six weeks, there was no running water or electrical power.

In 1995, 1st Lt. Lundy moved to Pensacola, FL, to work as the geriatric nurse practitioner in the skilled nursing unit at the West FL Hospital for two years, and this permitted her to come to Montgomery, AL, to care for her terminally ill mother on the weekends. Then she traveled for six months across America visiting friends, and she remained in San Diego for one year. She returned to Hawaii working as the resident case manager at the assisted living facility, The Ponds at Punalulu, on the northern shore of Oahu. She then worked for Wilcox Hospital at Kawaii in quality medical review, and then she worked setting up four out-patient clinics as project creator and director for chronic disease retiring in 2004.

1st Lt. Lundy spent several months traveling across America and then went to England where she lived six months at the Tara Kadampa Buddhist Center at Derbyshire where she shared in cleaning, teaching classes, sewing and meditating. She moved to Atlanta, volunteering at the Atlanta Area Agency on Aging, followed by working part time there for four years. She dealt with aging disability resource managing four years retiring completely in 2010. She then moved to Pennsylvania to assist in caring for her grandson for five years. She moved to Pensacola for five years and then back to Montgomery where she now resides.

The remarkable woman has significantly contributed to the improvement of medical care for the elderly and has provided leadership in medical facilities wherever she has been.

# end #

## Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!

These service members enjoy reading *The Alabama Gazette*. Their articles were published in the December 2021 issue. The picture of the Vietnam veterans were taken at the December 6th meeting of Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America by Dr. Simmons. **Pick up your FREE copy today!**



**SMSgt Douglas M. Terry & Major Beverly J. Henry Terry** (U.S. Air Force) (left)

**MSgt William I. Chivalette** (U.S. Air Force) (right)

**Signalman Eugene Thomas Beasley** (U.S. Navy) (below middle)



(pictured below) **1st Sgt. Billy Gene Bonner** (left) (U.S. Marine Corps) with **Carl Edwards** (U.S. Navy, Naval Reserves, Air Force Reserves)



**607 Vietnam Vets** (above)

## Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

**Buddy Martin Wilson:**

January 3rd

**Jerry Glen Wheat:**

January 4th

**Geoff Allen Colt:**

January 6th

**Lynn W. Jinks, Jr.:**

January 10th

**Joseph Collins:**

January 11th

**Robert C. Cerha:**

January 14th

**Richard Bennett:**

January 16th

**Rosa Scott:**

January 23rd

**Billy Gene Bonner:**

January 28th



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## Staff Sergeant Ronald Urquhart (62)

SSG Ronald Urquhart served in the United States Army on active duty for three years and in the Alabama Army National Guard for 21 years. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was radio teletype operator while in the Army and field lineman in the Army National Guard. His medals, awards and decorations include: Marksman (Rifle) and Marksman (grenade).

SSG Urquhart was born in LeGrand, AL, June 23, 1959, to his parents, Howard and Gussie Mae Urquhart. He was reared in Ramer, AL, and leaving high school, he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army at the age of 17.

SSG Urquhart's military service began June 7, 1977, and he completed induction at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina, followed by eight weeks of Basic Training at Ft. Gordon, GA. He completed a 12 week self-paced course in radio-teletype operator in seven weeks. He served at Ft. Hood, TX, including a three month TDY deployment to Stuttgart, Germany, until he was discharged June 6, 1980.

After about one year, SSG Urquhart reenlisted in military service and in the Alabama National Guard. He served two weekends monthly in the Montgomery, AL, area and two weeks each summer mostly at Camp Shelby, MS.

SSG Urquhart earned his GED in 1985 and then used the G.I. bill for one year at Alabama Christian College (Faulkner University) in preparation for later becoming an x-ray technician. During this time, he was working at night as an aide in the x-ray department at the Baptist South Medical Center in Montgomery, AL. At this same medical facility, SSG Urquhart completed two years of training to be a registered x-ray technician in 1990 and continued working there. Next, in September 1993, he worked in giving CT scans at the Montgomery Cancer Center. In 1995, He completed further training for one year at Chattanooga State Community College in Chattanooga, TN, to become a licensed radiation therapist. He has worked as a radiation therapist for almost 28 years at the Montgomery Cancer Center. SSG Urquhart's conclusions about his work with cancer patients are, "I love it. I get to meet a lot of people. When I go to work, I know that I am getting to help a lot of people. It is so rewarding to see people when they return saying that they are well."

SSG Urquhart and his wife, Cheryl, have been married for 33 years, and they have two children and one grandchild. They enjoy traveling and also watching movies at home. They have been members of the United Faith Christian Church in Le Grand, AL, where he has served as a deacon. He exercises by jogging and walking daily.

