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Inside the Statehouse with Steve Flowers

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

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

Bibb Graves the Education Governor

Most states have one General Fund Budget. We are only one of five states that have two.

Some of you have asked why we have two budgets – one for the General Fund and one for Education. Here is why.

During the era of the Great Depression and even afterwards, education in Alabama was woefully underfunded and that is really being generous to simply say underfunded. Our schools were similar to a third world country. We had two separate systems, one for white students and one for black students. Many rural schools were one-room shanties like folks used in the 1800's, like Blab schools, no air condition, woodburning stoves for heat. There were no buses to transport children, so they really did walk to school, barefooted, many times miles to and from. This was for the white schools. You can only imagine what an abysmal education was afforded black kids. Many times teachers were not even being paid. They were given script notes in hopes of getting paid in the future.

We had a governor come along named Bibb Graves that made it his mission to make education a priority in Alabama. He and the Legislature created the Special Education Trust Fund Budget. They earmarked two tax revenues to be used for the new Education Budget. Education was to be the recipient of the state sales tax and the state income tax, which was a new tax system idea just created by the federal government.

Little did Governor Bibb Graves know that today, these two revenue streams would be the largest source of revenue for the state. That little Special Education Fund Budget now dwarfs the General Fund by over a two-to-one amount.

When I was first elected to the Legislature in 1982, the General Fund and Education budgets were 50/50 dead even. Today, the budgets the Legislature will pass are at least 75% Education and around 25% General Fund.

Governor Bibb Graves built an indelible legacy as the Education Governor. His efforts also enhanced higher education in the state. He established teacher's colleges at Troy, Florence, Jacksonville and Livingston along with enhancing funding at the State's two flagship institutions.

The University of Alabama and at the time the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University, were recipients of new education dollars.

Every university in the State has a primary building usually in the center of the campus named after Governor Bibb Graves. That is quite appropriate because Governor Bibb Graves left an education legacy as governor.

He may very well be Alabama's greatest Governor. In fact, he was our only two-term governor between 1901 and 1954. Alabama law did not allow governors to succeed themselves. Therefore, they would have to wait out four years to run again. Graves was governor from 1927 to 1931 and again 1935 to 1939.

The only other two-term governor in the no succession era was James E. "Big Jim" Folsom. He also had an indelible legacy. Many of the rural roads in the state were dirt and impassable when the rains would come. Most folks in the state farmed for a living. When the roads washed out they could not get their crops to the market, so their year-long work was washed out. Big Jim knew the plight of these farmers, he was the little man's and rural man's big friend. Big Jim paved almost every rural road in the state with his legendary Farm-to-Market Road Program. Ole Big Jim has a legacy as Governor.

His son, Jim Folsom, Jr., has a legacy as governor. Even though he was only Governor two years, he brought Mercedes to Alabama. The German company now builds more of their luxury automobiles at their Vance-Tuscaloosa plant than anywhere in the world. This initial Mercedes coupe by Folsom was the impetus for Hyundai, Honda and now Toyota-Mazda making Alabama the home of automobile manufacturing.

With these facilities come major spin-off accessory manufacturing plants. We are now the second largest automobile manufacturing state in America and are poised to supersede Michigan and become number one in the next few years.

Some Governors have left a legacy. Bibb Graves, "Big Jim" Folsom, and Jim Folsom, Jr. are three that have left their mark on Alabama history. Bibb Graves has a legacy as Alabama's Education Governor.

Celebrating Peru's Bicentennial

Few calendars in this part of the Western Hemisphere will note it, but on July 28, Peru celebrates 200 years of independence. Two centuries of anything is a big deal; it demonstrates generational resilience and that's something to celebrate.

But the occasion also offers us cause to examine, and understand the international, liberating forces

unleashed by the success of American Independence, how these ideas permeated through other nations to create a culture of liberty and freedom, and the lessons we can learn from that experience.

Apart from Brazil, most of the countries in South America were colonies of Spain and reflected the influence of Spanish Culture and the traditions of Madrid. In the "conquest" of South America, Spain imposed its will on the indigenous people in the same manner the King of Spain ruled his subjects.

Democracy and the rule of law were nonexistent. Initially, Spain governed by a feudal system with authorities imposing their will by demanding taxes and forcing laborers to extract minerals from the various mines that created the wealth of the European rulers. Spain also adopted a trading system that was exclusive, and Peru was an important part of this system as it had natural ports that became the center of Spain's mercantile system.

But limiting trade while enriching Spanish authorities served to impoverish other classes not of aristocratic blood thus retarding the development of a middle class.

During the 18th Century, Spain was a dominant power vying with France and England for world hegemony. But as Spain receded as a world power, its authority in Peru and other colonies declined precipitously. Having no mother country to support it with military power and administrative might, Spanish authority was degraded and vulnerable to attack by various liberators.

The authoritarian rulers with little backup and few if any, allies were left to their own efforts to maintain control. The battle was on for liberating the people of South American from Spanish domination.

Many countries declared independence, but Peru was one of the last to do so because Lima was populated with many Spanish aristocrats commanding a substantial army to discourage revolution. But the strategic location of Peru made it a pawn not only between the liberators and Spain, but also between competing revolutionaries.

Securing Peru's independence was not accomplished by Peruvian nationals, but by Argentina's Gen. José de San Martín, who sought to extend his sphere of influence and access to the lucrative mines and their wealth potential. Peru was liberated in a gradual effort with an amphibious landing, which sent the Spanish Viceroy fleeing from Lima to the interior of the country.

Once Lima was secured, San Martín declared independence to rally local support. It would take more than three years and the person of Simón Bolívar, to fully liberate Peru; Spain would not recognize its independence until after a fight in 1869.

Peru would discover that declaring independence and maintaining it are two different things - the later substantially more difficult than the former. And, even with a modern constitution, the country was beset with competing factions that would be replaced by a cycle of military dictatorships frequently suspending the constitution and then re-writing it in an attempt to transition to civilian and democratic rule.

Peru has had a dozen constitutions or national charters with the most current one being ratified as recently as 1993. This unfortunate model is not unique to Peru and occurs often in nations formed from prior Spanish colonies.

Establishing democracy and maintaining liberty is hard work, and allowing people to vote can be a messy business. Creating a constitution is much like designing software, but it is only as effective as the hardware that must interpret the codes. The traditions and experiences of any country's hardware are often hard to change.

Regrettably, the Spanish framework for government did not create a fertile ground for liberty or the rule of law. A legal system based on the wits and whims of an autocrat cannot provide a permanent framework of stability, and people who are under the yoke of such a regime are stymied in any attempt at economic advancement.

When power is concentrated in a central authority be it the King in Spain, his governor, or a colonial viceroy, the lack of consistency creates an atmosphere the breeds corruption. Dictatorial rule and autocracy have no room nor patience for a middle class. There are merely the rulers and the ruled; the haves and have nots.

When there is no constitution animating the civil liberties of the people and no legal system to protect property rights, a cycle of uncertainty prevails as rulers use power to punish rivals, promote their friends, and enrich themselves. Corruption creates instability, which leads to coups and subsequent dictators doing the same thing but with different beneficiaries.

While the legacy of Spanish rule remains, Peru continues to move toward greater liberty for her people. The system of government appears to have stabilized to provide civilian leadership and an acknowledgement that the military is not a branch of the government to intervene during a crisis to restore order by suspending the constitution.

Like other nations in South America, Peru has entered the 21st Century with hopes for a bright future. While it might be easy to compare Peru to our American experience, it is unfair to measure other nations by our yardstick and require them to completely embrace our system of government.

Each country comes to terms with their self-government differently, and it is important for Americans to respect the form and organization each country selects. It helps to recognize that while our constitution has provided a framework of civilian government, liberty, and the rule of law, democracy is fragile and maintaining it requires constant effort and full citizen engagement.

As Peru celebrates its 200th anniversary, we can only hope that the next two centuries bring its people an even larger measure of American-style freedom and prosperity.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

BY THE NUMBERS

I first wrote this Robservation back in 2013. Yeah, eight years ago.

Sadly, in the context of this subject, things have not gotten better. Not by a long shot. I decided to revisit this subject of our national debt after reading on Breitbart News how the Democrat infrastructure bill will cost U.S. tax payers \$5.4 trillion, which will be much more expensive than previously promised. Hmmm, imagine that. Politicians not telling the truth. Who could have seen this coming? www.breitbart.com/politics/2021/07/19/analysis-democrat-infrastructure-bill-cost-trillion/. I am not going to say that our country is not in need of some serious infrastructure upgrades, we simply cannot afford these numbers. This will become painfully obvious in a few seconds. This entire discussion reminds me of the movie Apollo 13 when they were trying to figure out the new power-up sequence without going over something like 22 amps. They tried sequence after sequence but failed. When it came to heating the parachutes, the amperage went way “over budget.” Gary Senise’s character argued that without the parachutes, “what’s the point?” One of the engineers fired back something along the lines of, “You are telling me what you want. I’m telling you what we have.”

That is where we are right now. We simply do not have the money to do this. Simply printing money is not the answer. Again, this will be obvious shortly. I have left much of the verbiage the same from the earlier Robservation but have also updated many of the numbers.

When you look at what I wrote eight years ago, you can watch the news today and see some of the ramifications of our growing debt problem. Things mentioned almost a decade ago are coming to fruition today. We cannot continue down this path.

NOTE: Please forgive any math errors.

By nature, I am not a numbers guy; never have been. I can’t quite say I hate numbers, but math always scared me. It probably goes back to second grade when I remember I was counting on my fingers in class one day and my teacher yelled at me in front of the whole class. I wish it weren’t the case. I would love to be the guy who could look at any mathematical equation, chemical reaction or physics question, smile, dive in and solve it. I have always been more the right brain, history kind of guy. I love history because it makes sense to me. I understand it and I am pretty good at looking at seemingly dissimilar events and being able to find commonality or division where many people don’t. That being said, I still don’t like those pesky numbers.

Although numbers do tend to scare me, they most certainly have their place. When discussing topics, sometimes strict historical analogies don’t really strike home like I would want but with “in-your-face” numbers, there is often no substitute. If I throw out a number like an estimated 62,000,000 babies having been aborted in the US since *Roe vs. Wade* (foxnews.com), that number becomes painfully real. Remember the German Holocaust killed close to 12,000,000 people total. What about 13,000–17,000 Russians who died every day during WWII? (Based upon 20-25 million total Russian deaths from the beginning of the German invasion of Russia on 22 June 1941 until the German surrender on 8 May 1945.) If you want to get someone’s attention, stating a correct number is infinitely better than simply saying, “a lot of babies are aborted in the US every year.” Likewise, I am not necessarily talking about the often “slight-of-hand” world of statistics but rather simple numbers. Someone once told me that statistics are like a bikini. They are nice to look at but they cover up the most important parts. How true. When looking at numbers and statistics, it is often too easy to manipulate them in order to prove or disprove your position. I am really hoping not to do that here. All I want to do today is point out some sobering numbers and give some perspective to how large some of our national debt figures are.

The other day, believe it or not, I heard a lawmaker foolishly claim that our national debt was not a problem. I heard another say that we don’t have a spending problem but an income/revenue problem. I listen to both Republican and Democratic lawmakers make claims that cause the hair on my neck stand up. As American citizens, we are unfortunately caught in the middle of a political game of “It’s your fault. No, it’s your fault” with the real culprits hiding behind deluded fantasies in Washington D.C. I really don’t care whose fault it is because our national debt is everyone’s problem and those on both sides of the fence need to seriously address the issue. If any of you have a computer, smart phone or Ipad, I recommend going to one of two debt clock websites or download a debt clock App. There are several out there and the site that I am basing this column on is called usdebtclock.com. Once connected to the internet, it updates itself by the second. When you watch it, you will get a sick feeling in your stomach as you see the numbers increasing every second; actually close to \$40,000 per second. An even more thorough site is usdebtclock.org. I cannot stress it enough; go to these two sites and take a look. Be prepared to be sick to your stomach. Below are the numbers I copied from usdebtclock.com on Monday 18 March 2013 at around 1800 local and then at 1800 local on 19 July 2021. The differences are staggering.

2013	2021
\$16,744,756,296,931.07	United States National Debt
\$53,018.53	United States National Debt Per Person
\$137,317.99	United States National Debt Per Household
\$123,291,714,196,439.23	Total US Unfunded Liabilities*
\$15,112,421,558,534.86	Social Security Unfunded Liability
\$79,032,003,871,556.73	Medicare Unfunded Liability
\$19,944,980,549,259.79	Prescription Drug Unfunded Liability
\$9,202,308,217,077.86	National Healthcare Unfunded Liability
\$390,375.65	Total US Unfunded Liabilities Per Person
\$1,011,072.93	Total US Unfunded Liabilities Per Household
315,828,395	United States Population
\$3,483,086,400	National Debt Increase Per Day
\$40,313	National Debt Increase Per Second

* Unfunded liability means not having assets available to pay a promised debt. For example, if you are flat broke and have absolutely no assets yet have promised to pay me \$1,000 per month for a year; you have \$12,000 in unfunded liabilities.

Pretty scary stuff, huh? But what is most amazing is that most Americans really have no idea how big these numbers really are and what they mean for all of us and future generations. On most flights, the other pilot and I discuss a myriad of topics. When the situation presents itself, there is one question I almost always ask and only one person has ever actually come close to getting it right. “How long is a trillion seconds?” Take a guess. Now take a look at the answer below and some other surprising numbers. When looking at the example of the trips to the sun and Mars, keep in mind mileage to the sun and other planetary bodies in our solar system vary by the second since everything is constantly in motion. These distances are based on a snapshot in time I took from my GoSkyWatch app. Here goes.

