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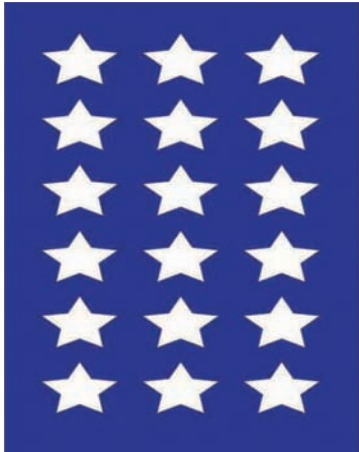
334-356-6700

VOL. 26 - ISSUE 10

JULY 2026

www.alabamagazette.com

SPECIAL EDITION



Happy 4TH of JULY

*Celebrating 250
Years of Independence*

Preamble to the United States Constitution

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Preamble was placed in the Constitution during the last days of the Constitutional Convention by the Committee on Style, which wrote its final draft, with Gouverneur Morris leading the effort. It was not proposed or discussed on the floor of the convention beforehand. The initial wording of the preamble did not refer to the people of the United States; rather, it referred to people of the various states, which was the norm.

In earlier documents, including the 1778 Treaty of Alliance with France, the Articles of Confederation, and the 1783 Treaty of Paris recognizing American independence, the word "people" was not used, and the phrase the United States was followed immediately by a listing

of the states, from north to south.[1] The change was made out of necessity, as the Constitution provided that, whenever the popularly elected ratifying conventions of nine states gave their approval, it would go into effect for those nine, irrespective of whether any of the remaining states ratified.

Meaning and application

The Preamble serves solely as an introduction and does not assign powers to the federal government, nor does it provide specific limitations on government action. No court has ever used it as a decisive factor in case adjudication, except as regards frivolous litigation.

Thanks to all our contributing writers who have dedicated many years of being a part of The Alabama Gazette. They are great Americans who love this country. Thanks for their articles for this Special Edition celebrating America's 250 Anniversary!

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See articles on Gardening, Outdoors, Today's Woman, Community Events and more!

Happy Independence Day

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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. Steve served 16 years in the state legislature. He may be reached at: <https://steveflowers.us/>

Republican Runoff Results Revealing



The June 16 Republican runoff yielded the final revelation of the 2026 election year. Winning the GOP Primary nomination is tantamount to election in the Heart of Dixie.

Several of the most important and prominent political posts in the state were decided in the first primary on May 19. Tommy Tuberville prevailed in the Governor's race, garnering an amazing 85% of the vote. Caroleene Dobson won the Secretary of State race against two opponents. Young Boozer captured an unprecedented fourth term as State Treasurer. Andrew Sorrell will get a second term as State Auditor. Cullman County Sheriff Matt Gentry defeated incumbent PSC Commissioner Jeremy Odom to capture a seat on the Public Service Commission.

The most important and consequential race decided on June 16 was for the coveted U.S. Senate Seat of Coach Tommy Tuberville. Current First District Congressman Barry Moore won decisively, as was expected.

Congressman Moore is a true reactionary, right-wing Republican. He has displayed an impeccable conservative record during his six-year tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, as well as during his eight years as a State Legislator. He is the only member of our Congressional delegation that belongs to the right-wing Congressional Freedom Caucus. Therefore, he probably has the most conservative voting record in our very conservative Congressional delegation. He is a devoted family man and has a waste management company that he and his wife, Heather, built from scratch.

It is well known that Heather has a lot of influence over most of Barry's everyday decisions. Most would say that she pretty much rules the roost. Moore is an affable, good ole boy that is hard not to like. When he entered the Senate race a year ago, I predicted Moore would win. He is the golden boy of the omnipotent national right-wing dark money Club for Growth. They do not lose many, if any, senate races they get involved in throughout the nation. The Club has backed Moore in all his Congressional races.

In the past decade, since their creation, the Club has progressed from being a big dollar contributor to being a mega dollar contributor as well as a very sophisticated campaign organization. They are on the same page as Trump with their endorsements. It is no coincidence that the Club and President Trump endorsed

Barry Moore on the same day, shortly after he announced last year. The Club and Trump are unbeatable in Ruby Red Republican states.

Moore beat his runoff opponent, former Navy Seal Jared Hudson, by a 56 to 44 margin. Moore will become Alabama's junior Senator come January. Senator Katie Britt will become our senior Senator after only four years in the U.S. Senate.

History will be made when Moore is sworn in. Both of our U.S. Senators will have been born and raised in the same city of Enterprise and county of Coffee. This is a first. The Boll Weevil city of Enterprise, a city of 25,000, will be home to both of our U.S. Senators.

It was thought that the Club for Growth only got involved in national contests. However, they revealed a wrinkle in their game plan by diving into the Alabama Lt. Governor's race this year. They took the then Alabama GOP Chairman John Wahl into their fold and did it impressively. Wahl, an unknown butterfly farmer from Northwest Alabama, claimed the total Trump endorsement and with the Club's unlimited money, beat the apparent front runner, Secretary of State Wes Allen. Wahl outdistanced Allen by a 57 to 43 margin.

Katherine Robertson took former Supreme Court Justice Jay Mitchell to the woodshed and won the Attorney General's race by a decisive 55 to 45 margin. She was helped immensely by out of state right-wing dark money. The ALFA endorsement was also helpful to Katherine Robertson's success. She will become the first female Alabama Attorney General in history.

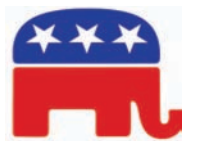
Corey Hill defeated Christina Woerner McInnis narrowly, 53 to 47 percent, to win the GOP nomination for Agriculture Commissioner. He was helped immensely by being the only agriculture candidate from vote-rich North Alabama. He was also the beneficiary of the Alfa endorsement.

The most obvious revelation coming out of last Tuesday's results is that Donald J. Trump's endorsement is golden in Alabama. The President unequivocally endorsed three GOP candidates: Tommy Tuberville for Governor, John Wahl for Lt. Governor, and Barry Moore for U.S. Senate. All three won overwhelmingly.

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



Just 10.3% of Alabamians Voted in the Primary Runoff Elections!



Voters went to the polls on June 16 to pick the Republican and Democratic nominees for over a dozen major offices. The big winners were John Wahl, Barry Moore, Katherine Green Robertson, Corey Hill, and Everett Wess. They and the other nominees now advances to the November 3 general election. Just 10.3 percent of Alabama voters participated in the primary runoffs despite millions of dollars being spent by the major campaigns to motivate people to come to the polls.

IN THE RACE FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR former Republican Party Chairman John Wahl won the GOP nomination with 175,724 votes (56.99%) over Secretary of State Wes Allen with 132,625 votes (43.01%).

IN THE RACE FOR U.S. SENATE Congressman Barry Moore (Enterprise) won the Republican nomination with 173,418 votes (55.80%) over Jared Hudson's 137,340 votes (44.20%). The total votes cast were 310,758 – just

IN THE RACE FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL the Republican nomination went to Katherine Robertson with 168,424 votes (55.07%). Jay Mitchell received 137,412 votes (44.93%)

THE REPUBLICAN COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE & Industries nomination went to Corey Hill who had 158,033 votes (53.30%) to Christina Woerner McInnis with 138,468 votes (46.70%).

The political comeback of the year went to Jim "Zig" Zeigler in the Public Service Commission, Place 2 (Republican) race who unseated incumbent Chris Beeker III 152,633 votes (51.34%) to 144,640 votes (48.66%).

IN THE RACE FOR STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, DISTRICT 8 (Republican) Emily Jones won out with 18,629 votes (53.55%) over William Matthews – 16,162 votes (46.45%).

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 95 (REP) incumbent Francis Holk-Jones defeated Joe Freeman 3,109 votes (52.29%) to 2,837 votes (47.71%).

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 17 (REP) was won by Phil Segraves 3,419 (64.28%) to Micheal Beck 1,900 votes (35.72%).

STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 37 (REP) Jeff Monroe 3,751 votes (62.65%) to John Jacobs 1,640 votes (37.35%).

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE, 19TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, PLACE 5 (REP) was won by Carol Cook Carter – 9,044 votes (52.18%) over Bradley Earl Ekdahl – 8,288 votes (47.82%).

The Alabama Democratic Primary Runoff had even poorer turnout than in the Republican with just 92,008 voters bothering to show up in the U.S. Senate (Democratic) race. Attorney Everett Wess won with 50,229 votes (54.59%) over Dakarai Lariett with 41,779 votes (45.41%). Wess and Moore will face off in the general election on November 3.

IN U.S. HOUSE — DISTRICT 5 (Democratic) Andrew Sneed won with 16,677 votes (78.39%) over Candice Dollar Duvieilh with just 4,597 votes (21.61%). Sneed will face incumbent Dale Strong (R) in the general election.

IN STATE SENATE — DISTRICT 2 Rudolph Valentino Drake won the Democratic nomination with 3,146 votes (53.49%) over Alex House with 2,736 votes (46.51%).

STATE HOUSE — DISTRICT 52 (Democratic) GiGi Hayes won with 2,127 votes (74.89%) over LaTanya Millhouse 73 votes (25.11%).

STATE HOUSE — DISTRICT 82 (Democratic) incumbent Pebblin W. Warren 1,880 votes (61.48%) defeated Sidney "Doc" Brown 1,177 (38.52%).

Congressional Districts 1, 2, 6, and 7 will have special primaries on August 11. The general election will be on November 3.

To comment or to ask a question email: brandonmreporter@gmail.com

June 14th FLAG DAY

NATIONAL FLAG WEEK, 2026



A PROCLAMATION

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

On June 14, 1777, the delegates of the Second Continental Congress adopted a resolution declaring “that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.” In the 250th year of our glorious Republic, this Flag Day celebrates the American People, whose enduring spirit allows our beloved and timeless tricolor standard to fly as the greatest symbol of freedom, democracy, and sovereign strength the world has ever known.

At its inception, the Stars and Stripes symbolized America’s fundamental precepts of liberty, justice, and dependence on Almighty God. Our Nation’s official banner and the principles that propelled our Founding Fathers to boldly undertake the most consequential act of self-governance of all time have withstood the test of time. The flag is a physical representation of our storied past, shared sacrifice, common heritage, and divine destiny. From the frozen ground of Valley Forge to the blood-soaked field of Gettysburg; from the triumphant beaches of Normandy to the desolate face of the Moon; and from the granite steps of the Lincoln Memorial to the heart of every patriot who continues to define American Excellence to this day — wherever our beautiful flag flies, America’s greatness follows. After nearly two and a half centuries, through every tragedy and triumph, Old Glory remains the strongest beacon of sovereignty and hope the world has ever known, thanks to the devoted patriots of the past who made it so — and it is up to us to keep her flying proudly for generations to come.

Our beautiful flag is a global ensign of America’s indomitable spirit, matchless power, and endless resolve to achieve a more perfect Union. This sacred symbol of the American people, carried by generations with incredible courage and unshakable faith in the promise of our Nation, deserves our deepest admiration, protection, and respect. Last year, I signed an Executive Order to preserve the dignity of our flag by enforcing accountability for acts of desecration tied to violence and lawlessness. We also authorized the revocation of visas, residency, and naturalization for foreign nationals who desecrate the banner under which millions of American patriots have fought and died. As President, I will always wield the full power of my office in defense of our

flag’s sacred honor, and I will never rest in my commitment to ensure that the proudest emblem of liberty is forever treated with the reverence it has so dearly earned.

Next month, America will celebrate the most important milestone in our history — 250 glorious years of blessed Independence — and the Red, White, and Blue will preside over jubilant commemorations from sea to shining sea. It will billow atop flagpoles in sprawling cities and on neighborhood porches in small towns; it will fly over beaches, stadiums, parks, iconic landmarks, and military bases. Our flag will wave in the hands of children at parades and festivals and flap solemnly as a sentinel over hallowed cemeteries of the fallen. On Flag Day, during National Flag Week, and throughout the summer of this historic year, may our majestic flag soar as a triumphant symbol of all the American people have achieved and serve as a shining herald of the new Golden Age that lies before us.

To commemorate the adoption of our flag, the Congress, by joint resolution approved August 3, 1949, as amended (63 Stat. 492), designated June 14 of each year as “Flag Day” and requested that the President issue an annual proclamation calling for its observance and for the display of the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings. The Congress also requested, by joint resolution approved June 9, 1966, as amended (80 Stat. 194), that the President issue annually a proclamation designating the week in which June 14 occurs as “National Flag Week” and calling upon all citizens of the United States to display the flag during that week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim June 14, 2026, as Flag Day and the week starting June 14, 2026, as National Flag Week. I direct the appropriate officials to display the flag on all Federal Government buildings during this week, and I urge all Americans to observe Flag Day and National Flag Week by displaying the flag. I also encourage the people of the United States to proudly observe with all due ceremony those days from Flag Day through Independence Day, set aside by the Congress (89 Stat. 211), as a time to honor America, to celebrate our heritage in public gatherings and activities, and to publicly recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.

