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Happy 4th of July!



Fragile Ceasefire Holds Between Iran and Israel After 12 Days of Escalation

By Brandon Moseley

June 24, 2025 – WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Donald J. Trump (R) announced a tenuous ceasefire between Iran and Israel bringing at least a temporary halt to nearly two weeks of intense military conflict that drew in the United States and had some more hyperbolic pundits even warning of World War III.

On June 21, 2025 President Trump addressed the nation to announce that the U.S. had launched devastating attacks on three Iranian nuclear sites. The U.S. Air Force used B2 stealth bombers to drop 14 bunker buster bombs to penetrate the hardened bunkers protecting the Iranian nuclear enrichment facilities. The U.S. Navy also launched 30 Tomahawk cruise missiles at the targets. Most Alabama leaders were supportive of the President's actions. Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL03) is the Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.



The President made the correct decision to strike Iran's nuclear sites," said Congressman Rogers in a statement. "Iran made the choice to continue its pursuit of a nuclear weapon and would only be stopped by force. It would be a grave mistake to attempt any retaliation against our forces or homeland."

Alabama Governor Kay Ivey (R) said on social media, "God bless our country, and God bless our troops! Proud to live in the greatest nation on Earth."

Congressman Dale W. Strong (R-AL04) said on X, "A nuclear-armed Iran is a threat to the entire world. They had ample time to come to the table and make a deal but forced President Trump to take action to ensure the safety of our country and our allies."

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall (R) said on X, "I support President Trump's swift and decisive action to protect America and our allies. Praying for our men and women on the front lines. We stand strong with Israel."

U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Alabama) said on X, "God bless our Troops. God bless President Trump. And may God continue to bless the United States of America."

Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-AL04) said on X, "I fully support President Trump's decision to take out Iran's nuclear facilities. As I have said, I believe that if Iran gets a functioning nuclear weapon they would not hesitate to use it against Israel or the United States. When they say death to Israel and death to America, we have no reason not to believe them. I pray this action has made the world safer. President Trump has pledged to get us out of "forever wars." This could be a step toward ending the war we have been in with Iran since 1979. They have killed hundreds and hundreds of Americans in the past half century."

Former State Representative Perry O Hooper Jr. (R-Montgomery) said, "The strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities were not just a show of strength-they were a message. A message to Tehran, to their terrorist proxies, and to the world: The United States will not sit idly by while the world's leading sponsor of terror races toward a nuclear bomb." Hooper is a columnist whose works are regularly published in the Alabama Gazette.

Congressman Gary Palmer (R-AL06) said in a statement, "I fully support President Trump's decision to destroy Iran's nuclear facilities. This decision was forced upon us by the refusal of the Iranian leadership to accept the reality that the U.S. would never allow them to have a nuclear weapon. With this action, American resolve to eliminate any and all threats against our country and our allies was put on full display."

Alabama Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth (R) said, "I trust President Donald Trump and believe he is taking the steps necessary to protect our country, promote its interests, and put America first. Iran has been a bad actor for 46 years, and bad actions reap bad consequences. Support our President and ask God to bless America."

Congressman Barry Moore (R-AL01) said on X, "I stand with President Trump. God bless him and our brave service members."

Auburn men's basketball Coach Bruce Pearl said on X, "Thank you Mr president for your strength and vision, keeping us safe. Proud of our troops! You did what no one has had the courage to do for far too long. You were patient and clear. Pray for Peace through prosperity in the Middle East, expand now on the AA. You prevented a War."

declare war. The President's unilateral military action is unconstitutional,"

Rep. Sewell said in a statement. "It puts U.S. forces and our diplomatic personnel at peril and brings us dangerously close to all-out war in the Middle East. The Trump Administration must immediately brief Congress and takes steps to prevent further escalation of this conflict."

The conflict began on June 12, 2025 when the Israeli Air Force rained bombs down on Iran. The Israeli attacks had destroyed much of the Iranian Air Force and a i r defenses as well as killed many of their Republican Guard leadership prior to the U.S. operation.

Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall (R) said on X at the time, "We stand firmly with our ally as it acts to ensure the safety and sovereignty of its citizens."

Congressman Robert Aderholt (R-AL04) said on X, "Israel has a right to defend itself from those who wish it harm and its extinction. And there is no greater threat to Israel than the prospect of a [nuclear armed Iran. These strikes tonight come not because of Israel but because of the path Iran has chosen. Years of appeasement."

The United States was briefed by Israel ahead of their actions.

"Israel advised us that they believe this action was necessary for its self-defense," said Secretary of State Marco Rubio. "President Trump and the Administration have taken all necessary steps to protect our forces and remain in close contact with our regional partners. Let me be clear: Iran should not target U.S. interests or personnel."

The Iranians retaliated against Israel by firing missiles at them. The Iranians had launched two largescale unprovoked attacks the year before with little effect. Some of the Iranian missiles did get through Israel's 'Iron Dome' missile defense system killing 11 Israelis and wounding over a 100. After the U.S. bombed the Iranian nuclear sites Iran fired missiles at Qatar where 8,000 U.S. service members are based. Those missiles were all safely intercepted.

