





# 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)

## BUDGET IS PRIORITY NUMBER ONE

***Budget is Priority Number One for Legislative Session. The Governor Proposes and the Legislature Disposes – However, Kay Ivey has Input***

The 2020 Regular Legislative Session has resumed after a six-week hiatus due to the Coronavirus shutdown of the state and nation. The session must end by May 18, 2020. The only thing they will do is pass barebones budgets.

The most important and actually the only constitutionally mandated act that must be accomplished is the passage of the state budgets. In our case, we have two state budgets. We have a General Fund like 45 other states, and we have a second Special Education budget.

Like all states, the power is where the money lies. Therefore, the power in the legislature rests with the chairmen of the budgetary money committees. The keeper of the purse strings is a powerful position.

Since the Constitution dictates that all money bills, taxes and budgets must originate in the House of Representatives, and since the Education budget now dwarfs the General Fund to the tune of a 2-to-1 margin, the most relevant committee chairman in the state legislature is Representative Bill Poole (R-Tuscaloosa) who chairs the House Ways and Means Education Budget Committee. He essentially begins crafting of the Education budget. His counterpart in the Senate who helps to slice the education pie is State Senator Arthur Orr (R-Decatur).

The chairman of the General Fund Ways and Means Committee in the House of Representatives is Representative Steve Clouse (R-Ozark). He has been chairman of the Ways and Means General Fund close to a decade and has done a yeoman's job. His counterpart in the Senate is Senator Greg Albritton (R-Escambia).

The Constitution clearly defines the three branches of government. The Legislative Branch makes the laws, the Governor is the Administrator of State government, and the Judicial Branch defines and enforces the laws made by the Legislature.

However, over the course of history, we have had some very powerful governors who have stepped into the legislative budgetary powers and usurped the power granted to the Legislature. The most notable example would be one George C. Wallace. Not only did he usurp the power of legislators, he made the Legislature an appendage of the Governor's Office.



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

During my first term in the Legislature, 1982-1986, which was congruently Wallace's last term as Governor, he selected the Speaker and the Chairmen of all the House Committees. His office sent the agenda for each legislative day down to the Rules Committee, which simply rubber stamped the Governor's agenda. Needless to say, the state budget was written and decided by the Governor. Since the Wallace days, the Legislature has taken back their inherent powers.

Governor Don Siegleman had a partnership and worked congruently with the Legislature. However, Fob James had very little influence with the Legislature. He somewhat looked down on them, and in turn they left him out of the process. Guy Hunt was left out because he really did not understand the process.

Bob Riley was totally ignored by the Legislature. The partisan divide between the Republican and Democratic parties had set in. Riley was a Republican and we had a state Senate made up of a veteran smart, crafty and partisan Democrats. They were not about to let Riley into their hen house.

Robert Bentley was completely inept and ineffective with the Legislature. Even though he had been a State Representative, he really had no relationship with the House or the Senate leadership and seemed averse to cultivating them.

Our current Governor, Kay Ivey, has significant input into the state budgets. Not in the way that Wallace did, but in a way designed by the constitutional founders.

Kay Ivey is a strong, decisive leader. She works in partnership with the legislative budget chairmen – Poole, Clouse, Orr and Albritton. Kay has a close working relationship with the legislators, built by decades of working within state government as a Higher Education lobbyist, State Treasurer and Lt. Governor.

Kay has taken a no-nonsense approach to being Governor. She is making decisions that are right for the state and not with an eye to what is politically expedient. She has a close working partnership with the legislative leadership, especially Bill Poole, who is universally respected.

State Representative Dexter Grimsley lost his older sister to the coronavirus. She was a nurse. Big Dexter is cherished and beloved by his legislative colleagues. He is a gentle giant and a true gentleman. Dexter has represented Abbeville and Henry County with distinction for over a decade.



**Ronald A. Holtsford**

## “ALL WE ARE IS DUST IN THE WIND” ... A REFLECTION

Those words from the song “Dust in the Wind” (1977) sung by the rock group Kansas are roughly based on some verses from the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Ecclesiastes 1: 12-14 says (NIV) *I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.*<sup>14</sup>

Some scholars have supposed that Solomon, a son of David wrote this but other scholars believe it was someone else.

My Mom went to be with the Lord just over three years ago. My Dad has remained in their home in North Alabama since that time but there have been times when it was almost emergent that one of us kids make the multi-hour trip with a bag packed for a few nights to help him through some various health issues. I've had some hard conversations with clients when you start thinking about the “what ifs” and you have no crystal ball. I have always hoped and prayed that my parents, if need be could make their own decisions about their care and where they want to live until their end days.

Sure, in the last couple of years I have hoped that Dad would make alternate plans because a round trip to and from his home runs close to five hours and of course doesn't count the time there should he require doctor visits, emergency room visit or even a few nights in the hospital. We are blessed that my two other siblings ended up here in town so any moderately serious time that Dad has spent here has been a tag team effort and allowed us to have minimal time away from our vocational responsibilities while making sure he was receiving good care.

Several months ago he began to consider a move here and recently took the move into an apartment for seniors. A downsize in his hometown could have still been difficult from any necessary drive to check on him. So a move from a nice sized home with basement into an apartment requires a lot of downsizing, not just consideration of which furniture to move and which to leave but just the going through the stuff that has accumulated has been a huge ordeal with several trips up.

You think about couples that were rearing their children from the late 1950s to the mid 1980s and what they might have in their home when hosting their bridge club, or hosting holiday family dinners, house and yard maintenance tools, photographs, pictures of various types on the walls and those items you inherit from other family members. Not to include furniture in multiple bedrooms, the living room, the dining room, den and other areas. I went up recently with my Dad and

sister for a final prep before the house goes on the market. My sister was pulling out each drawer and opening each closet and we looked in each one. We had to figure out what to keep and what to toss. The guest books used at the funerals of my grandparents were no longer relevant and there were countless other pieces of paper with no relevance and to the trash they went. We found many old photographs of long deceased family members, many I knew but some I did not.

I have helped my parents when we cleaned out the homes of my grandparents and my uncle but this was more personal. This was the home I moved into the day after I finished seventh grade. A LOT OF MEMORIES! It's an end of a part of my life even though I left it in 1977; things that were pretty much always there will now be gone. Things that meant something to my parents when they so carefully picked them out or retained many of these things as a memory were tossed out or will be available to strangers looking for a bargain at an estate sale. I brought some large framed pictures home of some relatives that will not fit in my home but I could not stand the thought of these ending up in an antique store. Two of them were of my great grandparents, which I knew my great grandmother and one is a baby portrait of my grandfather. Here I was going through their remaining “stuff” and I realized that stuff and memories were what their lives boiled down to. One day my family will toss those things that I thought were important to me.

These are the things you have to consider coupled with how to legally appoint those to assist you in infirmity or where your “stuff” will go without having transfer issues after your death.

Aside from the memories that the living retain and the stories told to their families the only really important thing that remains is the soul of the deceased and if that person asked the only Son of God into their heart then that soul will be with God forever. That is the only hope we have in life and death. Otherwise, we are just dust in the wind.

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## RISE UP FOR AMERICA

In times of crisis every day Americans become heroes. They put their talents to work to serve their neighbors. They truly become their brother's keepers. A Brooklyn Physician in the Epicenter of the virus in New York may have said it best. She served her mandatory quarantine period after being exposed to the virus and told Time magazine: “I am a mother of three children. I have an 11-year-old, an 8-year-old, and a 5-year-old. I chose medicine to really help people. My husband, my parents, my in-laws, everybody around me told me, ‘That's it. You're not going back. We want a wife and a mother. We don't need a cardiologist.’ Everybody came to me and told me, ‘Do not go back. ‘But I felt it was a moral duty. I thought it was unethical to not go back. I love my children more than anything in the world. I love my husband. I could not have not gone back. I had to help.’”

First responders, medical workers have put aside their fears for their personal safety and are performing their essential duties during this time of crisis at extraordinary levels. Workers performing essential services such as grocery store employees, also continue to serve the public despite the elevated risk levels. Active duty military and reserve units alike are working 24 7 building fully equipped field hospitals in unlikely places such as New York's Central Park and Javits Convention Center.

I would like to give an incredibly special thank you to Hillary Wellborn. With a true servant's heart, she left the relative safety of Ashland Alabama and traveled to New York City to serve as a volunteer nurse. I would also like thank my good,

friend Hillary's father in law Paul Wellborn, CEO of Wellborn Cabinets, and her husband Jason for their support of her on this mission of mercy.

General Motors has retrofitted an automobile plant in order to produce ventilators. Mike Lendell has turned his “My Pillow” plant into a reusable cloth mask plant. Proctor and Gamble shuttled technicians on their corporate jet in order to get an out of service toilet paper machine up and running in their Albany Georgia Plant. Alabama can count on its utility workers as always to continue their hard work in ensuring power is delivered safely to every Alabama home, hospital, and business during these unprecedented times.

Gone are the days when every household has a sewing machine. Three Central Alabama groups have used their sewing skills to produce masks for use in health care facilities. Sue Tang saw the need and took the challenge personally. She had her three alteration facilities producing masks for use at Jackson Hospital immediately after they closed their doors to the public on March 17th. Like theatre workers across the country, The Alabama Shakespeare Festival's costume department staff is producing masks for Baptist Medical Center. Auburn Associate Athletic Director Dana Marquez also took up the challenge. He has led a small team of Auburn Athletic Department staff members who have been sewing masks at Auburn's equipment facility for use at East Alabama Medical Center.

It is up to everyone to do their part. Practice social distancing whenever you are in public. Do not hoard food and other essential supplies. Lend a helping hand to a neighbor in need. We can get through this together and come out of it stronger as a Country when we defeat this unseen enemy.





# ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

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## QUARANTINE RAMBLINGS: BITS AND PIECES PART 10.

As we move into our second month of in-home lockdown, people around the country are beginning to get upset with the slowness of the pace of knocking the Wuhan (I mean COVID-19) out. I watch way too many YouTube videos or Facebook posts of bored people doing some pretty interesting and funny stuff along with a bunch of incredibly stupid things. People are beginning to get cabin fever and want to get out. I understand on one level but at the same time I really don't feel like dying simply because I wanted to go to the movies. Protests have already started gearing up and I guess within the next month or so, if many states are still on lockdown, we may begin to see a little violence mixed in with the protests.

People are on television and on the internet complaining that they have to stay home and for those who are in dire straits because they need to work, I understand 100%. For those who simply want to get out of their house and away from their spouse, not so much. People have asked me what I have been doing and if the lockdown is bothering me. I have to be honest and say that I am really not yet affected. 18 months ago, I had a horrendous shoulder surgery followed up with another failed one six months later followed up with a successful one in October of last year. I am just now getting ready to get back into the cockpit once I take my physical but right now, the Delta Training Center is 100% shut down so I cannot even get into training if I wanted to. One planning manager told me I might not get into training until June or July. So, guess what? For me, these past five weeks or so have been exactly the same as the previous 18 months.

When people ask me what I do I tell them I do not get bored because I always find things to do. Sometimes it admittedly gets tiresome but I know that I will at least get back into the jet shortly. So, in the meantime while I have been out, I have read close to 150 books and monographs, re-written one of my screenplays, published an article for a national aviation magazine and am about 60% finished with the first draft of my next book. Without giving too much away, it is of course non-fiction, deals with WWII and has lots of airplanes, bombs, Germans, Brits and Americans (imagine that). Yes, this project is keeping me very busy. All I will say is that once it is finished, I think it will change the fallacious narrative on one of the most controversial episodes in WWII.

So other than that, I try to avoid a lot of the news but you cannot totally hide from it. So, in this edition of Robservations, I bring you another issue of *"Bits and Pieces."*

1. Joe Biden: Okay. I mean this from the bottom of my heart. All kidding aside. I feel totally sorry for the man. I really do. To me, and millions of others, it seems as though he is in the early stages of dementia. It is hard to deny. I watched an Australian news show the other day and the woman was shocked that he was going to be the Democratic nominee. It is no wonder why his campaign is doing everything they can to keep him off of television. Every time the man opens his mouth you never know what is going to come out. If he ever gets into a public debate with President Trump, it will be a blood bath greater than the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

I will be the first to admit that President Trump has been known to say some strange things in his day but in all intellectual honesty, Biden has taken this to a new level. My wife knows that when I am embarrassed for someone, I always hide my face. Don't know why but I do. I find myself hiding my face almost every time Biden speaks. And like I said, I feel sorry for him and I think those surrounding him need to do the honorable thing and get him the heck out of there. This is not American Idol or some stupid popularity contest. We need a leader who is physically and mentally fit to do the most demanding of jobs. I get it that many people hate President Trump and I am not a Trump-no-matter-what guy. I have to admit that over the past two months, if someone were to take an honest look at the President, this Wuhan crises is clearly wearing him down. He looks really tired. I honestly cannot imagine if Biden was in control right now. The reality is that someone else would actually be in control anyway. I predict that if Biden wins, oy, he will not last the full term. He will be relieved early because of his mental state. Just look at these two Biden ramblings and believe me, they are infinitely worse when you hear him speak these words. Yes, in the first quote he does actually say, "... democracy sakes second fiddle...":

– "We cannot let this, we've never allowed any crisis from the Civil War straight through to the pandemic of 17, all the way around, 16, we have never, never let our democracy sakes second fiddle, way they, we can both have a democracy and ... correct the public health."

<https://newsthud.com/watch-biden-makes-no-sense-in-rambling-incongruent-statement/>

– "Um, you know there's a, uh, during World War II, uh, you know, where Roosevelt came up with a thing, that uh, you know, was totally different, than a, than the, he called it the, you know, the WWII, he had the War Production Board."

<https://dailycaller.com/2020/04/17/joe-biden-cnn-stumbles-gaffe-interview-trump-fdr-war-production-board/>

I am hiding my face right now. Get the man out of there.

2. North Korea's Kim Jong Un has been missing in action since 15 April. Is he dead? Sick? Playing video games? Nobody knows. Rumors are circulating wildly around the Korean Peninsula. One rumor is his sister may take over if he is unable to continue. One article I read said that if there is no clear successor to his seat, pandemonium may reign in North Korea for a while. Remember, they do have nukes, bio and chem weapons and who is going to be controlling them in the future? More to follow.