DONALD J. TRUMP



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak

Former Alabama State Representative

Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



www.letthepoplespeak.us

AMERICA AT 250: THE TORCH IS NOW IN OUR HANDS

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” — Psalm 33:12

History records the rise and fall of kingdoms, empires, and republics. Ancient Greece gave civilization democracy but could not preserve it. Rome built the greatest empire of the ancient world, yet eventually collapsed under the weight of its own excesses. Great powers have risen, flourished, and disappeared into history, leaving behind little more than monuments and memories. Yet this Fourth of July, the United States of America celebrates something no generation before us has ever witnessed—our nation’s 250th birthday. For two and a half centuries, through civil war, world wars, economic depression, political upheaval, terrorism, and social unrest, the American Republic has endured. That alone is remarkable. That it has endured while becoming the freest, most prosperous, and most generous nation in the history of mankind is nothing short of extraordinary.

The miracle of America began not with military conquest or inherited wealth but with an idea. On July 4, 1776, fifty-six courageous men signed a document that forever changed human history. They declared that our rights do not come from government, that liberty is not granted by kings, and that every person is “endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” No government had ever been founded upon such a principle. The Declaration of Independence was more than a political document; it was a declaration of faith that human freedom is a gift from Almighty God and that governments exist only to protect those God-given rights. Those men pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor because they believed liberty was worth any sacrifice. They signed knowing they could lose everything. Had they failed, history would have remembered them as traitors. Instead, history remembers them as Founders.

For 250 years, generation after generation has accepted the responsibility of protecting that extraordinary inheritance. George Washington voluntarily surrendered power when the world expected him to become king, establishing forever that in America no man stands above the Constitution. Abraham Lincoln preserved the Union when it seemed destined to fracture beyond repair and reminded a grieving nation that “government of the people, by the people, and for the people” must not perish from the earth. The Greatest Generation crossed oceans, stormed beaches, liberated concentration camps, and defeated fascism at enormous cost so that freedom would survive. A generation later, Ronald Reagan confronted Soviet communism with moral clarity instead of accommodation, reminding both Americans and the world that freedom was not merely another political system but the birthright of every human being.

President Reagan also left us with a warning, that I use often, that should be engraved upon every American heart. “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” Reagan understood that liberty is never permanently secured. It must be taught by parents, protected by citizens, defended by soldiers, and preserved by every generation that inherits it. He knew America’s greatest danger would not necessarily come from an invading army or a foreign ideology. It would come if Americans themselves forgot why this nation became exceptional in the first place.

Freedom is not America’s default setting. It is America’s deliberate choice, renewed by each generation willing to defend it. That warning has never been more timely. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, America faces challenges the Founders could scarcely have imagined. We confront unprecedented technological change, growing national debt, international instability, renewed great-power competition, an ongoing struggle to secure our borders, and a culture that too often teaches young Americans to focus more on our imperfections than on our unparalleled achievements. No honest student of history would argue that America has been flawless. We have stumbled. We have sinned. We have endured periods of injustice and division. Yet no nation has worked harder to correct its own mistakes or expand the blessings of liberty to more people. America’s greatness has never rested upon perfection. It has rested upon the willingness of free people to continually strive toward the ideals proclaimed in Philadelphia nearly two and a half centuries ago. That is why President Donald Trump has consistently argued that patriotism still matters. Whether speaking about rebuilding American manufacturing, securing the border, restoring military strength, or putting America’s interests first, his message has been rooted in a simple belief that once united Republicans and Democrats alike: America should never apologize for defending its sovereignty, its Constitution, or its citizens. One of President Trump’s most enduring observations is that “The future belongs to the patriots” Those words should not be understood as a partisan slogan. They should be understood as a timeless truth. Nations are not preserved by cynicism.



They are preserved by citizens who love their country enough to improve it, defend it, and pass it on stronger than they found it. The American story has always been written by ordinary men and women doing extraordinary things. It was the farmer who left his plow to fight at Lexington and Concord. It was the immigrant who arrived with little more than hope and built a business that employed hundreds of neighbors. It was the factory worker who answered his nation’s call after Pearl Harbor. It was the teacher who instilled civic virtue in another generation. It was the police officer walking a midnight beat, the firefighter rushing into danger, the nurse caring for a stranger, the missionary carrying hope overseas, and the soldier standing watch in distant lands so that freedom would remain secure here at home. They rarely made history books, yet they made history possible.

As Americans gather with family and friends this Independence Day, it is worth remembering that the Fourth of July has never been merely a celebration of the past. It has always been a renewal of a sacred covenant between one generation and the next.

The Founders did not ask us to preserve every political opinion they held. They asked us to preserve the principles upon which they built this Republic: faith in God, individual liberty, personal responsibility, equal justice under law, limited constitutional government, free enterprise, and the enduring belief that free people are fully capable of governing themselves. Those principles transformed a small republic into the greatest nation the world has ever known. They remain every bit as relevant today as they were in 1776.

One day, Americans yet unborn will celebrate our nation’s 300th birthday. They will read about the generation that commemorated America’s first 250 years and ask whether we proved worthy of the inheritance entrusted to us. They will not judge us by the slogans we repeated, the political arguments we won, or the temporary controversies that consumed our headlines. They will judge us by something far more important. Did we preserve liberty? Did we strengthen the Republic? Did we leave America freer, safer, stronger, and more united than we found her? That is the question before us this Fourth of July.

The torch carried by Washington, Lincoln, the Greatest Generation, and Ronald Reagan has now been placed in our hands. President Trump has challenged Americans to believe once again that our best days need not be behind us. The Founders entrusted us with a Republic. History entrusted us with its preservation. Almighty God has blessed this nation beyond measure.

May we prove worthy of those blessings.

May future generations look back upon this extraordinary anniversary and say that when America reached her 250th birthday, her people remembered who they were, what they believed, and why freedom has always been worth defending.

Happy 250th Birthday, America!

“Lord God continue to bless the United States of America, and may you forever bless those who cherish, defend, and preserve the sweet land of liberty for generations yet to come.” Amen



Ronald A. Holtsford

Was Frances Scott Key also a lawyer in addition to writing the Star-Spangled Banner?

Key was a lawyer and obviously had other talents as well. Key was born in 1779; his father was a lawyer and a judge. Though Frances considered becoming an Episcopal priest, he decided to go into law instead. He "read" law under his brother-in-law and Judge Jeremiah Townley Chase. He passed the Bar in 1801.

He was considered a good lawyer, practicing in Frederick, Maryland and Washington, D.C. His law practice was successful and was involved in several important cases, appearing even before the United States Supreme Court. He was a part of the Burr Conspiracy where Vice-President Aaron Burr was accused of treason. His arrest for treason actually occurred in Alabama as Burr was accused of wanting to start a new country. Remember of course that Burr had shot and killed Alexander Hamilton in an illegal duel.

Key was against a war with Great Britain as he believed the issues could be worked out diplomatically. War of course did occur, known as the War of 1812. Key became a member of the Georgetown Light Field Artillery and was a witness to a battle outside of Washington, D.C. later that year. When the British burned the Presidential mansion it was believed that Baltimore would be attacked next. A physician, Dr. William Beanes who had detained some British soldiers who had plundered the locals in Maryland was arrested by the British. Beanes family asked Key to intervene and with the permission of President James Madison he set about to obtain Beanes release.

Before beginning his trip he asked wounded British soldiers to write letters favorable to Beanes treatment of those soldiers and their wounds. Key had to make his way under a flag of truce before he could ask for the release by the British officer in charge. The British officer initially declined to set Dr. Beanes free but after reading the several letters from the wounded British on how well they were treated

by Dr. Beanes, the decision was made to release him.

The British realized however that Key, Beanes and another that had accompanied Keys had seen too much as they were preparing to attack, Fort McHenry. Key and the others were secured away from the battle area. Key watched the battle which began on September 13th, and continued for about twenty-five hours. As the early morning hours of September 14, 1814 begin to change to light he was inspired upon seeing the flag of McHenry still flying high. Key pulled out an envelope from his pocket and wrote the words down as he was inspired. The poem was titled "In Defence of Fort M'Henry" and the prints were distributed by his brother-in-law.

It was not until 1916 that President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the Star-Spangled Banner should be played at certain official events but it was under President Herbert Hoover in 1931 that it was made the national anthem.

While Independence Day has no linear connection to Key, I hope that Key's participation as an American lawyer, patriot and poet inspires us when we hear the Star-Spangled Banner on Independence Day. Here we are as a nation that declared our independence two hundred and fifty years ago. That was about six generations before me when some Americans got together, deciding they wanted to be independent of Britain and come together to do something much bigger than their collective group. I have been a part of forming a new church which was much bigger than me and I remember the uneasy feeling and determination. To stand up and form a country where war with a much larger adversary would be possible must have been almost terrifying.

As the late Paul Harvey would say, "now you know the rest of the story".

God Bless America!

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.

This article is informative only and not meant to be all inclusive. Additionally this article does not serve as legal advice to the reader and does not constitute an attorney-client relationship. The reader should seek counsel from their attorney should any questions exist.

"No representation is made that the quality of legal services performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers."

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Francis Scott Key



Key was born into an affluent family. Key's father John Ross Key, of English descent, was a lawyer, a commissioned officer in the Continental Army, and a judge. His mother, Ann Phoebe Dagworthy Charlton (February 6, 1756 – 1830), was born to Arthur Charlton, a tavern keeper, and his wife, Eleanor Harrison of Frederick, in the colony of Maryland.

Key grew up on the family plantation Terra Rubra in Frederick County, Maryland, which is now in Carroll County. He graduated from St. John's

College, Annapolis, Maryland, in 1796 and read law under his uncle Philip Barton Key who was loyal to the British Crown during the War of Independence. He married Mary Tayloe Lloyd on January 1, 1802, daughter of Edward Lloyd IV of Wye House and Elizabeth Tayloe, daughter of John Tayloe II of Mount Airy and sister of John Tayloe III of The Octagon House. The couple raised their 11 children in their Georgetown residence, the Key House.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key Music by John Stafford Smith

The words of "The Star Spangled Banner" were written by Mr. Key in 1814 under stirring circumstances. He was detained on board one of the British ships which attacked Fort McHenry. All night, the bombardment continued indicating that the fort had not surrendered. Towards the morning, the fire ceased, and Mr. Key awaited dawn in great suspense. When light came, he saw that "our flag was still there," and in the fervor of the moment, he wrote the lines of our national song. The tune is ascribed by the weight of authority to John Stafford Smith, an English composer who wrote it about 1780.

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming? And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there; O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

2. On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep, Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes, What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep, As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses? Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam, In full glory reflected now shines on the stream: 'Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

3. O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand, Between their loved home and the war's desolation, Blessed with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land, Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just, And this be our motto: "In God is our trust." And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The Star Spangled Banner

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner, O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave,
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand,
Between their loved home and the war's desolation,
Blessed with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n rescued land,
Praise the power that hath made and preserved us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Alternative lyrics

In a version hand-written by Francis Scott Key in 1840, the third line reads: "Whose bright stars and broad stripes, through the clouds of the fight".



Key law office on Court Street in Frederick, Maryland.



On January 11, 1843, Key died at the home of his daughter Elizabeth Howard in Baltimore from pleurisy at age 63. He was initially interred in Old Saint Paul's Cemetery in the vault of John Eager Howard but in 1866, his body was moved to his family plot in Frederick at Mount Olivet Cemetery.



Maryland Historical Society's birthplace marking in Frederick, Maryland.



Francis Scott Key Monument in Baltimore, Maryland.



Robservations...

Rob Tate

Happy Birthday USA!!

This Robservation is actually special to me. Not only is it a celebration of the birthday for what I consider to be the greatest country on Earth, but this is also my 200th Robservation. I just wanted to thank Mrs. Grant and say what an honor it has been for me to write for her. During the 250th birthday bash for this great country of ours, emotions are swimming wildly in my head. For me, in my mind at least, my service to this country started long before I even knew it. How?

Well, I absolutely knew from the time I was five-years-old that I wanted to fly military airplanes. I knew it, absolutely knew it. My mom used to tell a story of my Kindergarten teacher calling her and my dad in for a parent-teacher conference. "What's the problem," my mom asked? "Oh, we just need to talk."

When my parents got there, the teacher sat them down and started telling them about a discussion we had in class. The teacher asked the students to tell the class what their image of God was. Well, when they got to me, I started describing God in my five-year-old brain. I said he wore bloused pants tucked into high leather boots and a leather jacket. He wore a white scarf, leather gloves and a brown leather helmet with goggles. He sat behind a panel operating switches and monitoring gages. Clearly, I was describing a WWI fighter pilot. My dad had recently taken my brother and me to see the WWI movie, The Blue Max. It is a movie about German fighter pilots. Odd as my idea clearly was, my parents kinda wore that as a badge of uniqueness from their blue/green eyed kid.