SSG Urquhart's reflections upon his military service are, "It was a pleasure to serve. I learned a lot of things in the Army. It helped me to grow up real fast as I was very immature when I enlisted. The camaraderie and friendships helped me to learn to depend on other people. If I had to do it over again, I might change a few things, but I would have definitely made the military my career. I have no regrets. Being in the military gives benefits such as being able to use the Maxwell Air Force Base, the VA Out-Patient Clinic and insurance discounts for veterans. Looking back, I can say that I am proud to have served in the military."

#end#



## Petty Officer 1st Class Lynn W. Jinks, Jr. (100)

Petty Officer 1st Class (PO1) Lynn W. Jinks, Jr. served five years in the United States Navy during WWII. His occupational specialty (MOS) was Navy Air Controller. The flights of incoming and outgoing aircraft from U.S. naval bases were controlled by Tower Operators. PO1 Jinks was involved in U. S. Naval combat to liberate islands from the Japanese in the Pacific Theater.

PO1 Jinks was born January 10, 1922 in Union Springs, AL, to his parents, Lynn W. Jinks Sr. and Clarice Peddy Jinks. He was reared there and graduated from Union Springs High School in 1939. Shortly after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, he volunteered for military service and served in the United States Navy at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL, at the Naval Air Station in Long Beach, CA, and in the Pacific Theater on the Palawan Island in the Philippines during WWII. The battle to take the Island from the Japanese was at a hostile site with a Naval task force of cruisers and destroyers from the 7th Fleet. He worked in the control towers as a control tower operator at the Naval air stations and bases. He was discharged in 1946.

Using the G.I. Bill, PO1 Jinks graduated from the University of Alabama Law School, became a member of the Alabama Bar Association September 15, 1949 and practiced general law in Union Springs, AL, for 50 years including assisting the Bullock County prosecutor for several years retiring in 1991.



PO1 Jinks was married to Beth P. Jinks for 53 years until she passed away. They had three children, five grand-children and six great-grand-children. He has been a member of the Union Springs United Methodist Church. He and his wife, Ruby R. Jinks, have been married 33 years. She served as his Office Administrator in his law practice office for many years. After his retirement, they moved to Montgomery, AL, where they have lived for 26 years.

PO1 Jinks' conclusions about his military service stating, "I was proud to serve." His wife, Ruby, adds that she would like future generations to remember him as being a good person.

#end#



## Important Resources for Veterans

**Veterans Crisis Line:** [www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

**National Center for PTSD:** 855-948-2311 / [ptsd.va.gov](http://ptsd.va.gov)

**Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System**

2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee AL 36083 / 334-727-0550

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VACentralAlabama>

## Wreath Laying at Fallen Heroes Memorial

The Wreath Laying at the Fallen Heroes Memorial at the Alabama State Capitol was held December 13, 2021. Tom Long, President of Blue Star Salute Foundation, served as Master of Ceremonies. Duke Martin, Chaplain of the AL Dept. of the American Legion gave the invocation and the benediction. Cadets of the Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Color Guard presented the Colors. Rob Robinson sang the National Anthem. The



*Pictured left to right: Martha Poole Simmons, American Red Cross volunteer; Sandra Robertson, Past National President, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; Two cadets, Bessemer Civil Air Patrol; Major General Sheryl Gordon, Adjutant General of ALARNG.*

Cadets and Sandra Robertson, Past National President of Gold Stars Wives of American, Inc. advanced the State House Wreath. Rear Admiral Kent Davis, Commissioner, AL Dept. of Veterans Affairs, introduced Major General Sheryl Gordon, Adjutant General of the Alabama Army National Guard who served as the keynote speaker. The ceremony ended with the playing of *Taps* by Ryan Sawyer, of Bugles Across America.

## American Legion Pike County Post 70



Dr. Martha Poole Simmons spoke at the breakfast meeting of the American Legion Pike County Post 70 on December 11, 2021 in Troy, AL. She saluted and thanked the veterans for their service from a grateful nation, the American Red Cross and her, a Marine mother. Totes of Hope were given to

each veteran. She described the services provided by the American Red Cross with special emphasis on the services provided to the active duty armed forces and to veterans.

Eugene Thomas Beasley, a 97-year-old WWII veteran who served as a signalman in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific Theater, was given a pair of American Red Cross Christmas socks by Martha Poole Simmons on December 9th. His article was published in the May 2020 issue of *The Alabama Gazette*.