*As of press time, still no news of Kim Jong Un's whereabouts.*

3. Who could have seen this coming? In New York City at least, 50 of 1500 inmates released for fears of spreading COVID-19 have landed back in jail. Joseph Edwards Williams, one of 164 inmates released from a jail in Tampa, committed murder the day after he was released. Clue, anytime the government tells you they are only going to release non-violent offenders, here it comes, THEY ARE LYING! This model citizen from Tampa had some 35 previous arrests to his name. Really, who could have seen that coming?

4. Geng Shuang, a spokesman from Beijing has told America we need to stop saying the Corona virus is from China; which it is. At the same time, the Chinese are spending boatloads of cash around the world telling everybody that the virus is from America. One really interesting lie is that the US Army basically dropped it off in Wuhan. But I love it. China telling us to stop telling the truth so they can spread lies and misinformation. What does our press do? Oh, it's Trump's fault. Predictable.

5. Here's one. Finally, President Trump has given the green light to Navy Captains to sink Iranian gunboats that are threatening American ships. Like clockwork, some lefties are saying Trump is trying to start a war and yet reality proves they are idiots. Bottom line, in international waters, you approach an American ship in a threatening manner with one of your toy gunboats, we have the right to sink it – it is called self-protection or in the world of U.S. doctrinally stated principles of war, it falls under Security. Trump is not starting anything but he may likely finish it.

6. From the "Gotta Love This" file. Spain had some 400,000 protective masks for healthcare workers shipped from China while the Netherlands had 600,000. What do you think the chances that those masks were all defective and had to be tossed? Now that some 30,000 Spanish medical types are quarantined with COVID-19, they are still in search of some quality masks. But at least the 640,000 Chinese COVID-19 antigen test kits that were made available to the Spanish and those also available to the Dutch and Czechs were life savers. But wait, those had a 70% fail rate vs. the 80% anticipated pass rate. Nevermind.

7. Trump pulls funding from the W.H.O. Okay, I am not sure I agree with pulling 100% of funding for the World Health Organization (because of their Corona handling), but come on. I understand to a point. Why is it that the United States should pay \$436 million while China for example pays \$30? Much like the UN and why some of our NATO partners hate President Trump is because he holds people accountable or calls them out. I think the times are over for the US paying the lion share of all international organizations, in particular NATO, the UN and the W.H.O.) while getting little in return other than condemnation from those same organizations. There is absolutely no reason for China and several other wealthy countries not to match the United States dollar-for-dollar.

8. Proof that the best defense is a strong offense? The Chinese, according to an article on Breitbart has said, "We can't dismiss America as Coronavirus origin until U.S. proves otherwise." Prove innocence? How exactly is that done except proving the virus' Chinese origins. We could interview the Chinese whistleblower who worked in one of the Wuhan labs but then again, he is dead now. More to come I am sure.

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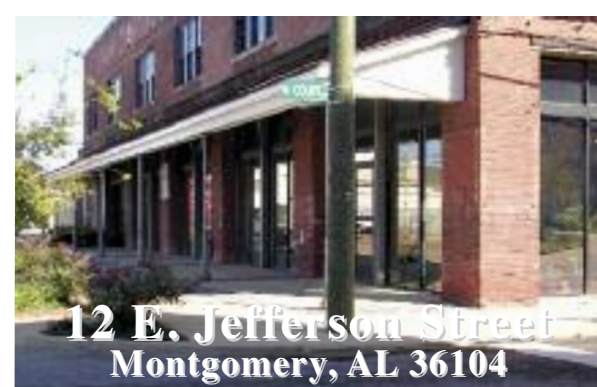
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# Bread Lines – Grapes of Wrath 2.0

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I was recently awakened early one morning at 4:00 am with a horrific dream about America. When we were having coffee, I told my wife about the dream, which shook me to the core. The first thing that came to her mind was the New Testament scripture found in Acts 2:17 – *“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.”* I guess now that I am 65 years old; I might qualify for this notion.

It was as though the light switch literally and figuratively had been flipped off in America. For some reason, we were away from the farm in North Central Alabama. The country in a split second lost its heartbeat, because there was no electricity and internet. In the dream we were stranded, you could not pump gas, check into a hotel, no access to my bank, could not make phone calls, restaurants could not cook, grocery stores lost refrigerated and frozen foods, no cash registers, traffic lights off and automobile wrecks at every intersection and the list goes on. Not a pandemic this time, but pandemonium.

My father, W.O. Giles, Sr. was born in 1911. He lived through the Great Depression, which started with the stock market crash in 1929 and lasted until the late 1930s. He told me all of my life about his experiences during the Depression of being hungry, stranded, and unable to come back home in Mississippi. He often talked about not being unable to find a job and standing in the long infamous “Soup Bread Lines” in Los Angeles, California. Free coffee and doughnuts for the unemployed scattered throughout the city. If you know his story, he later owned Hol N’ One Donut Company, and he always told me, that even during the Depression, those that had jobs may not be able to buy a Model T Ford, but they had a nickel in their pocket for coffee and a doughnut. He knew doughnuts were recession proof.

I have never been through a depression, but as an adult I have been through four recessions. My first was the recession induced by the gas shortage in 1973, where gasoline was rationed. The next one was from 1979 – 1982 where interest rates soared to 20%, out of control inflation and we came very close to losing our family business, Giles Enterprises. My next excursion was the bank and mortgage crisis, which began in 2007. Guess who started a commercial and residential real estate mortgage company in January of 2007? I will give you a hint, the name of the company was Giles Building & Loan. In all three of these situations, I was forced to put my paycheck in the drawer in order to meet payroll and other obligations. Now we are in a worldwide recession induced by the COVID-19 virus. So this is my 4th recession, but this time I happened to be employed by a bank, which has been defined as an essential business. We have been feverishly working to help small businesses stay alive in this environment.

During this time of our national weakening, there is a movie I would suggest all families watch together, “The Grapes of Wrath.” This is a movie based off the novel written by John Steinbeck in 1939. The theme is based on the “Dust Bowl” soil erosion that drove mid-western family farms out of business and they fled to California looking for agricultural work. The name given to those fleeing Oklahoma was “The Okies” and they became nothing more than serfs and slave labor. Poverty struck at the heart of our nation during this Depression. Our young people today need to be acquainted with these gripping hardships

just a short eight decades ago. As we have globally witnessed this COVID-19 destroy the economy, “The Grapes of Wrath 2.0” could happen in this country.

Years ago in Montgomery, a very kind and sweet Catholic Priest who faithfully prayed at the abortion clinics, ran an inner city soup kitchen and gave my wife Deborah a pencil drawing of “The Christ of the Breadlines.” The drawing is taken from a woodcarving created by Fritz Eichenburg in 1951. As a child, this priest was raised in an orphanage and knew firsthand what it was like to go to bed hungry. I chose this sobering sketch for this article, because the gravity embedded in this pictorial, communicates volumes, almost incomprehensible, let me explain.



The most obvious message in this drawing is we should see that face of Jesus in those hurting in the bread line. Personally going through 4 recessions and all of us seeing our volatility to an economic situation turning on a dime, we could very easily been standing in one of those bread lines. If you interviewed those in the line they come from all walks of life, many accomplished and affluent that lost it all in one breath. In this line, there is grief, heartbreak, low self-worth, visionless, homeless, abandonment, heaviness and consumed by the dark clouds of failure.

Some recently received a stimulus check, have gas in the car, food in the refrigerator, bills paid, but have not witnessed the lines of suffering. If you are not in the line, try to have a renewed compassion for the downtrodden, see “Christ of the Breadlines.” If you are in that line of despair, you will see him in the line with you every step of the way. With him in your line, there is hope for tomorrow.

Let’s not be found like the rich man in Luke 19:31, dressed in fine linen, daily stepping over and ignoring the beggar at his gate, named Lazarus. The day came when both men died, Lazarus ascended and the rich man went to hell. The rich man looking up into the heavens saw Lazarus, the beggar next to Abraham. The rich man begged Abraham to allow Lazarus to dip his finger into water and cool his tongue. It was a little late for the rich man to amend his ways.

*We all need to pause, hit the rest button, absorb the pictures of “The Grapes of Wrath” and “The Christ in the Breadline.”*

*If that switch is flipped off, who wins in the end, Lazarus or the rich man?*



John Martin

## Coronavirus Madness

Toward the end of last year (2019), a new strain of flu erupted in Wuhan, China, spread very rapidly, and soon began killing people. Rumors circulated that it escaped from Wuhan’s level-4 bioweapons research laboratory. Other sources suggested it came from unsanitary preparation of meat from dogs, cats, bats, and pangolins at Wuhan’s world-famous Huanan seafood market—a “wet market” where live animals are bought and sold. The pangolin is an anteater-like creature prized

for its scales and Chinese cuisine. It is also an endangered and protected species.

The virus quickly spread over China and soon infected foreign tourists, including those on cruise ships. From there, it went all over the world, including the United States.

The so-called “mainstream” news media repeatedly reported prophecies of doom and grossly exaggerated death tolls. Less than 1% of the deceased were healthy persons without other pre-existing chronic illnesses. But since they tested positive for the coronavirus (COVID-19), they were classified as COVID-19 victims. State and local authorities began to panic as though this was a real-life version of *The Andromeda Strain* or *The Satan Bug*.

By March, 2020, cities and even entire states imposed quarantines, public assembly bans, curfews, travel bans, school closures, “stay at home” orders, and lockdowns. Public places for recreation and entertainment, including beaches, were shut down, right at the time of spring break for many thousands of young people. Local businesses were forced to close and lay off millions of workers. Unemployment claims skyrocketed. Panicked citizens emptied store shelves of groceries, disinfectants, toilet paper, bottled water, and other supplies.

On a California beach, a policeman saw a lone man on his surfboard. In spite of being all alone with no possibility of infecting anyone, the policeman arrested him and hauled him off to jail. By doing so, he not only violated and exposed him to possible infection, but he also exposed himself and other personnel at the jail.

A lady in Ohio became bored and decided to “go on a drive.” Being inside her car by herself, there was no chance of infecting anybody. Nevertheless, a trooper pulled her over and handed her a citation for \$400.

Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear denied out of state travel for all Kentucky residents. Then he topped it off by ordering police to record the license plates of people attending Easter Sunday services. Violators were fined \$500 and forcibly quarantined in their homes for 14 days.

Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed imposed a 10pm to 5am curfew for the city and all of Montgomery County.

On April 3, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey decreed a “stay at home” mandate for the entire state, claiming that “COVID-19 is an imminent threat to our way of life... It is NOW the law... We’ve got to take this order dead serious.” Ivey’s order included a \$500 fine.

WACV Radio talk show host Greg Budell heard its announcement, and he exploded into the most thermonuclear rant of his career. “How could you possibly do this?”

These impositions against personal and economic freedom terrified all American citizens. Suddenly, America’s peaceful population was bombarded with thoughts of Nazi Germany, the Soviet Union, Red China, North Korea, checkpoints, “Your papers, please,” fines, penalties, and even time in jail for violating new laws against common, routine, everyday activities.

Authorities also denied access to treatments. An executive order by New York Governor Andrew M. Cuomo restricted prescriptions of promising hydroxychloroquine and chloroquine.

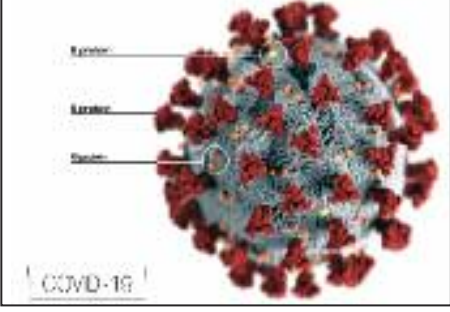
About 174.5 million flu shots have been distributed this season in the U. S.

The January 10, 2020 issue of VACCINE journal noted that 7.8% of vaccinated subjects became infected with COVID-19 versus 5.8% who were not. Could this year’s flu vaccine be laced with the coronavirus?

Politicians are now demanding more than just our money. They want the power to run and micro-manage our personal lives—to condition us to accept the heavy hand of intrusion and regulation in everything we do “for our own good.” Are we going to accept this new set of slave chains and resort to becoming “sheeple” under the rule of a new Nazi regime?

Over the years, we have suffered numerous epidemics. We endured Asian Flu, Hong Kong Flu, HIV/AIDS, SARS, Swine Flu, MERS, and the deadly Ebola. Each of these ran its course with no widespread quarantines or travel limitations, at least not here in America. Not within anybody’s memory have we suffered such draconian personal violations.

The law of natural selection has always been with us and always will be. That is what keeps us strong and healthy. Yes, some people will die. That is a hard fact of life. We cannot put everybody in a bubble. And even if we could, no rational person would want to live in one.



*Now, instead of a bubble, here are some tips to resist the coronavirus:*

**1. GET SOME SUNSHINE VITAMIN D.** Yes, Vitamin D pills are available, but doctors universally agree that the sun is the best way to get it. Spend at least an hour outdoors in the sun, or two hours in partial shade. The more time spent outside, the better. Wear minimal clothing for maximum benefit.

**2. BE ACTIVE.** While you are outside, do some activities. Mow your lawn, do some gardening, build something, lift weights, or just walk around. Running is even better.

**3. TAKE VITAMIN C.** Take at least a 500 mg tablet daily. Two of these or a 1000 mg tablet is better. Consult your doctor for optimum dosage.

**4. HYDROXYCHLOROQUINE SULFATE** supplemented with ZINC has shown positive outcomes to combat the coronavirus. It is most effective when the infection starts at the fever level. Since it has proven safe for other treatments, taking it should be a good idea. Consult your doctor.

**5. And finally, call, text, or e-mail Kay Ivey and DEMAND an immediate retraction of her “stay at home” order and forced closures of businesses.** Our economy and our lives depend on it. We cannot sacrifice thousands of lives in the future just to satisfy her ego.

In stressful times like this, never forget the words of Patrick Henry.