I am so proud that I live in a country that allowed a crazy little black kid from New Jersey to pursue his dreams of flying airplanes and of course serving this country as an Air Force pilot and officer for just short of 25 years. But to be honest, it has not always been easy. In another Robservation, or off line if folks want to talk, being a Black guy, I faced far more than my fair share of obstacles. When I say obstacles, I do not mean academic but rather people who clearly did not think that Black guys need to be flying airplanes. It is only because of God's mercy and favor, along with my natural desire and abilities, that I made it as a pilot. From my high school guidance counselor, to an ROTC Captain during my summer camp before my junior year at Tennessee planting a stolen Citadel class ring in my dorm room hoping that the military police would find it (I got there first), to half a dozen similar incidents that people tried to derail me and my career. Tangible, provable incidents. No imagination here.

Yet here I am. And you know what? I still love the heck out of this country. No matter the amount of jerks I have encountered in my lifetime. I have been to many places around the world and to be quite honest, I would not give you two cents for many of them. Sorry, not sorry. When we read how some 60% or more of high school grads think communism is better than democracy, I shake my head. People are angry about Trumps UFC night at the Whitehouse but say nothing about the trans men showing their "boobs" and all the other nonsense on the Whitehouse lawn while Biden was President. America on its worse day is better than most countries on their best.

All of this being said, I will be one of the first to admit that America is not perfect. I have written on this before. Like most people and every other country on the planet, America has a huge closet full of skeletons. Unfortunately, way too many people cannot get past these historical skeletons. I am not saying we should ignore our history, especially on this 250th Anniversary, but history is not to ignore but to learn from so as not to repeat it for future generations.

When I think about this great country of ours, I for the most part always go to WWII. My brain goes there automatically with most things in my life. I love what this country did against Naziism and Fascism. How can you not? But for me, as a Black guy, when I see a photograph of a huge formation of B-17s headed for Germany, I know that there were no Blacks on those planes. Why? We were not allowed to be there. When I watch the Normandy beaches being stormed, I know that it would be 15 years after that day before a White and Black boxer could actually fight in Texas. The 40-year Tuskegee Syphilis experiment had another 28 years before it ended and school integration was likewise years away as well as other issues that plagued this country. For what it is worth, June 6 1944 is the benchmark I use in all my discussions of equal rights in America. Let there be no doubt that many of the men who stormed the beaches in Normandy to fight Nazism, went back home and did their utmost to prevent my relatives from living a normal life inside the US. I met and dealt with many of their offspring during my time in college and the Air Force so I know what I know. I actually had a face-to-face confrontation with a Klan guy who was a student at UT. He clearly did not like seeing me with my White girlfriend. Yes, this was 1982, not 1862. Likewise, in NATO I flew with a really nice guy we called "Uncle Chet." He was from Oklahoma and we got along great. One day he told me he would love for me to visit his home and even go to church with him. But then he warned me. He said I could go to church but because I was Black, I could never join his church if I ever moved there. Hmmm, 1992 folks.

Regardless. I love the heck out of this country. I would love to see folks who say they hate this country and want to leave; leave. But, this actually being my 200th Robservation, I still feel like I can say what I feel to be true. Mrs. Grant has always given me such latitude. Back in 2018, Mrs. Grant asked me to write about the new Equal Justice Initiative Museums here in Montgomery. It has since grown from its initial 2 museums to 3 incredibly extensive and larger venues. So, as for my 250th Anniversary contribution, I want to relate that Robservation. I cannot stress enough that this is in no way an attempt to malign this nation but at the same time, the 250th Anniversary is certainly different for different people. There is no need to recount hundreds of examples here today. Here is my Robservation from 2018.

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

STRANGE FRUIT

*Southern trees bear strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood
at the root, Black bodies swinging in the southern breeze,
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees
Pastoral scene of the gallant south,
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of magnolias, sweet and fresh,
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh
Here is fruit for the crows to pluck,
For the rain to gather, for the
wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the trees to drop,
Here is a strange and bitter crop*

Strange Fruit, Billie Holiday

After I had already submitted my Robservation this month about the Red Baron, Mrs. Grant asked me if I would like to write something about this past weekend's (26-28 April) events at the Equal Justice Institute's (EJI) National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum. For my next Robservation, I will write about it in a little more detail. Until then . . .

Go to the memorial and museum! People who know me know I love history. Happy, sad, bloody, cheerful, uplifting, deadly, with few exceptions, I love history. This trip down America's memory lane, however, may be too painful for some to bear. I get that. But that is what history is supposed to do; bring our past to light, teach us who we once were, no matter how dark, and upon reflection, make our future better.

These two new exhibits here in Montgomery may not, however, be an easy pill for many to swallow. In a country, and dare I say the city of Montgomery, where stark lines of division once separated us based upon our race, I definitely see anger, bitterness and unforgiveness being the end result of these venues for some. Not all, not me, but definitely some. I saw it on the faces of more than one person last weekend. Likewise, I saw a lot of tears and sadness from folks both Black and White. But as a historian, that is the price one pays for, you guessed it, history. Honest, blunt, in your face history. Walk through an old battlefield like Gettysburg or Verdun and that is exactly what you get.

For me, the excursion downtown was a little different because of course I am a black guy and these exhibits deal with my heritage. With parents and grandparents from East Tennessee, I have grown up hearing of stories of lynchings and injustices my family lived through growing up in Morristown, Rogersville, Thorn Hill and Puncheon Camp, Tennessee. Likewise, I have gone through the Holocaust Museum in DC and walked the grounds of the Concentration Camp Dachau in Munich, Germany on at least three separate occasions. Each of these have one common theme that links them all; hate. Man's unspeakable inhumanity to man and our unbelievable ability to rationalize those evil actions.

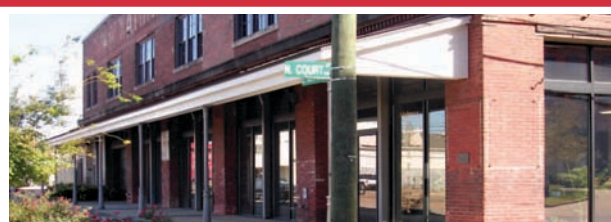
For now, this is all I will say about the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. If you can, I do recommend going to them. Little kids, not so much. Some of the images will certainly be disturbing to some; actually most. Also, I recommend going on YouTube and listening to Billie Holiday's song, "Strange Fruit," which is about lynching. I actually sent a letter to the EJI recommending they include this song and/or the lyrics in the museum. Just one of two small recommendations I made. I will share the other in my next Robservation. Likewise, I will share both my hopes and fears with these two exhibits. But overall, I have very positive hopes for what they will bring to not only our city but to the country as well.

As for me on this 250th Anniversary, I will most certainly have the 50 odd flags posted around my house as I always do whether it be the 4th, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day or Armed Forces Day. Why? Despite any and all things mentioned in this Robservation, I love this country. LOVE IT!! Freedoms we have here are only pipedreams to millions, dare I say billions, around the world. I can honestly say that there has been no greater professional honor than serving the first half of my adult life as an officer and pilot in the United States Air Force.

A close second would be having been afforded the great gift of being a pilot at Delta Airlines. Two things made possible because of this country's greatness.

And even more important than those professional honors, the ability to serve my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ without fear is the greatest gift this country has afforded me and my wife. The freedoms this country offers is amazing but pales in comparison to the freedom we can all have in Christ. Christ is our freedom and in America, we can say that without fear. I am not saying that people might not like it but they too are free to express their views and opinions. In any number of countries around the world, however, we would be dead for practicing our faith. My friends, this is a fact. Just watch the news and look at Christian persecution not only in the Middle East and Africa but also in countries like the U.K. where it is growing daily.

***America is a great country, but it is not perfect.
You want a perfect place to live? I will see you in Heaven.
Until then, this great country is where I am going to be.
Happy Birthday you big, beautiful nation!***



**12 E. Jefferson Street
Montgomery, AL 36104**

The Gazette, (now The Alabama Gazette) was created in the year 2000 for the people of Central Alabama with the intent of being a thought-provoking, non-partisan publication.

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**John
Sophocleus**

the more perfect Union promised until forced into a coalition proffering despair observing what we are today. In fact what began in 1775 ended for my country 90 years later; hence this 160th Anniversary of our hegemonic union.

Many will espouse 1776 folklore. Fireworks, parades, politburo members donning flag lapel pins reading the Declaration aloud and pretending its grievances were settled two and a half centuries ago. They were not. Most have been quietly reinstated, lifted by each wing of the duopoly parties to get the gluttonous hog's largess to fly, albeit under more digestible nomenclature.

Signators in Philadelphia pledged their lives, treasure and sacred honour against a distant government which taxed without consent, kept standing armies in peacetime, made war on its own initiative, etc. All these grievances were imposed by persons the colonists couldn't elect/remove. Read the particulars in the Declaration again, then observe what we've built and become. The Framers would not recognize this country. Not the automobiles, planes, telephones and other new and improved appliances... these marvels would delight them. They'd despair observing a government this invasive, this bloated, this corrupt, unrepresentative and casually incompetent with other persons' money and posterity. We kept the Fourth of July pomp and circumstance while slowly discarding the Spirit of the Declaration. On the 250th we observe Death, Tyranny and Pursuit of largess.

Let's begin illustrating with the 'purple elephant' few politburo members at city councils/county commissions, up to Goat Hill or Moscow on the Potomac will say aloud. Total federal debt currently amassed a record \$39.23 trillion. It ended 2025 near \$37.64; roughly \$1.6 trillion borrowed in under six months, in 'peace and prosperity' with no Hoover/FDR depression or world war to blame. Comrade Trump's soviets added to it, as did Comrade Biden's soviets, then Trump again... witnessed in 'One Big Soviet Bill' ballyhooing as both the Blue and Red party use greater disdain for one duopolist to turn increasingly more deranged, poorly educated individuals even stronger to the other soviet. Two demons, same master. The Framers feared a monarch's debts - a clear carryover from the Magna Carta penned by rebel Barons at Runnymede. The authors and adopters of the Constitution never imagined a Republic borrowing a fortune every quarter simply to keep the lights on and feed parasites of corporate and social welfare largess.

Government debt is openly reported. Unfunded promises are purposefully hidden. 2026 Trustees Reports, released this month, confirm the arithmetic has grown worse, not better. SSA's retirement fund pays full scheduled benefits only through the fourth quarter of 2032. Medicare's hospital fund goes insolvent in 2033. Combined long-run shortfalls in these two programs alone exceed \$78 trillion; Social Security's seventy-five year gap widened 16% in a single year. These are not my projections. They're government actuarial reports, signed by the Trustees then ignored by the politburo who appoint them.

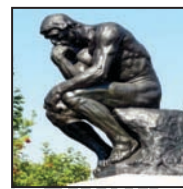
Righteous people find insolvency in seven years an emergency. Our soviets treat it as a campaign prop, something to demagogue every even-numbered year and fund never. Ceteris paribus, a promise the maker has no plan to keep is not generosity. It is fraud with a longer fuse.

Recent military deployments provide yet another illustration of how little the four (Executive, Senators and HoR member) I participate installing to DC read/understood the roughly 8,000 words in the Constitution they've sworn to uphold. The federal government commenced bombing Iran 2-28-2026 and is still engaged in military actions with little reason/defined objective(s). Congress never declared this 'war.' Congress never authorized any military engagement(s) after set in motion. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11 gives the power to declare war to the legislature (designed to be the people's representative House) and to nobody else. War power acts resulting from LBJ/Nixon debacles do not 'Trump' the Constitution no matter how many times an Executive may assert 'rights' which exceed their authority. The last time our Republic adhered to that clause was 1941, now driven by executive adventures cloaked in some rhetoric... this iteration is no different. Comrade Trump calls it a "skirmish." Other soviet predecessors evoked "kinetic actions" and "overseas contingency operations." Euphemisms change color with the jersey. The lawlessness remains constant.

The HoR voted four times to compel the Executive to obey the Constitution, most recently [6-3-26] 215 to 208 with four Republicans supporting the Constitution over party politics. The Senate buried it. The President would undoubtedly veto it. So the people's chamber instructs the Executive to follow Article 1, who simply declines and that's the end of it. That is not a representative republic. That is an unconstitutionally correct elected/installed monarchy with extra steps for window dressing.