- What is 1 trillion? – 1,000,000,000,000.00 (That is a lot of zeroes)
- 1 trillion inches equals approximately 13,888,888 miles
- 16.7 trillion inches (our 2013 debt) equals approximately 232,566,059 miles or approximately
- 580 round trip flights to the moon or

USA DEBT CLOCK.COM	
Debt Clock	FAQ
History	Gold/Silver
Mortgages	About
News	Clocks
More Facts	
United States National Debt	\$28,365,149,184,527.13
United States National Debt Per Person	\$84,402.11
United States National Debt Per Household	\$218,601.46
Total US Unfunded Liabilities	\$123,996,263,081,779.69
Social Security Unfunded Liability	\$15,278,441,261,216.12
Medicare Unfunded Liability	\$79,459,749,973,414.55
Prescription Drug Unfunded Liability	\$20,024,913,273,256.88
National Healthcare Unfunded Liability	\$9,233,158,573,892.12
Total US Unfunded Liabilities Per Person	\$368,963.17
Total US Unfunded Liabilities Per Household	\$955,614.61
United States Population	336,066,777

- 1 flight to Mars and part of the way home
- More than one round trip to the Sun
- Our current debt of \$28 trillion in inches would translate into 393,953,753 miles.
- 1 trillion seconds equals 31,709 years (1 million seconds equals approximately 11.5 days)
- If our national debt (2013) of \$16.7 trillion were 16.7 trillion miles, it would take light, traveling at close to 186,000 miles per second, just short of three years to cover that distance. At today’s debt, that grows to 4.8 years.

Fox News reported that our government (in 2013):

- Takes in \$6 billion in taxes per day
- Spends \$11 billion per day
- This of course equates to a \$5 billion deficit per day – Quite unsustainable!

Assuming the number reported on Fox News is correct, if we took all \$6 billion and applied every single penny to our national debt, we would apply only \$2,190,000,000,000 or \$2.19 trillion to our debt per year. But since our national debt (in 2013) is currently growing at an average annual rate of \$1,271,326,536,000, if we were to apply every penny of tax income to combat our debt, we would in fact only be paying off approximately \$918,673,464,000 (Let’s call it \$9.19 billion) per year. Oh, by the way, let’s factor in that little detail of actually paying to run the country.

The point to all this madness is not to scare anybody but to rather educate. When any elected leader, from either side of the isle, gets on television and tells us that our debt is not a problem, realize he/she is lying. It is a problem. Maybe not today or next year, but without any change in our fiscal behavior, down the road, it cannot be anything but a real problem; both fiscally and morally. If we cannot run our households under the assumption that we will be allowed to spend \$11,000 dollars per month while only bringing let’s say \$6,000, why should we think it is okay for the government to do the same? Fiscally, it is irresponsible and borderline criminal.

Morally, living in a continued state of growing debt and financial irresponsibility is unbiblical and reprehensible. For just one example, **Proverbs 22:7b says, “the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.”** As long as we continue to go further in debt to communist China, how can we maintain our political, moral and military standing in the world? We can’t. How much power and influence will China begin to wield against us around the world? We have been feeling this pressure long before the abomination of the recent “sequestration.” We are in a position now where we are reducing our military presence around the world while the Chinese, Russians, Iranians, North Koreans and others are ramping up. (2021 – we just pulled out of Afghanistan) Why shouldn’t they? We are cutting back forces, cutting out training, grounding airplanes, reducing the number of bullets our troops can use for practice, etc. Why? Because we don’t have the money. There is talk of us helping the Syrian rebels. I ask, “With what?” Our good looks?? For crying out loud, the White House recently cancelled all tours until who knows when. Really? We can’t afford the \$3 million or so per year for these tours but we can send hundreds of millions of dollars overseas to countries that arguably don’t deserve our aid. A country like America should never be in a position where we don’t have the funds to run basic necessities; especially when our financial problems have been and continue to be caused by mismanagement and party bickering.

Do I think this country is in peril of self-destructing? Yeah, pretty much. Not now at least. But I am saying is it incumbent upon all of us to fully understand what our national debt means to America in the very near future and for the future of our children. We have a lot of work to do and we need to realize that if nothing changes in terms of government spending and waste, everything we have come to know and love about our American lifestyle will change and there is no way around that. We cannot continue on this path without some very nasty ramifications. Even with the most recent talks of raising yet another \$1 trillion in new taxes over ten years, it will not help our situation unless we cut our spending. The numbers don’t lie; politicians however, do. Republican and Democrats alike are guilty for where we stand today. Don’t let either of them try to convince you otherwise.

Screenshots from [US Debt Clock.org](http://USDebtClock.org) above and below, support the numbers in this article.



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WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CONTINUE TO PRESERVE CONTROVERSIAL MONUMENTS?



Ronald A. Holtsford

Aside from being a practicing attorney I have had an almost lifelong interest in my family history and especially those that were southern soldiers in the War Between the States. I am proud to claim ten, either great-great or great-great great grandfathers that fought to separate the people of the South from a Federal army under Lincoln that had decided they

would force the South back into the Union. There are many causes for the War, unfortunately the only cause taught in schools written by the winner in the conflict is that it was all over slavery. I'm not going deep into the causes but if the readers of this article will investigate on their own it will be noted that only a few months prior to the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln had corresponded with Horace Greeley and basically stated from a leadership standpoint an indifference to slavery if the Union could be saved. Lincoln did state his personal opinion that he wished all men free. On investigation the reader will find that it was northern slave traders that brought captured African people to be sold into slavery which though predominant in the south was also found in parts of the north. Further investigation will show the impact of lost tariff money (cotton export) to the Federal government and a desire to bring the South back at bayonet point through invasion and the destruction of southern infrastructure and personal property.

Since the emancipation of the slaves (only from the rebelling states) the Federal government did not appropriately follow through with the necessary steps to give formerly enslaved African Americans the support needed so that all former slaves and their descendants could rise above their unprepared sudden freedom and resultant impoverishment. Even while facing broad discrimination and often lacking the resources needed for success, so many of their descendants have risen to prominence in all areas of American life. The Federal government for so many years have thrown money at the descendants of those emancipated for support without really providing the appropriate resources to maintain a good quality of life.

Unfortunately, the murder of George Floyd by an out of control police officer set off the final nerve of a nation that has struggled with race for hundreds of years. George Floyd was not a model citizen but no one man could be his judge and executioner based on his alleged crime even coupled with resistance to the officers.

I do my best to place the value of a man based on his character and not the color of his skin. I think that Pastor Miles McPherson, founder of the Rock Church in San Diego has provided a great approach in his book, The Third Option. It boils down to the fact that man was created in the image of God. That is all of us and if you sit and talk to someone different from you, you will find something in common to talk about. I think that attitude was what Dr. Martin Luther King saw in his, "I have a dream" speech. I have an African American friend who at times calls me brother and I call him the same in return. We were asked by another in what context the word brother was being used. We both replied in essence that it was in relation to being brothers in Christ. You see my friend, lost his mother to cancer when he was young and as a boy contracted TB and ended up in a TB hospital. Nevertheless, he ended up serving our country in the Army both full time and part time until retirement and managed to gain significant educational and vocational strides in spite of his setbacks as a boy. We have managed to get my son and his same aged grandson together at times where the four of us usually share a meal, a good time and a lot of laughs. He is truly a man motivated to overcome his early tragedies and an example to all of any race that may have been disadvantaged during their formative years.

The first volume of the Confederate Veteran magazine came out in 1893. I have begun to read the old volumes which have several categories of stories. Some are looking for old soldiers which may have been both friend or foe. Some tell old war stories which I find fascinating. Even those few years removed from the War, I see articles of concern of how the War is remembered. You see, the winners write the history and it's not always entirely correct. The people of the South especially need to know all of the truth. A March, 1893 article was written in support of financial support of those enslaved for at least twenty years prior to the Emancipation. In verbiage not always considered politically correct for this century, it was advocated that those formerly enslaved during that period and not already in receipt of a pension or Federal support be given a home and land. The writer fondly recalled so many of those enslaved that impacted his life and wished rather than living close in poor quarters in a city be given a home and land where they could support themselves and be in a healthier environment. All of this from a Confederate Veteran magazine writer. You see a reparation of those actually harmed makes more sense than reparations for those now living of a particular skin color regardless of whether they are descendants of slaves. Unfortunately, I don't believe the Federal government ever followed through on the advocacy of many to help those formerly enslaved to have the better life that they deserved.

The other concern I see in the magazine were those raising money to erect memorials to the War dead and those that served in the Confederate service. Just as we memorialize those men who died at Pearl Harbor or those people that died at the World Trade Center when the horrors are still fresh so did the people of the south when over 600,000 Americans had died in the War Between the States. The statues and memorials raised often by peoples long dead remind us of the struggles of their lives. These were real life and death struggles, they are a part of history whether liked or not. To attempt to cancel history by removing reminders is both ignorant and more divisive.

Recognizing the ideals of a far left that supports the destruction of many memorials to sectional or national heroes, the State of Alabama passed legislation in 2017 to protect such monuments and memorials. Many other states have also done so either prior to or subsequent to Alabama's law. Even the remains of General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his wife have been removed from a Memphis park because even though he led the Ku Klux Klan for a period until he determined it to be too violent he also was known to have fought to protect all citizenry in Selma and other areas invaded by Federal troops. Even the protecting laws have not been enough as some municipalities have elected to pay the fines or rogue citizens have stolen or toppled monuments because they have no self control or respect or a desire to understand factual histories different from their current, anarchist type ideals.

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

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State and Local Barriers to Entrepreneurship

State and local governments lure businesses with incentive packages. Yet these governments impose rules stifling entrepreneurs starting new businesses, forgetting that Amazon, offered multi-billion dollar deals for its HQ2, started out of Jeff Bezos's garage.

A new Cato Institute study, "Entrepreneurs and Regulations" by Chris Edwards, details the state and local government burdens on startups. Elected officials

should carefully weigh these policies' benefits against the burdens. The administration of many rules can be significantly improved.

How do regulations harm small businesses? First, many compliance burdens occur at startup. While every added employee or business location involves compliance, many licenses, permits and inspections must be obtained before opening. One study found that regulatory costs per employee were 29 percent higher for small versus large businesses.

Startups also employ more lower wage workers: weekly earnings at small firms were half the average for the largest firms. Increases in minimum wages and mandated employee benefits hit small businesses harder.

Large businesses have more political influence and can reduce the burden of new regulations on themselves or obtain exemptions to rules. Businesses which do not yet exist cannot influence regulation.

Startups have very tight margins and cannot afford extra costs. Entrepreneurs typically invest their life savings, borrow from friends and family, and earn little initially. One study found that half of tech company founders made less than \$6 an hour during the first year.

Alcohol licenses illustrate another type of burden. Eighteen states limit the number of alcohol permits; the existing permits can be sold, with prices often exceeding \$250,000. Chain restaurants can more easily afford this cost than a chef opening her first restaurant.

"Entrepreneurs and Regulations" offers a new measure of state policy burdens, called the Entrepreneurial Regulatory Barriers Index. The index includes 13 measures across four areas: small business owners' perceptions of the burden of regulations, occupational licensing, entry barriers (like Certificate

of Need laws), and policy-created costs.

The best states for startups are Georgia, South Dakota and North Dakota; California, New Jersey and Connecticut are the worst. Alabama ranks 29th, a little lower than in other small business policy indexes. The Pacific Research Institute and Small Business and Entrepreneurship Council rank Alabama 15th and 11th respectively. Alabama's climate for startups is not horrible but could be better.

Local governments may impose even greater burdens, as Mr. Edwards details. Consider the sheer number of rules. In New York City, small businesses are subject to 6,000 regulations while 15 city agencies issue over 250 licenses and permits. Delays are common. Honolulu is supposed to issue small commercial building permits in 14 days but takes on average over 150.

Entrepreneurs often must pay rent while waiting for approvals. In addition to delay is uncertainty, which economic research consistently shows reduces business investment. Many city offices offer no way to track the progress of applications, so entrepreneurs cannot know when or if permission to open will be granted.

Government rules, frequently zoning laws, hamper home-based businesses. Zoning historically kept businesses and industry out of residential areas. Yet the internet allows businesses to be run unobtrusively from home, keeping costs low while entrepreneurs explore the potential for their product or service. Complaints by neighbors typically trigger zoning enforcement, highlighting the often-unpredictable impact of rules on new businesses.

The Alabama legislature helped home-based businesses this year with a "cottage foods" bill. The law lifts a cap on the value of annual sales, increases the range of foods people can make at home, and allows internet sales. Alabamians can now more fully participate in America's cottage food boom.

State and local governments might have to sustain business over the next several years. The Biden administration is clearly very pro-regulation. As Mr. Edwards writes, "whatever happens in Washington, state and local governments can do much to improve the entrepreneurial climate by repealing low-value and harmful regulations." Regulatory reform can help grow Alabama's economy.

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

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John Sophocleus

Beatin’ Around the Bush in Hubbardland

Our next chapter of “Malice in Hubbardland” type corruption in Lee County reveals even more malfeasance while observing flawless (from jury selection to plea agreement) intendant by the jurist our Alabama Supreme Court appointed to preside over Lee County DA Brandon Hughes’ ethics case, Judge Pamela (Willis) Bacshab. This “retired” Colbert County Judge has many decades of experience ‘in the trenches.’ According to a UNA biography, Baschab started as an Assistant DA in Mobile County before working several years in her family’s firm of Chason & Underwood in Foley. She began her private practice in Elberta [1987] as this city’s first attorney. Baschab was later elected to serve four years as an Alabama District Judge in Baldwin County, then four years as Baldwin County Circuit Judge, and 12 years on the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals as presiding judge.

Some recall Baschab as “The Walking Judge” where she tirelessly traveled all of Alabama to increase awareness of cronyism and special interests harming our State. Given how jurisprudence in Lee County has decayed these past years, sitting in a courtroom ruled by this hard-working, competent judge was a very welcomed breath of fresh air. Baschab’s careful work ethic and righteous presence served to further highlight how poor our District Judge was documented to be in comparison - esp. when shown to execute legal documents OUTSIDE his jurisdiction to be used in the effort to remove DA Brandon Hughes.