## WWII Vet Honored in Celebration of his 98th Birthday!

The WWII veteran, Harold Lamar Smith, celebrated his 98th birthday December 19, 2021. American Red Cross volunteer, Martha Poole Simmons, and Assistant Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, Robert Horton, presented Lamar with a commendation from Alabama Governor Kay Ivey and a



*proclamation from Pike Road Mayor Gordon Stone. Lamar served in the Army's Infantry in the liberation of Italy. His article was published in the December 2018 issue of the Alabama Gazette.*



### Korean War Vet Passes

The Korean War veteran, Lee Andrews Kennedy, passed away December 19, 2021. His article was published in the April 2020 issue. Lee Andrew Kennedy was born May 12, 1928, in Camden, AL, and served in the U.S. Army.



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## 10 Doctor-Recommended New Year's Resolutions to Make Today

While investing in your health and wellness can sound like an overwhelming goal, doctors say that there are easy, tangible resolutions you can make to feel your best and better protect your health.

"A new year is the perfect time to consider your personal goals, and how you can make positive health choices in the coming year," says American Medical Association (AMA) President Gerald E. Harmon, M.D. "Small lifestyle changes today can have a lasting effect in improving your health."



**Not sure where to start? Consider these resolutions from the AMA:**

1. Make sure your family is up-to-date on their vaccines, including the annual influenza vaccine for everyone age six months or older and the COVID-19 vaccine for everyone age five and older. Anyone with questions about the COVID-19 vaccines should speak with their physician and review trusted resources, including [getvaccineanswers.org](http://getvaccineanswers.org).
2. Learn your risk for type 2 diabetes by taking a simple online 2-minute self-screening test at [DoIHavePrediabetes.org](http://DoIHavePrediabetes.org). Steps you take now can help prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.
3. Be more physically active. Adults should do at least 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity, or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.
4. Know your blood pressure numbers. Take the time to visit [ManageYourBP.org](http://ManageYourBP.org) to better understand your numbers and take necessary steps to get high blood pressure – also known as hypertension – under control. Doing so will reduce your risk of heart attack or stroke.
5. Reduce your intake of processed foods, especially those with added sodium and sugar. Also reduce your consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and drink more water instead.
6. If your health care professional determines that you need antibiotics, take them exactly as prescribed. Antibiotic resistance is a serious public health problem and antibiotics will not make you feel better if you have a virus, such as a cold or flu.

## MACOA Serve Seniors!

**The Montgomery Area Council On Aging (MACOA)  
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The Montgomery Area Council On Aging assists senior citizens by providing services to promote independent living, by offering opportunities to enhance quality of life, and by increasing community awareness of senior issues.

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7. If consuming alcohol, do so in moderation as defined by the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans – up to one drink per day for women and two drinks per day for men, and only by adults of legal drinking age.

8. Talk with your doctor about tobacco and nicotine use and quit. Declare your home and car smoke-free to eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke.

9. If you are taking prescription opioids, follow your doctor's instructions, store them safely to prevent diversion or misuse, and properly dispose of any leftover medication.

10. Manage stress. A good diet and daily exercise are key ingredients to maintaining and improving your mental health, but don't hesitate to ask for help from a friend or mental health professional when you need it.

If you don't have health insurance, the AMA also encourages you to visit [healthcare.gov](http://healthcare.gov) to sign up for coverage. You may benefit from recent changes that improve access and affordability. The deadline to enroll for 2022 coverage is Jan. 15, 2022. More health resources and tips can be found by visiting [ama-assn.org](http://ama-assn.org).

**For a happy, healthy 2022 and beyond, consider making these 10 doctor-recommended New Year's resolutions today.**

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## Social Security Services

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



## In-Person Appointments Re-Entry Plans



Photo: [www.russellco.com](http://www.russellco.com)

SSA is taking steps to increase in-person help for people unable to complete their business online or by phone. SSA continues to increase in-person appointments for limited, critical issues, and to hold voluntary hearings by online video and phone. During much of the pandemic, offices have been open only for in-person appointments for limited, critical situations, depending upon local office conditions. These measures have helped to protect the health and safety of employees and the public.

During this time, SSA has continued to offer many services on its website that are secure and easy to use. Additionally, representatives continue to help people by telephone when they call the National 800 Number and local offices.

SSA recognizes that many underserved people face barriers to service when they are unable to access or use the internet or telephones to get the help they need. Therefore, if you know someone who cannot use the online services at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov), please encourage them to call and speak to a Social Security representative. They can call their local Social Security office or the National 800 Number for assistance. If SSA cannot help by phone, the representative can determine if an in-person appointment or other option might be available.

**The public can call the National 800 Number at 1-800-772-1213 between 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.** Wait times to speak to a representative are typically shorter Wednesdays through Fridays or later in the day. We also offer many automated telephone services, available 24 hours a day, so you do not need to speak with a representative.

Please note that we are upgrading our National 800 Number system. During this transition, you may experience longer wait times. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience and we appreciate your patience while we work towards a new, more modern phone service.

If you're deaf or hard of hearing and use TTY equipment, you can call our TTY number at 1-800-325-0778.