The 'war tab' was delivered. Administration officials told the Senate behind closed doors the first six days cost \$11.3 billion, with \$5.6 billion in munitions expended in the first forty-eight hours, approx. \$2 billion a day. Independent estimates put the daily tab to float two carrier strike groups and run two hundred aircraft at roughly \$59 million, before a single missile fired. The same daily sum could be spent elsewhere - like debt reduction, soundly rejected by recent Red soviet executives from Reagan to Trump - both big gov't./modern Democrats who 'donned' the red jersey when more expedient. So more borrowing, from the same emptying trust funds, to wage a 'war' not Constitutionally authorized.

Semiquincentennial/250th: Death, Tyranny and the Pursuit of Largess



Time to address 'Letters of Marque' over-degreed, under educated Biden buffoons and Trump chumps won't address or can't understand. The Framers anticipated our young republic's desire to strike an enemy abroad without deploying a permanent war machine draining the treasury and tempting administrations into mischief. The very same clause that reserves war to Congress, offers an alternative remedy. Congress may "grant Letters of Marque and Reprisal. "Authorize a specific party to strike a specific target, pay on results, and fold the operation when the job is done. No standing morass. No billion dollar mornings. No carrier group idling off Hormuz at \$60 million a day while the comptroller prints the difference.

The instrument was never repealed. It was simply abandoned, because a cheap, effective and accountable tool is useless to parasites seeking wealth transfers for what Eisenhower dubbed the 'military industrial complex.' The corporate military contractors, the 'think tank' prostitutes, the appropriators who broker and launder glory into reelection won't benefit via letters of marque. They get rich off the morass. Follow the money and the Constitution starts to read like a confession of what we gave up. Sadly, scholars who write and explain the economic merit of this Constitutional device are fired and vilified by educrats at corrupt institutions like Auburn University who sacrifice their students into this failed machine.

The decay is structural (not partisan as the Blue/Red demons want the sheeple to believe) and runs through every clause they ignore. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 commands tariffs "shall be uniform throughout the United States," precisely to avoid picking winners and losers at the customs house. Today's tariffs are disuniform by design, sector by sector and country by country, a tribute system run for whoever lobbies hardest. The Framers wrote uniformity to specifically handcuff politburo members now boasting their leverage. Much talk these past weeks of NYC 'kingmakers' like Comrades Mamdani and Trump. Sad people can't see it is the rigged duopoly system proffering these uncompetitive results, not failed businesspeople like Trump and parasites like Mamdani accomplished at being recipients of wealth transfers. Sad Alabamians fail to shun those who allowed/brought back the more destructive Red Republican soviet party without firing a shot, instead of replacing the modern Blue Democrat soviet party becoming just as deleterious.

Furthermore, the chamber designed to check this largess is no longer representative. The Constitution contemplated one Representative for every 30,000 persons. The House froze itself at 435 with the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929, an unconstitutional abomination where now a single member "represents" some 760,000 souls. That frozen number also warps the Electoral College, since a State's electors are its House seats plus their two Senate seats. Cap the House and you rig the result for President making it more likely to get increasingly more soviet Execs like Comrades Biden and Trump. Representation approaching 30,000 persons becomes a rounding exercise, which is the point.

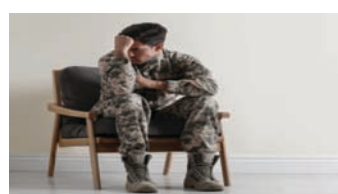
The Declaration indicted a king for "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent," for keeping "Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures," and for a "long train of abuses and usurpations" aimed at "absolute Despotism." We've violated it and gilded the result for the 250th Trumpified reality TV show. A \$39 trillion debt, \$78 trillion in promises we cannot keep, another 'war' Congress refused to declare burning two billion a day, tariffs the uniformity clause forbids and an unrepresentative House too frozen to govern as designed... to enumerate a few of the most vulgar abominations. Our wise Framers would know exactly what they were looking at. They wrote the Declaration to keep us from returning to British mercantilist tyranny and slavery.

In closing, I have no illusion parade-going folks will read the document they're saluting any more than a flag kissing president sincerely understands the evolution from the First Continental Flag of freedom to the hegemonic 50 Star military flag misused today. Most will choose Barabbas again and again calling it Christian patriotism. Nonetheless just like Scripture, the text is still there... for those willing to (re)read it and sincerely come to understand the Spirit of the words. The standard it set has not expired, we simply stopped meeting it. A republic, if we can keep it, was always the wager as Franklin proclaimed. Two hundred fifty years on, the honest assessment is we have not kept it. Perhaps one of the most indelible memories of learning how the Declaration spread through the colonies was public reading by Sheriffs (the most important figure of law enforcement at the local level) at the local courthouse or town commons. I witnessed a Sheriff who had that Spirit slowly polluted by our corrupt county politburo to publicly proclaim belief in an indicted (later convicted) politician in his jurisdiction, fail to enforce dumping laws to promote a curbside trash monopolist, be used to advance socialized sports, champion an incompetent/unbonded engineer harming lives, etc., then go to Montgomery and champion another serial felon wanting to return to the White House to continue his largess - i.e., it has failed from bottom to top. Deo volente, some remnant still wants to rekindle this Spirit of '76 as voters remove some of our most corrupt incumbents and those 'too fatigued into submission' to stand against the wicked.

"Above every paternal figure in our lives, there is our Heavenly Father, to Whom we pray, and upon Whom we depend for our very existence. He is our Creator, and is so fundamental to our lives that the Lord Jesus said the following: 'And do not call anyone on earth your 'father,' for one is your Father, Who is in Heaven' (Matthew 23:9)."

John Sophocleus is a retired Ford Motor Company Warranty & Policy Administrator and a retired Auburn University Instructor of Economics. A former Libertarian candidate for Alabama House and Governor, U.S. House District 3 and US Senate candidate, he's also a monthly Alabama Gazette columnist since 2009.

Opinions expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Alabama Gazette staff or publishers.



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- Community and purpose
- Agricultural career opportunities



Justice Will Sellers

By the time Thomas Jefferson dipped his quill in ink in the summer of 1776, he was drawing from a wealth of ideas more than five centuries old.

Eight hundred and eleven years ago this month, English barons forced a reluctant King John to place his seal on a document they called the Magna Carta. At the time, it read more like a peace treaty between feuding factions than a declaration of universal principles.

The barons wanted their specific grievances addressed. Among their desires were a cessation of unlawful imprisonment, and end to arbitrary taxation, and a written acknowledgment from the king that even he was bound by law, not above it.

King John had no intention of honoring it. The Pope annulled it within weeks. And yet something extraordinary happened; the document survived, was reissued, revised, and over the centuries, transformed from a grievance list into the cornerstone of English constitutional law.

By the time the American colonists found themselves similarly situated in an increasingly bitter confrontation with King George III, the Magna Carta was not merely a historical artifact, it was the living vocabulary of liberty. It provided a concrete, recognized, legally established set of rights that no English monarch could legitimately deny, so when Jefferson sat down to explain to the world why independence was not rebellion but remedy, the Magna Carta was the foundation supporting his words.

Jefferson's genius in the Declaration of Independence is often celebrated in its soaring philosophical passages: the self-evident truths, the equality of men, the God-given rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. But philosophy alone does not make a revolution. What makes a revolution is the ability to say, with precision and force, here is what was done to us, here is why it was wrong, and here is our solution.

Jefferson understood that to win the argument for independence, he could not merely invoke abstract, natural rights. He could not philosophize about ideal forms of government or steps to create utopia. Rather, he needed to demonstrate that specific, recognized, inherited rights had been systematically violated. He needed a backboard. He needed precedent. He needed the Magna Carta.

The colonists did not think of themselves as revolutionaries claiming new rights. They thought of themselves as Englishmen appealing to rights they already had. Rights they had been born into. Rights that had been ratified more than five centuries ago. The Magna Carta was the title deed to those rights, and Jefferson's list of grievances was the evidence that the deed had been slandered.

Magna Carta established that the Crown could not levy taxes without the consent of the kingdom's common counsel. This was the medieval assertion of a principle the colonists would reduce to a rallying cry: "No taxation without representation!" When Jefferson indicts King George for "imposing Taxes on us without our Consent," he is invoking a right that English law had formally recognized since Runnymede. The Stamp Act, the Townshend Acts, and the Tea Tax were violations of a constitutional principle older than the English common law itself.

Even obstruction of justice finds its parallel. The Magna Carta demanded that the

From Runnymede to Philadelphia



king not "sell, deny, or delay right or justice to anyone." Jefferson charges King George with "obstructing the Administration of Justice" and making judges dependent upon royal will alone, denying, delaying, and corrupting the justice that the Great Charter had promised five centuries before.

When English settlers crossed the Atlantic, they carried with them their language, their customs, and their faith, but also their legal identity as Englishmen. They believed the protections of their English constitutional tradition traveled with them.

King George and Parliament shattered that assumption. They made plain that the colonists were considered non-citizens to be subjugated, taxed and denied justice. In addition to being bad policy, it was also a repudiation of the constitutional inheritance from Magna Carta.

Jefferson's masterstroke in the Declaration was to transform this repudiation into an argument for inevitability. He did not frame independence as a choice, an ambition, or a preference, but rather as a logical and necessary response to a proven pattern of tyranny. The grievance list is not rhetorical decoration. It is a legal brief.

By grounding each charge in rights that were recognized, established, and historically documented; rights that the Magna Carta had first articulated and that generations of English common law had reinforced, Jefferson could argue that the colonists had not abandoned their allegiance.

To the contrary. Their allegiance had been abandoned by a king who refused to honor the covenant that defined English kingship itself. A king who violated Magna Carta's terms was not a benevolent ruler exercising authority; he was a despot exercising arbitrary force.

The barons of 1215 included in their charter a "security clause," a formal acknowledgment that when a king violated the charter's terms, resistance was not treason but remedy. Jefferson updated that remedy for a new world and a new century. He replaced baronial armed resistance with the sovereign authority of a free people. But the logic was the same; when a king breaks the compact, the people are free to seek new arrangements.

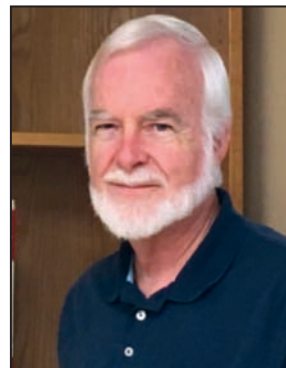
The Magna Carta gave Jefferson the precedent and moral authority to argue that they were not agitators seeking novelty, but Englishmen demanding what was theirs. It allowed Jefferson to move from the philosophical to the specific, to show, charge by charge, that King George had violated concrete, inherited, centuries-old rights.

Five hundred and sixty-one years after a reluctant king pressed his seal into wax at Runnymede, a Virginia lawyer turned those old grievances into a new nation's founding argument. The Magna Carta did not merely anticipate the Declaration of Independence. It made it necessary, made it credible, and made it permanent.

The Great Charter's most enduring legacy is the idea embedded in its very existence: that no one is above the law, and when a ruler pretends otherwise, it is the people's oldest right to object.

Will Sellers is an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of Alabama. He is best reached at jws@willsellers.com.

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



John Taylor

The Declaration of Independence—the Blueprint for Secession

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent

Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the Separation.

Although not a governing document, the Declaration of Independence provides the blueprint for government by consent and secession. The severed ties with Great Britain eventually led to the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union and, later, the U.S. Constitution.

Massachusetts Senator Timothy Pickering, who served under George Washington in various roles and briefly served under John Adams, described secession as "the principle of the American Revolution—the very right that the revolutionaries fought for."

Virginia's Thomas Jefferson was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. Once the initial draft was finished, Adams and Ben Franklin made minor alterations before it was presented to Congress.

Adams had long advocated for colonial independence, a goal mirrored by Virginia, which declared its independence on May 15, 1776. Richard Henry Lee stated: "these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states, that are absolved of all allegiance to the British Crown..." A State was considered the same as a country, e.g., England, France, Spain, etc.

The basis of the American Revolution was threefold: rights are God-given and unalienable; legitimate governments are created to protect these rights; and any time government fails to live up to its charge of protecting the rights of the people, "men have a right and even a duty to overthrow that government and create a new one."

It is generally accepted that rights are God given. Otherwise, they presumably come from some form of government. This ideology is often connected to collectivism, e.g., socialism, communism, fascism, etc. Though some Founders were Deists, the Declaration was based on individual liberty, a cornerstone of Christianity.

Second, legitimate government is created to protect the rights of individuals. If it fails to protect these rights, its legitimacy is forfeited. Confederate States' President Jefferson Davis referenced this in his Farewell Address to the Senate: "I hope the time may come again, when a better comprehension of the theory of our Government, and the inalienable rights of the people of the States, will prevent any one from denying that each State is a sovereign, and thus may reclaim the grants which it has made to any agent whomsoever." Article I of the Treaty of Paris (1783) describes the agreement between Great Britain and Thirteen "free, sovereign, and independent States" (no central authority)—Davis stressed that the States never relinquished their sovereignty.