The ceasefire was initially marred by mutual accusations of violations. However, by late Tuesday, both sides had largely ceased hostilities, and international observers expressed cautious optimism that the truce will hold. The White House declared the U.S. bombing campaign a success. "Last weekend, the United States successfully carried out a massive precision strike on Iran's nuclear enrichment facilities, and it was very, very successful—it was called OBLITERATION," said President Trump on Truth Social. "This incredible exercise of American strength has paved the way for peace, with a historic ceasefire agreement..."

4th OF JULY INTERESTING FACTS

- On the 4th of July, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress.
- Independence Day honors the birthday of the United States of America and the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
- The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men representing the 13 colonies. The moment the declaration was signed it marked the beginning of all-out war against the British.
- The first signature on the Declaration of Independence was John Hancock's. The myth is that he wrote his name large so that King George would be able to read it without his glasses.
- In 1870 the Congress made the 4th of July an unpaid holiday for federal employees. In 1941, Congress declared 4th of July a paid federal holiday.
- Independence Day became a federal holiday in 1870.
- Today, the 4th of July is a day of picnics and patriotic parades, a night of concerts and fireworks, and a reason to fly the American flag.

Congresswoman Terri Sewell (D-AL07) took a much harsher tone. "The Constitution is very clear: only Congress can

Bryan Jewelry

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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/>

ACCS Is Just What the Doctor Ordered for Alabama Jobs



The recently completed 2025 Regular Session has concluded successfully. Anytime you record solid balanced budgets, you have succeeded.

Both the Education Budget and General Fund Budget are sound, thanks to the good work of the Budget Chairmen. Senator Arthur Orr (R-Decatur), Representative Danny Garrett (R-Trussville), Senator Greg Albritton (R-Escambia), and Representative Rex Reynolds (R-Huntsville) have done yeoman work. Legislative leaders, like Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter (R-Rainsville) and Senate President Pro Tem Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman), have provided outstanding leadership.

The Education Budget reflects the respect and knowledge of the importance of our **Alabama Community College System**. This system is the mainstay of job creation, economic development, and future economic growth for Alabama. The Community College System is the leader when it comes to creating jobs and employment in our state.

Our Community College System is made up of 24 colleges with more than 130 locations and has 155,000 students. This far surpasses and dwarfs our other colleges. The most telling narrative for Alabamians is that 96% of the system's students live here in Alabama. More than 75% of these students stay here after graduation.

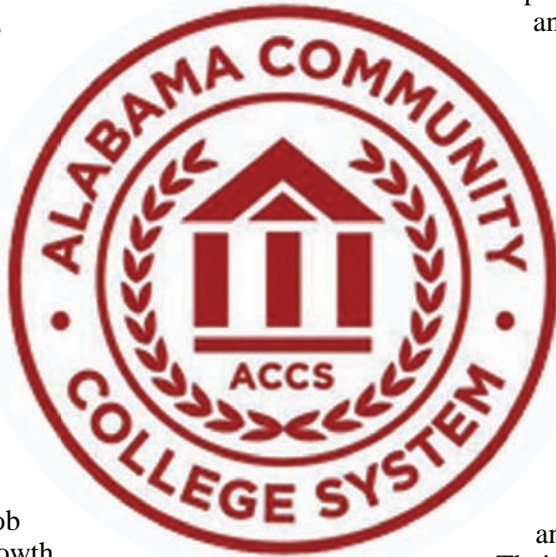
More than 23,000 students have enrolled in dual enrollment, no matter their family's ability to afford it, thanks to the legislature. Thirty-six percent of ACCS students include transient students, who are able to come to college closer to their home, and they pay less than half the cost of a four-year college.

While most colleges nationwide have lost student numbers, our **Alabama Community College System** has had over a 5% increase in enrollment in each year since 2020. The ACCS has 10,600 employees all in Alabama.

These figures resonate loudly and clearly illuminate the fact that ACCS is the driving force behind the state's economic growth. By preparing Alabama students with the skills and training needed for high-demand careers, they are strengthening Alabama workforce and building our economic opportunity for now, and the future. For fiscal year 2023-2024, ACCS added \$8.1 billion to Alabama's economy. This equates to 3% of the state's gross product.

The ACCS, under the leadership of Chancellor Jimmy Baker, was the cornerstone and lynchpin of the Workforce Development Plan, which is the most

important economic development initiative for this gubernatorial and legislative quadrennium. The future of our state is in career and technical education.



In an era where middle-skill jobs are in the highest demand, career and technical education is the key to future employment. The most popular career programs in the ACCS curriculum are computer science, culinary arts, cybersecurity, dental assisting, HVAC, welding, diesel technology, and salon and spa management. The most demand is in nursing and physical therapy.

The nursing and medical fields are the real growth area for the ACCS, with the aging Baby Boomer population. This field is limitless. ACCS will be the leader in this growing need for healthcare professionals and ACCS is poised to prepare Alabama to meet these needs. Their healthcare programs are based on regional demands, ensuring that they meet the unique needs of communities across the state. They are in close collaboration with the Alabama Hospital Association and the Alabama Nursing Home Association to assure Alabama's healthcare future.

With \$18 million in new funding to expand health sciences program into rural areas, and more than 13,000 students currently enrolled, the ACCS will continue to equip the next generations of healthcare workers with cutting edge training. ACCS is just what the doctor ordered for Alabama jobs.