## Our Partnerships Help Your Clients in Need

Last year, SSA partnered with community and faith-based groups on a national outreach campaign to serve people who need it most. SSA wants to continue to increase the public's awareness of the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit programs. The SSI and SSDI programs provide critical financial assistance, and, in many cases, grant access to healthcare and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as SNAP.

SSA collaborated with members of the claimant advocacy community on this campaign. Their voice is reflected throughout the campaign to ensure support groups like yours have the resources you need to help people you care about.

The outreach campaign includes:

- A partnership with community and faith-based groups: Your group can make all the difference in the lives of people in your community. You can assist with taking applications for SSI or refer people to Social Security. If you're interested in helping people submit their claim for SSI, please contact the Social Security Regional Communications Director for your state at [www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html](http://www.ssa.gov/agency/rcds.html) to learn more information.
- Online tools and informational pages for your organization. These include:
  - › Resources for people helping others access Social Security services at [www.ssa.gov/thirdparty](http://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty).
  - › Outreach materials for partner groups that work with people who face barriers to service at [www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html](http://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/vulnerable-populations.html).
  - › Updated information for faith-based and community groups, such as a toolkit and fact sheets about SSI and SSDI at [www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/faithandcommunity.html](http://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/groups/faithandcommunity.html).
- A national advertising campaign on TV, radio, and social media, with emphasis on benefits for children with disabilities.

Please encourage your clients to visit and subscribe to the blog at [blog.ssa.gov](http://blog.ssa.gov). They can receive alerts when SSA publishes new articles from the partners and shares the latest information about the national outreach campaign.



Photo: [www.freerangestock.com](http://www.freerangestock.com)

## 2022 Social Security Benefits Increase



Approximately 70 million Americans will see a 5.9% increase in their Social Security benefits and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments in 2022. Federal benefit rates increase when the cost-of-living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index (CPI-W).

The CPI-W rises when inflation increases, leading to a higher cost-of-living. This change means prices for goods and services, on average, are more expensive, so the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) helps to offset these costs.

We will mail COLA notices throughout the month of December to retirement, survivors, and disability beneficiaries, SSI recipients, and representative payees. If you have clients who would like to know their new benefit amount sooner, they can securely obtain their Social Security COLA notices online using the Message Center at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). They can access this information in early December prior to the mailed notice.

If your clients prefer to access their COLA notices online, they can opt out of a mailed COLA notice. They can do this with their personal my Social Security account. By updating their Preferences in the Message Center, they can opt out of any other notices that are available online. They can also receive a text or email alert when there is a new message waiting for them. A person must have created their account by November 17, 2021 to receive the 2022 COLA notice online. Your clients can find more information about the 2022 COLA at [www.ssa.gov/cola](http://www.ssa.gov/cola).

January 2022 marks other changes that will happen based on the increase in the national average wage index. For example, the maximum amount of earnings subject to Social Security payroll tax in 2022 will be higher. The retirement earnings test exempt amount will also change in 2022. Your clients can find out more at [www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2022.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/news/press/factsheets/colafacts2022.pdf).

*Please help inform others by sharing these messages with family and friends.*  
*Kylle' McKinney, SSA Public Affairs Specialist, [kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov](mailto:kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov)*

### CENTRAL ALABAMA AGING CONSORTIUM (CAAC)

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## Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

Bobbie Ames' erudite collection of prose, first published in **The Alabama Gazette**, will serve humanity, and more specifically, the Christian community, for generations to come. We at the Gazette are humbled and honored that Bobbie chose our publication to share some of her greatest treatises. Bobbie undoubtedly stands as one of the foremost Christian writers of this or any generation. Her book can be purchased at the link below.

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

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# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

## Tears & LAUGHTER: Be Ashamed to Tell Others to be Ashamed

[Editor's note: Introduction is from December 1, 2020]

Before I launch into my topic this [month], I want to acknowledge what happened in Wilcox County yesterday. A long time, much-loved, retired deputy with the **Wilcox County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Madison "Skip" Nicholson**, was killed by a gunman while responding to a domestic-violence call in the Yellow Bluff community.

**Chief Deputy Trenton Gulley** was also injured, but is expected to recover. The whole county is shrouded today in sadness. This will spill into tomorrow and into the upcoming week and on into the foreseeable future.

This follows the sudden and unexpected death of **Camden's Police Chief, Tyrone Dale**, from natural causes in recent weeks, along with the loss of our young and talented editor of the local newspaper, **Ethan Van Sice**.

There are so few of us here. We all know and care for one another. Even people in jail are sad for these losses. We seek a comfort and strength only a higher power can provide.