Davis went on to say: "Then, Senators, we recur to the compact which binds us together; we recur to the principles upon which our Government was founded; ..., and when you deny to us the right to withdraw from a Government which thus perverted threatens to be destructive of our rights, we but tread in the path of our fathers when we proclaim our independence, and take the hazard." Abraham Lincoln referenced the declaration in the Gettysburg Address and various speeches in a completely different context, making the ahistorical claim that the Declaration referenced a nation instead of a confederation of sovereign States. He stated: "I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence...."

The third point is that when a government does not uphold its role, it is the duty of the people to either alter the existing government or create a new one. The wording from the Declaration is as follows:

That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness...But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Although the Declaration contained the Enlightenment inspired "all men are created equal" that phrase meant under the law, not "pie in the sky" egalitarianism. (The Enlightenment's impact is a discussion for another day.) America offered opportunities for religious and economic freedom along with representative government. The Declaration of Independence—almost certainly the greatest blueprint for secession in recorded history—makes it clear what to do when government fails to represent its constituents.

Sources: The Declaration of Independence," *ConstitutionFacts.com*, <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-declaration-of-independence/read-the-declaration/>; Thomas J. DiLorenzo, "Rewriting History, American Style," L.M. Schwartz, The Virginia Land Rights Coalition, March 1, 2002, <http://www.vlrc.org/authors/59.html>; Kevin R.C. Gutzman, J.D., Ph.D., *The Politically Incorrect Guide to the Constitution Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing, Inc., 2007*; Charley Reese, "We Are Revolutionaries,"

LewRockwell.com, September 19, 2005, <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2005/09/charley-reese/were-revolutionaries/>; "Jefferson Davis' Farewell Address," *Senate Chamber, U.S. Capitol, January 21, 1861*, The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Rice University, <https://jeffersondavis.rice.edu/Content.aspx?id=87>; Lincoln, *Independence Hall, February 22, 1861*, [ushistory.org](http://www.ushistory.org/independencehall/history/lincoln.htm), <http://www.ushistory.org/independencehall/history/lincoln.htm> NOTE: The Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence on July 2, 1776 but it took two days for the Congress to approve the "edited" version. Also, neither the Articles of Confederation or the U.S. Constitution established a "nation" — that word is nowhere to be found in either document. Confederate States' President Jefferson Davis made his farewell comments in the Senate Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on January 21, 1861.

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



John Martin

Musk's Lunar Obligations

Today, just about everybody understands that Elon Musk's greatest dream is to establish a permanent human colony on the planet Mars. Obviously, it is a gargantuan proposal, and many people are claiming that it is utterly impossible.

For starters, Musk can't just jump in and attempt it immediately. Right now, we are in an intense race with China to send American astronauts to the

Moon's south pole to claim the limited strategic high spots with 24/7 daylight for power generation and ice-bearing craters to provide water. We cannot allow China to hog them up and shut us out. We must secure them first.

Before even considering Mars, Musk must work on our Moon Colony—an essential base only three days away that can provide helium 3 and other needed resources.

Working on the Moon can also provide needed experience building habitats in a convenient location before attempting to conquer the much more difficult Mars challenges.

So far, Musk's rocket developments are well ahead of China's. He has a solid lead to beat China in claiming the choice spots to build an American base and research center on the Moon's south pole. That does not mean SpaceX can rest on its laurels. It needs to build and test specialized craft specific for the world's first lunar outpost. We will need to build landing facilities, habitats, roads, rovers, power stations, communication centers, material processing plants, and fuel storage facilities. Electric earthmoving equipment must be brought in to prepare building sites and bury habitats and other vulnerable structures. It will be a tremendous challenge.

Our Congress MUST provide full co-operation to assist Musk in getting his job done. Regulatory agencies like the FAA must get out of the way and not mess with SpaceX. Any traitors among regulators must be detected, prosecuted, and FIRED without pay. If needed, President Trump could sign an executive order to squelch any rogue officials who misbehave.

China has been our primary adversary in its quest to monopolize strategic materials and elements essential for modern commerce—rare earth metals, platinum group metals, cobalt, nickel, copper, lithium, and others. It is attempting to impose an economic stranglehold onto the entire world. A dominant American lunar outpost can be an important check and balance to thwart Chinese attempts to monopolize essential materials and impose predatory pricing schemes.

Musk can also make some new plans to help finance his lunar activities. One of the first could be mining moon rocks and even ordinary regolith, which is essential for researching what it does to materials and equipment before it even goes to the moon. In addition, scientists and collectors everywhere will pay handsome prices for fresh mineral specimens. Musk has a leg up on providing them. He could build numerous autonomous craft to land on the moon, each carrying one or more robots that could run out, gather moon rocks, and load them into the craft. Some robots could be equipped with magnetic sensors to detect pristine meteorites that have fallen onto the moon. When full, the ships would return to Earth into designated locations. The rocks can be sold to anyone who wants some—from individuals to institutions. The craft would be relatively inexpensive since they need no human life support systems. They can likely be re-used for multiple missions to stockpile adequate supplies for future missions and research. Considering that NASA is not selling any of its Apollo moon rocks, SpaceX moon rocks should earn considerable income to finance future development.

In future years, a more ambitious fundraiser could be lunar tourism. However, tourist ships would be far more expensive and only people with deep pockets could afford to ride in them.

Another extra could be lunar exploration. Musk's first astronauts would begin by investigating the regions around the south pole and claiming strategic spots for the first American colony. Later explorations, beginning with robots, could seek out lava tubes, which are claimed to have constant 65 degree temperatures inside and ample rock shelter for protection against cosmic radiation and micro-meteorites. The robots would be equipped with cables to lower themselves into the entrances, cameras to record their observations, and cables wired to a

transmitting device on the surface to broadcast their underground observations back to the Earth. These natural safety shelters could be crucial for future American moon bases. Just don't let China grab them first.

When will SpaceX land its first humans onto the moon? Musk is currently working on his Human Landing System (HLS) to use Starships to deliver and return them. A timeline is still pending. But duplicating a system we first developed over 50 years ago shouldn't take more than about three years—about 2029. Just make sure China doesn't get there first.

For the future, Elon has proposed some ambitious lunar-based projects:

“1. Project TERAFAAB – AI Data Centers in Lunar Orbit

At Giga Texas in March 2026, Musk announced Project TERAFAAB, aiming to relocate the world's most power-hungry AI infrastructure to the lunar surface Interesting Engineering. The plan would use the Moon's vacuum, low gravity, and abundant solar power to overcome Earth's “terawatt ceiling” for computing. Instead of chemical rockets, Musk proposes electromagnetic mass drivers—giant magnetic launch tracks—stretching dozens of kilometers to accelerate AI-equipped satellites into lunar escape velocity. These systems would eliminate the need for volatile propellants and discarded booster stages, and could eventually support a distributed orbital network delivering 1,000 times the power of current Earth-based systems Interesting Engineering.

“2. Moon-Based AI Manufacturing and Deep Space Deployment

Following the AI data center vision, Musk suggested building a Moonbase Alpha to manufacture space computers and hurl them into deep space using a large maglev (mass driver) system TechCrunch. This would allow AI infrastructure to scale beyond Earth's energy limits, potentially harnessing “a few percent of the Sun's energy” for training and operation TechCrunch.

“3. Strategic Shift from Mars to Moon

Musk has indicated that SpaceX's focus is now on the Moon rather than Mars SpaceNews. This pivot comes after the company's merger with xAI and a restructuring that saw several AI executives depart. The Moon is positioned as a stepping stone for multi-planetary humanity, with the potential to serve as a hub for energy-intensive AI and space-based manufacturing TechCrunch.

“4. Technical Feasibility and Timeline

While electromagnetic mass drivers have been theorized since the 1930s, they remain unproven on the Moon Interesting Engineering. Musk's vision would require decades of development, infrastructure buildup, and integration with SpaceX's Starship for initial hardware transport. The Moon's environment—low gravity, no atmosphere, and constant solar access—makes it uniquely suited for such large-scale energy and launch projects.”

SOURCE

1. Elon Musk's Lunar Proposals.

<https://www.bing.com/search?q=Musk%20lunar%20proposals&FORM=ARPC&PC=3VSS&PTAG=55230282>



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



About SpaceX

Space Exploration Technologies Corp. known as SpaceX is an American aerospace manufacturer and space transport service company, founded in 2002 by Elon Musk with the goal of reducing space transportation costs and enabling the colonization of Mars.



From left to right:
Jessica Watkins, Luke Delaney, Joshua Kutryk, and Sergey Teteryatnikov

NASA announced the crew assignments for Crew-13 on April 23, 2026 consisting of NASA astronauts Jessica Watkins, a geologist, and Luke Delaney, a former naval aviator, alongside CSA astronaut Joshua Kutryk, a fighter pilot, and Roscosmos cosmonaut Sergey Teteryatnikov, a submariner. Besides Watkins, who flew on SpaceX Crew-4, this will be the first mission to space for the remaining astronauts. Kutryk is the first Canadian to be sent to orbit as part of the Commercial Crew Program.

SpaceX Crew-13 is the thirteenth operational NASA Commercial Crew Program flight and the 21st crewed orbital flight of a Crew Dragon spacecraft. The mission will transport four crew members.

The 13th operational SpaceX mission under NASA's Commercial Crew Program is scheduled for launch in September 2026.[1] The mission will also return the astronauts of SpaceX Crew-12 to Earth.



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Honoring Our Heroes



The Betsy Ross flag is featured on the seal of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, together with the modern United States flag to represent veterans throughout United States history.

250 Years!

It has taken many thousands of lives to build this great country!
We must never forget the sacrifices that have been made over America's 250 years to make us the strongest nation in the world!

Home of the Free Because of the Brave American War & Conflict Deaths (1775–Present)

(Combat + non-combat deaths where available)

American Revolutionary War	1775 – 1783	25,000
War of 1812	1812 – 1815	15,000
Mexican–American War	1846 – 1848	13,283
Civil War (Union 364,511; Confederate ~290,000)	1861 – 1865	655,000
Spanish–American War –	1898	2,446
Philippine–American War –	1899 – 1902	4,196
World War I	1917 – 1918	116,516
World War II (deadliest U.S. war)	1941 – 1945	405,399
Korean War	1950 – 1953	36,574
Vietnam War	1955 – 1975	58,220
Gulf War	1990 – 1991	383
Iraq War	2003 – 2011	4,599
Afghanistan War	2001 – 2021	2,461
Early Conflicts & 19th-Century Wars:		
Northwest Indian War	1785 – 1796	1,056+
Quasi-War	1798 – 1800	514
First Barbary War	1801 – 1805	74
Second Barbary War	1815	138
Creek War	1813 – 1814	575
Black Hawk War	1832	305
Second Seminole War	1835 – 1842	1,535
American Indian Wars (aggregate)	1865 – 1898	919
20th–21st Century Limited Conflicts:		
Boxer Rebellion	1900 – 1901	131
Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Honduras	1901 – 1934	500
Dominican Republic	1965 – 1966	44
Operation Eagle Claw (Iran)	1980	8
Grenada	1983	19
Panama	1989 – 1990	23
Somalia	1992 – 1994	43
Bosnia	1995 – 2004	12
Kosovo	1998 – 1999	2
Anti-ISIS Operations	2014 – present	93
War on Terror (other theaters)	2001 – present	31
Niger/Sahel	2013 – 2024	4
Yemen	2015 – 2025	2
Iran (16 in 2026 + 3 killed in the 2024 Jordan drone attack)	(2024 – Present)	19

1.05 million Americans have died in the U.S. armed forces (does not include civilians).



Wikipedia



The United States Army

The history of the United States Army began in 1775. The Army's main responsibility has been in fighting land battles and military occupation. The Corps of Engineers also has a major role in controlling rivers inside the United States. The Continental Army was founded in response to a need for professional soldiers in the American Revolutionary War to fight the invading British Army. Until the 1940s, the Army was relatively small in peacetime. In 1947, the Air Force became completely independent of the Army Air Forces. The Army was under the control of the War Department until 1947, when DoW became the Defense Department and in 2026 the DoD was renamed back to The Department of War. The U.S. Army fought the Indian Wars of the 1790s, the War of 1812 (1812–15), Mexican–American War (1846–48), American Civil War (1861–65), American Indian Wars (ended 1890), Spanish–American War (1898), World War I (1917–18), World War II (1941–45), Korean War (1950–53) and Vietnam War (1965–71). Following the Cold War's end in 1991, Army has focused primarily on Western Asia, and also took part in the 1991 Gulf War and war in Iraq, and the war in Afghanistan.