The Assistant DA who put documents under Judge Bush’s nose likely expecting another instance of failure to exert the minimum standard of jurisprudence or undisciplined negligence (does it really matter?) landed a nice federal job. Easy to imagine some jury members considered this employment upgrade (after a witness stand appearance painfully displayed his inability to accomplish a simple warrant correctly) was in return for his actions before Judge Bush and testimony to remove DA Hughes. This shameful performance seemed to provide enough added poor ‘optics’ to scramble State prosecutors toward an immediate plea agreement before even more of Judge Bush’s incompetence and testimony of this sort was revealed in front of a competent, no-nonsense Judge like Baschab.

Panic for a plea agreement was no surprise to those with insight about timing and motivation on Hughes’ prosecution with so many other, much bigger, smelly fish to fry in Hubbardland. Hope that federal agency considers investigating what appears to be a suspicious hire of this former Lee County Assistant DA after what I observed; having someone willing to be part of what jurors witnessed in Baschab’s courtroom in any legal/law enforcement type Agency’s employ may generate even greater future embarrassment. Another bright-line moment of the difference between an excellent jurist like Baschab and Judge Bush’s failed stewardship of his courtroom these past years was dutifully swearing in the defendant and putting on record Mr. Hughes’ understanding of the plea agreement she was entering. Judge Bush’s public service has been known to sentence defendants (still waiting to be sworn in or allowed witnesses on his behalf against Hubbardland politburo minions) without a trial.

I offer no justification or comfort for Brandon Hughes’ rumored infidelity or a despicable employee’s after-hours behaviour and bellowing at a righteous, hard working cleaning lady. Given God’s blessing of my bride these past three decades, I find it difficult to evoke empathy toward those who squander one of the greatest blessings I’ve known in my life. Pragmatic about our world of uncompetitive duopoly party elections, I understand the very short supply of candidates who exhibit professional and private integrity. I’ve supported Sect. Merrill knowing his problems with fidelity and find this private flaw disappointing; saddened this evil makes him so easy to neutralize as we’ve now observed with former Lee County DA Hughes who was making great progress reducing the docket and addressing corruption in his professional capacity. Clearly many other public servants, far more despicable like Clinton and Trump types, are also elected without my vote/support.

When first elected, I supported Bush. Judges Russell Bush and Jacob Walker were among the few duopoly candidates I voted for... as written in several columns these past dozen years, I suspect few ballots are cast in Alabama with as many write-ins as mine. I refuse to not vote in a race simply because both duopoly candidates are unacceptable. When non-duopoly votes begin to exceed margins of victory, the losing candidates will be incentivized to notice.

Now, Judge Walker has abridged serial felon Mike Hubbard’s sentence because some reduction on appeal without displaying similar adjustments for past serial felons Walker has sentenced - some who may be (in)correctly serving three time loser outcomes. Similarly, most I spoke to thought well of Judge Bush in his early years of service. Now it is difficult to find those speaking well of him, making their case for his laziness, incompetence, irrational rulings and in a station above his capacity/intellect. Again, not a justification for one who is taking a paycheck for the position; I’ve declined high paying jobs not confident I’d be able to accomplish well, but I have on occasion requested my Alabama House and Senate member champion more judgeships allocated to Lee County’s hyper-subsidized growth destroying the quality of life for most long time residents.

Pray our Alabama Attorney General demonstrates consistency to investigate and prosecute the many other instances of malfeasance and using public office for personal gain in matters of \$14,000 or more in Lee County. Payments made

in a manner the common citizen taxpayer cannot follow (covering-up misconduct as bad/worse than Mr. Hughes) appear to be there for the prosecuting by those allowed the tools and resources to investigate Hubbardland. A Lee County director was removed for what some asserted off the record is a similar dollar amount. A corrupt county administrator executed an illegal change order for \$100,000 also without legal approval; fraudulent traffic studies by an illegal (unbonded) highway engineer to benefit a crony developer are among the many wrongdoings documented and brought before the DA. Other much bigger smelly fish like documented collusion between Blue Cross and EAMC undisciplined by the County who ‘kites bonds’ to pay legal settlements for their wrongdoings were not brought to DA Hughes’ attention once neutralized by Felon Hubbard minions - it has been sent to our State DA Steve Marshall who doesn’t seem to know how to respond to the facts presented. Recent ‘streamlining’ championed by one of the bigger enablers of Lee County Commission corruption now impedes public citizens being seen/recorded putting the County on notice of their illegal activities.

When first elected, DA Brandon Hughes would listen and at times address issues I’d research and elucidate in the Gazette. The most egregious was Gig-city Opelika theft from OPS (electricity) rate base payers pressed by citizen investigator Kelly W. Curenton. The corrupt mayor Mr. Curenton exposed did not like the compelling parallel drawn that similar actions up in Bristol, Virginia landed some politicians in prison. There was a palpable change in DA Hughes’ tenor when a well documented illegal change order appeared to be getting too close to the most corrupt Lee County commissioner’s purse. After fellow Commission watcher Peter Byrd was harangued by this commissioner and Byrd wouldn’t yield, he unleashed a campaign to do everything in his power (even if outside his authority) to attack those supportive of efforts to watch and question politburo actions. Soon thereafter, DA Brandon Hughes was indicted on perjury to cover-up infidelity, charges of using his office for personal gain, auto theft, etc.

Lee County’s interim DA installed made it clear she does not want citizen input from those keeping watch over commissioners - understandable if aligned with Felon Hubbard minions or afraid to be bullied/suffer inconsistent scrutiny when addressing corruption Riley/Hubbard Inc. directly promotes. Corrupt minions in Hubbardland make this point loud and clear to those they want to neutralize. No longer interim with Hughes permanently removed, Lee County’s current DA described the office a ‘frat house’ under Hughes’ stewardship. Some observers of her courtroom performance found it odd she didn’t have the courage to make a stand on the matter for herself and others (like a righteous cleaning lady traumatized when simply trying to do her job) until it would land her in the DA’s job at least until the next election. It appears she will be exactly what Hubbardland minions want in the DA’s office so I forecast re-installation in her Republicrat primary.

A recent Assistant DA hire under our newly installed DA’s supervision made it clear in motions submitted to Judge Russell Bush’s District Court he would do our most corrupt commissioner’s bidding against a Lee County Commission watcher asserting ‘particularly reprehensible’ behaviour impossible to justify with the Alabama code. Increasing a 3 month ‘forgive exercising my Civil Rights’ probation agreement into 24 months (some say a 2 year sentence disenfranchising his ability to appear, observe, submit grievances, etc. before county politburo members) further emboldened this corrupt commissioner to so easily abuse his power and status without proper jurisprudence oversight in Judge Bush’s Court. I remain amazed the divorce/parental rights and gun rights advocates in Lee County have put up with Bush’s laziness, poor rulings, etc. these past years. Perhaps further evidence of how greatly our duopoly ballot box is failing in Hubbardland which re-elected this serial felon claiming ‘Belief in Mike Hubbard’ while his despicable actions were well known to anyone wanting to see...

Bush could display some long overdue integrity by apologizing to Lee County and others outside his jurisdiction (specifically Chambers County) he’s offended and failed to provide the minimum standard of jurisprudence then revisit all the cases he’s mishandled. If nothing else, invite victims back into his courtroom to properly adjudicate/enter plea agreements after putting defendants under oath. If unwilling to show any contrition or efforts to correct his wrongdoings, then resign immediately in hopes someone of higher intellect and integrity (more like what we observed from Judge Baschab) may improve judicial results in this District judgeship.

In closing, Judge Bush was elected to protect citizens from corrupt commissioners, sycophantic assistant DAs and poor attorneys who operate in bad faith as officers in his court, clearly failing to provide the minimum standard of care. The political theft he’s aided and abetted is every bit as deleterious as the non-political theft which will undoubtedly rise with the over subsidized, cancerous growth in Hubbardland promoted by the cronyism for those wanting to pillage our productive citizens. It was hard to avoid ‘daydreaming’ a little in Judge Baschab’s courtroom to consider where my county may be today with more righteous, hard working, competent jurists like her instead of what we’ve observed out of Judge Bush and others on the decay in Lee County... still an epicenter of corruption in East Alabama.



John M. Taylor

“The Informed Southerner”

The Historical Significance of Anthony Johnson

We are constantly bombarded with issues instigated by individuals attempting to cause division in America. For example, the 1619 Project (reminiscent of something in the old parody magazine, National Lampoon), Critical Race Theory (an outgrowth of Marxism), and a seemingly endless stream of individuals who insist they are victims.

What kind of parent would want their children to consider themselves victims? As Booker T. Washington observed: “Nothing ever comes to one, that is worth having, except as a result of hard work.”

The “government-approved” version of history claims the first twenty Africans who arrived in Virginia were slaves. However, the first British colony (later called a State) to legalize slavery was Massachusetts (1640), the second was Connecticut (1652), and the third was Virginia (1661). As the saying goes: “Something does not compute.”

In August 1619, twenty indentured Africans landed at Jamestown, Virginia, disembarking from the English ship The White Lion. It is recorded that the ship’s captain “sold” these individuals. In the vernacular of the time, that terminology was used to reference indentured servants, who, of course, were predominantly Caucasian. Roughly equivalent to a work contract, the indentures generally ran from three to seven years. Upon completion of the agreement the servant would be free to go his (or her) own way, having typically learned a trade or skill to become productive and self-sufficient. “Masters” were sometimes guilty of extending indentures based on flimsy evidence of violation of the terms, i.e., indentures could be illegitimately held beyond the legally set time.

One of the indentured servants believed to be in the original group of twenty was Anthony Johnson. Thought to be from Angola and often referenced as “Antonio a Negro,” Johnson would become a pivotal figure in American history.

Johnson worked at Bennett’s Welcome, a tobacco plantation located on the southern side of the James River. On March 22, 1622, over 350 colonists were killed in an Indian massacre. Fifty-three individuals were killed at Bennett’s Welcome; however, Johnson managed to escape. Later in 1622, another ship arrived at Virginia’s shores. On board was “Mary a Negro Woman” (also thought to be Angolan) and she ultimately became Johnsons’ wife. They would have two sons and two daughters.

Around 1635 Johnson was freed from his indenture and he immediately started his own farm with his wife. Johnson had servants who worked on his farm. Eventually John Casor became one of those servants.

Casor insisted that Johnson held him beyond his indenture (thought to be seven or eight years). This was considered to be a serious offense during that era. Fearing possible legal repercussions, Johnson let Casor go in 1653. Casor then went to work for Robert Parker. After this relationship unfolded, Johnson sued Parker (who helped Casor gain his freedom), asserting that Casor owed lifetime service to him (Johnson). This was the court case Johnson vs. Parker, Northampton County. On March 8, 1655, Johnson won the case. Casor was returned to Johnson’s service, and Parker was ordered to pay the costs of the lawsuit. As author Francis W. Springer noted, this entitled Anthony Johnson to be called “The Father of Negro Slavery in Virginia.” In other words, a Black “slave-owner” won a lawsuit that established lifetime servitude in Virginia. Springer also noted that Johnson imported his own servants and even established a community of free Blacks. [Some insist John Punch was the first slave in “English” Virginia in 1640; however, his sentence of lifetime servitude was punishment for the “crime” of attempting to escape to Maryland. Of course, Black slaves were said to among the Spanish who came to the Americas in the 1500s.]

A sound argument could be made that anyone who has actually been held as a slave might deserve compensation. Can anyone identify individuals in America who meet those qualifications? Furthermore, any historian with a clue understands the following: Africans sold other Africans in the slave trade, beginning with the Arabs in the 700s, and later the Europeans in the 1400s; the English dominated the slave trade for years; the New England States operated the slave trade in America; and every racial and ethnic group in America owned slaves (White, Jewish, American Indian, Hispanic, Asian, etc.), including at least 3,775 Black slave-owners.

Only about 5% of African slaves were brought to North America, yet, in the modern “media” the Southern and Border States receive the brunt of the criticism for a practice that predates the time Jesus Christ walked on earth. History shows beyond a reasonable doubt that everyone had a hand in it—even Abe Lincoln admitted that fact. The case of Anthony Johnson is an example of the folly of broad brushing an extremely complicated history by selectively demonizing some people and giving others a free pass.

Sources: “Ambitious Slave-turned-Slaveowner enjoys Farm Success,” George Tucker, from *The Virginia Pilot*, August 21, 1994; “Court Ruling on Anthony Johnson and his Servant (1655)””; “Anthony Johnson’s place in American history significant, says ASU historian,” Calvin Schermerhorn, *Arizona State University News*; “The First Slave”, Ariana Kyl, from “Today I Found Out: Feed Your Brain”; and *War for What?*, by Francis W. Springer.

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BAMA SENATE SHOWDOWN — TRUMP VS. SHELBY / McCONNELL

In 2022, Alabama will elect a U.S. Senator to fill the seat held by Senator Richard Shelby for four decades. In 1986, as a skilled personal injury trial lawyer and shrewd Democrat candidate, Shelby beat the esteemed GOP A/dmiral Jeremiah Denton in a character assassination campaign. As Chairman and now ranking member of the U.S. Senate Appropriations committee, Shelby has channeled billions into Alabama, which has been good for the state economy, federal contractors, but used by Shelby as a quid pro quo fundraising tool. Shelby, Senator Mitch McConnell and powerful well-financed K-Street Lobbyists are mounting a multi-million dollar war chest to fight Trump in Alabama. Let me explain.

John W. Giles

Senator Shelby and his handpicked candidate Katie Britt (Shelby's former Chief of Staff), gave us liberal Democrat Doug Jones in the 2017 Special U.S. Senate election. They rejected the will of the people when Chief Justice Moore crushed Luther Strange in the run off. I was always taught you support the nominee, Not Shelby, and Not Katie Britt. Liberal Democrat Doug Jones publicly praised the Shelby/Britt strategy for his victory. When Shelby and Britt did not get their way, they broke from the GOP and elected a liberal socialist Democrat. Doug Jones voted against Kavanaugh and voted to impeach Trump. In 2018, after John McCain died, the GOP would have had to votes to repeal Obamacare . . . except for Shelby & Britt spurning the GOP nominee to help elect Doug Jones. The result? America lost!