**So with that, I will write about shame.**

It seems to be a go-to statement for some people. It may be said, even without thinking. But who in the hell in our world has the right or authority to tell any other person, no matter how pathetic they may be, to be ashamed?

I'm absolutely sure it is frequently repeated in homes across the country. And I get that it is an attempt to make the conscience feel convicted and as a result encourage a change of behavior – one way or another. But where we most often see it and hear it is among politicians.

Just [recently] Representative James Clyburn, a Democrat – for what that is worth – was being interviewed and said Senator Joe Manchin, also a Democrat, should be ashamed for not being in favor of the huge social spending bill that many people are against because they think it will push the United States into being a Socialist country.

Who is James Clyburn to tell Joe Manchin he should be ashamed...for doing his job? He hasn't committed some horrible crime or done something reprehensible. He is just being a Senator.

Joe Manchin should never tell James Clyburn to be ashamed of being James Clyburn. But that was not what happened. It was James Clyburn telling Joe Manchin that he, a United States Senator, serving in the Biden economy and working with that cast of comical characters in Congress, should be ashamed.

Is not one of the core reasons for all of the many social programs that swoop in and serve as salvation for people is so that they do not have to feel or experience the emotion of shame or embarrassment?

I take it one of the reasons some people cling so tightly to their Bible is because it holds the hope of forgiveness. It allows repentance to take wrongs away as far as east is from the west. So we are not burdened by shame.

And that is not to say that there are not those among us who should be ashamed. There are evil people in the world. I'm not sure Joe Manchin is one of them, but they exist.

I guess if we dig around in our pasts we could all come up with something we may regret and feel remorseful about and given any chance would do differently.

But nobody has the right to point it out and appoint shame...especially a politician.

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

## God's Grace Alone

**God's Grace Alone** is the turbulent life journey of one woman who once utilized the liberties given by the Supreme Court in January 1973, almost 50 years ago, under *Roe v. Wade*. While the government granted women the right to abort an unborn baby, there is a spiritual warfare that rages in the hearts of almost every woman who has ever chosen to have an abortion.

Through her story, Starr hopes to instill in women, that, no matter the age or circumstances, there are alternatives to abortion; that there are repercussions psychology and emotionally; that there are other options; that, ultimately, God will give you grace.

As Starr states, women are created to give life, not have these babies ripped from their wombs. If you are in a place where you are pondering abortion or have made this decision and are still searching for answers, order a copy of Starr's book so that you can understand God loves you and God wants to heal your soul.



**From the book cover:** *God's Grace Alone* is the story of one woman's struggle to find God's love. From a nomadic childhood filled with sexual abuse, to marriages filled with emotional and physical abuse, not to mention forced abortions, she's faced with the challenges of trying to save her current husband from meth addiction. Through it all, she learns that no one is so broken that God can't fix them. Told in a simple, raw, Southern voice, this is a story to inspire.

Order at <https://wipfandstock.com> – Search for **God's Grace Alone**.



Ms. Wheelchair America/  
Alabama 2005

## Trisston's Tidbits ...

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

## "Encouragement for the New Year"

**Happy New Year!** As we begin a new year, we share this hopeful greeting with friends and family. At times, however, we may need a little more...more from ourselves as well as the people around us. Perhaps what God told Joshua is just what we all need to hear and to believe.

**"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."** Joshua 1:9

As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement.

Just like the new year may bring up lots of questions for us: *Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that affect me or my loved ones?*

The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, **"Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged."** What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge and He promises to stay close: **"The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."** Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, **"I am with you always."** That's the reason we can most assuredly wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

So, let's be thankful for the gift of a new year. Be encouraged and be an encourager to others. May His light, grace, and love shine through each of us!

*Happy New Year & Many Blessings!*



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## An Open Letter to the Editor about Abortion ...

Life begins at the point of conception. No one can deny that after a human being is conceived it will develop into the very same being as those debating this issue. What astounds me is that those who favor abortion went through an identical development stage as the being they are condemning to death. Would these very same people agree that a similar choice should have been made about their own existence? How many human lives have been lost that could have added to our society in so many ways?

Abortion today is used primarily as a birth control of convenience because people are too self-centered to take precautions. They prefer their own pleasurable self-indulgence over the care and sanctity of the life they created. What ever happened to taking responsibility for one's actions in this country? Is it too much to ask a woman who has conceived to place the child into adoption? Nine months of discomfort is nothing compared to life in prison for voluntary manslaughter! And what about consenting to sex with a male; is that part of the equation, too? Or has abortion just become another extension of the women's liberation movement started in the late 60s, which coincidentally boosted membership on or about the same date as *Roe V. Wade*?