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





By Annie Pearl Leonard

*I wish every Mother a happy Mother's Day  
With all my love in a very special way.*

*Be proud of your Mother and everything she has done;  
She will do for you from morning until the setting of the sun.*

*Remember all of the precious little things she has done for you –  
Mother loves you and will always see your problems through.*

*Tell Mother you love her all year long; This will give her faith and courage to go on.*

*Give her a very sweet hug as often as you can –  
Remember to place precious little gifts in her hand.*

*And when your dear Mother is no longer around,  
You will always remember the precious moments of her life that the two of you found.*

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

John Sophocleus

**THINK**  
*GazetteSophocleus@gmail.com.*

**Blessed With Many Fathers:**  
(reprint from August 2017)



**Columnist John Sophocleus learned of his earthly father's passing while writing his piece for this month's issue. Adamant about his submission these past ten plus years, he requested The Alabama Gazette reprint "Blessed with Many Fathers" under the circumstances. We hope you find it a worthy (re)read. Editor's Note: Our prayers & sympathies are extended to John & his family at this time.**

Empty screen before me now, heavy hands upon the keyboard, I struggle to type this month's column... informed hours ago of the death of my father-in-law, Dale Miller, via phone from my bride. She immediately flew to Indiana a week ago to be there for his final days of a life well lived after her younger sister completed the onerous task of telling her older sister their father received Last Rites. Since joining the esteemed group of Alabama Gazette writers in 2009, I've never missed a deadline. I'm certain Dale would not appreciate using his passing as an excuse/reason for failing to write or meet my classes, which he thought much more important than just earning an income. Never really understood the pride he seemed to find in my efforts as writer and teacher, but it sure was comforting. The issue in last month's column (1 for 30,000 HoR rule) was the source of some of our most compelling conversations these past decades.

I've been abundantly blessed with many fathers. My Heavenly Father I hold most dear, my earthly father, my grandfather, Godfather, founding fathers and of course my father-in-law. The power of our "Kyrie Eleison" prayer became very clear saying it with all my being for my earthly father years ago and it was well granted. This simple yet powerful prayer rolling through my mind and spirit these past days attenuates the sadness. Yet another Father (Michael Condos, priest at Annunciation in Montgomery) shepherded me well to find comfort in the powerful Kyrie Eleison "Lord have mercy" prayer when my father was in a coma. Wanting my father to remain in this world was obvious, but clearly not in my control. If He was going to take him, take him peacefully and with minimal suffering; if allowed to remain with us, return him to us well. The added years God is granting allows me to further contemplate the relationship between father(s) and son.

Most important is my Heavenly Father. It is difficult to reconcile – think how Joseph endured witnessing Jesus taking His path to our Heavenly Father. Truly remarkable I've never felt any jealousy from my earthly father knowing I hold my Heavenly Father most dear. In fact, my father did well putting me on the path to my Heavenly Father. One of the many lessons he instilled was a quarter from my allowance each week went to support the church, which I think was instilled in him well by his mother, a major force in the "Philoptochos" (friends of the poor) at Annunciation in Baltimore. The circle was unbroken.

My greatest fear meeting the 'awesome judgment seat of Christ' is to be found guilty of burying my talents. I don't know why that yearly gospel compels me more than any other. When I wore a younger man's clothes this judgment was a source of great fear, but after witnessing man's judgment of 12 member juries, jurists like Myron Thompson, the 2010 US Supreme Court's decisions against me, I take comfort in the possibility of a merciful judgment from Jesus who suffered worse than I can imagine. I similarly pray my earthly father doesn't think I've squandered the gifts and efforts he exerted in my life. I was blessed with a good father who earned a son that would become a good man. Sadly, my efforts failed toward finding/making a place worthy of a child.

I have indelible memories of my grandfather. The oldest memory I can conjure in my mind's eye and ear is Papou Sophocleus singing "Christos Anesti" (Christ is Risen) with me as a young child then picking up his banjo (an accomplished bouzouki player, he traded it for a banjo in transition to being an American) to play delightful Greek folk songs. Shame on me for not learning much Greek, he would sing a song I felt he thought important for me to hear/learn. It evoked names like Aristides, Miltiades and Themistocles, which perhaps had something to do with the ten generals at the Battle of Marathon. With a name like Sophocleus, Papou probably expected me to continue to translate and assimilate our Greek culture into America. A quiet child to the frustration of some - it was because I knew I wasn't even remotely prepared to say a word. At family reunions in Raleigh I would marvel listening to uncles talking seamlessly of parallels between the Peloponnesian War and war between our States. Still trying to live up to that wonderful hope of my grandfather.

As for my Godfather, there's none better! He took his responsibility of instruction on identifying and following the Holy Spirit seriously. He was always trying to hone my ability to think and solve problems. Spending a week each summer with his family in Ocean City, MD was when he exerted great effort to improve my chess game and talk to me about navigating the snares of this world. I remain amazed at his patience answering my childish questions as we listened to the Watergate hearings and explaining the wrongdoings of those in power. All my fathers stressed not to trust authority as truth, but respect Truth as the ultimate authority, which will prevail in the end.

Readers of my columns these past years know the founding fathers have also been patient with their writings trying to instruct me toward understanding the path toward a more perfect union. I'm ashamed to admit how poor my progress has been these past decades. Which brings me back to remembrances of my father-in-law. The child he parented here on earth is the greatest blessing in my life. When others asked how our marriage has continued so well through some difficult times, my reply is simple. We both love something greater than each other – God. I can't imagine what it was like for a father to see a beautiful angel like the one he shepherded into adulthood leave his dominion. I do know he was looking for someone who also loved God and would take care of this

precious soul. I think he understood (as anyone could easily see) his daughter earned someone special in her life. Indeed she deserved a better man than I, but it seemed a 'thin market' for good people and shrinking. I'm far too poor a word-smith to convey what it is like when you're completely certain of finding the angel you want to take before God to marry and realize you're not really good enough; the only thing you can do is earn every special moment and try to improve every day.

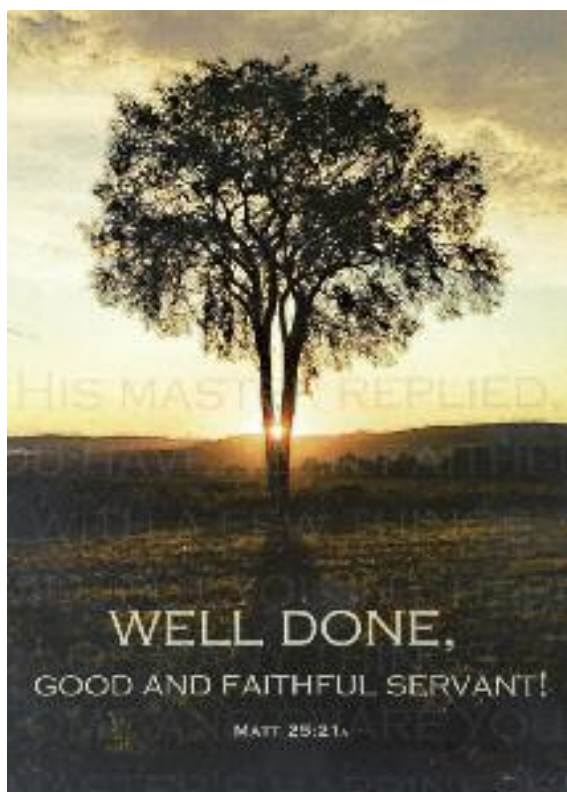
Hard to admit being this far along in life to finally realize the biggest blessing of all the fathers in my life has been shepherding me to be a better man. Hope my father-in-law found me worthy of his precious daughter, even in the toughest of times. Imagine how strange it is to have a son-in-law teaching for 1/6 of what he'd earn continuing in his former job? When the federal government was in the process of wrongfully taking our home - he was down to Alabama a.s.a.p.! Wish I could've sheltered my family from federal despotism better. After being made homeless for almost a year and living on a friend's property, Dale didn't quibble on why someone making \$25k/year refused to settle for a large amount of money because we wanted the courts to continue ruling correctly (as the US Supreme Court did in 2005) so others wouldn't suffer as we did. When an issue of well-defined right and wrong arose my father-in-law was uncompromising.

Dale's common sense attitude, which morphed into effective action, was most admirable. He had the most delightful laugh. Whenever we'd visit, I'd hope Seinfeld was on just so I could revel in hearing his laughter. One of my favorite moments discussing what the federal highway bureaucrats were saying and what they were doing, prompted his wonderful laugh to say, "well John, with most people when it is all said and done; more is SAID than is done." He seemed to know when I needed a little break from the 13 year fight at the same time confirmation I wasn't being unreasonable under the circumstances. When I was on the Parish Council having problems with getting and keeping a priest, it was like talking to an old seasoned veteran with all his past efforts sustaining his church through the toughest times. I pray to do a fraction as well offering sagacity to others expecting it from me in my senior years. Also hope I can keep my good humour and Spirit when BOTH son-in-laws (NOT devotees of Mr. Lincoln) turn Abe's bust facing the wall when he's not looking to be discovered later...

Of all the memories folks have shared these past difficult days, "Dale is a one of a kind person. He is considered MAYOR of his neighborhood. He has watched over my mom and her husband for years. He is a good man, friend, husband, father and grandfather. God Bless him," is my favorite. Simple, accurate and to the point. Mayor of his neighborhood indeed! The Dale Millers of this world are what make a town special and thwart the demons and tyranny waiting to prey upon it. He was a Christian activist, in other words with Dale more is DONE than is said. No one was going to be mistreated where he could see it; no one truly needy was going to go hungry, cold or without shelter. It is said to judge a society on how it treats their lowest and most vulnerable individuals – Mayor Miller made sure his neighborhood would be well judged. Historians noted the politburo in Rome hated then feared the Christians as they were held in higher regard than those in authority because the general population realized who truly cared about them. Similarly, no one (including those in authority) wanted to be on the wrong side of Dale in HIS neighborhood.

The George Bailey character (played by James Stewart) in "It's a Wonderful Life" gets to see how different Bedford Falls would be without his being born. I wouldn't want to see a world with even one less Dale Miller in it. There are and have been many towns of Brazil's characteristics on US Route 40 just outside major cities across the nation. Some get sucked in by the quick buck of a developer and shady politicians to experience the short-run euphoria of unsustainable growth inevitably followed by the cancer which slowly eats away at the town. Others, like Dale, dig in who aren't easily duped and carry through the tough times to make something good last in hopes the next generation will do the same for themselves and their posterity. Can't help but recall some text from Matthew 25:21 – "Well done, good and faithful servant: enter into the joy of thy Lord."

I delighted in telling my father-in-law of the first time I took his daughter to my church where the choir was singing a beautiful repetition of "Kyrie Eleison" prompting her to say, "I didn't know they sang Latin in the Greek church." So I don't think my good catholic father-in-law would take any offense in my closing with the traditional Greek orthodox saying, "Eonia Imnemi" – may Dale's memory be eternal through Christ he held so dear. He was a strong man in mind, body and Spirit. We've lost one of the most steadfast, relentless advocates for the Holy Spirit I've ever known. What better thing can one leave to those they hold dear than a life well lived and sound forecast they'll be kindly welcomed and mercifully received before the judgment of our Saviour Jesus Christ? I ask all – esp. those who've also enjoyed the blessing of having this good man in their lives – to say a prayer for my father-in-law and all our fathers who served our Heavenly Father well with a full heart. I know Dale will be dearly missed by parishioners at Annunciation Catholic Church (Brazil, IN) he held so dear.







By Daniel Sutter

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

## Litigation in the Public Interest?

America needs billions of masks to protect against the Coronavirus, particularly high-grade N95 masks for healthcare workers. Nonetheless, fear of litigation delayed delivery of millions of construction masks to healthcare workers. Should the law be slowing our emergency response?

America's largest mask producer, 3M, will soon be producing 100 million a month. The company normally produces more construction than medical

masks; while similarly effective, the medical masks must meet more stringent standards. The construction masks would certainly protect better than bandanas.

As reported by the Washington Post, 3M executives feared potential liability. Even with protective equipment, some healthcare workers will get sick. The performance differences could provide grounds for lawsuits. 3M would not ship the masks without a Federal liability waiver, which Congress approved in mid-March.

Who is to blame for the delay? A professor of bioethics quoted in the Post article states, "Don't talk to your lawyers if you're making masks or gowns or ventilators." Yet 3M executives and lawyers have a duty not to expose the company to potentially ruinous litigation. The Federal government could have acted quicker, as mask makers raised the liability issue in early February.

Many might blame the lawyers who might file such lawsuits. Suing a company helping out in a crisis is hardly praise-worthy. But this misses the more significant question: Why should plaintiffs have any chance of winning such a suit?

Plaintiffs' lawyers commonly take cases on a contingency fee basis. As the ads say, "We don't get paid unless you get paid." Consequently, these lawyers must carefully evaluate whether they can win a case and would only sue 3M if they thought they could win.

Plaintiffs should be able to sue and win when companies have done wrong. Litigation helps us learn about corporate misbehavior. I frequently discuss the decentralized nature of knowledge. In a world of decentralized knowledge, we rarely know enough to call new lawsuits frivolous. Once the legal process discovers the relevant facts, we might conclude that the plaintiffs should not win.

If plaintiffs can win when we believe they should not, this is a problem with

the law. We should fix the underlying problem instead of hoping lawyers will not file winnable cases.

My interest is not in narrow questions like why liability arises in this specific instance. The difference between law and legislation provides perspective on why law today can produce injustice. Today we think these are the same thing, but historically they differed.

Congress, state legislatures, and city councils pass laws today. But as economist Friedrich Hayek observed, law used to differ from government legislation.

This was most apparent with England's common law.

Common law emerged and developed as freedom increased, providing rules to order peoples' business and personal affairs. Rules help us anticipate how others will act, because people usually follow the rules. Starting a business would be impossibly risky unless an entrepreneur knew the meaning of leasing a building, purchasing supplies, and hiring workers.

The rules emerged out of a common understanding, not acts of Parliament. A relevant analogy today is the difference between a company's employee handbook and the informal ways to get things done.

The common law evolved as judges decided cases involving new issues. There were multiple judges who were not bound by precedent; they could adopt or modify other judges' rulings. If a party to a case did not like a judge's ruling, they could argue their next similar case before a different judge. Through trial and error, decisions were fine-tuned into rules satisfying most parties.