Never elected to office and with no voting record, Britt self-proclaims she will fight for Alabama conservative values. As the Business Council of Alabama's registered lobbyist, she led the fight to force a 10¢ (per gallon) gas tax hike on Alabamians. On the flip side, Britt did not help us repeal Common Core (to the contrary, BCA supports Common Core). Nor did Britt join our fight for the 2021 conservative bill banning boys from castration and transgender surgery. Bear in mind, the BCA also publicly opposed the bill that would have banned men from pretending to be women and using women's bathrooms. Katie Britt is Shelby and McConnell's lap puppy, who they hope to weaponize against Trump. They want someone who is lukewarm and they can control.

Lynda Blanchard, another candidate, was U.S. Ambassador to Slovenia. Blanchard feverishly sought Trump's endorsement, but was rejected. Blanchard has plenty of personal money, but no following, never championed any conservative cause, that I am aware of, and has no public record. Out of the four candidates, my guess she will place 4th with the current lineup.

Jessica Taylor is a newcomer to the race who was defeated by Barry Moore when she ran for the 2nd congressional seat in 2020. Jessica is hoping for that cheerleader cute factor; her fancy basketball play and tough talk will serve as a reasonable alternative to the tainted and poisoned Britt. She has one huge problem that will unfortunately nail her coffin closed early in this race. Jessica and I got into a very heated exchange in the 2017 Special Election for U.S. Senate over her writing in a candidate and refusing to support the GOP nominee. Her husband's boss, Governor Ivey, was holding tough, supporting CJ Moore, the GOP nominee after the Washington Post's slander piece. She told me right quick, she was an independent woman and neither her husband nor his boss could convince her to support the GOP nominee. Taylor said she believed the Washington Post Story, even though she never met CJ Moore, while I was trying to tell her I had known him for almost 30 years and the story was false. She was determined to go full steam ahead promoting the write-in campaign. Doug Jones needs to also thank Jessica Taylor (along with Richard Shelby and Katie Britt) for his two years in the U.S. Senate.

I have always maintained that next to President of the United States, the most powerful and influential elected position is a U.S. Senator. This post should be reserved as a bully pulpit for our most skilled combatants. The current liberal U.S.

Democrat Senators on deck are some of the most seasoned, experienced, dishonest, scheming, dark and disgusting brass knuckled street fighters in America. You do not send young recruits like these 3 nice ladies, fresh out of boot camp, to lead the war for the heart and soul of our country. You send in your proven, tried, tested and seasoned generals, whose chests are weighted with combat pins and Purple Hearts. This is not a beauty contest or popularity competition. Folks, we are daily facing Communist China and Russia along with radical Islam who want the head of America as their trophy. We cannot let that happen.

Trump endorsed Mo Brooks for Senate in 2022 with his Complete and Total Endorsement. Trump publically released a statement, "Few Republicans have as much COURAGE and FIGHT as Alabama Congressman Mo Brooks." Mo Brooks single handedly organized and led the constitutional Electoral College challenge in Congress on January 6th, seeking to recertify the votes from six states in serious question. Bravery and intestinal fortitude do not come close to describing this unprecedented heroic effort by Brooks, while Shelby and McConnell mocked and heckled Trump and Brooks from the sidelines. One day, hopefully very soon, it will be proven these six states counted illegally cast fraudulent ballots and the 2020 election will need to be recertified.

On a personal note, 32 years ago, when serving as Alabama Small Business Advocate, I met Mo Brooks; he was serving as a Republican in the Alabama House of Representatives. He was then appointed to District Attorney for Madison County by my boss, Governor Guy Hunt. Mo and I have been friends all these years and he has gained my respect for being consistent on the issues. He has a long and coveted record as an economic, moral, social and constitutional conservative. Unlike his novice opponents in the primary, Brooks has a long standing conservative voting record of 100% by the Christian Coalition, 96% by the American Conservative Union (CPAC) and 97% with the Heritage Action (Heritage Foundation).

It is one thing to talk tough about what you are going to do and another to publicly deliver. Mo Brooks wholeheartedly supported Trump's tax cuts, being tough on China, building back the military, protecting our 2nd Amendment, making NATO pay up, building the wall, unashamedly pro-life, protecting free speech, bringing back American manufacturing jobs, reforming the courts, lowering unemployment to historic lows and Making America Great Again for all her citizens.

McConnell and Shelby spent many millions in the Alabama 2017 Senate race trying to destroy a fellow Republican, and their actions cost us the one senate seat we needed and, worse yet, gave us a Liberal Democrat, Doug Jones. They know they cannot control Mo Brooks. They plan to repeat 2017 by spending millions attacking Mo Brooks, Trump's choice.

I challenge and hope the media challenges Shelby and McConnell to rent a stadium and let's see if they get more than 200 people to show up, while Trump and Mo Brooks will fill to overflowing any venue in Alabama. Shelby has declared war on Trump in the Alabama 2022 U.S. Senate election. Trump did not endorse Mo Brooks lightly; the President knows first-hand from field experience that Mo Brooks is a proven, tried, tested and fearless Combat General.

For the 32 years I have known Mo Brooks, he has been a thoroughbred economic, social, moral and constitutional conservative who will NEVER disappoint you. He will be an independent thinking, outspoken Senator and WILL NOT be under McConnell's thumb.

Shelby, you could have ridden out on a float in the parade, but I am afraid the arrogant war you have launched against Trump-Brooks in the Bama Senate Showdown will once again spell defeat. Mo Brooks has a commanding lead and it will only widen as voters engage.

I urge my fellow Alabamians, get all the facts and consider Mo Brooks; we need his experience, decorated record and outspoken voice in the U.S. Senate.

Support Choose Life

The Choose Life Alabama Board (Alabama Pro-Life Coalition Education Fund) commissioned the United For Life Foundation in Birmingham to produce a 30 second TV Spot designed to help us all sell more tags.

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SCAN FOR APPT.



John Martin

ices for very modest if any remuneration. Then they went back to their private endeavors. Our founders NEVER proposed perpetual well-paid public employment. Public service was never meant to be a profession.

In 1990, Jack Gargan, a retired “working stiff” in Tampa, Florida, vented his spleen in a spectacular manner by spending \$50,000 of his retirement money to purchase a full page ad in six major newspapers with the headline, “I’M MAD AS HELL, AND I’M NOT GOING TO TAKE IT ANYMORE!” It blasted politicians for “arrogantly [voting] themselves the biggest pay raise in history,” having “abetted” the “S&L ripoff,”... “screwed senior citizens” by raiding the Social Security Trust Fund, and turning the United States into “the world’s biggest debtor nation.”



Jack collected donations and published bumper stickers and signs illustrated with a huge “Clean Sweep” broom.Money donated from hundreds of thousands of people enabled Jack to eventually purchase (according to *Wikipedia*) “633 full-page newspaper advertisements in nearly every major newspaper in the nation.”

On September 9, radio talk show host, Don Markwell, saw the ad in *The Montgomery Advertiser*, called Jack the next day, and featured him on *Don Markwell’s Viewpoint* for the show’s entire two hours. Jack discussed his new anti-incumbent organization **T.H.R.O. Incorporated**, which stood for “Throw the Hypocritical Rascals Out.” Beginning with Colorado, three states passed term limit ballot initiatives in 1990. By 1995, 23 states had adopted congressional term limits. But then, in the case U. S. Term Limits v. Thornton, the U. S Supreme Court ruled that states could not impose term limits onto federal lawmakers.

We have certainly suffered from people who have “served,” or rather self-served, for most of their lives. A classic example is Ted Kennedy, who after his reckless actions at Chappaquiddick, continued to be re-elected to the U. S. Senate until the day he died.

If incumbents are so bad, why do people keep voting for them? Why do we have an epidemic of incumbentitis? Unfortunately, we have many immature and uninformed voters, thanks largely to Amendment 26 in the U. S. Constitution. That is why we should raise the voting age back at least to 21, as originally stated. The youngsters vote to do their “duty,” not realizing that not voting at all is far wiser than voting recklessly. They usually vote for the most familiar names, which in nearly all cases are the incumbents. And many also vote for them because they “bring home the bacon”—pork projects in their districts, which are often expensive and detrimental.

For a few offices, like the U. S. President, we do have term limits—in this case, two terms—eight years. For decades since our founding, we did not have this limit by law. But during that time, out of ethics and their honor, no president attempted to subvert that tradition.

But then, in 1932, Franklin Delano Roosevelt came into office and performed numerous dirty deeds. In 1936, he was re-elected and committed many more. Then in 1940, he did not step down. He ran for a third term and managed to win. As a result, we suffered the agonies of Pearl Harbor and its consequences. And then after that, in 1944, he went for a fourth term, became re-elected, and finally died in 1945.

During the 20th century, the American people suffered under three tyrannical presidents and their administrations—Woodrow Wilson, Franklin Roosevelt, and Lyndon Johnson. Of these, Roosevelt was the most destructive. Part of it came from an extra five years in office.

Because of Roosevelt’s multitudes of vicious and unconstitutional actions, our congress decided to limit all future presidents to a maximum of two terms.

Several states followed this policy with their governors. Alabama is one of them.

However, our state representatives and senators are not limited. They can extend their public careers as long as they want and not ever worry about becoming productive citizens in the private sector, as long as they can dupe the voters into re-electing them. Over the years, many have abused their offices.

The fundamental problem with imposing term limits is that it is up to our congress and state legislatures to vote for them. Only a few actually have enough ethics and backbone to vote against their own perks. It is right in line with trying to get them to vote for pay cuts and limits on their favorite pork projects.

Another problem with term limits is there is no guarantee that the replacements will be any better than the ones that go out. The same honey that attracts the flies is still there—the opportunities to gain power and control over the people. However, there is the hope that some “fresh blood” with less experience will not be as adept at fleecing the public.

TERM LIMITS

And finally, term limits would also apply to our honest and ethical members. That can sometimes force out good people and allow them be replaced with bad ones.

There are other methods that have also been attempted to mitigate our plague of professional politicians. One is referendum and recall. It can sometimes be effective. And it can both eliminate undesirable office holders and repeal nasty and unconstitutional laws and actions. But it is difficult to implement. It requires the expensive and time consuming process of collecting, counting, and validating multitudes of signatures. These attempts often fail. And Alabama doesn’t even have it.

Another process is impeachment. It is even more difficult. And it is very haphazard. It often involves the opinions and actions of judges that belong to the same club as the culprits who have done the misdeeds. And it can also be used to wrongfully prosecute some of our better servants with false charges, like the past two attempts to get revenge against Donald Trump and to divert him from his official duties.

An effective and practical solution to thwart greed is to apply very strict limits on salaries and expenses. The idea of allowing politicians to vote for their own raises is utter insanity. All remuneration should be subject to a vote of the people.

A really great example of minimal pay is New Hampshire, which is unique as the home of North America’s lowest paid legislators. Its members collect salaries of only \$100 per annum plus mileage for 45 legislative days. Presiding officers get a bit more. That’s it. Of course they do have ample time during the rest of the year for regular full time jobs.

But why would anyone want to work for such ridiculously low pay? Obviously, they don’t do it for money. They do it as volunteers for public service, and usually as honest ones. Because of the low salaries, greedy candidates are often not inclined to even run for office. And also, because of the low wages, NH is able to have more representatives per capita than other states. “We have representation,” said Andy Borsa, a former Libertarian NH state representative.

California is on the other end of the spectrum with true professional politicians who suck up \$114,877 per annum plus a daily (undisclosed) per diem. Why bother working for a living? And why bother even thinking about the hard-working taxpayers struggling to pay their living expenses?

Yes, the California legislators do “work” full time. But that is the last thing we would want. Legislation should be minimal, laid back, and only part time. 45 working days per year is more than ample. Biennial (once every two years) regular sessions and minimal special sessions would be even better. Anything more leads to tyranny and oppression.

We have still another procedure that can help establish term limits. Instead of limiting their times in office, we could make them face the voters more often by holding more frequent elections.

We all know that our U. S. Representatives serve two year terms. Yes, they can run as many times as they wish, but they must always face the voters every two years. That allows the good people to remain in office while continuously providing the public with frequent opportunities to throw out the misfits. If a good person later becomes greedy or corrupt, he can be promptly dumped before he can do much damage. We can do it quickly without the hassles of canvassing, petitioning, collecting signatures, and the lengthy attempts to settle issues in court.

A good example is our own Governor Kay Ivey. If we had two year terms, we could have thrown her out last November and cut short her emergency power abuses. But with our current four year terms, we now have to wait until November of next year. We suffer an extra two years of potential continued abuse.

If we can implement two year terms for our elected people—governor, legislators, county commissioners, judges, sheriffs, city councilmen, and all others, we can more easily force them to mind their P’s and Q’s -- not have to wait what seems like forever to throw out the rotten apples. We could join the two other states—Vermont and New Hampshire—that already hold their state elections every two years.

Now one might ask about the expenses of these extra elections. Please understand that we already go to the polls every two years anyway. The only difference will be more people on the ballots. And the few elections that are done on odd numbered years can be switched to even numbered ones.

There will be a small extra cost for the larger ballots, but that will be money well spent to gain more honest public servants. This is a small price to pay for what is clearly the most effective method available to improve their quality.

Although not perfect, a workable solution for term limits contains four parts:

1. Raise the minimum voting age to at least 21—better yet, 25.
2. Low salaries / minimal remuneration / income subject to a vote of the people.
3. Limited work hours. Biennial regular legislative sessions. Few special sessions. No extra time to concoct abusive laws and programs.
4. Frequent elections—an election every two years for everybody.