Does the father of the child have a say in this? And what about the constitution of the United States? Are not all people conceived in this country deserving of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness? I believe abortion is a crime against humanity

January is a good time to have conversations about abortion. This month is significant as *Roe v. Wade* was decided by the Supreme Court in 1973.

and should be outlawed. We need to overturn the *Roe v. Wade* decision and get back to cherishing life in this country. For a country that murders its children cannot be far from self-destruction.

Back in 1973 a Supreme Court decision {*Roe v. Wade*} legalized abortion by a 7-2 vote.

Six of the seven justices in the majority were Republican appointees.

The only Democrat appointee, Byron White, voted against *Roe v. Wade*.

Back then the Republican motto was government is best that governs least.

Hence the Republicans giveth and the Republicans taketh away.

~ Joe B. (Cleveland, Ohio)



Photo courtesy: [www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com](http://www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com)

**"Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric."** ~ Bertrand Russell



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Patricia Killough  
Community Editor

# Home Town Community News

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

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



Women of Hope is a group of caring and compassionate individuals who desire to help educate, promote awareness, and provide hope for individuals and families coping with and dealing with the affects of breast cancer.

Visit: [www.thewomenofhope.org](http://www.thewomenofhope.org)

WOMEN OF HOPE is a non-profit Foundation for Breast Cancer Support and is classified by the U. S. Department of the Treasury as a 501 (c)(3) organization under the code of the Internal Revenue Service.



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell        | John McClelland             |
| Butch Metcalf           | Ester Covington             |
| 2 Velita McFarland (94) | 16 Richard Bennett (98)     |
| 3 Ben Davis             | Ann Takacs Bugg             |
| 4 Morgan Boone          | 17 Randy Childs             |
| Jerry Glen Wheat (84)   | Toni Grimes                 |
| 5 Jan Johnson           | Charlene McClanahan         |
| Barbara Harrington      | Bill Northington            |
| Linda Perdue (67)       | 18 Carly Madison Ellis      |
| Esther Varon (93)       | Joshua C. Kyser (10)        |
| 6 Judy Norman           | Joy Fleming                 |
| Jackson Rice            | Leslie Garvin               |
| Elizabeth Robison       | Laura Hester                |
| 7 Nicole Windham        | Johnny Hassett              |
| Will Woodall            | Roy McInnis (99)            |
| Tim Pierce              | 19 Kaybee Hobbs             |
| Danny Bush              | Gina Hunt                   |
| 8 Joshua Nix (23)       | Connie Bush                 |
| Betty Chesnutt (96)     | Sammy Turner                |
| Sam Cassels             | 20 Caleb Campbell           |
| Burks Crane             | Dr. Charles Cloutier        |
| Marilyn Evans           | Taylor Campbell             |
| Mary Ellen Millis       | Alyssa Spivey               |
| Scott Mills             | Randy Kelly                 |
| Trey Norris             | 21 Tonya Cooley             |
| Gwen Pearson (93)       | Cory Griffin                |
| Sarah Morgan Smith (18) | Jane Russell                |
| Blake Webb              | Julio Vazquez               |
| Brett Tolerson          | Elizabeth Phibbs            |
| 9 Edna Hargrove         | 22 Kayla Cook               |
| Bobby Mills             | Jonathan Aplin              |
| Brittany Mitchell       | Tim Wilsford                |
| Megan St. Clair Stewart | 23 Pam Higgins              |
| 11 Jim Aro              | Jason Selvage               |
| Liz Klauss              | Ridge Newell                |
| Sue Woodall (82)        | Bernice Bryant              |
| 12 Corey Campbell       | 24 Donna Gail Andersen      |
| Carson Lane Abbott      | Tina Campbell               |
| Liz Braswell            | Anne Pinkston               |
| Brenda Moseley          | 25 Katie Scarlett Boyd (10) |
| Clarice Caldwell        | Susan Crawford              |
| James Barton            | Mary Beth Wadsden           |
| 13 Theresa Henderson    | Ellen Robbins               |
| Shirley Kirksey Jones   | 26 Mary Price               |
| T. J. Mills             | Mack Terrell                |
| Bob Maddox              | 27 Sophie Boyd              |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews      | 28 Baleigh Windham          |
| John Black              | Darrell Self                |
| Robert C. Cerha (75)    | 29 Kim Kelley               |
| John T. Killough (73)   | 30 Wanda Horsley            |
| Stan Neuenschwander     | Betty Jones                 |
| Doug Young              | Doris Miller                |
| 15 Jennifer Williams    | 31 Will Garrett             |
| Hayden Kelly            | Hannah Johnson              |