Chancellor Jimmy Baker has been at the helm of achieving this pinnacle of success for the ACCS. After nine years he has his team of college presidents on board. This sterling team of 34 presidents are his people. This group does an excellent job of making local legislators in their respective communities aware of what is going on at their college and how it affects their constituency.

ACCS affects most legislators in Alabama. In many of their districts their community college is the largest employer and economic engine in their area. For that reason, the ACCS is poised to hold its own when it comes to state funding.

Legislators are acutely aware that their community college is where most of their constituents receive their higher education and career training. They also know that 96% of their students are Alabamians and will remain in the state and probably that locale for life.

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



Ronald A. Holtsford

What are the legal implications of the pregnant "brain dead" woman in Georgia?

The 2022, Dobbs decision handed down by the United States Supreme Court ended the long held Federal right to abortion under the 1973, Roe v Wade case. In ending the Federal right, it returned the decision to the states. Many states quickly implemented bans or restrictions on abortion. There were those that had trigger laws in place that immediately implemented bans upon the overturn of Roe, there were those states that required some action by state officials, a couple of states that implemented laws effective thirty (30) days after Dobbs, some states included abortion restrictions and the states that had a hybrid implementation of bans and restrictions. Both Alabama and Georgia have implemented bans; Georgia also has restrictions as does Alabama to a lesser degree. Georgia's restrictions are no abortions after cardiac activity has been detected (at about six weeks gestation) with some exceptions. The exceptions include law enforcement documented rape or incest, the health of the mother where death or serious health consequences can occur or certain fetal abnormalities have been detected. Alabama's law is closer to a near ban with the only exceptions being rape, incest or serious health consequences to the pregnant woman if the pregnancy continues.

Adrianna Smith was a pregnant, thirty-one year old nurse in Georgia and has a seven year old son. In February, she began experiencing horrible headaches and went to the hospital. It sounds as if her testing was not very extensive and I would guess the physician weighed certain imaging studies with the radiation safety ALARA (As Low As Reasonable Achievable) principle wherein it is the duty of medical personnel to keep the radiation exposure as low as possible. Because she was nine weeks into her pregnancy at the time, one certainly wants any radiation exposure to be as low as possible so as to not contribute to any potential fetal abnormalities. She was given some medication and sent home. The next day she woke having difficulty breathing and making a gurgling noise.

She was again taken to the hospital and this time had a CT of her brain which revealed blood clots within her brain. At some point she was declared brain dead but in keeping with Georgia law it was determined that she should be placed on a ventilator and other life supporting measures. The goal was to reach thirty-two (32) weeks gestation and to perform a C-section. Ms. Smith's mother has recounted her agony in watching her daughter on such machine to keep her alive with the plan to deliver a viable child. On 13 June her young son delivered. He weighed 1 pound and 13 ounces and was named Chance. Chance is certainly an interesting name for this little boy.

I am pro life and I have read some of the pro and con rationale from a medical ethics web site regarding the late Ms. Smith. The late Pastor Harry Reeder at Briarwood Presbyterian Church in Birmingham often talked about a culture of life and a culture of death. The culture of death, which is not in line with a Christian world and life view is one where a preborn child's life is terminated by abortion because it is unwanted or inconvenient. Certainly this stand is espoused by many organizations such as Planned Parenthood. On the tail end of life there are those that find older adults or adults with certain disabilities as inconvenient or unwanted and one is concerned that the lives of older adults may one day become a life that can be prematurely terminated.

Baby Chance Smith, did not ask to come to this world. Ms. Smith's family celebrated her 31st birthday during her pregnancy but also railed against the Georgia abortion law. Killing baby Chance via abortion would not have saved Ms. Smith. Yes it seems hard to wrap your brain around having a brain dead Ms. Smith as an incubator to deliver Chance at a point in the future. The writer of the so called medical ethics article that I read was not kind to giving baby, Chance, a "chance" at life. The writer wonders what decision Ms. Smith would have made and felt that the family should have been allowed to make the decision on possibly terminating Chance's potential viability early on. It is believed that baby Chance may have disabilities which may not be evident for some time; it is reported that he is holding his own.

Alabama's Natural Death Act includes an Advance Directive for Health Care. The Advance Directive for Health Care allows an adult to make decisions about the end of their life should it come down to it. Those decisions would come into play if by a terminal illness or injury or permanent unconsciousness and in the event that individual would likely die in the near future they can make "Living Will" type decisions about artificially provided food and hydration as well as life sustaining treatment. The document also allows an individual to name a health care proxy if they like which can be used to make decisions beyond the black and white scope of the document.

Near the end of the document it says three things. One is that if a physician or hospital will not honor the document then the institution must see that the person is cared for a physician or hospital that will honor the document. The document is not a Dr. Kevorkian type assisted suicide document; it is one that allows for the (un)natural process of dying. Another statement is that if it is a pregnant female then the wishes of the Advance Directive will not be honored until after the birth of the child.

Baby Chance did not ask to be conceived. God planned it and has a plan of some sort for baby Chance. Prayerfully, baby Chance will have no constraining abnormalities. Hopefully Chance will understand that in death, Adrienne Smith gave him life and I pray that Chance will honor his mother and be a child of God that bears witness to the Christian world and life view and a culture of life.