In the 1800s, governments decided to write the common law into legislation. This sounds reasonable: any person could read the text of any law. Yet this also let legislatures change laws, sometimes to advantage special interests.

The law helps people deal with each other in peaceful, socially beneficial ways and should protect us from charlatans who break the rules. And our laws should assist us in responding to emergencies, not create unnecessary obstacles.



*More from Daniel Sutter ...*



## The Stimulus and Moral Hazard

Congress passed the \$2.3 trillion CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Stimulus) Act and Washington passed two measures providing relief and economic stimulus after the financial crisis. Many economists feared that the financial bailouts set bad precedent for the future. Could the CARES Act possibly have similar effects?

Accidents happen less often when people exercise care. Taking out insurance can increase the probability of the accident or loss,

what is called moral hazard. The response involved is straight forward: insurance lowers the return to being careful, so on average people are less careful.

Government bailouts after the financial crisis could easily produce moral hazard by contributing to expectations of future bailouts. Once financial institutions know that Uncle Sam considers them "too big to fail," they will not fear getting in a bad spot. The expectation of bailouts creates a "Heads I win, tails you lose" scenario and banks will naturally take more risks.

Bailouts also help bad managers keep their jobs. In markets, profits reward good investments and decisions while losses penalize bad decisions. Fairness demands that if investors get the profits from good investments, they should bear the losses from bad investments. When investors take losses, they force the replacement of the executives responsible.

Taking the latter point first, I do not think that the managers of airlines, hotels, and department stores should have anticipated recent events. By contrast, the financial institutions, which made or invested in subprime mortgages and mortgage-backed securities, should have known the risks involved. The CARES Act is not allowing bad managers to avoid the axe.

Nor am I worried that this assistance will lead to future carelessness. I suspect we will all now be aware of how a pandemic can disrupt life. Individuals and businesses will likely save more going forward. But if COVID-19 is a once

in a century event, we do not need to worry about undermining incentives to prepare for the next such catastrophe.

A factor favoring assistance here is the impact on businesses of governments' actions to mitigate the pandemic. The businesses ordered closed by governors or mayors arguably should be compensated for their losses. This does not mean that closing businesses is unwise, merely that compensation for the ensuing losses is deserved.

It is not completely true that businesses could not have done anything to avoid financial losses. Companies can get business interruption insurance coverage for lost revenue. Whether existing interruption coverage will pay for pandemic-related losses is a question likely heading for a courtroom.

Insurance, however, would not have saved us. Prior to this pandemic, neither business executives nor insurance companies could have imagined the potential losses or reasonably estimated the likelihood of this type of pandemic. The coverage would not have been priced properly, leaving insurance companies facing bankruptcy and unable to pay claims. Business interruption coverage would simply mean we would be bailing out insurance companies.

The primary downside of the CARES Act is its impact on the national debt, which is currently \$23 trillion. The Congressional Budget Office was forecasting a \$1 trillion deficit this year before the pandemic. The COVID recession will reduce tax revenues sharply even without any additional spending. The U.S. may be on the verge of a debt spiral, where interest on the debt drives us further and further into debt. COVID and CARES may push us off the fiscal cliff.

If so, the blame would fall on Washington's unwillingness to live within its means. The deficits of the past five years have been irresponsible, not the response to the pandemic. Our leaders may have left us with insufficient credit to address a true national emergency.

The border between science fiction and reality is fuzzy. Our minds can imagine many cataclysmic events, and it would be folly to prepare for them all. We will always be unprepared for events we do not think could really happen. So it is unlikely that the CARES Act sets a bad precedent.

*Daniel Sutter continues ...*

## Is this a Recession?

We have experienced unprecedented economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing policies. Twenty two million Americans lost jobs in four weeks. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis projects potentially 30 percent unemployment and a 50 percent decline in GDP by June. This looks like a depression, but is it really?

A recession or depression is visible – idle factories, reduced investment, and unemployed workers – but the causes are typically numerous and elusive. An economy in a depression is like a motor that has stopped working. Economists also note that recessions extend across most of the economy, as opposed to being a slump in one sector. The oil bust of the mid-1980s, for example, did not produce a recession.

Our current slump meets the breadth requirement. While sectors like tourism and entertainment have been particularly hard hit, the 30 percent decline in global oil demand demonstrates widely reduced economic activity. The stock market tumbled over 30 percent as well, consistent with a broad slump.

Yet in a very important way, the COVID-19 slump, dubbed by some the Great Suppression, differs from recessions and depressions; the decline has resulted from closing businesses to stem the virus' spread. Christmas Day, when GDP craters as most factories, stores and restaurants close, perhaps provides a more appropriate economic analogy. The Christmas shutdown is intentional; people do not want to work and businesses oblige. Is the COVID-19 slump a lengthy Christmas break?

If so, we could expect a vigorous rebound when we end government closures, just as on December 26 (or perhaps January 2). We do not fear the economy not returning to normal after the Christmas shutdown.

The aftermath of World War II provides another hopeful example. Many of America's factories produced tanks, planes, ships, and munitions for the war. Measured GDP was high but consumption of goods and services was modest. Economists were unsure the economy would transition to peacetime production after fifteen years of limited consumer production due to the Depression and the War, but it did.

One important difference exists between the COVID slump and the Christmas crash: we plan and prepare for Christmas. The COVID crash was unanticipated and of uncertain duration. Households did not stock up on supplies or accumulate extra savings. The Federal government did not run budget surpluses ahead of the crisis.



In addition to Christmas, small businesses often close when the owner goes on vacation, and seasonal businesses survive months-long closures. How and when will the Great Suppression turn into a

recession? Most likely when currently shuttered companies go out of business, or their employees take other jobs.

Closed businesses have no revenue to pay employees, their rent, or for leased equipment. They may potentially hibernate and come back to life. Laid-off employees may have few other job options and landlords may lack new paying tenants. The Payroll Protection Plan and supplemented unemployment will hopefully help businesses hibernate and not go bankrupt.

The pandemic has two distinct components: reduced economic activity as people try to stay safe, and government closure of non-essential businesses. These two actions occurred nearly simultaneously and now complicate business owners' calculations. When states lift stay-at-home orders, will customers return to restaurants and gyms? The existence of COVID-19 will significantly alter our economy. Previously successful business may be unprofitable until we have a vaccine or cure.

Business owners must also evaluate a political uncertainty. In March we chose public health over the economy. If COVID-19 cases increase after states ease restrictions, will we choose public health again? If so, then owners may squander their savings reopening businesses, which get closed a second time.

Business failures will have ripple effects. Landlords will feel financial hardship as businesses and tenants are unable to pay rent. Loans made to these businesses will go unpaid. The ensuing rounds of spending reductions will not be directly connected to the closed businesses. The shutdown will have become a recession or depression and it will be too late to "reopen" the economy.



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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING SOCIAL SECURITY ...



### Social Security Honors OUR Military HEROES



On Memorial Day, our nation honors military service members who have given their lives for our country. Families, friends, and communities pause to remember the many great sacrifices of our military and ensure their legacy lives on in the freedoms we all enjoy. We recognize these heroes who, in President Lincoln's words, "gave the last full measure of devotion."

The benefits we provide can help the families of military service members. For example, widows, widowers, and their dependent children may be eligible for Social Security survivors benefits. You can learn more about those benefits at [www.ssa.gov/survivors](http://www.ssa.gov/survivors).

We also offer support to our wounded warriors. Social Security benefits protect veterans when an injury prevents them from returning to active duty or performing other work. Wounded military service members can receive expedited processing of their Social Security disability claims. Are you a veteran with a 100% Permanent & Total compensation rating from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs? We will expedite your disability claim. Both the Department of Veteran Affairs and the Social Security Administration have disability programs. You may qualify for disability benefits through one program but not the other, or you may qualify for both. Depending on your situation, some of your family members, including your dependent children or spouse, may be eligible to receive Social Security benefits.

Want more information? Visit [www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors](http://www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors) for answers to commonly asked questions or to find information about the application process.

Thinking about retirement? Military service members can receive Social Security benefits in addition to their military retirement benefits. For details, read the Military Service page of our Retirement Planner, available at [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/veterans.html).

Please share this information with the military families in your community. To the veterans who bravely served and died for our country, and to the military service members who serve today, we honor and thank you.

### Social Security Supports Teachers

This year, we celebrate **Teacher Appreciation Week** from **May 4 through May 8** and honor all educators who prepare our students for the future. We know that well-informed instructors can have a powerful influence on their students. That's why we have easy to access, shareable online resources for teachers to engage students and educate them on Social Security.



*Photo courtesy Montgomery Public Schools*

**Don't miss out on our Educator Toolkit! The toolkit includes:**

- Lesson plans with objectives;
- Infographics and handouts for each lesson plan;
- Links to Social Security web pages;
- Talking points; and
- Quiz questions and answers.

You can access the toolkit at [www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html](http://www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html).

We value and welcome the efforts all teachers make to educate America's young people, and we want to help spark discussion with students about Social Security. Please share our toolkit with your favorite educators today.

### New Guidance about COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments for Social Security & Supplemental Security Income Beneficiaries

People who receive Social Security retirement, survivors, or disability insurance benefits and who did not file a tax return for 2018 or 2019 and who have qualifying children under age 17 should now go to the IRS's webpage, [www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus/economic-impact-payments) to enter their information instead of waiting for their automatic \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment.

### Eligibility for Spouse's Benefits

With more than 80 years of service, the Social Security Administration has helped secure today and tomorrow with financial benefits, information, and tools that support you throughout life's journey. In May, we recognize Older Americans month and we encourage you to participate by learning about available Social Security benefits. Did you know that you may be able to receive benefits on your spouse's record if you have not worked or do not have enough Social Security credits to qualify for your own Social Security benefits? To qualify for spouse's benefits, you must be:

- 62 years of age or older; or
- Any age and care for a child who is younger than age 16 or who is disabled and entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

Your full spouse's benefit could be up to one-half the amount your spouse is entitled to receive at their full retirement age. If you choose to receive spouse's benefits before you reach full retirement age, you will get a permanently reduced benefit.

If you wait until you reach full retirement age to receive benefits, you will receive your full spouse's benefit amount – up to half the amount your spouse can receive. You will also get your full spouse's benefit if you care for a child who is younger than age 16 or who has a disability and is entitled to receive benefits on your spouse's record.

If your benefits as a spouse are higher than your own retirement benefits, you will get a combination of benefits that equal the higher spouse benefit. For example, Sandy qualifies for a retirement benefit of \$250 and a spouse's benefit of \$400. At her full retirement age, she will receive her own \$250 retirement benefit. We will add \$150 from her spouse's benefit, for a total of \$400.

Want to apply for either your or your spouse's benefits? Are you at least 61 years and 8 months old? Visit [www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement) to learn more about the process.

Are you divorced, but your marriage lasted at least 10 years? You may be able to get benefits on your former spouse's record. Explore more about your eligibility by visiting our Benefits Planner page at [www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html](http://www.ssa.gov/planners/retire/divspouse.html) for more information.



### Social Security Protects Your Investment



We provide benefits to about one-fifth of the American population and help protect workers, children, people with disabilities, and the elderly. In 2020, we will pay about one trillion dollars in Social Security benefits to roughly 65 million people.

One of our most important responsibilities is to protect the hard-earned money you pay into Social Security, which is why we have zero tolerance for fraud. We take fraud claims seriously and investigate them thoroughly. We respond quickly and decisively to prevent and detect fraud. For example, we monitor transactions to detect actions that demonstrate an intent to defraud the American people. We will continue to innovate and develop anti-fraud initiatives because any level of fraud is unacceptable.

Recently, we launched a Public Service Announcement as our latest effort to caution you about the ongoing nationwide telephone scam. The video features a message from our Commissioner, Andrew Saul. Along with our Office of the Inspector General, we continue to receive reports about fraudulent phone calls, text messages, and emails from people who falsely claim that they are government employees. The scammers play on emotions like fear to convince people to provide personal information or money in cash, wire transfers, or gift cards. Fraudsters also email fake documents in attempts to get people to comply with their demands.

"I want every American to know that if a suspicious caller states there is a problem with their Social Security number or account, they should hang up and never give the caller money or personal information. People should then go online to report the scam call to Social Security," said Commissioner Saul. You can report these scams at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov).

Learn how to protect yourself and report any suspicious calls or emails right away. If you have already been a victim of one of these scams, please do not be embarrassed. Instead, report the scam at [oig.ssa.gov](http://oig.ssa.gov) so we can stop these scammers and protect others. Please share our new Public Service Announcement video with your friends and family at [www.youtube.com/socialsecurity](http://www.youtube.com/socialsecurity).

You can also share our publication, Social Security Protects Your Investment, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10004.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10004.pdf).

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*Loretta Grant and  
Mrs. Bobbie Ames at the  
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# Sunrise Rotary Club Honors Essential Workers

## Service Above Self

Even in the midst of a global pandemic, some jobs just cannot be put on hold. That includes what the **Montgomery Sanitation Department** does. Every week, some 70,000+ customers receive twice a week pickup service from these essential employees.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that as a result of COVID-19, many Montgomery residents are finding themselves home 24/7 and, they're creating much larger volumes of trash. They're pulling weeds outside. And perhaps, as we all go a little stir-crazy, some folks are doing the most obsessive spring cleaning in ages. Toss in some debris from severe weather, and the volume of trash has increased significantly.

But that hasn't stopped MSD workers from fulfilling their mission. Their team is committed to making sure service for customers is not interrupted. And while in "normal times" their work may go unnoticed, their customers are taking note of their efforts and have begun showing their appreciation.

On Friday morning, members of the **Montgomery Sunrise Rotary Club** rose early to arrive at the City Lot where MSD workers begin their day to do just that – to show their appreciation. **Club President Neal Hughes** remarked, "Our sanitation workers do a magnificent job and we wanted to express our heartfelt thanks to each of them."