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

Tisdale, Vera Pearl (102).....November 21  
Rushton, LTC (Army ret.) Richard Theodore "Dick" (89).....November 24  
Walden, Willadean Ritch (105).....November 26  
Bradford, Jr., Willis Jones (84).....November 29  
Cleland, Sgt. Zachary Britt (26).....December 2  
Harvard, Mary Monaree (99).....December 5  
Wendling, Betty Jane Andrews (88).....December 6  
McDonald, Charles Ray (86).....December 12  
Thompson, Linda Patricia Downs (80).....December 12  
Sabel, Rita Hagedorn (100).....December 12  
Hunter, Joshua, D. (35).....December 13  
Helton, Carolyn Reynolds (92).....December 14  
Cook, Jr., Dr. William Jesse (83).....December 15  
Maxwell Clara Jean (76).....December 15  
Miller, Judge Craig (82).....December 16  
Kircus, Dorothy C. (Ms. Dot) (97).....December 17  
Jones, Carolyn Peterson (83).....December 18  
Jacobs, II, Rice Abner (96).....December 22  
Potter, Noelle Simpson (84).....December 22  
Gregg, Gary L. (63).....December 23  
Robert "Bob" Scho Sellers.....December 25  
Andrews, John Fontaine (83).....December 26  
Nancy Worley (70).....December 29  
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|--|--|
| January 1 John & Greatha Findley (74 <sup>th</sup> ) | January 12 Frank & Colleen Rutland                 |
| January 6 Jim & Beth Maxwell                         | January 14 Mike & Debbie Green (36 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| January 7 David & Christina Walke                    | January 20 Jonathon & Mallory Kohn                 |
| January 8 Fred & Nancy Setzer                        | January 22 Bob & Betty Crowe                       |
| January 11 Reneau & Virginia Gates                   | January 23 Jeff & Nancy Beale                      |
| Ralph & Jessie Southern (74 <sup>th</sup> )          |  |

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Thomas Roland . . . . . Jan. 7, 2022  
EW Bush . . . . . Jan. 5, 2022  
Joyce Atkins . . . . . Jan. 5, 2022  
James Anthony Serritelli . . . . . Jan. 4, 2022  
Margaret Ann Hare . . . . . Jan. 3, 2022  
Carol Hilyer Witt . . . . . Jan. 3, 2022  
JoAn Dunlap Burkett . . . . . Jan. 2, 2022  
Donald Quillen Stovall . . . . . Dec. 31, 2021  
Andrew "Andy" Horsley . . . . . Dec. 28, 2021  
Margaree Ann Sizemore . . . . . Dec. 19, 2021  
James T. Brown . . . . . Dec. 13, 2021  
Esther Mae Thomas Barron . . . . . Dec. 9, 2021  
Wini M. O'Brien . . . . . Dec. 8, 2021  
Colonel Glenn R. Williams . . . . . Dec. 5, 2021  
Amanda Ellen Turner  
Harris Williams . . . . . Dec. 1, 2021





# Southern Cuisine

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

*I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday and were able to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones. This time of year is all about tradition. With Covid still lingering, busy schedules, and just life in general, some families extend their get-togethers into the New Year. If you are like me, you have fond memories of baking pies, giving of presents, or*

*having a meal with your friends and family. All of this demands planning to make Christmas a memorable event. Did you prepare the traditional meal that you have every Christmas? What was the centerpiece this year? This is a very important decision, and it set the tone for the entire evening. Once you decided on the main course, there are hundreds of side dishes, appetizers, and casseroles to include and do not forget the refreshments. Instead of the common baked turkey, try wrapping it with bacon. Try a cauliflower gratin instead of potatoes. Is it going to be a bacon-wrapped turkey or bacon wrapped scallops?*

*Most likely, your family has already gathered so perhaps this column can help you prepare for the next big family meal, such as Easter!*

*I did not follow tradition this year. It's fair game for you to prepare what ever you want and you do not have to check and make sure that the side dishes go with your main course. Instead of game go with seafood as a main dish or an appetizer. These suggestions are for side dishes. And can be served as a main dish or side dish at the pre-celebration meal. This is the meal that you eat while you are preparing the main meal, and it keeps people out of the kitchen while you prepare the main courses. After all, as a good host, you have to feed the stay over guests.*

*We will start with a simple side dish that will go will any main dish you to prepare – a baked vegetable that goes with any meat.*



## Asparagus Rollup

### INGREDIENTS:

- 24 thin asparagus spears (about 1/2 lb)
- 4 slices applewood smoked deli ham (about 6 oz)
- 1 can (8 oz) refrigerated Crescent Rolls (8 cnt)
- 1 pkg (5.2 oz) Swiss cheese
- 1 tsp olive oil