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.

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Mailing address:
Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.
Ronald A. Holtsford, LLC
7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124
Montgomery, AL 36116
(334) 220-3700 - raholtsford@aol.com

If you have a question to send Ron Holtsford, please use his email address at the bottom of his article. He has provided interesting and informative commentary to our readers for over 17 years. The Alabama Gazette wishes to thank him for being a faithful commentary supporter of the Gazette.



Rob Tate

Robservations...

BITS AND PIECES #22

It has been an entire year since I wrote my last “Bits and Pieces” column. But obviously there are a lot more criticle matters going right now. So, let’s just continue:

ISRAEL AND IRAN CONFLICT:

1. Unless you have been sleeping under a bridge, then you certainly know that Israel attacked Iran in the early hours of 13 June. As usual, there are people on both sides of the proverbial fence. True to form, almost all Democratic representatives and senators are opposed while most Republicans are in favor of the attacks. As for me, as always, I clearly support Israel in this matter.

“But why Rob? Why would you support Israel?” Glad you asked. Let me start with an analogy I have used many times in the past. Let’s say that Sam is living peacefully in his neighborhood. There is nothing above normal complaints that one neighbor might have against another for a crappy lawn. But everybody is able to coexist. Along comes a new family in the neighborhood.



Israel Flag



Iran Flag

looks like Sam. Every time they hit it, everybody cheers. “Die, Sam, die!” The next day, Sam sees a full-page ad in the paper saying that when Carl gets the opportunity, he is going to kill Sam and his family. Carl goes to the police (like the UN), once again, but they do nothing. “Suck it up, buddy. You’ll be okay.”

So, you tell me, at what point does Sam have the right to defend himself?

Obviously, in a civil situation, there is no such thing as a preemptive strike, but Sam does have the right to prepare for what is coming. Sam has no choice but



to take Carl’s threats seriously and plan accordingly so when the attack comes, he can thwart Carl’s efforts. You have no choice but to take people at their word.

In the world of nation vs. nation, preemptive strikes have been used many times in the past. And according to Iranian state doctrine and even public statements over the years, Iran says the primary goal (i.e. objective) of their regime is the annihilation of Israel. Their chants of. “Death to Israel” and “Death to America” are common place in the streets of Iran. In their eyes, Israel has been looked upon as nothing more than a cancer that needs to be destroyed. This is unique in that no other country in the UN has this as a stated strategic objective. So, let there be no doubt about this. Under no conditions could Israel allow Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. Why, because they are Carl. Israel is Sam. Israel is doing what it needs to do to ensure their survival. And no, Israel could not and should not have been expected to sit back and absorb a nuclear strike before retaliating. That is plain stupid. If Iran had a nuke, they would most certainly use it. Nobody on planet earth fears Israel using a nuclear bomb in any kind of first strike attack. Israel, and if the US gets involved militarily, is actually taking Iran at its word. Too bad nations in the 1930s didn’t took Hitler at his word. He called his shots, the West ignored them and ta da, WWII.

It is clear that this conflict is just getting started. Iran thus far is getting duly spanked. I also find it interesting in the Israeli vs. the Iranian way of war. This should surprise absolutely nobody. While Israel is striking military targets with precision, Iran is striking civilian targets indiscriminately. They just hit a hospital this morning. It shows you the mindset of the countries and the level of sophistication of not only the weapons but also the two cultures that are fighting. The current Iranian regime has no problem targeting civilians as their primary objective. I am sure there will be much more to come in following columns. Fasten your seatbelts because things are getting sporty.

2. MINNESOTA SHOOTING:

In the early hours of 14 June, while posing as a police officer, Vance Boelter shot and killed Dem. House Speaker Melissa Hortman and her husband and shot state Senator John Hoffman and his wife. They survived the attack. There will be more to come on this later. But for now, I would like to focus a little bit on Governor Tim Walz.

Immediately following the shooting, Walz held a solemn and teary-eyed press conference. Among other things he called for decency and denounced “mean tweets” so prevalent in our country today. He also said, “That’s the embodiment of how things are supposed to work. It’s not about hatred. It’s not about mean tweets. It’s not about demeaning someone. It’s leading with grace and compassion and vision and compromise and decency.” Walz finished up with, “One man’s unthinkable actions have altered the state of Minnesota.”

Walz then urged the public to “find common ground” with each other. ¹ All of these things are admirable and nice. But have we forgotten what Walz said just two weeks before the shootings when he urged fellow Democrats to “be a little meaner” and “bully the s—t” out of people like President Trump. ²

Apparently, Walz, like many Democrats, have forgotten all of their mean, divisive and threatening language. The list is long. Just the other day, Democrat Representative Eric Swalwell called Trump America’s Hitler. The Hitler reference gets old because it is so stupid and incorrectly used 99% of the time. If you think Trump is like Hitler then there may be no hope for you. In all of my WWII books, for one thing, I cannot find the part where Hitler supported the Jewish people in anyway. What is funny about Walz is that after his “meaner” comments, someone in his state killed a state representative after she stepped off the Democratic reservation and voted with Republicans for defunding more money for illegal immigrants. Now that it was someone in his party that was targeted and killed, according to some sources, in all 46 other Democrats were supposedly on Boelter’s hit list, Walz is now urging people to calm down. You never saw any remorse in Walz’s voice after Trump took a bullet to the ear. But now that he might have been on a political hit list, all people need to calm down.