SOURCES:

1. Gargan, Jack, **I’m Mad as Hell and I’m not going to Take it Anymore**, *The Montgomery Advertiser*, September 9, 1990.
2. Jacob, Paul, **The Man from THRO**, November, 11, 2018. <https://townhall.com/columnists/pauljacob/2018/11/11/the-man-from-thro-n2535718>
3. **Comparison of State Legislative Salaries**, April 19, 2021. https://ballotpedia.org/Comparison_of_state_legislative_salaries

SPECIAL GUEST COMMENTARY

A time to donate, er, ‘childish things’



Willie G. Moseley

not necessarily “antique.” A particular toy from one’s childhood is probably a fairly common example, and to what extent such items are “collectible” should be examined on a case-by-case basis.

In recent times, I’ve gotten rid of almost all of my guitar collection. As a retiree, I no longer need them as a potential financial buffer/investment, and I don’t really play them anymore.

Moreover, if something was to happen to me, it would be awkward for the Missus and our daughter to have to lug around a bunch of heavy guitar cases, trying to find out what they’re worth and attempting to sell them for a hopefully-fair price. Better to flip them myself now and put the proceeds into an easy-to-access financial account at a bank.

A while back, I started contemplating what to do with heirlooms that were more personal, examining the few items that were still around.

And one of them might have worthy of consideration for a segment on “Antiques Roadshow.”

My childhood lunchbox was made by the Aladdin company of Nashville. Its illustrations reference a short-lived CBS science fiction series titled “Men Into Space.” The lead character, Air Force Col. Ed McCauley, was portrayed by William Lundigan.

The Space Race was only two years old when “Men Into Space” debuted in September of 1959. Each Wednesday night, “children of the Mercury Program” like me would station themselves in front of their families’ (usually-black-and-white) console television sets as the show presented a realistic and straightforward prognostication about the future of human space travel.

There were some facets of the show that were stereotypical for television dramas of that era: Suspenseful string arrangements permeated the soundtrack. Numerous characters smoked cigarettes.

“Men Into Space” had formidable competition—“The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet” was on ABC, while NBC proffered “The Price is Right.” The popularity of those shows may have figured into why the space drama was broadcast for just a solitary season.

Like many families, our household has what a dictionary defines as “heirlooms,” which have been handed down through several generations. Some of the items—large and small—would be considered collectible in the world of antiques.

There are also personal items that may be “vintage” if

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

It turns out there is indeed a market for collectible lunch boxes, and my research prompted me to compose a list of “guidelines” as to why mine would be considered desirable. It shouldn’t be surprising that I referenced trends and terminology from my decades of guitar collecting when contemplating what to do with the lunch box:

- It’s fully original—no “modifications” or repairs to its exterior or interior.
- There are no missing pieces/parts. It’s fully intact, to include vacuum bottle (“Thermos” is actually a brand name that became a generic term), stopper, (uncracked) bottle lid/cup, metal hold-down clip (which secures the bottle), and carrying handle.
- It can be dated to 1960, as there is a copyright notice for that year on the vacuum bottle.
- It is in what would probably be considered “very good” condition. There’s some minor corrosion along some of the interior and exterior edges but the illustrations have not faded and none of the artwork is decaying.
- The show was only aired for one season (38 episodes) but there was apparently enough interest in the series to merit the production and marketing of authorized/licensed merchandise.

After briefly flirting with the idea of selling it on an auction site, I decided to contact the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. That facility is perhaps the greatest flight history museum in the world, and it has a protocol and procedure for potential donations of historical items/artifacts.

There’s no guarantee concerning when or if an accepted donation will be on display, but my inquiry got a quick response that noted that the members of the collections committee “...believe it would be a great addition to our Pop Culture collection.”

So I don’t know if or when my former lunchbox might be seen by visitors to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, but that institution now owns it.

And the notion that it could slightly enhance the history of the early Space Race is kinda cool...especially to a penguin like me.



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COURTHOUSE ANNEX I CONSTRUCTION

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

The Montgomery County Commission will no longer require masks to be worn inside Montgomery County Offices.

Commissioners are strongly encouraging the public and employees to exercise personal responsibility and continue to wash hands, practice physical distancing, and wear masks when appropriate.

(Note: some offices still might request mask wearing at their discretion)



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Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications:

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

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



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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS!

COVID19 has a 99% survival rate, yet the Biden administration insists experimental COVID shots are needed. They just announced they will send agents door to door to check vaccine status in areas of the country that have low vaccine rates.

Alabama is one of those areas. It's important that you know your rights when they come knocking. Pasted below is Kris Anne Hall's reminder of our Constitutional rights along with a link to a form you can print and hand to the agents.

Your Power to Trespass (even Government Agents)

By KrisAnne Hall, JD

If a government agent or assignee comes to your property, it will be important to those who wish to protect their privacy and property to KNOW THEIR RIGHTS.

- You do not have to answer ANY QUESTIONS or make ANY STATEMENTS to ANY GOVERNMENT AGENT or assignee. (5th Amendment of the US Constitution and corresponding section of your State Constitution)
- Simply asking an agent to identify themselves does not waive your Rights.
- You have the Right to be free from any government agent or assignee entering your property, your home, or your business without a properly obtained warrant. (4th and 5th Amendments of the US Constitution and corresponding sections of your State Constitution.)
- Simply demanding a copy of that warrant does not waive your Rights.
- You have the Right to tell any government agent or assignee to leave your property if they cannot produce a properly obtained warrant. (4th and 5th Amendments of the US Constitution and corresponding sections of your State Constitution.)
- Simply demanding an agent or assignee of the government to leave your property does not waive your Rights.

• If a government agent or assignee refuses to leave your property or returns to your property after being warned against entering or returning, that agent or assignee has committed the crime of Trespass and is subject to arrest. (State Law, 4th & 5th Amendments to the US Constitution and corresponding sections of State Constitution as confirmed by Supreme Court Opinions).

• You have the Right to record through audio, video, or photographic recording of any government agent or assignee on your property, either with or without consent of that agent or assignee. (Multiple Federal Court Opinions recognize that the First Amendment plainly protects the filming of officers and public agents.)

Please click below for a TRESPASS WARNING FORM (Word doc) that you may print and issue to any government agent or assignee that fails to satisfy the requirements of the US and State Constitutions. HAND THE COMPLETED FORM DIRECTLY TO THE AGENT OR ASSIGNEE WHILE TELLING THEM THEY MUST NOW LEAVE THE PROPERTY AND YOU WILL NOT BE ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS.

You should have your address pre-written on form and as the need arises, fill in the date and time. It is highly recommended that you take a picture of the agent you are serving the warning so you may then prove that this person has been issued a formal Trespass Warning.

FORM: <https://psd-to-wp.us2.list-manage.com/track/click?u=8f701b9034681ec30d1f1103b&id=11f177022e&e=0f0d0a1060>



Liberty First Legal, INC. 7/7/2021
<https://libertyfirst.legal/>

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Honoring Our Heroes

Terrell Lamar Best: Age 95

Terrell Lamar Best served almost 32 months in the United States Coast Guard during WWII. His military occupational specialty (MOS) was Signalman Third Class. He received the Asiatic-Pacific ribbon with two bronze stars.



Best was born in Montgomery, AL, September 21, 1925, to his parents, Terrell and Louise Best. He was reared in Montgomery and graduated from Lanier High School in May 1943. After working at Panama City for about a month, he volunteered at age 17 beginning his military service July 30, 1943. He chose to serve in the United States Coast Guard after being encouraged by two of his friends who were already serving in the Coast Guard. He reported for duty at New Orleans, LA, followed by boot camp at St. Augustine, FL, then to Egmont Key, an island near Tampa, FL, where he worked with small boats. Next, he completed amphibious training at Norfolk, VA. He then went to Pittsburgh, PA, where the Landing Ship Tank (LST) 787 had been made and where he joined the crew of the LST. After the crew checked out the equipment on the LST, they took the LST down the Mississippi River to New Orleans where the ship was outfitted with a mast and guns. They were joined by U.S. Naval Construction Forces, known as Seabees. Next, they cruised through the Panama Canal to Pearl Harbor, HI, followed by joining a convoy to Saipan, the largest of the Mariana Islands in the Western Pacific and then sailed among the Philippine Islands.

LST 787 was destined to go to Iwo Jima, a volcanic island occupied by the Imperial Japanese Army (IJA). Best served at Iwo Jima on the LST delivering Marines and supplies such as amphibious tanks officially designated as Landing Vehicle, Tracked (Armored or, LVT(A)s).

His crew served as a maintenance ship for the LVT(A)s and evacuated wounded. The IJA positions on the island were heavily fortified, with a dense network of bunkers, hidden artillery positions, and 18 km (11 mi) of tunnels. The American ground forces were supported by extensive naval artillery and had complete air supremacy provided by U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviators throughout the battle. The five-week battle saw some of the fiercest and bloodiest fighting of the Pacific War. The Japanese combat deaths numbered three times the number of American deaths, but uniquely among Pacific War Marine battles, the American total casualties (dead and wounded) exceeded those of the Japanese.

Best recalls the horrors of the battles at Iwo Jima, seeing many dead and wounded saying, "I was apprehensive when the Japanese artillery hit close to the LST. We could sit there and watch the battle when flame throwers were used by the Marines to get the Japanese out of the caves. I could see the whole beach head as well as an enemy airbase. The airfield was covered with the wreckage of Japanese aircraft. One Marine told me that more than 60 per cent of the Marines who had landed were now either dead or wounded. I could see the flag raising by the Marines at Iwo Jima. It looked like a match stick because I was so far away in the ocean."

Best served as a signalman at Iwo Jima and Japan. After the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, he was brought back to San Diego. Best was discharged from military service in April 1946 in New Orleans, LA. With a quiver in his voice and tears in his eyes, Best's conclusions about his military service are, "When I was discharged, it was one of the happiest days of my life. I still have an affection for the Coast Guard, and I'll always be proud of my service."

Upon release from the military, Best returned to Montgomery, AL, and worked for a while with the AL Department of Transportation to check out sites for future construction of bridges. He attended the University of Alabama where he studied civil engineering. He then worked for his father in his engraving company that made plates for printing that were used in the publication of the Montgomery Advertiser. After the Montgomery Advertiser bought out his father's business, he continued working in this business for over 30 years retiring in 1988.

... continued on page 2B

Chief Master Sergeant William Joseph Heath: Age: 82

Chief Master Sergeant (CMSgt) William Joseph Heath served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Codes (AFSC) were Airborne Radio Technician, Precision Measurement Equipment Technician and Management Engineering/Manpower Management Superintendent and Manpower Resource Manager. His awards, medals and ribbons included: Meritorious Service Medal with two devices, Air Medal with three devices, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and three devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with six devices, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal with four devices, Air Force Longevity Service Award with five devices, Air Force Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon with two devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with palm and Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal.



CMSgt Heath was born June 30, 1939, at Webster, FL, to his parents, Alpha Lee and Cazzie Lou Pitts Heath, and he was reared in Orlando, FL. After graduating from Edgewater High School in Orlando June 5, 1957, he volunteered for military service.

After completing basic training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, he was assigned to Scott AFB, IL, to attend radio school. He was then assigned to Shaw AFB, SC, for four years. While at Shaw, he was on TDY deployments to Alaska, Iceland and Turkey. Next, he was assigned to Lajes AB, Azores, Portugal, for two years. He returned to the mainland and served at Langley AFB, VA, where he was deployed on TDY to Okinawa, flying as an additional crew member on C-130 aircraft into Viet Nam and Thailand on resupply missions out of Clark AB in the Philippines Islands. After further service at Langley AFB, he was sent to Lowry AFB, CO, for Precision Measurement Equipment (PME) school for eight months. Returning to Langley, he worked in the PME Lab until transferring to Korat AB, Thailand, working in the radio field after extensive training. Before heading to Thailand, he had further training at Otis AFB, MA and Fairchild AFB, WA. For 11 months, he served at Korat AB, Thailand, with the 553rd Reconnaissance Wing. As an airborne electronics technician on the EC-121R aircraft, CMSgt Heath flew 85 combat reconnaissance missions over the war zones in southeast Asia out of Korat AB, Thailand, in 1968 and 1969. The EC-121R aircraft was an early warning and central radar surveillance sensor-monitoring aircraft. Returning to the United States, CMSgt Heath served three months at Stewart AFB, NY and was then transferred to Perrin AFB, TX, due to the base closure of Stewart. After serving at Perrin for 14 months, he was assigned to a level-9 electronics school at Keesler AFB, MS, for seven months. After graduation from that school, he then served 13 months at Forbes AFB, KS, with the radio shop of the 314th Troop Carrier Wing. CMSgt Heath then cross-trained into his third career choice, Management Engineering /Manpower Management, and attended a training course at Keesler AFB. He was subsequently transferred to Myrtle Beach AFB, SC, for only seven months before returning to Keesler AFB as an instructor at the school for three years. CMSgt Heath was then assigned to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, serving on a Management Engineering Team for three years. Afterwards, he opted for reassignment and was sent to Hickam AFB, HI for four years. CMSgt Heath retired from military service at Maxwell AFB, AL, August 1, 1983.

CMSgt Heath continued his education while on active duty. He received two Associate of Applied Science Degrees from the Community College of the Air Force, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management from Park University in 1979 and a Master of Arts Degree in Business Management from Central Michigan University in 1981.

Since his military retirement, CMSgt Heath worked in Montgomery, AL, for 10 years as a civil servant at Maxwell AFB, in Manpower Management at Headquarters Air University until August 1, 1993. He worked as a substitute teacher for the Montgomery Public Schools for one year 1997-1998. His Christian service to others at Frazer United Methodist Church is personified by

... continued on page 2B

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LTC Arthur F. Millard

LTC Arthur F. Millard served 24 years including four years in the U.S. Navy, four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and 16 years in the U.S. Army. His service included deployments to Okinawa, Vietnam and Korea. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) included serving as platoon leader, company commander and JAG attorney. His medals, awards and decorations include: U.S.M.C. expert rifle and pistol badges, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 device, Vietnam Service Medal with three stars, U.S.M.C. Combat Action Ribbon, U.S.M.C. Meritorious Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, U.S. Army Achievement Medal, U.S. Army Commendation Medal and U.S. Army Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters.