The appreciation was tangible as Rotary club members distributed some 325 biscuits and multiple cases of water and hand sanitizer **provided to the club in cooperation with Patrick and Kam Sidhu, local Burger King franchisees and Booster's Inc.**



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Rotarians Jimmy Hill, President & CEO of River Region United Way, and Jannah Bailey, Montgomery Public School Board, distribute food to the sanitation crews. **Top right:** City Councilman Richard Bollinger with Tisha Nickson of Waterford Place. **Bottom right:** Jannah Bailey, District 5 of the Montgomery Public School Board is geared up to honor essential workers. **Bottom left:** Skip Dotherow, Rotary District Governor 2019-20, is excited to show his appreciation for Montgomery's essential workers.



**Top:** Rotarians rose early to celebrate essential workers on May 1, 2020. **Above left:** MPD Major Tonya Thompson with Rotarian Tom Mann of Adventure Sports II, Inc. **Above right:** Lt. Brian Farrington with the Salvation Army thanks a city sanitation worker. **Left:** Neil Crumpton, Past President, Rotary, with an essential worker.

**Club member and Montgomery City Councilman Richard Bollinger** said, "It's appropriate that we cheer on and support doctors and nurses during this crisis, but we're here today to also cheer on some unsung heroes. While many of us are at home, these men and women are on the job taking care of us." Handmade signs, cheers, elbow bumps, and a fire engine set the scene of appreciation for each MSD employee as they arrived for work and you could not hide the smiles, even under the masks.

Hughes added, "As Rotarians, we are committed to service above self. We share that philosophy with these heroes, and we are so appreciative of not only what they do, but our opportunity to express that appreciation. Together, we're all trying to connect and make a difference for one another."

*Thank you again Montgomery Sanitation Department. We can all show our appreciation and help protect city workers by bagging all trash, reducing the exposure to items like tissues and other personal hygiene products, and wiping down waste containers and handles regularly. It's a small thing that makes a huge difference – kind of like a sanitation worker.*

Article by Rotarian Jimmy Hill  
President & CEO, River Region United Way



**Sheriff Derrick Cunningham**



## Montgomery County, Alabama Sheriff's Office

**(334) 832-4980 ♦ [www.montgomerysheriff.com](http://www.montgomerysheriff.com)**

**Montgomery County offices reopened for business Friday, May 1, 2020.**  
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**

## A Message from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Office Protocol: Covid-19 (Coronavirus)



We will continue handling some matters via telephone as much as possible. When our Dispatch receives a call, they will continue to follow normal protocol, i.e., CAD (notate) the call and dispatching the call to the appropriate unit. It will be the responsibility of the deputy and the on-duty supervisor to evaluate which calls can be handled via telephone. Once a determination is made, as to whether the matter can be handled via "telephone" response or not, the deputy will contact the complainant to provide the appropriate information as well as complete the proper paperwork.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to operate at normal capacity as much as possible via telephone and internet; however, we have listed below a quick reference contact guide to various Sheriff's Office Divisions.

**If you have Pistol Permit or civil-related questions (evictions, subpoenas, etc.), please dial 334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337.**

**If you have warrant-related questions, please dial 334.832.2579 or 334.832.2516.**

**Our Investigations Unit is still actively working and if you need to speak with someone in that Division, please dial 334.832.2532.**

Our office staff will continue working Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-5:00pm. Our website [www.MontgomerySheriff.com](http://www.MontgomerySheriff.com) is a great source of information as well as our app! If you haven't downloaded our app, please search your app store for "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" and download it today. Our app is user-friendly and an easy way to inquire about current inmates in the Detention Facility, find out if someone has an active warrant as well as learn about various programs we offer at our agency.

Our Detention Facility remains closed to all visitation including vendors except for deliveries to maintain the normal operations of the facility. Additionally, inmates will still have access to the phone system to call their loved ones.

*We appreciate your patience during these stressful times and hope to resume normal operations soon.*

**SANITIZE AND STAY ALIVE!**

## Social Media

**Social Media Search**  
**Facebook** .....Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Alabama  
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**Snapchat** .....mcso.alabama  
**Twitter** .....MG\_Twitter



## Register NOW for our Firearms Familiarization Courses for 2020! Firearms Familiarization Course

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



\*\*\*\*\*

### Course Requirements:

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

\*\*\*\*\*

### 2020 Course Dates:

**June 6      July 11      August 8      Sept 5      Oct 10**

### Pistol Permit Questions?

**334.832.1335 or 334.832.1337**

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


**[Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org](mailto:Lisa.Crenshaw@mc-ala.org)**

**334.832.1339**

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







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Community Lifestyles







Dr. Lester Spencer

Lead Pastor

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

# Soul Searching

## DON’T WORRY BE HAPPY

In 1988, Bobby McFerrin released this famous song, which is still enjoyed by millions around the world as a light hearted, fun, happy song! In the midst of a worldwide pandemic, maybe some would think it a bit shallow. But I would say there is some great truth backing up the song.

In fact, Jesus had some very pointed things to say about worry and teaches us that worry is a waste of time. Every time that song, Don’t Worry Be Happy, comes to my mind, I think of what Jesus had to say about worry.

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothes?”

**“Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of it’s own.”** – Jesus, Mathew 6: 25, 34

If I had to use one word that best describes what a lot of people are feeling during this COVID 19 crisis, it would be the word worry. Let me share a definition of the word worry: to give way to uncertainty, anxiety and unease. To allow your mind to dwell on trouble.

I have found that if you dwell too much on the past, it leads to regret. If you dwell too much on the possibilities of the future, it can lead to worry.

So, what are some quick takeaways from what Jesus says about worry in Mathew chapter 6?

### First, Don’t Worry – Focus On Today

Jesus says don’t worry about your life and what may happen in the future. I have heard that 90% of what we worry about happening in the future, never happens. Therefore, worry is a waste of time.

There are a lot of people worrying about a great many things: worried about their health, worried about getting the Coronavirus, worried about protecting themselves and their families, worried about their jobs, worried about the economy, worried about their finances, worried about saving and their businesses, worried about the new normal and what it may look like.

Many are asking questions that nobody has the answer to such as: When will this pandemic be over? Will the Coronavirus spread? Will there be a second wave? Is it really safe to venture out into a somewhat regular life with vacations, restaurants, hair salons, shopping? When can we start attending worship or sporting events or concerts?

We can worry ourselves sick about what the future may hold, but Jesus says focus on today. He says, “Don’t worry about tomorrow...” He isn’t saying don’t plan ahead or prepare for tomorrow. He is just saying don’t worry about tomorrow.

**Bobby McFerrin puts it this way in the first part of the song,**  
“In every life we have some trouble  
But when you worry you make it double  
Don’t worry, be happy  
Don’t worry, be happy now”

### Secondly, Don’t Worry – Trust Your Heavenly Father

Don’t worry about what you are going to eat or drink or wear...  
**“These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your Heavenly Father already knows all your needs.”** – Jesus, Mathew 6:32

If we are Christ followers and believers, then we don’t need to worry and act as people who have no hope. In verses 26-30, Jesus reminds us that God takes care of the birds and flowers, therefore, surely our Heavenly Father will take care of us. If we are people of faith, we must act and behave as people who have faith, hope and peace in the midst of crisis. We must put our faith into action

It’s also important to remember that this is not the first major crisis the world has seen. It is a very dangerous pandemic to be sure, and we should take it very seriously and abide by the CDC guidelines and Government health officials recommendations. But humanity has been through many other great crises. And, with God’s help and guidance, we will get through this crisis as well.

Here are a few examples of major crises we have seen: 1918 Spanish Flu swept the world and killed 100 million people; in WW2 we lost 75 million people; 1980s HIV AIDS pandemic cost 36 million lives; on 9/11 we lost 2,996 lives in a matter of hours. And, concerning the economy, there was the Great Depression of 1929-1933; the Stock Market Crash of 1987 and 2008; and now the shut down of our economy due to the pandemic has cost us millions of jobs and had a huge impact on the Stock Market. And the list goes on.

My point is this. We will get through this together if we hold onto our faith, work in unison with our health care professionals to combat this virus, trust our

Heavenly Father to provide for us and look for ways that we can serve others in this crisis.

Through it all, as people of faith, we can trust the One who created us, provides for us and walks with us in this challenging journey.

### Three, Don’t Worry - Seek First

It is very interesting to me that Jesus inserts the following statement into his teaching on worry.

“But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you as well.” – Jesus, Mathew 6:33

This is one of the most memorized and often quoted verses in the Bible, but most people do not realize that Jesus said this in the midst of this diatribe on why we should not worry.

So, what is Jesus saying here? Instead of worrying, seek God first and His plan for you in the midst of your situation or crisis. He is challenging us to really put God first. Put our faith in action. In other words, do we really believe what we say we believe? Will we actually practice our faith?

John Maxwell says, “Our choices define us. But a crisis reveals us.” A crisis will show what we are really made of, who we really are, how we will behave under stress!

For those of us who are people of faith, may this current challenge reveal that our faith is strong and that we will live it out in the way we love, live, grow and serve!

I want to close with one of my favorite prayers. Maybe you will make it your prayer too, especially during these challenging days when we are tempted to worry.

### The Serenity Prayer (by Reinhold Niebuhr)

**“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”**

## Saint James Church Activities, Worship Services & Coronavirus Outreach Ministries:

**We will worship ONLINE ONLY until this crisis is over.**

We are offering our worship services and messages at our online campus at [live.sjlife.com](http://live.sjlife.com) each Sunday at 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Our services are also available on our website at [www.sjlife.com](http://www.sjlife.com) and Facebook page [@sjlifechurch](https://www.facebook.com/sjlifechurch).

Please know that your welfare and the protection and safety of everyone in our Community, City and State is the Top Priority of our Saint James Pastors, Staff and Leadership! Our leadership team is carefully monitoring the constantly evolving COVID 19. Right now we are working with State and Local officials as in determining when we will be able to gather in person again for worship and other church activities.

We have met with local hospital officials and offered our church and our facility to help serve and work with them in any way possible.

Here is a short list of our Saint James Coronavirus Outreach Ministries:

1. Food Distribution to Delivery Points for Pike Road Schools on MWF
2. Provide childcare through the YMCA for 20 healthcare workers from Baptist Health
3. Drive Through Food Pantry Open for anyone in need MTWTH 10-12
4. Meals on Wheels Distribution to Elderly and Disabled
5. Care Packages for All Nurses and Healthcare Staff at Baptist East
6. We are making face masks for healthcare professionals and others
7. Go to [sjlife.com](http://sjlife.com) to find out more and to request assistance/help or email us at [info@sjlife.com](mailto:info@sjlife.com)

Our church family, Janeese and I are praying for each of you. We love you and believe the Lord will be our strength and confidence during this challenging season!

Please let us know how we can serve you during this time!

### Always Choose Faith Over Fear,

Lester and Janeese Spencer  
Dr. Lester Spencer  
Lead Pastor  
Saint James Church

Rev. Janeese Spencer  
Founder and Executive Director  
Venture Life Coaching



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# Honoring Our Heroes

By Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

## Eugene Thomas Beasley: Age 95

Eugene Thomas Beasley is a WWII veteran who served as a signal man in the U. S. Navy aboard the USS North Carolina (BB-55) in the Pacific Theater. On September 15, 1942, he received severe injuries to both eyes when a Japanese torpedo struck the ship causing blindness in one eye. Beasley volunteered for military service and



served three years, four months and 21 days from June 17, 1941, until December 4, 1944, when he was honorably discharged because of his injuries.

Beasley was born June 7, 1924, in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, Thomas and Nora Bell Beasley. He was reared in Walker and Montgomery Counties, and during his teenage years, he worked in various jobs as a newspaper carrier and a dishwasher at wholesale companies and at the Jeff Davis Hotel in Montgomery.

Volunteering for military service, Beasley completed Basic Training at Norfolk, VA, and was among the first crew assigned to serve on the USS North Carolina which was the first fast battleship of its kind having been commissioned April 9, 1941. It carried a crew of 2,379 including 444 commissioned officers, 100 U. S. Marines, and other enlisted crew members. The ship with a speed of 28 knots measured 728 ft. nine inches carrying armaments, 9 x 16 in. (406 mm)/45 caliber Mark 6 guns, 20 x 5 in. (127 mm) 38 caliber dual purpose guns, 16 x 1.1 in. (28 mm) anti-aircraft guns and 18 x .50 caliber machine guns.

Beasley sailed through the Panama Canal to the Pacific where the North Carolina was used to strengthen the Allied forces during the Guadalcanal Campaign. He took part in the Battle of the Eastern Solomons near Papua New Guinea in the Coral Sea where the ship screened aircraft carriers and shot down several Japanese aircraft. The ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine but was not seriously damaged apart from the shock of the blast that disabled the forward turret. Five sailors lost their lives along with many injuries including Beasley. The ship returned to Pearl Harbor for repairs returning to the campaign to screen carriers across the central Pacific. Beasley was hospitalized for treatment to his eye injuries at Honolulu and on the mainland and was discharged at the rank of Seaman Petty Officer 2nd Class.

Returning to Montgomery, AL, after discharge, Beasley worked in maintenance for the Hollywood Candy Co., the Sunday Dinner Co., the William and Allen Refrigeration Co. and lastly the Maxwell Air Force Base and Gunter Field Exchanges for 18 years retiring in 1986. He then assisted his wife in operating a day-care for children in their house in Millbrook, AL. Beasley and his wife, Vivian, have been married 68 years, and they had two daughters, one son, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

He has been a member of the VFW for many years. Beasley reflects upon his WWII military service, "I feel like I did my duty. I was young, and I enjoyed it."

## Harold Inge Bryars (8/28/1922—8/10/2019)



Volunteering, Bryars served over three years in the U. S. Army during WWII enlisting July 23, 1942, at Ft. McClellan, AL. He experienced combat in the Bismarck Archipelago, China, New Guinea, the Northern Solomon Islands, the

South Philippine Islands, Luzon and the Western Pacific Theater. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was radio mechanic. He received the Asian-Pacific Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was discharged at Camp Shelby, MS, October 28, 1945.

Bryars was born in Mobile, AL, to his parents, James Arthur Bryars Jr. and Irene Munnerlyn Bryars. He was reared in Stockton, AL, and graduated from Baldwin County High School. After discharge from military service, Bryars started his own family business, Hubbard Landing, in Stockton and was engaged in farming on his family's property working with this until 90 years of age in 2013. Bryars was also involved with politics serving as the Baldwin County, AL, Treasurer for four years and the Baldwin County Commissioner for 16 years.