Personally, I think all people who feel the need to kill in this manner need some help. That is not the way it is supposed to be. Not in this country at least. But if the blowback had to happen, I am glad it happened in Walz’s state. This guy Boelter was just doing what Democrats have been asking for the last several years.

3. 250TH ANNIVERSARY ARMY PARADE:

Holy cow. How much griping have we seen? I will be honest. When I first heard about it, my mind ran to many of the many military parades you seen in other countries. But when I watched the events before the parade and learned of the educational component associated with the day’s events, I quickly changed my mind. I saw thousands of people, looking at the military equipment on display, talking to soldiers, and possibly considering an army career. There was a lot for everybody. I thought there was very little difference between the anniversary events and the dozens of airshows I have seen at Maxwell AFB and around the country since my first airshow in 1976. Then I heard of people complaining about the cost but wondered, certainly this parade does not cost anywhere near what we spend on the Air Force Thunderbirds and Navy Blue Angels every year. Let the Army have their day. Hats off to them.

Then of course there was the moronic statement by Governor Walz that he had never prayed so hard for rain, hoping the parade would get rained on. What a small man. He is indeed a useful idiot.



U.S.Army Birthday





Just When You Think It’s Not Possible the Left’s Meltdown Hits a New Low

Only in America, according to the Left's delusion can you livestream your “oppression” on a \$1,200 smartphone while marching within corporate-sponsored signs bemoaning the end of freedom. The radical Left calls this resistance. The rest of us call it nonsense.

You really can’t overstate how absurd the Radical Left has become. Picture it: mobs of privileged protesters flooding the streets, screaming at the top of their lungs that they live under tyranny, all while safely marching, waving signs, and livestreaming their faux outrage. Only in America can you claim you’re oppressed while shouting it on national television.

Here’s the reality: President Donald J. Trump is the duly elected President of the United States he’s the People’s President. He doesn’t rule with a scepter — he governs with strength, resolve, and a deep commitment to the forgotten American worker. This is the man who brought us energy independence, record-low minority unemployment, and peace in the Middle East. The same man who once said, *“They’re not after me, they’re after you. I’m just in the way.”* That’s not tyranny. That’s patriotism in action.

They claim President Trump is a tyrant while Congress blocks him at every turn, the media slanders him 24/7, Hollywood mocks him on cue, and rogue judges sabotage his every move. That’s the left’s tyranny. That’s resistance from every entrenched elite institution — and Donald J. Trump’s still winning.

But this isn’t just a clown show. There’s a dark side to all this.

When the sun goes down, the truth comes out. The same mobs who whine about “authoritarianism” in daylight let loss the rioters after dark. Windows are smashed. Stores looted. Police officers attacked. Neighborhoods torched. Just ask the residents of Kenosha, Minneapolis, or Portland, cities left in smoldering ruins because Democrats refused to lift a finger while BLM and Antifa thugs ran wild. Sound familiar? It should. This is the sequel to the Democrats’ disastrous “Summer of Love,” billions in damage, innocent people hurt, entire cities scarred.

And make no mistake: this chaos lands squarely at the feet of the Democrat Party. They’ve stoked the flames of Trump Derangement Syndrome so ferociously that their base now confuses freedom with violence, and protest with destruction. They cheer lawlessness, defund police, and then act shocked when the streets erupt in mayhem. All of this because they hate Trump more than they love America.

And here’s the biggest, most heart-wrenching irony of it all: it’s the neighborhoods of the poor, the very people the Democrats claim to care about,



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

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



that get devastated first. The family-run corner store. The struggling single mom’s apartment complex. The churches, the schools, the diners. Obliterated by mobs claiming to stand for “justice.” The elites who fund and excuse this madness go home to their gated communities. Meanwhile, working-class Americans wake up to ashes and ruin.

This isn’t principled opposition; it’s pathological obsession. They’d rather burn it all down than see Trump succeed. They don’t want unity. They want submission. They want to cancel anyone who thinks differently, votes differently, or dares to speak out.

But here’s the good news: Americans are waking up. They see the madness. They see hypocrisy. And they remember what real leadership looks like. President Trump didn’t bring chaos; it was there and pushed back. He didn’t create division; he exposed the elite’s stranglehold on power. And they hate him for it.

So let them scream. Let them rage. Let them protest and riot because every time they do, they remind us exactly what we’re fighting to stop. President Trump isn’t a king. He’s the firewall between order and anarchy. Between liberty and leftist lunacy. Between America, as we know it and the dystopia they’re trying to impose.

In 2024, the American people made their choice loud and clear. We didn’t just vote — we showed up, we spoke out, and we took our country back. They chose to rebuild America; not watch it burn under the torch of woke insanity.