LTC Millard was born in Lawton, Oklahoma, to his parents, Martin and Oleta Millard. He was reared in Wichita, KS, and graduated from East High School in 1961 with honors. During his youth, he had a paper route, caddied at a golf course, worked on a worm farm, mowed lawns, conducted a city dog census and clerked in his father's law office. LTC Millard attended Kansas State University where he received academic honors and participated in Army R.O.T.C. He received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, and while there he was a member of the rifle team and led the team in participating in a national championship. Completing the rigorous engineering curriculum in 1966, LTC Millard graduated and was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps (U.S.M.C.).

His Marine Corps service began with his assignment to the six-month U.S.M.C. Infantry Officer Basic Course at Quantico, VA. After graduating, he received further operational training at Camp LeJeune followed by survival training at Camp Pendleton, CA. LTC Millard was deployed to Okinawa where he served as a platoon leader in the 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade at Camp Hansen which supported movement of material to Navy ships bound for Vietnam. While there, LTC Millard won the first place trophy with his issued pistol in a shooting tournament with his Brigade.

In 1967, he was deployed to Vietnam where he led a platoon of Marines in the 7th MT Battalion in the RVN-I Corps area northwest of Da Nang, Dong Ha and other camps. His duty involved leading convoys hauling ammo, rations and supplies from Navy ships to the U.S.M.C. infantry and artillery units at Hoi An, Phu Bai, An Hoa, Dong Ha and other camps. While not on convoys, he was at Division Headquarters monitoring convoy radio traffic in anticipation of any needed fire support, and he served as a member of General courts-martial and as trial counsel in Special courts-martial.

In 1968 after leaving Vietnam, LTC Millard served as commander of a 330-man, recruit training company including 13 drill instructors at the U.S.M.C. Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA. He oversaw training and led his platoons in dress parades. He performed additional duties in courts-martial and giving legally-required military law training to recruits. His next assignment was overseeing marksmanship training for recruits and regular Marines at the Weapons Training Battalion, Edson Range at Camp Pendleton, CA.

In 1970, LTC Millard laterally transferred to the Corps of Engineers with orders to the Army Engineer Officer Advanced Courses at Fort Belvoir, VA, and graduate-level engineering courses at The George Washington University. He won first place in the Commander's pistol tournament. After graduation in 1971, he assumed command at Ft. Bragg, N.C., of a 150-man engineer bridge company whose mission was to transport and to build bridges in a theater of operations.

Because the Army was experiencing a serious shortfall in military attorneys and was seeking qualified officers to attend law school and become JAG officers, LTC Millard was accepted by the Judge Advocate General, passed the Law School Admission Test and was accepted into Golden Gate University in CA with a branch at the Pentagon. Graduating in 1975 and passing the Bar, LTC Millard as a new JAG captain reported to the Judge Advocate General's School at the University of VA and completed the six-month JAG Officer Basic Course.

His service as a JAG attorney encompassed service in CA and NV involving claims litigation dealing with Army land ownership and operations, medical malpractice at hospitals and motor vehicle collisions on streets and highways. In addition, he prosecuted courts-martial and advised special agents of the Criminal Investigation Division (C.I.D.) in their felony investigations. In 1978, LTC Millard was assigned to Fort McPherson, GA, as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate and Staff Judge Advocate supervising junior attorneys and administrative staff of enlisted and civilian specialists and supporting the base command and staff on legal matters. In addition, he was also a special U.S. attorney prosecutor for the U. S. Department of Justice, Northern District of GA.

LTC Millard then moved to the Contract Law Division of the four-star U.S. Army Forces Command overseeing legal aspects of contracts involving multiple billions of dollars. He completed the U.S. Army Procurement Course at Fort Lee, VA, as an honor graduate followed by receiving temporary duty orders to the Office of the Judge Advocate General, Washington, D.C. in preparation for further assignment as Commander, U.S. Armed Forces Claims Service in Seoul, Korea. There he led a team of attorneys and support staff working to administer and adjudicate property, injury and death claims against the U.S. Defense Department including all service branches in Korea and in adjacent waters.

In 1983, LTC Millard returned to the U.S. to serve at the Army Signal School at Fort Gordon, GA where he supervised a team of attorneys and support staff in administrative law matters. In 1986, he retired from active military service there.

After military retirement, LTC Millard moved to Dunwoody, GA, where he practiced law representing business and individual clients in general litigation on state, federal, trial and appellate levels. He retired from his law practice in 2008.

LTC Millard has served as a Baptist church trustee, usher, youth leader, Sunday school teacher, vacation Bible school teacher and youth baseball and basketball coach. In addition, he has served as a chapter leader for the John Birch Society and as a county voting poll worker. He is a life member of the National Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America and 50-year Life Member of the National Rifle Association

LTC Millard and his wife, Sandra, have been married for 12 years, and they have five children and five grandchildren.

LTC Millard reflects upon his military service saying, "When I took my first oath of office in 1962, I pledged to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; however, after leaving active duty, I learned that that the deadliest enemies are domestic and that they wage war continuously. In my 24 years in uniform, I had many able and helpful seniors, contemporaries and subordinates who taught me, inspired me and deserve the credit for my successes and accomplishment. Above all, I give credit and honor to the One above all who illuminated and guided my path; the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and His only begotten Son, the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, Jesus Christ, whose return to His throne on Earth is imminent."

#end#



BEST continued from page 1B

Best and his wife, Ruedene, were married for 59 years before she passed away, and together they had two children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They led in planning and organizing reunions of his LST 787 crew for 20 years. Best enjoyed going on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. to visit the WWII Memorial. He has been an active member of Capitol Heights Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and also taught Sunday School for over 40 years. On March 15, 2020, the congregation honored him with a special time of tribute for his many years of Christian service. During his leisure time, he has enjoyed fishing, tennis and yard work.

#end#

HEATH continued from page 1B

his service as Director of Community Ministries for almost one year 1994-1995. He was a Lay Minister for three years calling regularly on people who were shut in due to illness, a pastor of Boylston United Methodist Church for two years 1995-1997 and a prison minister for Frazer UMC 1997-2010. At Frazer, he has served on the Board of Stewards, volunteered in the Frazer food service and served as a Lay Scripture reader. As a member of the Basic Bible Sunday School Class, he served as its treasurer for five years.

Since CMSgt Heath's retirement from all employment in the autumn of 2010, he has enjoyed a brief time bowling and playing golf. He is a Ham (amateur) radio operator and is a radio-controlled model airplane enthusiast and a leather crafter.

CMSgt Heath and his wife, Delores (Dee), have been married 59 years, and they have three children, two grandchildren, two step grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two step great-grandchildren. They enjoy traveling, and since her retirement in 2004, they have been on 19 ocean cruises, two river cruises, and several land tours across the USA.

CMSgt Heath's reflections on his military service are, "The Air Force was a God-send for me. I had no real promising outlook as a high school graduate since I could not afford to go to college. The Air Force provided a way of life for me that I had planned on even before graduating from high school. I saw a lot of the world in my 36 years which I could never have done had I stayed in Orlando, FL." He concludes that his military service benefitted himself and his country. He is proud of his service to his country and prays that he contributed somewhat to its well-being. He declares that we must all remain vigilant and steadfast in keeping America strong to maintain our blessed way of life.

#end#

Veterans Welcome Back Event Held in Montgomery

The Central AL Healthcare System held a Welcome Back event at the VA Out-Patient Clinic at Chantilly Boulevard on July 16, 2021. The event was held to welcome veterans back to the Out-Patient Clinic after the recent restrictions from the Covid-19 Pandemic. Veterans were given opportunities to stop at VA tables to get information about veterans' health care services. The American Red Cross was there to provide data on its Service to the Armed Forces. American Red Cross volunteers with the Service to the Armed Forces, Cheryl Grinstead, Andy Grinstead and Martha Poole Simmons participated (pictured above).



Above: Dr. Simmons not only volunteers for the Red Cross, but she also locates, interviews and writes the *Gazette* articles on Veterans. **Right:** Dr. Simmons met Gregory Roberts at the event ... look for his article in a future issue of the *Gazette's Honoring Our Heroes*.



Veterans love reading *The Gazette*!



Sgt Maj Jackson
US Army (above)

These service members enjoy reading the *Gazette*. Their articles were published in the July 2021 issue.



Senior Mstr Dismukes
US Navy/Air Force (above)

MSgt Durham
US Marine Corps (left)



Vet Celebrates 99th Birthday!

The 99th birthday celebration of the WWII veteran, Robert Shafton Kohn, was held July 27th at the Front Porch Grill in Millbrook with where 40 relatives and friends gathered to honor Kohn. Martha Poole-Simmons, a volunteer with the American Red Cross, presented Kohn with a commemorative coin from the AL Department of Veterans' Affairs, a citation from AL Governor Ivey and a Red Cross bag of personal items. Kohn served 52 days in the U. S. Army's Infantry in the Battle of the Bulge under General George Patton and also served 13 months during the Korean War. Kohn's article was published in the December 2019 issue of the *Gazette*.



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

Resources for Veterans

Veterans Crisis Line: www.veteranscrisisline.net

National Center for PTSD: 855-948-2311 / ptsd.va.gov

Central Alabama Veterans Health Care System
2400 Hospital Road, Tuskegee AL 36083 / 334-727-0550
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VACentralAlabama>

Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League



The Townsend Detachment #920 Marine Corps League is composed of Marines, Navy Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Corpsmen, Navy chaplains, veterans and associate members who serve Marines, veterans and its community. Members enjoy camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the history and traditions and promoting the interests of the United States Marine Corps, banding together those who are now serving in the United States Marine Corps and those who have been honorably discharged from the service that they may effectively promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy. Relationships are maintained with active and reserve Marine units, and the Detachment fosters Marine sponsored programs in the River Region. Its members volunteer and support state and local veterans' events and organizations, participate in outreach through educational and citizenship activities and endeavor to be good partners in the community. Some of these include events for Veterans Day, placing flags on graves of Marines at Memorial Day and ceremonies at the POW Memorial. ***The Townsend Marine Corps League #920 Detachment is named for Cpl Henry Townsend Jr. of Montgomery. Cpl Townsend was critically wounded in the barracks bombing in Beirut in 1983 and passed away a few weeks later.***

Members of Detachment #920 meet for lunch on the first Monday of each month at Sommer's Place, 7972 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36116 at 11:00 am, and members meet the third Monday of each month at the Fried Tomato Buffet, 6561 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36117 at 6:00 pm. More information about Detachment #920 can be found on its website at: <https://www.townsendmcl920.org>. The Commandant is Mark Barnhart who served 26.5 years in the Marines, and he can be reached at 334-328-5045.

The members of Detachment #920 have a deep and abiding patriotism as evidenced by their recent statements about what serving in the U.S. Marine Corps has meant to them;

1. **J. M. Jeffries** served 11 years after graduating from Auburn University where he had a NROTC scholarship. He served with the light helicopter squadron 167 (HML-167) at Marble Mountain Marine Air Facility, Danang, Vietnam, at Hawaii, Camp Pendleton, CA, and Marine Corps Air Station, Futenma, Okinawa. He states, ***"My military service first meant payment of an obligation (my education) and later a profound sense of service and duty."***
2. **Andre Johnson** who served at Camp Lejeune, N.C., MCAS El Toro, CA and Okinawa, Japan three times states, ***"The Marine Corps taught me how to be a man, leader, husband and father."***
3. **Willie Theriot** served with the Marines at Beirut, Lebanon, where 241 U. S. military personnel were killed and 75 wounded by truck bombs at the Marne barracks. He states, ***"Sometimes you can't give up. Failure is not an option."***



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

Soul Searching

The Story of Vince

By all measures, Vince was a failure. He'd tried teaching but wasn't very good at it. He had worked as a bookseller and an art dealer, both without success. His relationships with women ended in misery for both parties. Poor health forced him to move back in with his parents at age twenty-eight.

The son of a minister, he'd felt the call to become a missionary. More than anything, he wanted God to use him to help his fellow man, so he volunteered to go to a small mining town in the southwestern corner of Belgium known as the Borinage, where he was immediately moved by the suffering he observed. "It's a somber place, and at first sight everything around it has something dismal and deathly about it," he wrote to his brother Theo to describe the mine, adding:

The workers there are usually people, emaciated and pale owing to fever, who look exhausted and haggard, weather-beaten and prematurely old, the women generally sallow and withered. All around the mine are poor miners' dwellings with a couple of dead trees, completely black from the smoke, and thorn-hedges, dung-heaps and rubbish dumps, mountains of unusable coal.

He concluded the letter by remarking that the artist Matthijs Maris could make a beautiful painting of the place.

The empathetic young minister was soon giving most of his earnings to feed and clothe the miners. Following a mining accident, he worked tirelessly helping to save the injured and nurse the wounded. His devotion to the Lord and to the people he served impressed everyone. Church services began to overflow. The people in the town loved the man who tended to both their physical and spiritual needs. It seemed Vince had found his calling.

Nevertheless, when church officials came to check on his progress, they were not happy with what they saw. Their minister was living in a shack. He was hungry. He'd given away all of his possessions, and he looked like a beggar. "What do you do with your salary?" they asked.

When he told them he'd given it all away, they were incensed. And when Vince argued that he'd only done what Christ would do, one official said, "There's such a thing as too literally interpreting the Scripture." Vince was dismissed from the service for that day, and ultimately the committee sponsoring his ministry in the Borinage decided he was unfit to be a pastor.

Vince was devastated. He had no income, no purpose, and this was further proof that he was a failure. When he expressed these feelings to his brother, Theo encouraged him to do the one thing Vince had always loved doing, and that was to turn these emotions into art. SO one day, while watching an old miner bending beneath the weight of a sack of coal, he recognized the desperation in the man's face because it was his own. He pulled an envelope and a pencil out of his pocket and began to sketch the old man.

Over the next decade, Vince created over two thousand works of art that continue to inspire the world. His paintings are the most expensive ever to have been sold, and the poor miners he was unable to teach were immortalized in his art. Although Vince wanted to be an evangelist, God always had a bigger purpose. The young man who failed as a minister became the artist we know as Vincent Van Gogh.