Bryars and his wife, Evelyn Nelson Bryars, were married 67 years before she passed, and they had two sons, three grandsons and three great-grandsons. He enjoyed hunting and spending time with his grandchildren. Bryars was very active in the Stockton United Methodist Church where he served as a lay leader and lay speaker. He was a member of the Masons for over 50 years, and he had many friendships.

Bryars expressed happiness in having served his country. This was always a special part of his life and memories. In fact, he attended reunions with his Army buddies in the USA and in Australia.

## Frances Hailey Foster (1/26/1925-3/25/2020)

Frances Hailey Foster served 14 months and 10 days in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), the women's branch of the U.S. Naval Reserves during WWII. She was proud to have come from a military family in which her father and brother had served. Her future husband,



brother-in-law, both of her sons, her son-in-law, and one grandson served in active duty in every branch except the US Coast Guard. Foster continued the tradition and set an example later for members of her family.

Foster was born January 26, 1925, in Roxboro, North Carolina, to her parents, John Smithson Hailey Jr. and Cleopatra Baucom Hailey. Her father owned Hailey and Bumpass, a road construction company, that paved the first runway at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, AL. Although she spent many summers with her mother and two siblings near Reform, AL, Lakeland, FL, and other sites where her father's construction project was located, she was reared

in Montgomery, AL, and graduated from Sidney Lanier High School there.

Foster volunteered for military service at the age of 20 and enlisted in the U. S. Navy March 27, 1945, in Montgomery. Her Basic Training was completed at the US Navy Training Station at Pelham Bay Park's Rodman's Neck at Bronx, NY, followed by assignment for duty at the Receiving Station, at Charleston, SC. Foster reached the rank of Specialist 3rd Class before she was discharged June 6, 1945.

After discharge, Foster attended Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University) and remained loyal to it. She was employed at Sears Roebuck for a short time during the 1970s and also in administration in the emergency room at Baptist Hospital from 1985-1990. She and her husband, Richard C. Foster Jr., were married 18 years before he passed, and they had four children, six grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Foster enjoyed wood crafts, crocheting afghans, driving her convertible with the top down while wearing her sunglasses and a visor, studying genealogy and participating in the Francis Marion Chapter of DAR. At age 90, she decided to quit driving and donated her convertible to a veterans' charitable organization. She was keenly interested in college baseball and attended the annual NCAA Division II Playoffs in Montgomery and kept up with the College World Series. She was an active member of First Baptist Church of Montgomery where she helped in the preparation for mailing the Beacon, the church's weekly newsletter, and driving the church's van on Sundays to transport home-bound members for worship service.

Foster's military service meant much to her, and she was happy to talk about it with others. She enjoyed the honor of driving visiting generals at the Naval bases in New York City and Charleston during WWII. Foster traveled to Washington, D.C. on the last Honor Flight for WWII veterans where she visited the WWII Memorial at the age of 84.



## Alex George, Jr: Age 100

Alex George Jr is a 100 year-old WWII U.S. Army veteran whose Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was in transportation loading ships for embarkation from the port at New Orleans to the troops in combat in the liberation of Europe, and later he served with the Military Police. George joined the United States Army in June 28, 1944, reported to Ft. Benning, GA, and served as a Private First Class (PFC), a rank that he maintained for the duration of the War. He received an award for sharp shooting. Although he remained in New Orleans and did not serve in Europe, he was part of the Red Ball Express which was an enormous truck convoy system created in 1944 to supply Allied forces moving quickly through Europe after breaking out from the D-Day beaches in Normandy. Upon demobilization in December, 1945, George was stationed at Jackson Barracks, New Orleans, LA, where he was assigned to the 361st Quartermaster Battalion, whose function was to supply items needed by all Army troops, most notably, food and clothing. The Quartermaster Corps was more than a supply force; it provided many services, such as bath and laundry facilities necessary to the health and comfort of the troops. After WWII ended, George was discharged honorably December 5, 1945, in New Orleans, LA.

George Jr. was born July 24, 1919, to his parents, Alex and Willie Lee George,



in Martins Station, AL, and he was the fifth child of ten siblings. George was educated in the public school system attending Martins Station Elementary School, Blackman Bend Alabama High School and Boligee Training High School in Greene County, AL from which he graduated in 1937. As a young boy, he was a member of the 4H Club.

After completing his military service, George worked on a farm as a sharecropper at Marion Junction, AL, and then in construction with the Miller Lumber Company, Swift Oil Mills, Vanderbilt Road Construction and the Dallas County Commission of Labor building bridges. His last employment was with American Candy Factory in Selma, AL, retiring in 1978.

George was married twice to Mary Dickerson George and then to Adline Allen George. He has 22 children and a multitude of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. George has had memberships in the Masonic Lodge and the American Legion. George has been active in service to his community at Beloit, AL, where he helped with the establishment of the Beloit Volunteer Fire Department of which he served as President. He is a member of the Azion Baptist Missionary Baptist Church in Martins Station, AL.

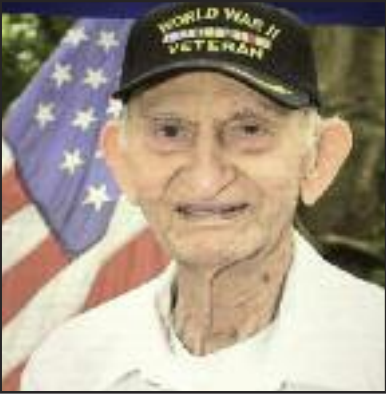
When questioned about his life, George smiles and says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) He concludes about his military service saying, "I felt all right while I was in service, but it was a bad war because all of the soldiers were new and didn't have the equipment for protection."





### Jessie Raymond Castleberry

(9/19/1923-4/13/2018)



Raymond Castleberry (9/19/1923-4/13/2018) served in the United States Navy for four years during WWII in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) as an aircraft gunner. On Jan. 13, 1942, German U-boat attacks officially started against merchant ships along the Eastern Seaboard of North America. From then until early August, Nazi U-boats dominated the waters off the East Coast sinking fuel tankers and cargo ships with impunity and often within sight of shore. In less than seven months, U-boat attacks would destroy 22 percent of the tanker fleet and sink 233 ships in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The U-boats killed 5,000 seamen and passengers, more than twice the number of people who perished at Pearl Harbor. The Atlantic Ocean was a major sea battle area, the “Battle of the Atlantic,” and when Germany declared war on the U.S., the East Coast of the United States offered easy pickings for German submarines or U-boats. Several ships were torpedoed within sight of East Coast cities such as New York and Boston. Once convoys and air cover were introduced in the Atlantic, sinking numbers were reduced and the U-boats shifted to attack shipping in the Gulf of Mexico.

### Peter Ashburner Land: Age 83

Col. Peter Ashburner Land served in the United States Air Force for 24 years receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross. His heroism was displayed by his record of piloting the OV Bronco twin engine turbo prop on 137 missions in Vietnam escaping enemy fire. His other awards and decorations include: Legion of Merit with one Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal with Two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation



Medal with One Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, National Defense Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with Two Bronze Star Clusters, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with One Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, with One Bronze Star, RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Award, with Palm device and brass ribbon border and RVN Campaign Medal with Scroll device.

Land was born in Wilmington, NC, to his parents, William and Martha Land September 14, 1936, where during his high school years, he began studying leadership, team building and motivation excelling in leadership by serving as the Freshman Class President and the Commander of the JROTC. He also served as Student Body President and Teen Ager of the Year. Land first learned leadership skills from his grandfather who was the city manager of several cities in the US. Using a full Presidential scholarship, Land graduated with a degree in political science from the Citadel in 1958 with recognition as the Distinguished AFROTC Graduate. While there, he received the Marion S. Lewis Tennis Award (Most Valuable Player) and the Outstanding Cadet AF ROTC Summer Camp Award, served as a company commander and earned a private pilot’s license. Land continued his education by graduating from the Air Force Staff College, the Forward Air Control OV-10 School, the Air War College and the Army Parachute School.

In 1958, Land entered the U.S. Air Force beginning service at Bartow AB in Winter Haven, FL, training to pilot the T28, followed by pilot training in the single engine jet F-33 at Craig AFB in Selma, AL. After training was completed, he served at Harlingen AFB, TX, flying the T-29 for three years. His overseas accompanied tour was at Rein-Main AB in Frankfurt, Germany, for three years

This hazardous duty using low-flying surveillance was done predominantly at night because the WWII-vintage diesel submarines had to surface during the night to recharge their spent batteries. Castleberry’s aircraft encountered these submarine nighttime operations with searchlights, flares and radar systems. Some of the Airship K-74s were shot down in gun duels with German submarines off the eastern coast of North America; however, 13 German submarines were sunk by American Naval submarine patrol aircraft. Castleberry narrowly escaped losing his own life when one of the anti-submarine aircraft crashed after another person had asked to go on a flight instead of Castleberry that night. After completing boot camp at the Naval Station at Norfolk, VA, he was stationed at Naval ports at Newfoundland, Rhode Island and Florida. Castleberry recalled his service in the Navy during WWII as an “adventure.”

Castleberry was born in Sylvester, GA, in a rural community where his family resided on a farm during the Great Depression. In fact, he never had a pair of shoes until he was nine years old. When WWII broke out, he was drafted at the age of 17. After his discharge from the Navy at the end of the War, he worked 32 years as a very dedicated salesman for the Kellogg Company, a multi-national food-manufacturing company. He met his wife, Nina, who was working at a shipyard at Savannah, GA, and they were married for 65 years. Castleberry always provided for his family well. They had three children,12 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. After retirement, they traveled throughout the United States in a mobile-home for 20 years in addition to living at Miami, FL, Prattville, AL and Montgomery, AL. Castleberry was a professional pool player at Miami and Orlando, FL. He enjoyed listening to jazz and old swing music.

flying air-medical evacuations (SAMs) all over Europe followed by beginning his troubleshooting service. He brought the wing training section from unsatisfactory to the Best Program in Europe in one year. Land returned to the Citadel to serve as a professor of air science for three years, to Travis AFB, CA, for one year and to the Armed Forces Staff College in Norfolk, VA, for education in planning and leading at the organizational level.

Land went to Vietnam for one year as a pilot and as a troubleshooter. He worked in team building as the Air Operations Officer at Da Nang Air Base in Vietnam. He was assigned to fly combat missions over Laos where he once crash landed his plane after a gear malfunction yet saving the plane for flying again the next day. Returning to the United States, he went to the Citadel as a staff officer working with the AFROTC. He was at Scott AFB, IL twice, first as the OTE for the C9 and then as the Base Commander. He went to Maxwell AFB, AL, twice. While there, Land created and organized the Leadership Manager Development Center and later served as the Vice Commandant of the Air War College retiring in 1982.

Not only was Land a superior pilot as evidenced by his amassing of over 12,000 accident-free pilot hours in 27 different types of aircraft, he also was a talented motivator of people to solve problems in working situations. He received the FAA Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award for 50 years of safe and proficient flying. His Cadet Field Jacket is on permanent display in the Citadel Museum, and it was the first jacket to display every authorized honor and award. At Scott AFB, IL, he was selected as the Outstanding Acquisition Officer in America because of his problem-solving leadership in the successful delivery of a new plane ahead of schedule and below budget. He used his leadership skills, namely, to teach others to do the job, get it right and not take the credit. Everywhere he went, he became a troubleshooter based on the theory of leadership teamwork; this included Germany, Russia and other countries all over the world. Since retirement from military service, in 1982, Land created Peter A. Land Associates, a company involved in leadership and team-building for over 100,000 people in 12 countries for over 30 years.

Not only has he been an effective leader in the military, but also he has authored three books, *Managing to Get the Job Done*, *How to Build a Winning Team (And Having Fun Doing It)* and his third book, *How to Delegate Effectively Without Losing Control*. Land also co-authored the book, *Mission Possible*, a publication meant for anyone wanting to grow and to succeed.

Land and his wife, Liz have been married 60 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren. After living at 20 different addresses, the Lands remained in Montgomery after his military retirement. He has been actively serving others in the Montgomery community receiving the Paul Harris Fellow Award four times from the Montgomery Rotary Club and belonging to the Montgomery Association of Military Officers and several pilots’ groups. They are involved in active Christian ministry through their membership in the First United Methodist Church in Montgomery where they help with ushering on Sundays and help grieving people through the Joseph Ministry. They engage in a daily program of exercise at the YMCA and travel to visit with their family.

Land’s conclusions about his military service are, “Being in the military gave me an opportunity to make organizations better. The things that I taught worked everywhere.” Land has always been focused on being ready, willing and able to lead and serve the world around him. This Air Force veteran deserves the highest honors and acknowledgements of merit for his service to his country.

### Patriotic Ceremony for Veterans’ Funerals



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



- Families should take a copy of the veteran’s DD214 discharge papers to the funeral home and ask for an honor guard to conduct a flag ceremony.
- Although the funeral home can arrange for the honor guard to include a bugler to play “Taps”, that bugler may bring a bugle and play a tape recording.
- To arrange for a “live bugler”, contact **Raymond Keel**, a veteran who attend veterans’ funerals and plays “Taps” live.
- Call him at 334-233-8736. He is the Assistant Director of the organization, Bugles Across America for Alabama.
- Go to this web site: <https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org> and fill out the form for requesting a live bugler providing the date, location and time of the internment.
- There is no charge for the military honor guard or for the live bugler.



### Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

- John Sherer ~ May 3
- Thomas Daniel Davis ~ May 15
- Jimmy F. Meacham ~ May 5
- Charles Lynn ~ May 23
- Lee Andrews Kennedy ~ May 12
- Bobby Neville Asbury ~ May 29th
- Thomas E. McFadden ~ May 14

### Honoring Veterans Who Have Passed

Veteran	Life Span	Gazette Issue
Joyce Paul Bailey	12/5/1922 - 2/27/2020	Aug. 2019
Alton R. Barnes, Sr.	12/27/1923 - 10/26/2019	Jun. 2019
Allison Vernon Barnett	9/17/1926 - 2/14/2020	Dec. 2019
William D. Daughtry	9/24/1922 - 9/25/2019	Aug. 2019
Richard A. Forster	2/6/1928 - 2/6/2020	Feb. 2019
Signe J. Nelson	5/6/1920 - 3/8/2020	Jul. 2019
Kenneth V. Roberts	8/27/1934 - 11/30/2019	May 2019
Edward Paul Schroeder	10/27/1923 - 9/12/2019	Apr. 2019



Bailey



Barnes



Barnett



Daughtry



Forster



Nelson



Roberts



Schroeder





**Stan Hurst**  
*Associate Sports Writer*



# From Pigskins to Rawhides



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

## *Will the Games Stand Tall?*



While ballparks and all sports venues remain closed, there is hope the Football Season can be salvaged.