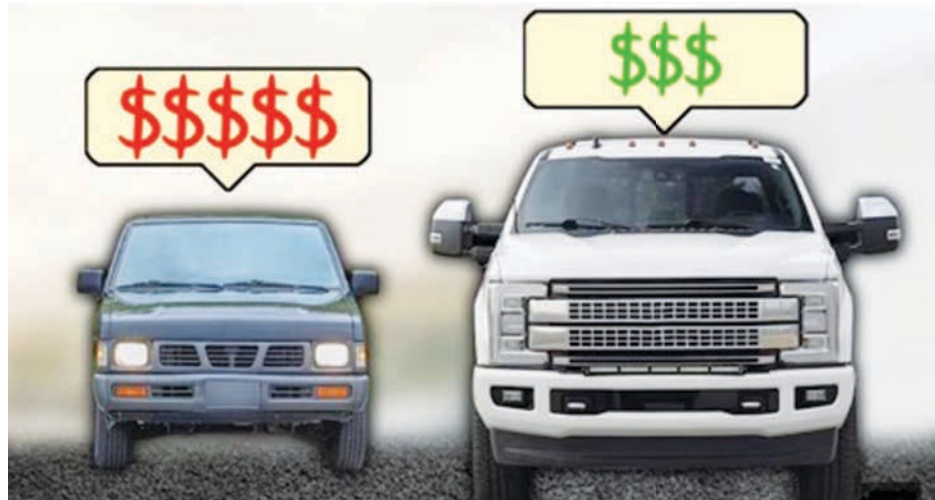
God bless President Trump. God bless our police. And God help the Democrats who keep playing with fire — and blaming Trump for the smoke.



John Martin

The Chronic Need for Small Trucks

Have you ever wondered why you seldom see any small pickup trucks in recent years? And the few you do see are older ones—1980’s and earlier. Why don’t automakers make and sell any new ones? Today, we see huge hulking gas-guzzling behemoths with big 4-door cabs and often puny 4 to 5 foot beds that won’t haul very much. They are utterly impractical for most farmers, contractors, handymen, and anybody else who needs an inexpensive utilitarian truck to carry stuff around.



Of course automakers do make the small trucks that we actually need. Toyota makes the \$12,000 (MSRP) HiLux Champ and the \$8,000 IMV Zero. They are sold in countries all over the world, EXCEPT in the United States. WHY are U. S. citizens deprived of these essential economical vehicles?

This tragedy originated with an obscure action called the “Chicken Tax” a 25% tariff imposed by France and Germany in 1961 to balance our advantage of producing and selling chickens during the previous two decades at lower costs than they could produce their own.

In 1963, our vindictive President Lyndon Johnson retaliated with his own crazy ideas. He imposed punitive tariffs—not on anything related to chickens—but on brandy, dextrin, potato starch, and LIGHT TRUCKS—crucial necessities for multitudes of people to produce our own goods and services. It was a tragic blow for America’s economy.

But the UAW and the American auto manufacturers supported the idea; it eliminated some of the competition from cheap imports.

For a while, existing inventories satisfied current needs. With the imports restricted, our own automakers built and sold similar trucks over here, but at a higher costs. Some of the foreign makers found loopholes—like bigger cabs with extra seats and even placing rear-facing seats behind the cabs to classify them as passenger vehicles.

As years passed decade after decade, thrifty people resorted to buying and using older and older vehicles, but as they eventually wore out and got wrecked and scrapped, the need became more desperate. By the year 2020, supplies had literally dried up.

So where does the chicken tax stand today? It has been repealed long ago. So were the taxes on brandy, potato starch, and dextrin. But the wicked tariff on light trucks still poisons our economy.

Now why didn’t Donald Trump take action against it? Yes, he got caught sleeping at the switch on this one.

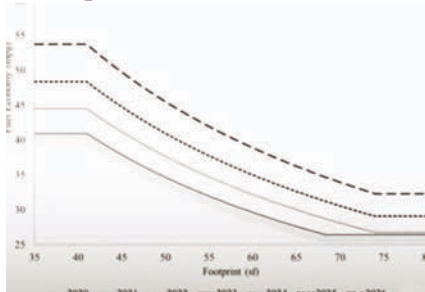
Today we have an even bigger threat against small trucks—the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) mandate—first imposed in 1975, two years after the infamous 1973 OPEC oil embargo. Its goal was to reduce fuel consumption, enhance energy security, and reduce toxic emissions. It imposes minimum miles per gallon for all vehicles based on their “footprints” (The number of square feet the vehicle occupies). The most extreme part of this regulation means smaller vehicles must meet greater efficiencies than larger ones. And finally, every year, the limits become more and more extreme.

From 2020 through 2026, the minimum mpg allowed for the smallest trucks has jumped from a difficult 41 mpg up to an essentially impossible 54 mpg. We won’t be getting any new ICE vehicles with that much economy when we figure in other mandates that keep adding more weight.

The limits on the smallest trucks have become so extreme that manufacturers are unable to make them comply. The end result is that everybody is obligated to buy and drive larger cars and trucks that consume more fuel with more lenient limits—precisely the opposite of the “pie in the sky” goal of consuming less fuel and reducing emissions. Can you scream “HYPOCRISY”?

The limits are still rising and may soon exceed the practical means to build anything at all. In future years, they might become impossible. Look at the chart.