Even during the times when we have no idea what God is doing, His grace is hard at work in our lives.

www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com



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Free For All by **Lester Spencer** – Available on *Amazon* in paperback and digital format.

Also available at **Saint James Church** and online: sjlife.com



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 (334) 479-1242 – Cell
 (334) 272-7630 – Fax



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



Five Ways to Apply for Social Security Benefits Online

We continue to make it easier for you to access our programs and benefits. Our website offers a convenient way to apply for benefits online.

You can apply online for:

* Retirement or Spouse's Benefits – You must be at least 61 years and 9 months in age and want your benefits to start in no more than four months. Apply at www.ssa.gov/retireonline.

* Disability Benefits – You can use our online application, available at www.ssa.gov/disabilityonline, to apply for disability benefits if you:

- > Are age 18 or older;
- > Are not currently receiving benefits on your own Social Security record;
- > Are unable to work because of a medical condition that is expected to last at least 12 months or result in death; and

> Have not been denied disability benefits in the last 60 days. If your application was recently denied, our online appeal application, is a starting point to request a review of the determination we made. Please visit www.ssa.gov/benefits/disability/appeal.html.

* Supplemental Security Income (SSI) – SSI is a federal income program funded by general tax revenues, and helps people who have little or no income and who are age 65 or older, blind, or have disabilities. If you meet certain requirements, you may apply online at www.ssa.gov/benefits/ssi. If you are not able to apply online, call your local Social Security office to apply.

* Medicare – Medicare is a federal health insurance program for people age 65 or older, some people younger than 65 who have disabilities, and people with end-stage renal disease. If you are not already receiving Social Security benefits, you should apply for Medicare three months before turning age 65 at www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare.

* Extra Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Costs – People who need assistance with the cost of medications can apply for Extra Help at www.ssa.gov/i1020.

Are You Ready for Retirement? Social Security Can Help

Do you think you may be ready to retire and want to apply for Social Security benefits? We're here to help you make an informed decision about when to apply for benefits based on your individual and family circumstances.

Would it be better for you to start getting benefits early with a smaller monthly amount over a longer period? Or perhaps wait for a larger monthly payment over less time? The answer is personal and depends on several factors, such as your current and anticipated cash needs, your health, and your family history on longevity. You should consider other sources of retirement income including any plans you may have to work in retirement. Most importantly, you should study your future financial needs and obligations, and estimate your future Social Security benefit.

The easiest way to estimate your future Social Security benefits is with a personal my Social Security account. You can create your free account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. With your account you can see how much you might receive each month based on the age you want to start receiving benefits.

We encourage you to weigh all the factors carefully before making the crucial decision about when to begin receiving Social Security benefits. This decision affects the monthly benefit amount you will receive for the rest of your life, and may affect benefits for your survivors.

Social Security's Retirement Portal

Whether you're ready to learn about, apply for, or manage your retirement benefits, our retirement portal makes it easy for you to find the information you need. How easy? You can do it from your computer, tablet, and even smart-phone!

In our retirement portal, you can:

- Get our Retirement publications.
- Estimate your benefits with one of our many calculators.
- Find your Full Retirement Age.
- Learn about retirement benefits for a spouse and family members.

You and your loved ones can discover all of these resources at www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement.



Top 5 Fraud & Scam Prevention Tools

Knowledge is power and having the right tools to fight fraud can make a huge difference. Knowledge can also help those you love and want to protect. We put together a list of the five most important resources about Social Security scams you should know about:

* Read and share our fact sheet Beware of Social Security Phone Scams to learn how to spot fake calls and emails at www.ssa.gov/fraud/assets/materials/EN-05-10535.pdf.

* Visit our Office of the Inspector General's Scam Awareness page at oig.ssa.gov/scam for information on phone scams — and how to report them.

* Read our blog post at blog.ssa.gov/protecting-your-social-security-number-from-identity-theft to learn how to protect your Social Security number from identity theft.

* Create your own personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount to help you keep track of your records and identify any suspicious activity.

* Visit our Fraud Prevention and Reporting page at www.ssa.gov/fraud to understand how we combat fraud.

Please share these resources about scams with your friends and family — and help us spread the word on social media.



Social Security Online Learning Tools



Our online learning resources for educators are great for teaching people about Social Security. Chances are a student will know someone who receives retirement or disability benefits. This could be a way to relate our many programs to a new audience, and show them that our programs help people other than retirees. Understanding how Social Security helps wounded warriors, and children and adults with disabilities can lead to greater empathy and provide a path to inspired learning.

We offer an educator's toolkit to engage students and educate them about our programs. Use the toolkit to create your own lesson plan! The toolkit includes:

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

You can access the toolkit at www.ssa.gov/thirdparty/educators.html.

As your child's first educator, you can use our toolkit to introduce your child or grandchild to the importance of Social Security programs.

We value and welcome the efforts of teachers to educate America's young people. We want to help spark discussions with students about the benefits Social Security provides to millions of people. Please share our toolkit with your favorite educators today.

Three Retirement Planning Tips for Women

One day in 1939, Ida May Fuller stopped by the local Social Security office in her hometown of Rutland, Vermont to inquire about Social Security benefits. She knew she had been paying into Social Security, and wanted to learn more. The following year, she received the very first Social Security benefit payment — \$22.54 — arriving as check number 00-000-001. Ida's story still holds lessons for women today — and it started with her getting the information she needed.

Today, signing up for a personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount can help you get information tailored for you to plan for your retirement. It's never too late to start planning. Ida was 65 years old when she started receiving benefit payments, but she lived well beyond her life expectancy of 65 years, 4 months. In fact, Ida lived to be 100 years old, and received Social Security benefit payments for 35 years.

It's important to create your personal **my Social Security** account as soon as possible. With your account, you can view estimates of future benefits, verify your earnings, and view the estimated Social Security and Medicare taxes you've paid. Verifying earnings is important because your future benefit is based on your earnings history.

Your Social Security benefit payments will provide only a portion of your pre-retirement income. You may have to save more to have adequate income for your desired lifestyle in retirement.

Savings need to be an active part of your plan to take care of yourself and your family's financial future. Ida never married. She supported herself. However, you may find yourself widowed or divorced — and having to provide for yourself for several more years. Unlike in Ida's day, you can go online to see if you're eligible at www.ssa.gov/retirement to receive a current, deceased, or former spouse's benefits. It might make financial sense to claim those benefits instead of your own — since the payments could be higher based on the individual's own earnings history.

We encourage you to follow Ida's example and plan for your financial future. Please share this information with your friends and family — and help us spread the word on social media.



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

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

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Land That I Love: Restoring Our Christian Heritage

Bobbie Ames' erudite collection of prose, first published in **The Alabama Gazette**, will serve humanity, and more specifically, the Christian community, for generations to come. Her book can be purchased at the link below.



Southern Cuisine

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

Cornerstone CookBook printed at Lajes Field, Azores in1956. I just got the cookbook from my sister. She kept it because our mother has a recipe in it. There is also a connection in the cookbook to a column in the *San Antonio Express-News*, by Karen Hiram, called "Recipe Find." Readers write in asking for recipes of something they ate at a restaurant or something their mother made for them. In the cookbook, I found the cut out of the Recipe Find column. Of the ten or so readers that responded with a recipe request for Molasses cookies, one was my mother Ruth Spooner. Karen even quoted my mother's history and description of the recipe.

Spooner writes, "This recipe was given to me in the Azores by a good friend. There were no mixing directions but I mix like any other batter. I make up the dough, roll balls in sugar and put in the refrigerator and take out what I need to bake.



My sons [one of them is me] mixed in the flour as it sometimes is a bit difficult. The cookies spread out and crackle. This is the best Molasses Cookie I have ever tasted. It is very good for a large family or hungry children."

I have always been a molasses fan, pouring it on my oatmeal, mixing it with peanut butter and poring it over a wedge of hot buttered cornbread. My wife said that the recipes I selected for this month are more a fall selection of recipes. There are seasons when certain vegetables are more plentiful and traditionally we do eat food that is thought of as seasonal. With fast transportation from all parts of the world, just about anything is available anytime of the year. Brussels sprout are a winter vegetable but I just bought a bag of fresh Brussels sprouts yesterday. So right now I could eat Mince Meat pie, put a scoop of ice ream on top it would be a summer-time dessert. I bet that if I wanted to I could buy a watermelon for Christmas.

Molasses Cookies

Yield: about 40 cookies

INGREDIENTS:

- ¾ cup shortening
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- Granulated sugar



METHOD:

1. Cream shortening, 1 cup sugar, egg and molasses.
2. Mix in flour soda, ginger, cinnamon, cloves, and salt.
3. *If you put the batter in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes, it is easier to roll into balls and the cooled balls won't spread as far when cooking.*
4. Roll into balls then in granulated sugar.
5. Bake on a greased cookie sheet at 375 degrees for 10 minutes.

The recipe for the molasses cookies was not my mother's. She did have a recipe in the cookbook for a cake. Something I thought was unusual was when women were named for providing a recipe, they were by their husband's name. Especially, officers' wives. Even though my father was a Lt. Col., mother did not use his rank but was identified as Mrs. J. L. Spooner, my fathers initials.

TIP OF THE DAY:

How to check the freshness of an egg. When placed in a bowl of water, a fresh egg will sink and lie on its side. An egg that's not fresh but still edible will sink and stand partially erect on its tapered end. A rotten egg will float.

You can try the tip of the day with the next recipe: Apple Pudding Cake!

Apple Pudding Cake

by Mrs. J.L. Spooner – Uvalde, Texas

INGREDIENTS:

- ¼ cup butter or margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, well beaten
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ cup chopped nuts
(Mother always used pecans.)
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup sifted flour
- 2 cups chopped apples
- 1 teaspoon vanilla



METHOD:

1. Cream softened butter with sugar, add egg.
2. Sift together spices, soda and flour and add to creamed mixture.
3. Fold in chopped apples and the nuts
4. Turn into buttered ring cake pan. (She used the ring cake pan for this recipe but always used a loaf pan for her Banana Nut Cake(yum).
5. Bake at 350 F. for about 35 minutes.

Even though it was a bit repetitive, we had either Molasses Cookies or Peanut Butter cookies and Apple Pudding Cake or Banana Nut cake every week. That is when I started experimenting with different flavors. I would put peanut butter on top of my molasses cookies and pour molasses on the hot apple pudding cake. If you cream together molasses, peanut butter and butter, you can make a great sandwich or a great topping for hot cornbread.

Lentil Soup

for an Instant Pot

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil.
- 1 medium yellow onion, small dice
- 3 medium carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced, about 4 teaspoons
- 1 1/2 cups. green lentils
- 2 (14.5-oz.) can diced tomatoes slightly drained
- 2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. Italian seasoning
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 cups baby spinach lightly chopped
- Freshly grated Parmesan, for serving



Extra add ins depending on spiciness you like your food: 1 teaspoon curry powder, pinch red pepper flakes, 1 teaspoon ground cumin.

METHOD:

1. To an Instant Pot, add the oil and set to SAUTE.
2. When the oil is hot add the onion and stir until nicely browned.
3. Add carrots and celery and saute for about 2 minutes.
4. Add the lentils and garlic and thyme and Italian seasoning and other spices desired and season with salt and pepper, stir for about 30 seconds. Then add the tomatoes and broth and stir to combine.
5. Set Instant Pot to cook on High and set for 15 minutes. Once finished, allow the cooker to release pressure naturally. This will take 10 to 15 minutes extra.
6. Remove lid and check for thickness.
7. Add more broth if needed if too thick. A hand immersion mixer is good to make the soup a little thicker.
8. Stir in spinach while soup is still hot.
9. Serve with Parmesan and a crusty bread.

I now have a way to always have fully cooked legumes and not have to cook them all day. Thanks, Dave.

One difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets.

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CENTRAL ALABAMA AGING CONSORTIUM (CAAC) is a part of a state-wide aging network that provides a variety of Home and Community based services to the region's senior and disabled populations and their caregivers. CAAC coordinates services for these targeted populations in Montgomery, Autauga, and Elmore counties. The primary goal is to develop, coordinate, and support services in the community that support an active and independent life-style where those we serve can live and thrive.



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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



By Amanda Walker

Tears & LAUGHTER:

*Life is
a fleeting thing*

There are voices in other rooms tonight. Soft voices. Young voices. Granddaughters' voices.

Their brother – the baby – is asleep in an adjoining room. We were all worried if he could sleep, or would sleep. This is his first night ever away from his mama...and when you are one, being away from your mama is a big deal.

His being the baby is about to change. He will have relinquished the title and become a big brother before daybreak.

He doesn't know. He will never remember a time before her. He is too little to know. We've told him, but he has no awareness of what we mean yet. But by the time I finish writing this column, his new little sister will have entered our world. Welcome...Meredith Pearl.

Meredith had been scheduled to arrive today via a preplanned induction starting last night. But her induction was bumped from the hospital's schedule yesterday due to another medically necessary induction. She was sent home, and has now gone into full labor naturally.

So rather than things going smoothly as planned for all of these months, they made the 90 mile trip to the hospital tonight with her husband driving like a bat out of hell, hoping Meredith wasn't already sitting in the truck with them upon arrival.

That can happen you know. My sister-in-law Jamella – who was named after Alabama Governor James E. "Big Jim" Folsom's wife Jamelle – had her youngest son out in the hospital parking lot. It made the front page of Andalusia newspaper and gave my nephew quite the colorful memory to share. He was in the backseat.

For Meredith's delivery, because of COVID restrictions, it had already been decided that it would be the other grandmother's turn to attend this time. I agreed to keep the little ones tonight, and tomorrow we will switch.

I am getting texts and pictures and things are getting pretty active over at Baptist East at the moment. We are all texting – her, me, her sister, her other sister, her great-grandmother – sharing progress, encouragement, excitement, and joy.

Meredith, will make my seventh grandchild. She breaks the tie between three girls and three boys. It is the voices of her two older sisters in the other room tonight.