The United States Marine Corps

The history of the United States Marine Corps (USMC) begins with the founding of the Continental Marines on 10 November 1775 to conduct ship-to-ship fighting, provide shipboard security and discipline enforcement, and assist in landing forces. Its mission evolved with changing military doctrine and foreign policy of the United States. Owing to the availability of Marine forces at sea, the United States Marine Corps has served in nearly every conflict in United States history. It attained prominence when its theories and practice of amphibious warfare proved prescient, and ultimately formed a cornerstone of U.S. strategy in the Pacific Theater of World War II. By the early 20th century, the Marine Corps would become one of the dominant theorists and practitioners of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises has made and continues to make it an important tool for U.S. foreign policy. In February 1776, the Continental Marines embarked on their maiden expedition. The Continental Marines were disbanded at the end of the war, along with the Continental Navy. In preparation for the Quasi-War with France, Congress created the United States Navy and the Marine Corps.



The United States Navy

The history of the United States Navy divides into two major periods: the "Old Navy", a small but respected force of sailing ships that became notable for innovation in the use of ironclads during the American Civil War, and the "New Navy" the result of a modernization effort that began in the 1880s and made it the largest in the world by 1943. The United States Navy claims October 13, 1775 as the date of its official establishment, when the Second Continental Congress passed a resolution creating the Continental Navy. With the end of the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Navy was disbanded. Under the Presidency of George Washington, American merchant shipping came under threat from Barbary corsairs, especially after Algerian seizures of American vessels. This led to the Naval Act of 1794, which authorized the original six frigates and reestablished a permanent U.S. Navy. The original six frigates were authorized as part of the Act. Over the next 20 years, the Navy fought the French Republic Navy in the Quasi-War (1798–99), Barbary states in the First and Second Barbary Wars, and the British in the War of 1812. After the War of 1812, the U.S. Navy was at peace until the Mexican–American War in 1846, and served to combat piracy in the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas, as well as fighting the slave trade off the coast of West Africa. In 1845, the Naval Academy was founded at old Fort Severn at Annapolis, Maryland by the Chesapeake Bay. In 1861, the American Civil War began and the U.S. Navy fought the small Confederate States Navy with both sailing ships and new revolutionary ironclad ships while forming a blockade that shut down the Confederacy's civilian coastal shipping. After the Civil War, most of its ships were laid up in reserve, and by 1878, the Navy was just 6,000 men.



The United States Air Force

The United States Air Force became a separate military service on 18 September 1947 with the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947. The Act created the National Military Establishment, later renamed the United States Department of Defense, which was composed of four of the five branches, the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and a newly created Air Force. Prior to 1947, the responsibility for military aviation was divided between the Army for land-based operations and the Navy and Marine Corps for sea-based operations from aircraft carrier and amphibious aircraft. The Army created the first antecedent of the Air Force on 1 August 1907, which through a succession of changes of organization, titles, and missions advanced toward eventual separation 40 years later. The predecessor organizations leading up to today's U.S. Air Force are: Aeronautical Division, Signal Corps (1 August 1907 – 18 July 1914) Aviation Section, Signal Corps (18 July 1914 – 20 May 1918) Division of Military Aeronautics (20 May 1918 – 24 May 1918) Air Service, U.S. Army (24 May 1918 – 2 July 1926) U.S. Army Air Corps (2 July 1926 – 20 June 1941) U.S. Army Air Forces (20 June 1941 – 17 September 1947)



The United States Space Force

While the United States Space Force was established in December 2019, the history of the U.S. Department of Defense in space can be traced back to the aftermath of the Second World War. General Henry H. Arnold, chief of the United States Army Air Forces, identified space as a crucial military arena decades before the first spaceflight. The United States Air Force gained its independence from the Army on 18 September 1947. The Air Force began developing space and ballistic missile programs, while competing with the United States Army and United States Navy for space missions. In response to advances by the Russian Space Forces and Chinese People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force and frustrated by the Air Force's focus on fighters at the expense of space, Democratic Representative Jim Cooper and Republican Representative Mike Rogers introduced a bipartisan proposal to establish the United States Space Corps in 2017. While the Space Corps proposal failed in the senate, in 2019, the United States Space Force was signed into law, with Air Force Space Command becoming the United States Space Force.



The United States Coast Guard

The history of the United States Coast Guard goes back to the United States Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on 4 August 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Life-Saving Service were merged to become the Coast Guard per 14 U.S.C. § 101 which states: **"The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times."** In 1939 the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on 1 March 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. However, under 14 U.S.C. § 3 as amended by section 211 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, upon the declaration of war and when Congress so directs in the declaration, or when the president directs, the Coast Guard operates as a service in the Department of the Navy. On 28 January 1915, the United States Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Lifesaving Service were merged by act of Congress to form the United States Coast Guard. On the day of its creation, the Coast Guard had approximately 255 officers, 3900 warrant officers and enlisted men manning a headquarters, 17 regional commands, 4 depots, an academy, 25 cruising cutters, 20 harbor cutters and 280 lifeboat stations.

Soul Searching...



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fighting in the Continental Army as well as a number of presumptuous miscalculations by the British Generals and troops, we would never have known independence and the United States of America would not exist. Period.

*"No event in American history which was so improbable at the time has seemed so inevitable in retrospect as the American Revolution."
 -Joseph J. Ellis states in his classic book *Founding Brothers*.*

*During this month of July 2026 and for the rest of this year as we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of these United States of America, I encourage you to read the book *Founding Brothers*, by Joseph J. Ellis and try to read the biographies of some of our founding fathers like George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Paine, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin.*

*When our founding fathers wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence, they took a bold stand on behalf of their countryman against the British Monarchy and the most powerful empire in the world at the time. If any of them had been caught they would have definitely been hung for treason by the British. Which is why Benjamin Franklin stated to his fellow founders during the signing of the Declaration:
 "We must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."*

Also, take advantage of the new, excellent Netflix series on these founding fathers and the history of the American Revolution. It will give you a renewed appreciation for this great country that we live in and deep gratitude for the men and women whose courage and faith in God guided them in and through the American Revolution which led to the birth of the USA!

*"Based on what we know about military history of the American Revolution, if the British commanders had prosecuted the war more vigorously in it's earliest stages, the Continental Army might very well have been destroyed at the start and the movement for American independence nipped in the bud. The signers of the Declaration of Independence would have then been hunted down, tried, and executed for treason and American history would have flowed forward in a wholly different direction." - Ira Gruber, *The Howe Brothers and the American Revolution**

In more recent years, as I have studied the American Revolution more closely along with the lives of our founding fathers and the challenges that faced our Continental Army, I have been inspired by their examples and their bravery. I have been encouraged by their patriotism and deeply moved by their love for God and country.

Yes, the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolutionary War marked a turning point not only in American history but in world history as well.

*Make no mistake, the founding fathers believed in God and founded our country on their Judeo-Christian beliefs. All you have to do to confirm this is to read about their lives and visit the monuments in Washington DC, and you will see God's name and his Word invoked on statues and monuments all around the Mall and the Capital buildings. Therefore, I want to close with a quote from George Washington, the "first American" as he has been called:
 "It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."*

Most Americans do not realize that the bold patriots that fought in the Revolutionary War were no match for the British Empire and the British War Machine. They could have easily been destroyed, and there was no logical reason they eventually won the war. The British troops outnumbered them four to one. And the British soldiers were most highly trained and very well armed with the best money could buy. The Continental Army was made up largely of local, inexperienced militias armed with mismatched hunting rifles and older smoothbore muskets. Most of them were merely farmers or merchants.

*And, of course, we must mention the first line of the Declaration of Independence states:
 "We hold these truths to be self evident that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."*

In 1776, the British had 417 ships housing 1,200 cannons. The continental army had no navy, leaving their coastal cities exposed and supply lines easily blockaded. The Royal Navy was the undisputed ruler of the high seas, and everyone knew it. The war should have been over before it started. It was definitely a case study in David (the patriots) verses Goliath (the British).

I hope you will join with me and all of our fellow Americans as we praise God and celebrate our 250th birthday on this Fourth of July! And may all of us get on our knees and thank God that we live in "the land of the free and the home of the brave"!

If it had not been for the providence of God, the extraordinary leadership of General George Washington and the resilience and tenacity of the patriots

May we never, ever take the United States of America for granted!

*From my wife, Janeese, me and our whole family
 Happy July 4th to you and yours on this
 250th Anniversary Celebration!!!*

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Betsy Ross

The Betsy Ross flag is an early design for the flag of the United States that first appeared in a painting of George Washington at Trenton by John Trumbull. This flag had red stripes outermost and stars arranged in a circle. The name, first used more than 100 years after the flag appeared in a painting, stems from the legend that a Philadelphia upholsterer, Elizabeth "Betsy" Ross, designed and produced this flag.

The design of the Betsy Ross flag conformed to the Flag Act of 1777, passed early in the American Revolutionary War, which merely specified 13 alternating red and white horizontal stripes and 13 white stars in a blue canton. Today, the flag is often used as a patriotic emblem of the American Revolution and of American values more broadly.

Betsy Ross (1752–1836) was an upholsterer in Philadelphia who produced uniforms, tents, and flags for Continental forces. Although her manufacturing contributions are documented, a popular legend evolved in which Ross was hired by a group of Founding Fathers to make a new U.S. flag. According to the legend, she deviated from the six-pointed stars in the design and produced a flag with five-pointed stars instead. George Washington was a member of the Masonic Lodge, and their use of the six-pointed star may have influenced Washington's choice of six-pointed stars for his headquarters flag.[3] The claim by her descendants that Betsy Ross contributed to the flag's design is not accepted by modern American scholars and vexillologists.

Ross became a notable figure representing the contribution of women in the American Revolution, but how this specific design of the U.S. flag became associated with her is unknown. An 1851 painting by Ellie Sully Wheeler of Philadelphia displayed Betsy Ross sewing a U.S. flag.



The National Museum of American History suggests that the Betsy Ross story first entered into American consciousness about the time of the 1876 Centennial Exposition celebrations.



Wikipedia

Today's Woman

Trisston's Tidbits:

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



“Love, Liberty & Freedom”

As we commemorate this historic milestone, it's a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the values that unite us as Americans. Our nation's journey has been shaped by the courage, resilience, and hope of generations who have come before us. Let's take a moment to appreciate the freedoms we cherish and remember the importance of coming together as a community, not just in celebration, but in support of one another.

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Galatians 5:13

As we pause, let's reflect on two types of freedom: the blessings of our earthly liberty and the ultimate spiritual freedom found in Christ. May we remember the sacrifices made by countless individuals who fought to protect both. This special anniversary reminds us not only to celebrate, but also to honor the responsibility that comes with freedom—both as citizens and as people of faith.

As followers of Christ, this holiday offers a deeper invitation to reflect on what true freedom looks like. The Apostle Paul reminds us that our ultimate liberty is a gift from Jesus, setting us free from the weight of sin and death. This spiritual freedom isn't an excuse to live just for ourselves. Instead, it is a calling to love and serve those around us.

This year, as we mark America's Semiquincentennial, consider how you can use your freedom to be a blessing to your local community. Whether it's showing kindness to a neighbor, stepping up to serve others, or simply taking a quiet moment to thank God for the ultimate price Jesus paid for our souls, let your freedom be marked by love.

Many Blessings!

Happy 250th Birthday, USA!!!



Sarah Ross

Summer is officially here, and with it comes longer days, outdoor gatherings, and the kind of warmth that draws people outside. But as temperatures climb, so do the risks to our health. Whether you're a seasoned adult managing chronic conditions or simply someone who loves a backyard barbecue, understanding how heat affects the body can be the difference between a great summer and a dangerous one.

The human body is remarkably good at regulating its own temperature, but only up to a point. When the mercury rises above 90°F, especially with high humidity, our natural cooling system starts to struggle. We sweat, our hearts pump harder, and blood vessels near the skin dilate to release heat. For most healthy adults, this works reasonably well. But for older adults, those taking certain medications, or anyone spending extended time outdoors, the body can quickly become overwhelmed. Heat exhaustion and heatstroke are not just discomforts, they are medical emergencies. Heatstroke, in particular, can cause organ damage and become fatal within minutes if untreated. Recognizing the warning signs early is critical.

Heat exhaustion symptoms include heavy sweating, cool and pale skin, a fast but weak pulse, nausea, and muscle cramps. If you or someone nearby experiences these, move to a cool place immediately, drink water slowly, and apply cool, damp cloths to the skin. **Heatstroke** is more severe. Signs include a body temperature above 103°F, hot and red skin that may be dry or damp, a rapid and strong pulse, and possible confusion or loss of consciousness. Call 911 immediately, as this is a life-threatening situation.

Adults over 65 face unique challenges in the heat.