Baseball appears to be all but lost, while there has been a plan “spit-balled” that some games with all 30 teams might be played in Arizona and Texas. Actually relocating all MLB teams to these two states and get the season in. Frankly, that’s a long shot at this place in time. It looks very unlikely to me. If our current situation related to COVID-19 improves, perhaps a half-season could be made to work starting at the All-Star break. Locally, there is some discussion that Dixie Youth Baseball could begin the season on May 28th. However, I picked this information up about ten days ago, and it now looks unlikely to me.

NASCAR has approved the May 24th race at Charlotte Motor Speedway; the Coca-Cola 600. The Charlotte Mayor is onboard as long as health conditions continue to improve. It's important to note that NASCAR races at Atlanta, Homestead (TX), Bristol, Richmond, Talladega, Dover and Martinsville have been postponed, not canceled, at least not yet. NASCAR still intends to hold all 36 Cup Series races in 2020. So far, 8 races have been cancelled, subject to rescheduling, perhaps.



*Photo by Bob Townsend/FreeRangeStock.com*

The NBA had planned to allow the teams to re-open training camps, but now that has been pushed back to May 8th. Atlanta is now an open state and the Hawks could begin camp, however, as of this writing they have decided to wait. The NBA, much like MLB, is considering moving teams to “open” states and play the season there, until the other states deem it safe enough to allow teams to play.

The NFL held their draft albeit in a virtual setting. LSU led in the draft, with both Auburn and Alabama close behind. All SEC schools placed players in the NFL with the exception of Ole Miss. My always-the-underdog favorite, Jalen Hurts was picked in the second round by the Philadelphia Eagles. The Eagles front office stated they picked him not only for his football prowess, but equally, if not more important, that he’s a good teammate. What a compliment! And we all know that Tua went to the Miami Dolphins; they also got a great quarterback and an amazing teammate. The most fascinating non-decision in the draft was

New England. They did not draft a quarterback. They seem to feel confident that Jarrett Stidham can fill the shoes left by Tom Brady. Stidham was the 133rd pick in the fourth round of the 2019 Draft. Now if Stidham becomes the starter and plays well, I suspect there will be a lot of head scratching at The Loveliest Village on the Plain.

I’m fascinated by the remarks of one of the top medical people on President Trump’s COVID-19 team.

He suggested recently that it would be OK to go ahead with the sports seasons as long as “no one” attended the games. And by “no one” he means fans and reporters, just the team members, referees, and coaches on the field. Let’s let that idea sink in for a few minutes. I can’t imagine it. Which came first, the chicken or the egg? Why I suppose even Steve Spurrier would throw his cap down and stomp it with that kind of an idea rolling around. From Dixie baseball to MLB, from pee-wee football to the NFL, the fans are an integral part of the game. That’s like having a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without the peanut butter. Heck, if we’re going to do that, let’s just play flag football in the SEC.

I am persuaded that football will be possible in the fall. Surely different, certainly a new normal, and likely for some time to come.

***“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1***



*Photo by Greyerbaby/FreeRangeStock.com*

***In Remembrance of Coach Ed Jones,  
beloved sports writer for the Alabama  
Gazette who would have celebrated his  
82nd birthday on May 6.  
We miss you, Ed!***



*Photo by Julie Elliott-Abshire/FreeRangeStock.com*

## *Southern Gardening*

*Potpourri for May*

*by Peggy Givhan*



**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

With many businesses and stores in our world closed for business, this means that many are working at home. We now have more time to spend in our gardens. If you planted a garden which includes pansies and spring bulbs, these flowers are on the wane. But the dianthus will usually be lush until the end of June when the heat brutally knocks them for a loop. So May becomes the transition month, leaving spring and going into summer. In Alabama many nurseries and big box stores are open for business where there is a treasure trove of plants and flowers, just waiting to find a home in your beds. Recently I purchased some large geraniums for my pot garden along with petunias, dusty miller and snap dragons which are now in full bloom. Within just a couple of weeks, all are established and making a spectacular show. The color scheme is mostly pink, some red, then gray dusty miller, and white petunias. With the snaps bringing up the rear in pale yellow, I must add this is a sight to see. So cheerful, like a fanciful spot of paradise. As a backdrop, red knock-out roses are banked up against a black privacy fence. With water and a bi-monthly feeding of fertilizer, these pots of flowers should last through July. And the best attribute of the pot garden is that I do not have to get on my hands and knees to weed, because there are not weeds.

### **Pinching Back, Disbudding and Deadheading**

Someone asked me recently whether flowers like to be pinched back or cut. Many do and thrive better with this technique. For instance, pansies love for their flowers to be cut and this does encourage more blooms. Pinching encourages more compact, less leggy and bushier appearance. It has a multiplying affect as where the stem is pinched, two branches will grow. Besides pansies, here is a list of a variety of flowers which benefit from pinching.

#### **Sunflowers**



*Photo by Greyerbaby/FreeRangeStock.com*

1. Artemisia, also known as wormwoods
2. Asters
3. Chrysanthemums
4. Helianthus or sunflowers
5. Lobelia
6. Monarda or bee balm
7. Phlox paniculata or summer phlox
8. Salvias
9. Sedum or stonecrops

Another technique that aids flowers to produce bigger blooms is disbudding. When you observe on the flower



**Chrysanthemums**

one bud is larger than the other, pinch back the smaller one and leave only the largest. Peach growers must perform this disbudding in the early spring so their crops of peaches are full size and not the size of plums. Roses and peonies benefit greatly from this disbudding, but do not use this technique on spike-blooming flowers such as delphiniums and lobelias.

Deadheading is another useful technique to encourage more blooms and aids in the appearance of the plant. Although a gruesome name, it merely means to pinch back any bloom heads that are dead or spent. Many flowers do not drop their dead blooms, and seeing brown, dead flowers when other parts of the flower has new blooms is unsightly. Deadheading extends the bloom season, makes the beds more attractive and many times, will keep the plant from going to seed. Flowers that need this attention would be marigolds, daylilies, and bearded iris. If the plants comes into bloom much at the same time, then just sheer the tops of and voila ... a second flush of bloom.

### **Plant of the Month**

Baptisia is a member of the pea family, which also goes by the name of false indigo or wild indigo. These are handsome perennials which can be grown with success in our Zone 8. They sport varied colored blooms such as yellow, blue, cream and white, which have a lupine type bloom. They branch profusely with rounded gray green leaves in clusters of threes, grow to 2-5 feet in height, and bloom through the fall...Their requirements are full sun to light shade, well drained soil but the taller ones need staking. They are also drought resistant. If you get these started in your garden, they will perform for many years to come.

***GOOD GARDENING.***





# Southern Cuisine

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

Will the world ever get back to normal? Everyone is saying there will be a new normal. But then doesn't that become the norm? How many new 'normals' are we going to have? Confusing isn't it? Even though there is much sadness in the world, we must look for what good may come from this. Look for and on the

bright side. We are spending more time with our families or at least communicating with them. My family is having group video-conferences. We at least get to look at some familiar faces and everyone gets updated on what the other family members are doing. Talking to a face is more enjoyable than talking to a phone.

In addition, we as a nation are showing our appreciation for others that keep us safe and healthy. There are stories about special events held by groups of people to honor another group for the sacrifices they are making on our behalf. Humans are respecting others personal space. Keeping six feet away is more for self-defense but it is a start. As a chef, I am happy to see more people paying attention to personal hygiene. Covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Washing your hands has been preached by health professionals for years. It is a small act that has great consequences if not practiced. Maybe this time the practice will take hold.

I have written before about the importance of family in Southern cooking. With the closing of restaurants, restriction on travel, the importance of staying at home, temporary lack of items in the stores and the need to feed everyone at home three meals a day, planning the family meals becomes very important. What are you going to eat and who is going to fix it are questions needing answers! Pre-planning meals for the week and setting aside a day and time to shop for those ingredients so you have them on hand is one of the most helpful things one can do to. Many grocery stores now offer pickup options, which you can take advantage of to limit person-to-person contact. Take advantage of the slow cooker, which allows you to assemble meal ingredients in the morning and let them cook all day so they're ready just in time for dinner.

I am sure you have heard me harp about this topic before, but is your pantry stocked to help you get through this? There are articles online about setting up a "pandemic pantry." I am going to believe your pantry is stocked. This is the time when you can check expiration dates and best-by dates of items in your fridge. This is also a time to experiment with new recipes and try new ingredients to keep things interesting.

The next question is who is going to fix the meals? If you have children at home, you have sous-chefs. If you let your sous-chefs cook along side of you, soon you will have young chefs preparing your meals. Friends of mine in Texas, would post a calendar on the icebox door. Each day was marked with who was going to prepare that night's meal. That was normal practice. That was before a pandemic!

When any of my five grandchildren visit, it is a sure bet that they will spend time in the kitchen. The younger ones practicing baking and pastry. The older ones are up to making complete meals. Soon after they go back to their homes, my wife and I will receive pictures of meals and dishes they are enthusiastically making at home. The last was from my oldest granddaughter. She made and served breakfast that made me proud. This not an easy recipe because of all the steps involved and the batter is a several step process and must not be over mixed. The Food Network kitchen rates this recipe as an Intermediate Skill Level. And instead of serving with just maple syrup and melted butter, she made a Berry Puree. She said the puree is also great with vanilla Greek yogurt and granola.

But she did not use the ring molds. She said it worked great and made them look a little more "rustic and fun."

## FLUFFY JAPANESE PANCAKES with a Berry Puree

### INGREDIENTS:

**1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour**  
**3 tablespoons confectioners sugar**  
**2 teaspoons baking powder**  
**1/2 teaspoon kosher salt**  
**1 1/4 cups milk**  
**4 tablespoons unsalted butter melted and cooled, plus more for serving**  
**1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract**  
**1 large egg yolk plus 3 large egg whites**  
**1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar**  
**Nonstick cooking spray**



*Yield: 8 pancakes*

### METHOD:

1. Special equipment: (4) 3-inch-wide-by 2 1/2-inch-high ring molds
2. Whisk together the flour, confectioners sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl.
3. Whisk together the milk, melted butter, vanilla and egg yolk in a medium bowl until combined.
4. Beat the egg whites and cream of tartar in another large bowl with an electric mixer on medium-high speed until stiff peaks form, about 2 minutes.
5. Stir the milk mixture into the flour mixture until just combined (it's OK if there are a few lumps).
6. Stir one-third of the beaten egg whites into the flour-milk mixture.
7. Then gently fold in the remaining egg whites until just combined (take care not to over mix).
8. Lightly spray the inside of four 3-inch-wide-by-2 1/2-inch-high ring molds with nonstick cooking spray
9. Coat a large nonstick skillet with nonstick cooking spray and heat over medium low heat. Put the prepared ring molds in the middle of the skillet and fill each with 1/2 cup of batter (it should fill each ring mold about halfway).
10. Cover the skillet with the lid and cook until the batter rises to the tops of the ring molds and is golden on the bottom, about 5 minutes.
11. Release the bottom of the pancakes with a spatula.
12. Grasp the sides of the ring molds with tongs to stabilize them and then carefully flip. Cover and cook until golden on the other side, about 5 minutes more.
13. Transfer to a plate and remove the mold. Serve with butter and maple syrup. The pancakes should be served and eaten while still warm before they deflate.
14. Lightly spray the ring molds and coat the skillet with nonstick cooking spray and repeat the cooking method with the remaining batter. Thinly slice the sun-dried tomatoes in strips and add a third cup of a cup at the most, a quarter cup will do.

### BERRY PUREE INGREDIENTS:

**3 cups cleaned strawberries**  
**1-pint blackberries**  
**Juice of half a lemon**  
**1 teaspoon vanilla extract**  
**1/3 cup sugar**

### METHOD:

Blend in a food processor or blender until smooth.  
Store in fridge until ready to serve.



With all this time on hand and you can't go anywhere, and you can clean out your closets, rearrange your furniture and watch Netflix just so many times, you might as well experiment in the kitchen. Watching TV for hours at a time leads to over consumption of the high sodium, high fat, and relatively expensive snack foods. If you make your own snacks, you can make healthier and less expensive ones. Popcorn gets boring and, besides, it only tastes good with lots of butter. I like it with soy sauce, too much sodium, or with curry powder, but that needs butter, too. Open your pantry and try this recipe or try your redemption.

## ROASTED CHICKPEAS

### INGREDIENTS:

**1 (12 ounce) can chickpeas (garbanzo beans), drained**  
**2 tablespoons olive oil**  
**Spices to taste: salt, garlic salt, oregano & cayenne pepper**

### METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 450 degrees F (230 degrees C).
  2. Blot chickpeas with a paper towel to dry them.
  3. In a bowl, toss chickpeas with olive oil, and season to taste with salt, garlic salt, and cayenne pepper, if using.
  4. Spread on a baking sheet, and bake for 30 to 40 minutes, until browned and crunchy.
  5. Watch carefully the last few minutes to avoid burning.
- Serve with your gourmet popcorn, celery sticks, and baby carrots and if you had enough garbanzo beans left over, try homemade hummus.



Photo: *TheLeanGreenBean.com*

To dress up any plated salad, add to a buffet, or find a reason to use up those 4 dozen eggs you thought you needed when you went binge shopping add deviled eggs. This is a family and Southern favorite. Enhance them to gourmet status by adding crabmeat. Now that you have your stimulus checks from Washington, your can spurge a little.