The soft voices that turn to giggles.

They are supposed to be asleep, but the night's excitement has proved to be too much.

There was a time when there were always children's voices throughout my house, but...the clock ticks forward. Quickly.

I remember a morning, over twenty years ago – when I was standing at the foot of my first two girls twin beds. I paused before waking them. Committing to my memory their small faces and hands. Admiring that beauty all mothers see in their children.

There was a part of me that would have paused the clock.

My world seemed so perfect. I did not think I could have ever been happier than I was during that time.

I was wrong.

Life is a beautiful, fleeting thing.

Live it.

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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Ms. Wheelchair America/
Alabama 2005

Trisston's Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
www.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Giving Grace"

Sometimes God's Word can feel like an impossible order, don't you think? Take for example:

"Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:6 (NIV)

Not partial grace. Not halfway grace. Full of grace.

I don't know if you've ever tried this, but it's hard. It's hard when one of the precious people living in your house gets on your last good nerve. It's hard when a trusted friend deeply wounds you. And it's incredibly hard when people share their thoughts and opinions so freely and carelessly on social media. Offering thoughts and opinions that can leave you feeling frustrated, angry, or even personally attacked.

I don't know about you, but words laced with grace aren't typically the first ones that come to mind when someone's hurtful words have landed like daggers in my heart. I want to defend myself. And point out how they're misunderstanding my intentions.

But just because speaking with grace is hard, that doesn't mean it's impossible. And Paul's words to the Colossians remind us that our words matter. We are to be people of truth with grace-filled words. People who choose healing and helpful words. Because whether we realize it or not, believers and unbelievers alike are listening intently to the words we speak. They're reading the words we type. And our words testify to the kind of relationship we have with Jesus and the kind of effect He has on our hearts.

So where is the hope in the midst of words that make our pulse race and our face flush? How do we keep our words full of grace? We remember that Jesus doesn't offer us partial grace. He doesn't offer us halfway grace. Jesus gave, and continues to give grace. Grace that took Him all the way to the cross.

Oh, how we need to let this truth interrupt us and redirect us. The divine grace we receive from Christ should fuel our gracious natures and fill our conversations. Because we are people who desperately need grace, we should be people who lavishly give grace.

I don't know who puts grace to the test in your life, sweet friend. But I do know the Holy Spirit is willing to help us choose grace-filled words, if only we will pause long enough for Him to replace the first ones that may pop into our brains. We can also go ahead and pre-decide that today, because of the lavish grace of Jesus, we will choose the way of grace. With His help, we can speak with honor in the midst of being dishonored. We can speak with peace in the midst of being threatened. We can speak of good things in the midst of bad situations. We can choose words that won't leave the bitter taste of regret in our mouths. Words seasoned with wisdom and full of the grace of Jesus.

Many Blessings!

Southern Gardening Potpourri for August



Judge Peggy Givhan

Although the extreme heat has not been a factor this summer, the extreme humidity been a problem. Even early in the mornings, just working for 1/2 an hour sends one in the house dripping with perspiration. Remember if you are working out of doors for long periods of time, do drink plenty of water or Gatorade. One of the symptoms of getting overheated is feeling dizzy and no longer sweating. Also one can take a cool shower, and rest indoors.

I have noticed that since the lockdown, the big box stores such as Lowe's and Home Depot, which in the past have been a go-to place for annuals and some

perennials, have not had the inventory nor the number of choices of flowers as in the past. Plus I have noted that the prices per plant has skyrocketed. So what to do? I have had much success in rooting plants such as: begonias, torenia, lantana, lamb's ears, geraniums. Perhaps next year we will have a better selections of plants.

Recently I was asked what are drought tolerate plants for our area. First of all the list I am giving you comes from personal experience.

1. Artemisia is a perennial herb that has lovely gray feathery leaves that loves the sun and very little water. Like I said, spending about \$50.00 on a dozen plants and planting them in semi-shade under a sprinkler system netted me with dying mildewed plants within the year.
2. Lamb's Ears are another perennial gray-green plant that does well in shade, but can not tolerate wet feet. If over watered, these plants just disappear with rotten leaves left on the ground.
3. Sago palms do well with little water, and tolerate shade.
4. Blue Salvia and other salvias are perennials and will die out with over watering.
5. Coreopsis, Baby's Breath, Butterfly Weed, lantana, Gaillardia to name a few more.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – SPIDER PLANT

Cleome hasslerana, commonly known as the spider plant has been around the South for many years. It must be grown in a sunny area of the bed and can stand some drought conditions. Many people grow these in their butterfly and hummingbird gardens. They are native to South America and the West Indies but are grown all over the world. They are long bloomers and flowers can last through September. Also, the seed can be planted at any time after frost. So if these are not growing in your garden today, get some seed, and sow away for fall bloom.

GOOD GARDENING!



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Patricia Killough
Community Editor

Home Town Community News

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algazettesubmit@gmail.com

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

Send us your Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Events
along with images to our new email at

algazettesubmit@gmail.com

We will be happy to include your special moments in an
upcoming issue (when & where space permits.)

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Jackson B. Dismukes Jr.
August 8th

Charles E. Morris:
August 10th

Carolyn McMeans:
August 18th

Donald Lee Applegarth:
August 30th

Joseph Edward Boyette:
August 31st



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Cindy Bolton
Ty Bolton
Heide Doran | 14 Patsy Norman (69th)
Ricky Webster (72nd) |
| 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (47th)
Chloe Taylor Jordan
George McCurdy
Moe Parker
Sheryl Schall
Tim Schall
Rhonda Tatum
Gerald H. Thompson (94th) | 15 Connie Mainor (58th)
Claudia Adams (99th)
Earl Russell (71st) |
| 3 Frances Byrd
Lisa Wooten | 16 Billy Betts (72nd) |
| 4 Harry Baker
Chuck Bolton
Harris Bolton
Linda Hix
Eveline & Ernestine Trafford (71st) | 17 Tyler Schoknecht
Max Webb |
| 5 Chuck Gambrell | 18 Doris Talley Matthews |
| 6 Chase Cumbie
Luke Davis
Tony Drake
Joshua Jones (36th) | 19 Carl Boyd (67th)
Shannon Grant |
| 7 Anna Louise Moseley
Bill Ratliff (86th) | 20 Caleb Holmes (43rd)
Sydney Mills |
| 8 Mallory Hitson
Lauren Meredith | 21 Lorraine Hall
Paula Jones (67th)
Madison Boyd Williams (13th) |
| 9 Audrey Alison
Perry Mason (62nd)
Don White
Doris Williams (94th) | 22 Tom Garlington
O. C. Thompson (92nd)
Rhett Tucker |
| 10 Hilda Furlow (95th) | 23 Lamar Higgins
Lindsey Woodall Brown |
| 11 Wayne Roy (74th)
Shawn Terrell | 24 Terri Gulsby
Lori McGough
Mary Iva Sellers
Preston Webb |
| 12 Trisston Burrows | 25 Ray Scott (88th)
Lloyd Smilie (92nd) |
| 13 Bobby Boyd (61st)
Barry Ehrlich
Maxine Scroggins | 27 Angie Herndon |
| 14 Darlene Fuller Davis
Jill McCain | 28 Bill Hix |
| | 29 Charlie Blount
Jimmy Grant (67th)
Glenn Fuller (86th)
Diane McLaney
Dawson Moore (4th)
Paul Reynolds |
| | 30 Imogene Bryan |
| | 31 Winnie Barton
Chloe Mills
Sallie Rhodes |

Happy Belated Birthday

Alan Moore ~ July 1

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Mike & Laura Lane | 19 Jason & Shawn Adams |
| 4 Frances & Ted Watts | Rob & Minerva Tate (35th) |
| 5 Michael & Jackie Moseley | 21 David & Elizabeth Miller |
| 7 Todd & Nikki Windham | 22 Johnny & Betsy Walker |
| Zach & Magan Grambling (11th) | 24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic |
| Charlie & Debbie Moore | 25 Bill & Jane Grubbs |
| 9 Turpin & Angie Ashurst | 27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (37th) |
| 11 Mack & Susan Terrell | Barbara & Tommy Ratliff (33rd) |
| 13 David & Julie Livingston | 28 Dr. Karl & Brenda Stegall (56th) |
| Tim & Cherie Meadows (27th) | 29 Mike & Deborah Kirk |
| 16 Leon & Pearl McClain (63rd) | Bill & Charlotte Younklin |
| Terri & Michael Taylor (35th) | David & Suzanne Webb |
| 18 Earl & Theresa Henderson | 30 Randy & Mae Bishop |

Belated Wishes

Rev. Nick & Rebecca Hughes celebrated their first
anniversary on July 25, 2021

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

Cardinal, Clare Bowman (92).....	January 4
Johnson, Mark M. (70)	June 25
Mount, Willie Louis (80).....	June 26
Killough, Walter Douglas (85)	June 28
Ivey, Thomas Joseph (80)	June 29
Messick, Dorothy Ruth Stapp Plott (88).....	June 29
Mackin, Thomas "Tom" Earl (84)	June 30
Motley, Jr., Marvin Glenn (73).....	July 1
Stough, Jennifer Holman (41)	July 1
Harris, Elizabeth "Betty" Burford (65)	July 2
Jones, Carol Sachar (79).....	July 2
Barnes, Robert "Bob" Dobbins (74).....	July 3
Long, Stephen Evans (79).....	July 3
Simmons, Teresa "Terri" Ann Richardson (63)	July 3
Melton, Ruth Lanier (102).....	July 5
Thacker, Melva "Mel"	July 5
Allison, Martha John Harris (81)	July 6
Davis, Dorothy Jean (91)	July 6
Flowers, Thomas "Tommy" Golding	July 6
Waldo, Jr., Frederick "Fred" Byrd (82)	July 6
Golden, Ralph (67).....	July 7
Clements, Gail Summerlin (77)	July 8
McElwaney, James Earl (72)	July 8
Golson, Jr., John Thomas	July 9
Moore, Dr. Jane Barton (85)	July 9
Woernle, Charles (73)	July 9
Galt, Jr., Edward Pegram (79)	July 10
Goodloe, Susan M. Skinner (70)	July 10
Isola, Jr., Major Arthur (95).....	July 19
Brand, Julia "Judy" Spicer (73)	July 11
Geesey, Helen Rittenour (97)	July 12
Maddox, Larry.....	July 12
Thomas, Joseph "Joe" Wayne (93).....	July 14
Tucker, Georgia "Ann" Cruce Green Puckett (86)	July 14
Dillard, Tommy (73)	July 15
Levy, Mary Lynne Weil (94).....	July 18
Clements, George B. (77)	July 18
Hale, Jimmy Louis (80)	July 18
Brett, Ruth Morrison Johnson (88)	July 19
Stitt, Dr. Kathleen Roberta (94)	July 19
Wachs, June Eady (90)	July 19
Poundstone, Margaret Mary Farley (99)	July 20
Stewart, Margie Mathis (94)	July 21
Trawick, Jane White (80)	July 22
Wood, Timothy Ray (61)	July 24
Dunn, Marjorie Ruth (91)	July 25
McDonald, Jason Daniel (43)	July 26
McAllister, Phillip (61)	July 27



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In Memory Of

Marie Lashley	July 22
Ruthie Mae Mills	July 22
Watson DeRamus "Danny" Daniel ...	July 21
Lazora Michele Parten	July 21
Neda Joy Wilson Abernathy	July 19
Luther Frank Jenkins, Jr.	July 18
William Frank Cody III	July 15
Lance Myron Purvis	July 15
William Lane Rhegness	July 15
Joe Spencer Collier	July 15
Travis Kith Grier Sr.	July 13
Tracy Dianne Pittman	July 12
Linda Lou Jeffcoat	July 9
Jimmy F Broadway	July 8
Joe Allen Turner	July 8
Emily Ann Cole	July 6
Joe Bob Watson	July 2
Jennifer Holman Stough	July 1
Eva Louise Thrash Pontoni	June 30
Alice Butler Tindal	June 29
Walter Douglas Killough	June 28
Ruth Christine Waites	June 27

Republican Kenneth Paschal Wins Campaign for District 73 Becomes First African-American Republican in Alabama Legislature Since Reconstruction



On July 13th, voters in Shelby elected Republican Kenneth Paschal in a special general election to fill the seat vacated by former representative Matt Fridy. Paschal will be the first African-American Republican elected to the Alabama State Legislature since Reconstruction – almost 145 years ago.

“I want to thank the voters of Shelby County for the trust they placed in me today. I had never run for office before, but I feel like our campaign was really embraced by the people. I think they were looking for an outsider. As I’ve said all along, we have too many politicians that can’t seem to get things done or stand up for what they believe. I’m running for God and country. I think that really resonated with folks,” said Paschal.

During his famous 1963 address on the mall of our nation’s capital, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “I look to a day when people will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

“The voters of House District 73 have offered strong evidence that

Dr. King’s dream is alive in Shelby County Alabama. The voters of District 73 didn’t choose me because of the color of my skin. They got to know me. They saw a God-fearing man of integrity who values and defends our Constitution. But I do recognize the historical significance of what happened today. I hope to be an example to all Alabamians that the Republican Party is open to everyone who shares a belief in freedom, self-reliance, fiscal responsibility, and opportunity for all,” Paschal stated.

Kenneth Paschal served 21 years in the Army before retiring in 2006 and moving to Shelby County. He is a past commander of the American Legion and a member of the Shelby County Chamber of Commerce and the Shelby County Republican Executive Committee.

State House District 73 includes portions of Alabaster, Calera, Chelsea, Helena, Montevallo, Pelham and unincorporated Brantleyville. District 73 was previously represented by Matt Fridy, who is now serving as judge of the Alabama Court of Civil Appeals.

###

Released: July 19, 2021 / Contact: Kenneth Paschal / 205-626-9458



Alabama House of Representatives *District 78*

Elect

Loretta

Grant

VOTE! September 7th

Paid for by the Campaign to Elect Loretta G. Grant District 78, P.O.Box 3432, Montgomery, AL 36109.