The body's ability to sense temperature changes and regulate sweating decreases with age. Many common medications, including diuretics, antihistamines, and beta-blockers, can further impair the body's response to heat. If you or a loved one takes prescription medications, speak with a doctor or pharmacist about any heat-related risks before summer is in full swing. Older adults living alone are particularly vulnerable. Community members and family should check in regularly during heat waves, especially if the person does not have air conditioning.

Staying safe this summer doesn't require sacrificing fun, just a little planning. Stay hydrated by drinking water consistently throughout the day, even before you feel thirsty. Thirst is often a late indicator of dehydration. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing, and apply broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher when going outside.

Schedule outdoor activities for the cooler parts of the day (early morning or evening) and take breaks in the shade or indoors during peak heat hours, typically between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Public libraries, shopping centers, and community centers can serve as cooling stations if your home lacks air conditioning. Summer should be a season of enjoyment. With the right precautions, it can be exactly that, safely, for everyone.



Support Group Meeting

Frazer Church
6000 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Room 8114

Join our free support group meetings at 5:30pm every 2nd Tuesday of the month. Our meetings are open to breast cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, family members, and friends. These meetings feature inspiring talks from survivors, doctors, and other experts. It's also a wonderful opportunity to connect with others who understand your journey.



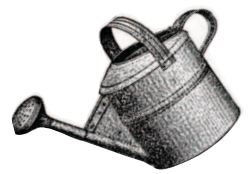
JUDGE
PEGGY GIVHAN

Unless we are living on Mars or in a cave, we should all know that America is celebrating its 250th founding on July 4th this year. I am certain Montgomery and other River Region communities will go all out with parades, flags flying high, marching high school bands, military bands, red, white and blue bunting stuck everywhere, and people dressed up like Uncle Sam who may even be on stilts. We should all be so proud to be Americans. So display your flag to show patriotic pride. I saw a recipe the other day for a patriotic trifle which is a layered dessert usually presented in a tall glass container. The layers consisted of vanilla pudding, whipped cream, vanilla wafers with blueberry, strawberry or raspberry layers. Or there is the old standby, an American Flag sheet cake.

In honor of this milestone year, I have created a large red, white, and blue garden in terra cotta pots of various sizes. I used red geraniums, white vinca, and blue ageratum planted about one month ago. With 4 hours of sunlight a day, these flowers have thrived. I make sure that I fertilize the geraniums once per week as they are heavy feeders, and dead head any spent blooms. My patriotic pot garden is a great success. One reason is that I planned in advance for the red, white and blue theme and went out to secure plants about a month ago. The exact plants were not as important as the color scheme. The white color could have come from petunias, or white begonias, the blue color from blue salvia, the red color from red dragon wing begonia or red salvia. But today is not too late to have a patriotic color scheme since we will be celebrating for the rest of the year. If you have a shady area, caladiums have both red and white, varieties, with plumbago or blue phlox for the blue. If you really are in the patriotic mood, what about a rectangular flower bed configured in the shape of a flag. All of the flowers would have to be about the same height. Let your imagination run wild.

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for July



PLANT OF THE MONTH-OBEDIENT PLANT- (Physostegia)

These plants are also called **dragon mint, or false dragonhead**. They are easy to grow and stand 3-4 feet tall. Their bloom time is mid to late summer but their nature is far from "obedient". They multiply through under-ground roots and are rampant spreaders, which means either more weeding them out or planting them in pots to contain their multiplication. They thrive in full sun to partial shade, and can tolerate an abundance of moisture. I place them in the same category as marigolds which love wet feet. They come in shades of pink, rose and white and are hardy in Zones 2-9. Just do not let them get out of control as pulling them out is a major problem.



Good Gardening!

HAPPY
FOURTH OF JULY



SET FREE...

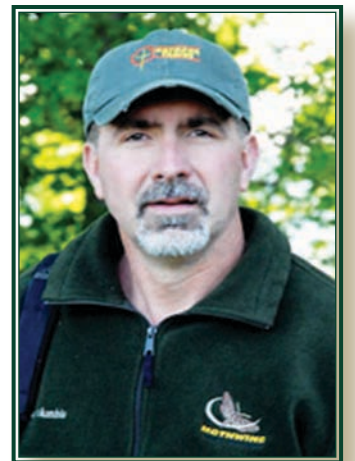


As adults, we all can look back on our lives and find people or moments that will forever be etched into our memories. Some of them will not only forever be remembered, but they are the ones that changed the trajectory of our lives. It may be the death of a loved one, an illness, or a tragedy, but these periods moved us to places we would have never otherwise

gone. Thankfully some of these events were good as well. For instance, I can remember my first time fishing at the lake and my first time sitting in a tree stand waiting on a deer. Both became part of the foundation of these articles that I have written for 24 years and the ministry they birthed. But the real life-changing event came without excitement. In fact, without one small gesture, it would have been quickly forgotten. It didn't come from anything that was special or anyone that was famous. But it is the one thing that changed my life forever. And it is the one thing I continue to go back to, to offer to others who may need that same life change as I did.

It happened one evening as I was preparing to speak at a wild game dinner, 18 years ago, this month. The event was small and held outdoors. About an hour before that event, two men drove up in an older van. I remember a couple of things about their arrival. First, as I noticed the interior of the van, it looked like they were living out of it. I don't think they were, but it looked like it. And secondly, as I noticed the appearance of these two guys, it looked like they were living out of the van. Lol. There was nothing special about our encounter. But for some reason I noticed their kindness. After a few introductions, they handed me a thin paperback book and invited me to read it. I thanked them, tossed the book

in my truck, and went on with my business. I don't know how long after that, that I decided to pick up that book, but when I began to read, I couldn't put it down. It changed my life because it showed me that God had already freed me from the responsibility of trying to live the Christian life in my own strength. It explained how Paul came to the end of his efforts to keep the law so that he could simply trust Christ to live His life through him. In essence, it broke the grip that legalism had on me and showed me what grace really was, and how it was not only responsible for my salvation, but also for any spiritual growth I will ever experience. My job was not to produce the life of Christ. My job was simply to bring myself to the Source. Since that time, I have shared that message across the country, looking for others like me who have grown tired of their inability to live the Christian life by their own efforts. Looking for others who need someone to fire them from the job they were never qualified to do. So, happy anniversary to me! Eighteen years ago, two ordinary men handed me a little book, and God used it to change everything. *"It's for freedom, that Christ has set you free."* ~Paul



Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 21 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations. gary@outdoortruths.org

God Bless the Freedoms we have in this great country of America!



Hours:
Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm
Sat: 8am - 4pm



Humane Society of Elmore County News
255 Central Plank Road (Hwy 9) Wetumpka, Alabama 36092

PHONE: (334) 567-3377

For more information please contact HSEC at:

Email: hesclo@bellsouth.net

Website: www.elmorehumane.org

<https://www.elmorehumane.org/foster-information--forms.html>

This Land Is Your Land

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island,
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway;
I saw below me that golden valley;
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;
And all around me a voice was sounding;
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:
This land was made for you and me.

As I went walking I saw a sign there,
And on the sign it said "No Trespassing."
But on the other side it didn't say nothing,
That side was made for you and me.

In the shadow of the steeple I saw my people,
By the relief office I seen my people;
As they stood there hungry, I stood there asking
Is this land made for you and me?

Nobody living can ever stop me,
As I go walking that freedom highway;
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me.

© Copyright 1956 (renewed), 1958 (renewed), 1970 and 1972 by Woody Guthrie Publications, Inc. & TRO-Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)
THIS LAND WAS MADE FOR YOU AND ME.

DC TREE SERVICE
STUMP GRINDING

DAVID HORN

30 Years of Serving the
Tri-County Area

We are here for YOU!
Just Call -
We'll be there!

Locally
Owned

334-201-4385

Support YOUR Local Law Enforcement

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980

www.montgomerysheriff.com



Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) is led by Sheriff Derrick Cunningham and employs over 350 criminal justice professionals, including 156 sworn deputies. The MCSO is a customer-centric organization with the goal of providing professional law enforcement services to the citizens of Montgomery County. The Sheriff's Office is comprised of five major divisions, the Montgomery County Detention Facility, the Montgomery County Juvenile Detention Facility, and many other specialized units. The MCSO is a full-service law enforcement agency that uses the latest technology and methods to serve the community and ensure public safety.

MISSION STATEMENT

The priority of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is the welfare and protection of the citizens of Montgomery County. We work hard at putting our citizens and communities first. The Mission of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is to provide the best law enforcement protection and service for Montgomery County.



Montgomery County Sheriff Events



ONE SUMMER. ONE COUNTY. MANY EVENTS!

JULY

July 26: Montgomery County Parks & Recreation Summer Program Ends.

July 29 - Aug. 2 - Montgomery County Sheriff Show and Tell Summer Camp Starts.

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation

Mission Statement

The mission of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation (MCSOF) is to bring together business, professional, civic and nonprofit organizations and individual citizens to build partnerships and promote public safety in Montgomery County. The MCSOF is committed to making Montgomery County a safer place to live, work and visit. As an independent, private nonprofit organization, the only organization authorized to raise funds on behalf of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, we use donations to finance essential community programs and outreach.

AUTAUGA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



(334) 361-2500

162 W 4th Street,
Prattville, AL

www.ataugasheriff.org



Sheriff
Mark Harrell

ELMORE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



(334) 567-5546

8955 US-231
Wetumpka, AL 36092

<https://www.elmoreso.com>



Sheriff
Bill Franklin

ANNOUNCING

CAMP KARATER

2026

POINTING YOUTH TO TREASURES OF HEALTHY DECISIONS

AGES 12-16

COST: \$50

SPACE IS LIMITED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

skipinchq@gmail.com | 334-833-2817 | skipinc.org/camp-karater

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:

REGISTER TODAY! <https://www.skipinc.org/camp-karater/>

The City of Prattville celebrated America's 250th Birthday with a weekend full of family-friendly events, patriotic pride, and community spirit!

The festivities began on July 3 with a Concert & Drone Show at Stanley Jensen Stadium and continue throughout July 4 with a full day of activities, including the Farmers Market, Parade, Lion's Club BBQ, Rock the Lot, and a spectacular Fireworks Show closed out the celebration.

Families and friends experienced one of Prattville's most anticipated traditions as all honored our nation's past, celebrated our communities, and created lasting memories.

AMERICA 250

ALABAMA

City of Prattville

- ★ **JULY 3:**
- ★ **CONCERT & DRONE SHOW**
JULY 3, 2026 | 6:00 P.M. | STANLEY JENSEN STADIUM
- ★ **JULY 4:**
- ★ **FARMERS MARKET**
JULY 4, 2026 | 7:00 A.M. | THE GROVE
- ★ **PARADE**
JULY 4, 2026 | 9:00 A.M. | DOWNTOWN
- ★ **LION'S CLUB BBQ**
JULY 4, 2026 | 10:00 A.M. | PRATT PARK
- ★ **ROCK THE LOT**
JULY 4, 2026 | 6:30 P.M. | ACADEMY PARKING LOT
- ★ **FIREWORKS SHOW**
JULY 4, 2026 | 8:30 P.M. | CLOCK TOWER

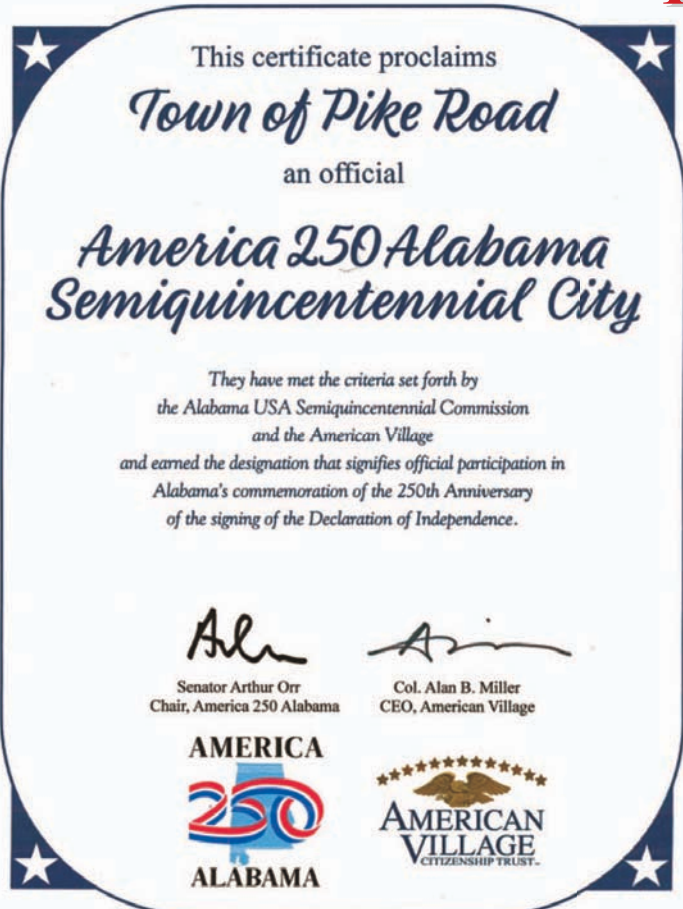
EST. 1839
PRATTVILLE
Alabama

For more information contact, Andrea Rogers Mosley Camp

Home Town Community News

Events

PIKE ROAD



PIKE ROAD JOINS THE NATION IN CELEBRATING

AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

The Town of Pike Road is proud to be officially designated as an America 250 Alabama Semiquincentennial City, joint the national America 250 Commission's commemoration of our nation's 250th anniversary of independence.