## CRAB DEVEILED EGGS

### INGREDIENTS:

**8 large eggs**  
**1/2 cup mayonnaise**  
**2 tablespoons yellow mustard**  
**2 tablespoons dill pickle relish**  
**2 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning**  
**1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper**  
**1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper**  
**3/4 cup crabmeat picked clean of shell bits**  
**Fresh chopped chives, for serving**



Photo: *Needpix.com*

### METHOD:

1. In medium saucepan, arrange eggs in a single layer & cover with cold water by one inch. Bring water to a boil, then immediately remove from heat.
2. Let eggs sit in hot water for 8 minutes, then transfer to bowl of ice water. Let cool for 5 minutes, then peel & discard shells.
3. Cut eggs in half, lengthwise & carefully scoop out yolks. Save whites for serving.
4. In food processor, combine mayonnaise, mustard, relish, Old Bay, black pepper, cayenne, 2 Tbsp crabmeat & yolks. Process until mixture is completely smooth, about 1 minute.
5. Transfer to medium bowl & fold in 1/2 cup more crabmeat.
6. Season to taste with additional Old Bay.
7. Transfer filling to zipper-lock bag or piping bag fitted with plain tip. If using a bag, cut off one bottom corner. Pipe filling into empty egg whites.
8. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until ready to serve.
9. Top eggs with remaining crabmeat & sprinkle with chives.

**Our economy depends on cash flow. Our farmers, ranchers and other small businesses need as much help as we can afford.**

**Buy local and help your fellow Alabamians. Also, don't forget to donate to your local food bank whenever possible!**

# SUPPORT YOUR AREA FOOD BANK



Montgomery Area Food Bank

*Feeding Hope Across Alabama*



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**334-263-3784**





Patricia Killough  
Community Editor



George Landry  
celebrated his  
90th birthday on  
April 16!

# HOME TOWN COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

Happy 5th  
Birthday,  
Sarah Kate  
Selvage!  
April 22, 2020



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

Watson, Clara Maden (87)	March 26
Shinpaugh, Barbara Joyce Maso (78)	April 1
Malone, Susan Morgan (57)	April 4
McKinnon, Marguerite Fleming (97)	April 5
Wills, Alice Faye Corker (80)	April 5
Jackson, Brenda Joy Russell (67)	April 7
Coffin, Stephen David (59)	April 8
Craig, Geri Ellzey (79)	April 10
Thompson, Robert R. (87)	April 10
Reeves, Sr., Homer Ray (86)	April 12
Stanley, Emma Frances Foshee (92)	April 12
Crews, Peggy Breland (84)	April 13
Glenboski, Joseph "Joe" Vincent (70)	April 13
Palama, Helen May Rector (88)	April 14
Davis, Jr., Warren Lewis "Bo" (88)	April 14
Loeb, Hannah "Honor" Lucienne (23)	April 14
Wilkinson, Dorothy "Dot" Elsefelder (89)	April 14
Adkins, CSM (Ret.), Bennie Gene (86)	April 17
Carpenter, Ruth (96)	April 18
Elrod, Mary Ann Hill (81)	April 18
Gilmore, Gordon F. (74)	April 18
Hornsby, Kristin Watson (39)	April 19
Guy, Margie Cox (93)	April 20
Holman, Mary Kent (84)	April 21
Talley, Jane Rhodes (81)	April 21
Barnhart, Theresa Fay (80)	April 22
Norman, Martha Murray Wingard (78)	April 22
Boyd, Daniel "Danny" Stevens (62)	April 23
Tyson, Alice Jewel Townsend (100)	April 23
Hicks, Jr., James Monroe "Billy" (88)	April 24
Wachs, Samuel D. (91)	April 24
Watson, Jr., Leslie Booth (78)	April 24
Gatlin, Roger O. (86)	April 25
Price, Tyler (26)	April 25
Price, Wyatt Glenn (94)	April 27

## May Birthdays



- |                                    |                            |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Grace Zara "Tiny" Cantey (102nd) | 16 Lonnie Smith            |
| 2 Maggie Brown                     | Stephan Turnipseed         |
| Judy Grubbs                        | Devery Wright              |
| Weston Ashley Sellars (9th)        | 17 Wendy Haddox            |
| Pat Duffell Smith                  | Bertha Graham              |
| 3 Scarlett Box                     | Rosa Nell Watkins          |
| 4 Brittney Belcher (21st)          | 18 Ken Stafford            |
| Teresa Grant                       | 19 Connie Butts            |
| Forrest Taylor (26th)              | Dorothy Hall               |
| 5 Ashton Box                       | 20 Maggie Royster          |
| Connie Bowden                      | 21 Rhonda Alexander        |
| Olivia Propst                      | Al Barnett                 |
| Jayne Ward                         | Ashley Boyd (45th)         |
| 6 James "Jim" Crabtree (84th)      | Susan Johnson              |
| Michael Mckenzie                   | Daniel Selvage (12th)      |
| 7 Tory Alexander                   | Sophia Vazquez             |
| Bryson Box (17th)                  | 22 Tom Broadway            |
| 8 John P. Hanson                   | Aileen Kovacic             |
| Michael Moseley (52nd)             | Hunter Meadows (23rd)      |
| Mary Peoples                       | Brad Williams (41st)       |
| Janet Suddith                      | 23 Susanne Boyd            |
| Trinity Woodall                    | Frank Clayton              |
| 9 Walter Cooper (82nd)             | Julia Grant                |
| Jim Garrett                        | Hazel Norman               |
| Bill Jones                         | Mike Sikes (43rd)          |
| Paul "Moon" Jones                  | Casey Woodall              |
| Jo Oswald                          | 24 Brantley Box (20th)     |
| 10 Mary Ann Pickard (94th)         | Sydney Ellen Grant         |
| Nicole Sansom                      | Wallace Smith              |
| 11 Johnson Alexander               | Seth Meadows               |
| Pam Lynch                          | 25 Wynne Ross (46th)       |
| Barbara Strickland (70th)          | Norman Mitchell            |
| Dee Dee Ward                       | Hamer Phillips             |
| 12 Mary Ellen Grant                | 26 Paula Burgess           |
| Tanya Moore (54th)                 | Mary Louise Dobbs          |
| Liz Morris                         | Rachael Doran              |
| Mary White                         | 27 Ronnie Broom            |
| Zack Witherington                  | Emmie Abelia Johnson (5th) |
| 13 Betty Casey                     | Coley Jones                |
| Chris Cordle                       | Carrie Rhodes              |
| Raven Johnson                      | 28 Brian McCord            |
| Debbie Mills                       | 30 Michele Blount          |
| 14 Luke Dickinson                  | Kate Sansom                |
| Victor Chad Mason (Trace) (7th)    | 31 Betty Crowe             |
| 15 Ann Macon Adams                 | Susan Daffron (72nd)       |
| Waldon Woodall (62nd)              |                            |

## Happy Anniversary

- |                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Thomas & Betty Chesnutt (74th)   | Woody & Linda Foxworth            |
| 5 Haley & Josh Bass (2nd)          | 16 Austin & Ashley Owens (10th)   |
| 6 Corey & Alicia Smith (24th)      | 17 Carl & Faye Boyd (45th)        |
| 8 Billy & Courtney Whigham         | 19 Billy & Ann Cox (72nd)         |
| 10 Clint & Tiffany Andrews         | 21 Allan & Shannon Vinson (14th)  |
| Ashley & Susanne Boyd              | 28 Carl & Betsy Penn (58th)       |
| Charles & Sue Meredith             | 29 Joe & Gail Cotney              |
| Al & Shirley Decker (63rd)         | 30 Richard & Gwen Walters         |
| 11 Roger & Sandy Brown             | Carma & Bill Marks (54th)         |
| 15 Travis & Christle Jordan (15th) | 31 Mike & Connie Northcutt (45th) |



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## In Memory Of

Edward Eugene "Ed" Johnson, III – April 28, 2020  
Charles Wesley Duke – April 23, 2020  
Loyall Whitley Hamil – April 25, 2020  
James Monroe Hicks, Jr. – April 24, 2020  
Eloise Rowe – April 25, 2020  
Winifred Marie Sandlin – April 25, 2020  
Floyd Jefferson "Jeff" Moseley – April 17, 2020  
Paul Register Ransom – April 23, 2020  
Joseph Vincent "Joe" Glenboski – April 13, 2020  
Robert Dale "Bob" Clark – April 21, 2020  
Henry Clay McLaney – April 19, 2020  
Emory Dennis Hammitt – April 16, 2020  
Mrs. Audrey Helen Riley – April 18, 2020  
Julius Lamar Baker – April 17, 2020  
Winnie Faye Holt – April 15, 2020  
Louie Watkins Pharr – April 15, 2020  
Dave Harold Sides, Sr. – April 15, 2020  
Jody Bell – April 10, 2020  
Jean Snyder Simmons – April 11, 2020  
Charles Edward Collier – April 09, 2020  
Gerard William Hodum – April 09, 2020  
John Fred Jenkins – April 09, 2020  
Ernest Raymond "Ray" Helton, IV – April 08, 2020  
Avis Reid – April 08, 2020  
Joe Reford Giddens, Jr. – April 07, 2020  
Robert Lewis Simmons – April 06, 2020  
Robert Lloyd File – April 02, 2020  
Doris Oleta Patterson – March 31, 2020  
Betty Louise Cobb Thrash – March 31, 2020



# TODAY'S WOMAN

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



## Tears and Laughter:

### What is wrong with you people in the Black Belt?

By Amanda Walker

I read articles about the Black Belt sometimes that make me feel like we should all immediately pack up and leave. I don't know where we should go, but we may not make it if we stay.

I read one yesterday that was really playing us up. It said we are poor, dumb, and tend to have a life expectancy that is nine years shorter than the rest of Alabamians.

I knew we were poor and dumb, but I was surprised about those nine years...because we eat a lot of greens down here. I cook a mean pot of greens myself. A neighbor of mine who lives over in Possum Bend taught me how. And now, every year, I'm asked to bring the turnips to Thanksgiving dinner at Mama's in Wynlakes.

We do tend to load our vegetables with smoked pork, bacon, and butter. Do people outside the Black Belt not do that? I don't want to be a bad influence on your health, but y'all are going to want to try that.

And we do eat a lot of fried chicken too. That is a known fact. There may be many things one cannot readily attain in the Black Belt. I will admit that. There are patches where you will not be able to get a good phone signal, and some areas have unreliable internet. But you can find excellent fried chicken about anywhere. Camden has more places that serve fried chicken than it has red lights, and we all rather like it that way.

We drink here in the Black Belt. That may explain in part a couple of those nine years we cash in early. We celebrate the first of the month, everybody's birthday, and full moons that fall on Saturday night.

A lot of people still smoke, too. And they offer no apologies. People here don't go around looking for permission or approval. They offer no justification or excuses. They do what they want to do and call it freedom.

We street race. If that's your thing. I don't participate, but sometimes late at night on the weekends I can hear their engines and tires over on County Road 19.

We spend a lot of time on the river and in the woods. We like fire, and mud, and dirt roads. We alligator hunt, coon hunt, and hog hunt – none of which are daytime activities. I suppose there are safer sports, but nobody here is interested.



The hard thing for outsiders to understand about the people of the Black Belt is that for all it is and all it is not, most everybody here wants it left alone. There are highways that lead in and out of the place from every direction. People who want a different lifestyle...well, I guess they either leave or stay depending on your definition of different.

A lot of people here would rather have deer that eat acorns beneath an old oak tree in their yard than fast speed Internet. They want to be able to hear coyotes at night and sometimes the distant call of a wild turkey early in the morning. They want woods and fields and solitude.

It may be hard to believe, but some people left cities outside of the Black Belt and moved here by choice just because it offers a slower paced lifestyle. Now granted, a lot of women relocated here because of a man who had already made that choice, but the point is the people who are here want to be here. Nobody here is envious of anyplace else. In fact, we think we have something special.

But...we are all dumbasses down here in the Black Belt so what could we possibly know.

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

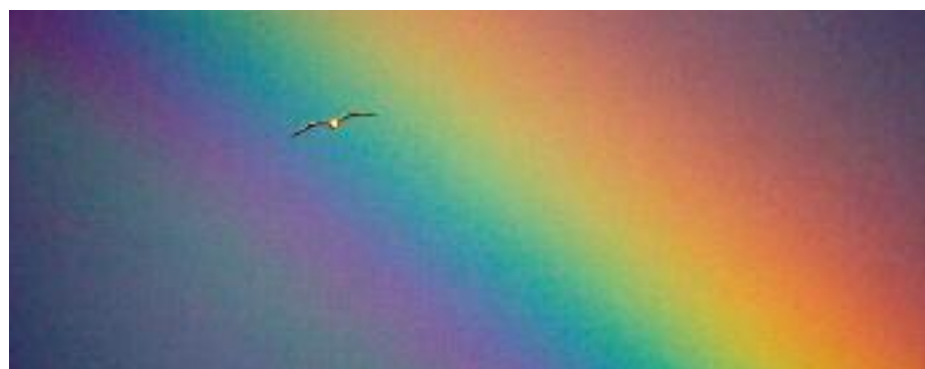


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## Trisston's Tidbits ...

### “See Life Through the Lens of Hope”

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



Hi friends! I pray you are doing well during these challenging times. Even in the midst of uncertainty, I personally have seen God working in awesome ways!

**“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”** Romans 8:28

Anything can be a blessing, an opportunity, if you choose to see it that way. When you see life through a lens of hope, everything can change. This can be a challenging concept to practice when you are in the midst of a storm. I know this to be true. I have had a few storms myself. However, what looked like a dark patch or set back, can actually be a beautiful turning point. I know it's hard to see it when you're in it.

I once heard a wise person say, “There's always a rainbow after every storm.”

When faced with a difficult situation, we have two choices...hope or despair. When you choose hope, you begin to open your heart to possibilities. With all of the uncertainties of the world, especially now, many are facing significant life change. Often, we feel chaos or resistance in these moments. Speaking from experience, resistance will try to take you down. As a result, we try to delay making life decisions.

**“But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.”** Isaiah 40:31

Friends, Hope lives in this moment...and in every moment. Choose Hope! Together, we will have a brighter tomorrow!

**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”** Romans 15:13  
**Many Blessings!**

**P.S. Happy 12th Wedding Anniversary to my husband, Brian! I love you!!**  
**“I have found the one whom my soul loves” Song of Solomon 3:4**

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