What should our government do? The solution is ridiculously simple. REPEAL this stupid mandate and let a free market determine the optimum fuel efficiency. You can bet your bottom dollar that efficiencies will increase to their practical limits and consumption and emissions will minimize.



The final coup de grace against small trucks comes from our government “Safety Nazis” who impose additional extreme limits onto small vehicles. Besides paying a tariff, we Americans have essentially been slapped with an outright BAN. We can’t import small trucks, and we can’t even build and use our own.

The EPA and safety bans are still standing strong. If I had been President Trump, on the day of my inauguration, I would have issued an executive order to REPEAL all government mandates that restrict the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of these essential vehicles. This should be a top priority for the DOGE right now.

However, we do have a silver lining in our dark cloud of punitive over-regulation. If we had ELECTRIC small trucks that were simple and inexpensive, we could kill the emission mandate, since emissions are zero from electric vehicles. Overall fuel consumption would also diminish by about two thirds. Safety mandates like flimsy crumple zones could be replaced by sturdy bumpers (that can actually take a bump when needed) equipped with cameras and radar that can apply braking and warning sounds whenever a careless driver or pedestrian should run in front of it. Tesla has already incorporated this feature in its cars, robotaxis, Cybertrucks, and semi trucks.

But American auto makers are not making small inexpensive electric trucks either. All of them are only building big, expensive ones—including Tesla. If Elon had been REALLY smart, he would NOT have started out with the huge, complicated, expensive, over-frilled, trouble-prone Cybertruck. Instead, he would have followed Ford, Volkswagen, and Toyota with a small, basic, simple, inexpensive, minimalist electric truck that would be quick and easy to manufacture in large quantities and that large masses of people could afford (See my October, 2024 article for my suggestion for Tesla). Elon and all others must focus less on the classes and more onto the masses.

Simplicity and durability would be paramount—optional A/C, mechanical locks and hand crank windows—similar to the Model T, Beetle, HiLux Champ, and IMV Zero. The chronic demand from the American people would sell millions. The huge volumes would quickly generate profits of millions of dollars for all automakers.

And yes, we MUST get government out of the way to make it happen.

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HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

In a last-ditch effort to stave off a rebellion and attempt a peaceful settlement, John Hancock authorized the drafting of a document to explain the colonies’ position, acknowledge their loyalty to the King, and propose a solution to the conflict.

The “revolution” was premised on a misunderstanding. Few, if any, of the colonists appreciated the growth of Parliament’s authority at the expense of the King’s. The colonists had little experience in dealing with Parliament as their main connection to the Mother Country was through the King.

In fact, most of the colonies had been established through royal charters issued by various monarchs going back to King James I. The basis for colonial government and the ownership of land was from the decree of the sovereign with neither the advice nor consent of Parliament.

The King’s crown, seal, and coat of arms were symbols of colonial authority; Parliament was nowhere to be seen. The colonies were administered through the Royal Governor, which colonial law recognized as the King’s representative. In fact, colonial governors acted as the executive of each colony with authority to appoint judges and sheriffs and administer British law in the name of the King. They could also call colonial legislatures into session, dissolve legislatures, and veto legislation deemed offensive to the King.

Everything the colonists knew about their government was that the King’s representative controlled most of the governing of their political subdivision, and the actions of the Royal Governor were generally respected as if the King himself was in residence.

What the colonists could not appreciate was the emerging British constitutional government caused Parliament to become more powerful while the King’s authority gradually eroded. Most critical in this tug of war for authority was the power of the purse. The King and Parliament routinely argued over taxing and spending with Parliament eventually gaining the upper hand.

But during this time, while the role and responsibility of the King and Parliament were being established, the colonies were in the midst of creating their own unique political system. Initially, the colonies grew and developed with little, if any, input from the King. The customs as British subjects were transferred in a seamless manner, almost by osmosis, that accepted a local structure of self-government that was limited and almost invisible. The law and accompanying political organization were accepted by the colonies because they were familiar; but most importantly, they worked.

No one would have considered Parliament to have any role in the administration of the colonies, but after the various European wars devolved into proxy wars in the colonies, Britain had to act to secure the economic engine of its colonial outposts. Protecting the colonies from foreign invasion and control was done in

Misunderstanding the Road to Independence

Before the Declaration of Independence, there was the Olive Branch Petition.

Written 250 years ago today, the Olive Branch Petition was Thomas Jefferson’s first attempt to explain to King George III why the American Colonies were rebelling and ask for reconciliation.

The “Shot heard ‘round the world” had been fired almost three months earlier, and the Battle of Bunker Hill had just ended. It was readily apparent to the Second Continental Congress that the situation was spinning out of control.

the self-interest of maintaining the lucrative trading system between the colonies and Britain.

Always looking for new revenue to fund both the Crown and Parliament, the colonies became an untapped revenue stream. Under the excuse that the cost of protecting the colonies from foreign invasion should be paid for by the direct beneficiaries (the colonies), Parliament acted.

Beginning in 1764, Parliament sought to impose various taxes on the colonies. The King benefited from these taxes as a portion of the generated revenue directly funded his royal court, but the numerous acts imposing taxes were not issued in the name of the sovereign, but in the name of Parliament.