### METHOD:

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Line large cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper, or spray with cooking spray.
2. Remove woody ends from asparagus spears; discard. In 10-inch skillet, heat 1/2 inch water to boiling. Add asparagus; reduce heat to medium-low. Cover; simmer 2 to 3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain. Plunge asparagus into bowl of ice water to cool; drain on paper towels.
3. Cut ham slices in half; wrap one half slice around middle of 3 asparagus spears. Repeat for remaining ham and asparagus spears.
4. On large cutting board, unroll dough; separate dough into 8 triangles. Crumble and press a generous tablespoon of cheese onto bottom wide end of dough.
5. Place one asparagus and ham bundle on wide end of dough, and roll dough into crescent shape; place on cookie sheet. (Ends of asparagus will stick out of both ends of dough.) Repeat for remaining bundles.
6. In small bowl, mix breadcrumbs, Parmesan cheese and olive oil; mix well. Sprinkle on top of crescent dough, pressing lightly to stick.
7. Bake 14 to 19 minutes or until deep golden brown. Remove from cookie sheet to serve.



The next recipe can also feed the stay over guests but not fill them up. It is a more filling dish and can be assembled by the guests. It does require some preparing such as either frying or baking the main ingredient. But tacos can be simple to prepare and easy to eat. This dish also comes with a special sauce.

## Fish Tacos with Sauces

There are as many ways to make fish tacos as there are recipes for tuna salad. This recipe uses breaded fish fillets and is baked. You can also use breaded catfish deep fried. And another variation is to use flour tortillas.

### INGREDIENTS:

- Fish fillets, any kind you like (easiest is breaded so you only have to bake them.)
- 1 dzn corn tortillas (3 per person)
- Vegetable oil
- Jicama Salad
- Mango Salsa



- Iceberg lettuce shredded
- Baja Sauce
- Avocados, chopped in small squares & lightly covered with lemon juice

### METHOD:

1. Prepare the Mango Salsa Prepare the lettuce and avocado. Thinly slice lettuce. Put in a small serving bowl. Sprinkle with cider vinegar (about a Tbsp) and salt (about a tsp). Mix in the vinegar and salt. Peel avocado and remove seed. Chop and reserve for later.
2. Heat the tortillas.
3. One way to easily soften and heat a tortilla to simply heat it in the microwave for 20-25 seconds on high heat, on top of a napkin or paper towel to absorb the moisture that is released. Set aside.
4. Cook the fish. Depends on the type of fish either fresh fillets or breaded, just follow your favorite method or manufacturers recommended method.
5. Assembly: Spread a little Baja sauce on warm tortilla, then a little lettuce Add fish and top with Mango Salsa.
6. Serves four.

*These tacos are better with the Baja sauce.*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 12 oz mayonnaise
- 12 oz sour cream
- 1½ cups cilantro leaves
- 6 jalapenos, seeded and chopped
- 3 avocados, use pulp only
- 3 Tbsp fresh lime juice

### METHOD:

1. In a food processor, blend cilantro and jalapenos
2. Add remaining ingredients and blend
3. Keep refrigerated until serving

Here's another "snack" to keep the guest busy and out of the kitchen, unless they help.

## Smoked Oyster Roll

Serves 10-20

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 - 8oz. packages cream cheese
- 2 Tbsp Worcestershire Sauce
- ¼ tsp garlic powder
- ½ small onion, grated
- 3 T. Mayonnaise
- 1/8 t. salt
- 2 - 3.75 oz. cans smoked oysters, drained
- Chopped pecans and/or parsley

### METHOD:

1. Cream together cream cheese, Worcestershire, garlic powder, onion, mayonnaise and salt.
2. Spread onto a sheet pan lined with plastic wrap about ½ inch thick.
3. Chill for an hour.
4. Place drained smoked oysters on top of cheese mixture and roll up; then roll into a ball. Roll the entire ball into either the pecans or parsley or a mixture of parsley and pecans.
5. Chill 24 hours before serving. Serve with crackers. Freezes well.



The last recipe is added to the menu to keep it "Southern" and to add a different way of serving "greens."

## Not Your Grandma's Collard Greens

### INGREDIENTS:

- 3 bunches of collards (about 3 lbs)
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 2 Tbsp of olive oil

- 2 tomatoes, peeled & diced or 14 oz. can of diced tomatoes
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo, chopped
- ¼ cup of smooth peanut butter no sugar added
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

### METHOD:

1. Thoroughly clean each collard leaf, remove ribs and stems. Tear each leaf in half.
2. In a large pot or Dutch oven, saute on medium the onions and carrots in the olive oil, until lightly brown, about ten minutes.
3. Add the garlic and cook for one more minute.
4. Add the tomatoes and chipotles.
5. Add torn leaves to the pot and add four cups of water.
6. Bring water to a boil, and then turn heat down to a simmer.
7. Add the vinegar and stir in the peanut butter.
8. Cook greens for 1½ hours or until they are the texture you prefer.
9. Serve with pepper vinegar or hot pepper sauce such as Tabasco.

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