□ Rooted in over 175 years of rich local heritage, Pike Road is honored to partner in this historic milestone.

□ All residents, schools, and civic organizations are invited to explore our shared history, serve our community, and celebrate with pride the enduring blessings of liberty.

Night Out on the Farm

Plan now for an evening of family fun, hands-on activities, and agricultural discovery!

Meet farm animals, explore tractors and equipment, and learn about livestock, forestry, crops, and more through interactive exhibits and educational experiences. Whether you're curious about where your food comes from or simply looking for a fun evening with family and friends, there's something for all ages to enjoy.

NIGHT OUT on the Farm

★ July 16 | 4 – 7 p.m. | ★

Pike Road Agriculture, Recreation & Performing Arts Park

INTERACTIVE ACTIVITIES	FARM FRESH MARKETPLACE
Interactive Activities	Local Vendors
Educational Exhibits	Fresh Produce
Farm Animals	Honey
Tractors & Equipment	Plants & Flowers
Agricultural Experiences	Baked Goods
	Handmade Items

LOCATION: Pike Road Agriculture, Recreation & Performing Arts Park

DATE: July 16

TIME: 4 – 7 p.m.

extension Town of Pike Road

For additional questions or information email Jennifer Bradley at jbradley@pikeroad.us

TAKE A BITE OUT OF HUNGER
DONATE OR SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM

JUNE 6 - JULY 25
*Excluding July 4

Every Saturday* 9-11 AM
Woodland Methodist Church
4428 Wallahaatchie Road

GET INVOLVED! VISIT PIKEROAD.US OR EMAIL INFO@PIKEROAD.US

The Pike Road Area Your Emergency Response

(P.R.A.Y.E.R) Team

provides a summer feeding program for children facing hunger each year during the summer months. This program is available for Town of Pike Road residents June 6 – July 25, excluding July 4.

Here's some food for thought: With the help of our community, our goal is to feed over 600 qualified children in the Town of Pike Road during their summer break. The cost to feed one child all summer is only \$10. How many children can you help the P.R.A.Y.E.R. Team feed?

MONTGOMERY

Montgomery Announces Midnight Summer Jam Series for July

The Midnight Summer Jam series, a family-friendly lineup of events scheduled every Friday throughout July, excluding July 3, from 5:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Each evening will feature activities suitable for all ages.

This summer's basketball tournaments will include three age divisions:

- Middle School: grades 6–8
- High School: grades 9–12
- Young Adults: ages 18 and up

Each team will consist of five players. Individuals who arrive without a team are welcome—solo participants will be placed on a team so everyone has the chance to play. Games will follow an open run style format, and jerseys will be provided for all participants.

To help with planning, teams are encouraged to pre-register at the following link:
<https://cityofmontgomery.seamlessdocs.com/f/SummerJam>

Food trucks will offer items for purchase, admission to all events is free. Security personnel will be on-site to help ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Summer Jam event locations and dates:

- July 10: Sheridan Heights Community Center, 3501 Faro Dr.
- July 17: Chisholm Community Center, 545 E. Vandiver Blvd.
- July 24: Regency Park Community Center, 5995 Christy Lane
- July 31: The Multiplex at Cramton Bowl, 220 Hall Street

For more information about the Midnight Summer Jam series, please call 334-625-2300.

CITY OF MONTGOMERY PARKS AND RECREATION PRESENTS

MIDNIGHT SUMMER JAM

THE DETAILS

- 8 WEEK SUMMER SERIES**
Nonstop basketball all summer long.
- OPEN RUN STYLE PLAY**
Come hoop. Compete. Have fun.
- BRING YOUR 5**
Bring your squad and hit the court.
- SOLO? NO PROBLEM**
Individual players placed on teams.
- JERSEYS PROVIDED**
Rep your team all summer.

DIVISIONS

- MIDDLE SCHOOL**
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM
GRADES 6th - 8th
- HIGH SCHOOL**
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
GRADES 9th - 12th
- YOUNG ADULTS 18+**
9:00 PM - 11:00 PM
18 YEARS & UP

PLAY HARD, STAY SAFE

TOURING COMMUNITY CENTERS ACROSS MONTGOMERY

#MIDNIGHTSUMMERJAM

Articles submitted and shared from The Montgomery Rotary Club.



The COGnition

The Official Publication of the Montgomery Rotary Club
Glenn Halbrooks,

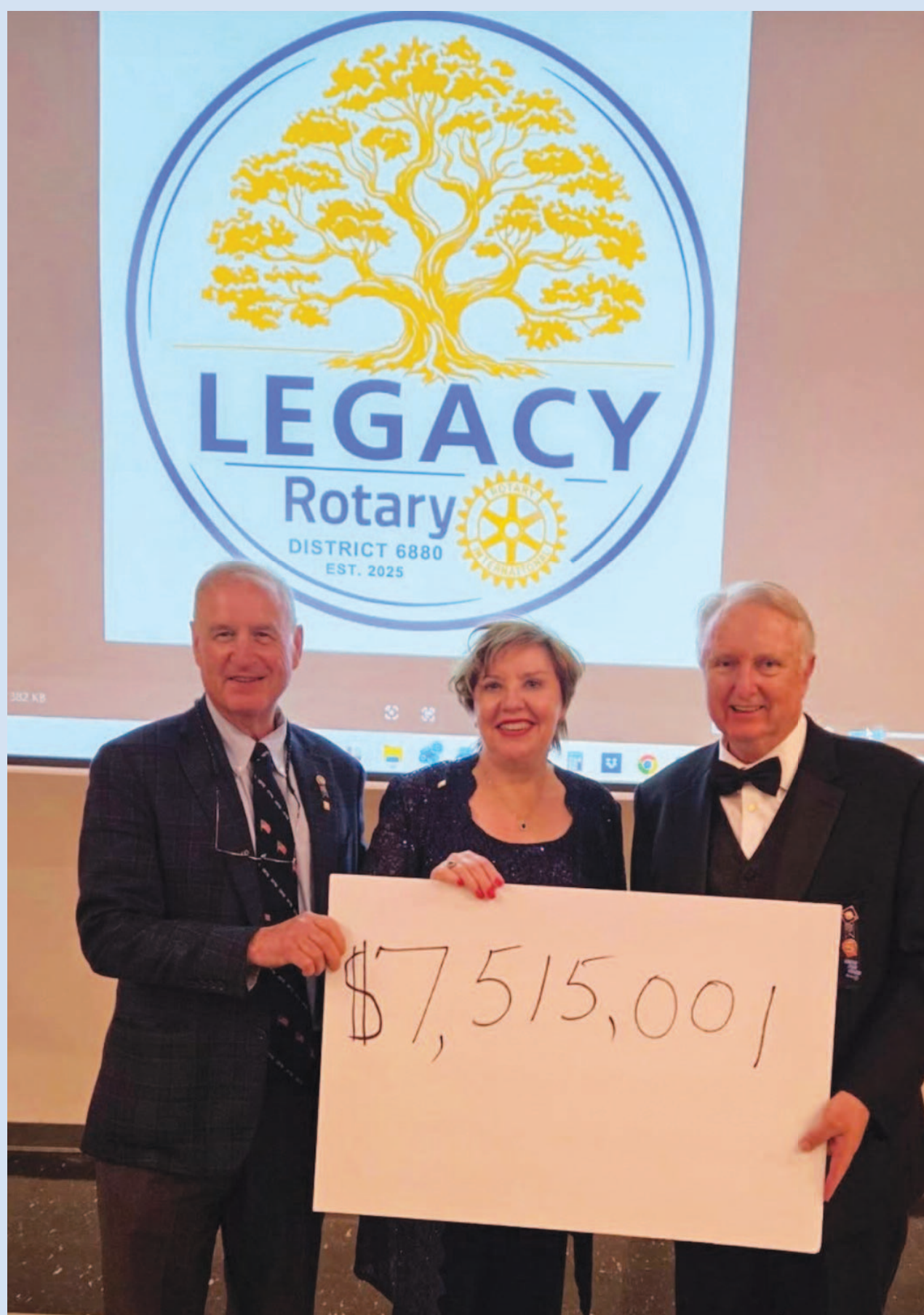
\$7,515,001

As the end of the Rotary Year draws near (June 30), your Rotary District 6880 in central and south Alabama lit up the sky with some brilliant fireworks last Saturday night in Fairhope, Alabama, with a wonderful Legacy Dinner and a huge announcement.

Among other incredible activities, the BIG REVEAL of our efforts to raise funds to make a LASTING IMPACT became not just a slogan but a permanent reality. Rotarians from all over the District raised over \$7,000,000 in cash, pledges and bequests that will go to the Endowment Fund of the Rotary Foundation.

Some of investment proceeds from these funds are designated exclusively for local grant projects in our home District, from Prattville to Fairhope, from Selma to Opelika and all points in between in our area. It will help our people for generations to come in the areas like literacy, health, economic development and peace building.

Current District Governor Bob Cochran is to be commended for this incredible result. It may be one of the most successful Legacy Dinners of all those held around the world and certainly in the United States. We look forward to incoming District Governor Steve Weaver (Fairhope Sunset) and his team to continue the tradition of great leadership by carrying the Rotary torch, helping those in need by living our motto, SERVICE ABOVE SELF!



Pictured L-R: Rotary Foundation Chair, Zone 30, Sam Adams, Montgomery Immediate Past Rotary International Director Beth Stubbs, Maryville, TN District Governor 6880 Bob Cochran, Lee County Sunrise.

Join Us

WHY ROTARY?

Sacrifice

We donate our time, talent and treasure to the Club.

Enthusiasm

We are positive people, seeing solutions to problems.

Resolve

We set strategic goals and accomplish them.

Volunteer

We respond when the call goes out and say "yes"

Inform

We spread Rotary's message within our community.

Camaraderie

We believe in inclusion and fellowship

Educate

We seek knowledge by inviting speakers to our club meetings.

JOIN A ROTARY CLUB NEAR YOU!

• Prattville-Millbrook Sunrise

3050 Lanark Road,
Millbrook, AL 36054
334-313-3160

<http://www.prattville-millbrook-sunrise-rotary.com>

• RSA Alabama Activity Center

201 Dexter Ave,
Montgomery, AL 36104
Meets Monday, 12:00
Two blocks west of State Capitol.

• Senior Connection

304 Park Plaza, Clanton, AL 35045
Meets Wednesday, 12:00
205-755-7105

www.rotaryclubofchiltoncounty.org

• Montgomery Capital

Wynlakes Golf & Country Club
7900 Wynlakes Blvd,
Montgomery, AL 36117
Meets Thursday, 12:00

• Greenville Area

Chamber of Commerce

1 Depot Square
Greenville, AL 36037
334-382-4201

Meets Thursday, 12:00

River Region Veterans Coalition to Host Candidate Forum for 2026 General Election



The River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) will host a Candidate Forum for the 2026 General Election on **Monday, August 24, 2026, at 7:00 PM at Reformation Presbyterian Church, 9299 Vaughn Road, Pike Road, AL 36064**. This community-focused event will provide an opportunity for candidates seeking public office to present their platforms, share their priorities, and address issues important to residents of the River Region—particularly those impacting veterans, military families, and the broader community.

The forum will feature moderated discussion and give attendees the chance to hear directly from candidates in a respectful and informative setting. *"The River Region Veterans Coalition is committed to strengthening our community by connecting citizens with the information they need to make informed decisions,"* said Jason Hughes, Communications Director for RRVC. *"This forum is about providing a space for open dialogue and ensuring that the voices of veterans and our community are heard."*

RRVC is a nonpartisan organization, and this event is intended to educate voters, not advocate for any specific candidate or political party. The event is open to the public, and all community members are encouraged to attend.

About the River Region Veterans Coalition:

The River Region Veterans Coalition is dedicated to supporting, connecting, and promoting veterans, veteran-owned businesses, and organizations that serve those who have worn the uniform. Through community engagement, outreach, and partnerships, RRVC works to strengthen the River Region and honor those who served.

For additional information, media inquiries, or candidate participation details, please contact:

Jason R. Hughes
RRVC Communications Director
(334) 669-4126

rrvc.jason.hughes@gmail.com