The colonists assumed that it was Parliament, not the King, that was causing them harm. They reasoned that a good working relationship with the Crown had been maintained for more than 150 years. Most colonists revered the King and prayed for him as part of their Sunday worship, so if anything bad was happening, surely the parliamentarians must be the bad actors.

So, with each tax, the colonists became more vexed and sought to avoid new levies in many ways; some benign, like smuggling or boycotting to avoid payment, or direct action, like the destruction of property to illustrate displeasure. But in all these aggressions against parliamentary acts, the colonists reasoned that if King George could understand the situation and reign in Parliament, then the colonial relationship could be restored. The colonists failed to appreciate the King’s complicity in the imposition of the various taxes.

When the relationship between the colonies further deteriorated and red coats were ordered to disarm colonial militias, the war of words turned into a hot war with the loss of life and destruction of property.

Lexington, Concord, and Bunker Hill were more than simple police actions — they were serious military conflicts with significant casualties. With the conflict escalating, the Continental Congress tried one last step and appealed to the King with the Olive Branch Petition, which almost begged for a restoration of their former relationship.

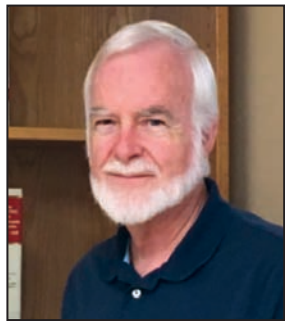
Thomas Jefferson’s initial draft of the petition was too strident and bellicose, so with input from other founding fathers, John Dickinson would tone it down, and his revision was sent to the King after being approved by Congress.

King George never read the conciliatory document and instead responded by issuing his own Proclamation of Rebellion authorizing force to restrain the rebellion and hang the leaders.

The Olive Branch Petition was an attempt to avoid bloodshed and restore an amicable relationship between the crown and colonies, but in rejecting the petition, the King, to his eventual detriment, turned loyalists into rebels.

One year later, Jefferson’s Declaration of Independence would set an inevitable course; Washington’s victory at Yorktown would conclude the matter.

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



John Taylor

to avoid a repeat of the military occupation and post-war martial law imposed on the South after the denial of Southern Independence. Protecting “federal” facilities is a separate issue. Another incident in history trumps (no pun intended) the present situation – the New York Draft Riots.

The Lincoln Administration sought to meld together numerous disparate Northern factions. Despite sometimes intense Northern animosity against Irish (“No Irish need apply.”) and German immigrants (especially Catholics), the need for “fresh bodies for the military,” served to lessen this bigotry. Even the anti-Catholic Know Nothings accepted them. Many of the Germans, who settled heavily in the Midwest, were Forty-Eighters, and a significant number supported socialism and communism. Indeed, some were Union officers and were literally friends with Karl Marx. They combined with the pro-protectionist manufacturers and New England intellectuals to form some of Lincoln’s most loyal supporters.

Throughout history, the Irish have been used as “cannon fodder.” (Some insist they were also traded as slaves.) The Enrollment Act of 1863 was another chapter in this historical legacy. All male citizens between ages 20-45 were mandated to enroll, including males seeking citizenship. Wealthy Northerners could either fight or pay a \$300.00 exemption from the draft. The Irish, mostly coming from meager circumstances, typically lacked the funds to buy exemptions. Whereas large numbers of wealthy Southerners fought, few wealthy Northerners did. William Tecumseh Sherman alluded to this, stating, *“that without conscription there would have been no way to ‘separate the sheep from the goats and demonstrate what citizens will fight and what will only talk.’”* Furthermore, Blacks were not considered citizens and were exempt from the draft, making them even greater targets for Northern anti-war factions. The draft reflected Northerners who “physically” supported the war; John Chodes, the New York playwright and historian, noted that about four times more men were drafted from New York than Massachusetts.

In July 1863, many Irish and German immigrants in New York City violently protested the implementation of the first Federal military draft, realizing they would be primary targets to fight in a war that had little relevance to them. The first day (Saturday, July 11) started as organized resistance and was relatively incident free; however, when the names of those conscripted began to spread, the anger intensified. By Monday, protests became violent with destruction of property, including the draft equipment used by the locals. Attacks were made on Horace Greeley’s New York Tribune office. Even the Colored Orphan Asylum was attacked—the children were safely removed but toys, clothing, and supplies were destroyed, and the building was set on fire.

The rampage continued on Tuesday with looting and the destruction of businesses,

The New York Draft Riots

including military uniform supplier Brooks Brothers. Mob attacks became more intense—at least two Blacks were lynched. On Wednesday, at least four more Blacks were killed. Over a five-day period, New York City was disrupted by the destruction of property—both public and private, factory closings, violence against law enforcement, and brutal violence against Blacks. *“The long term damage to New York’s black population was significant: In the aftermath of the riots, the city’s black population plummeted by more than 20 percent, to below 10,000 (the lowest number since the 1820s), as blacks fled the city in droves.”*



Prior to the Draft Riots, racial tension had been fueled by the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which Lincoln described as a “war measure” in his attempt to change the reason for war. Not only did thousands of Union soldiers desert after its issuance, there was a strong fear that more Blacks would move to New York and compete for jobs. By the end of the draft riots, over 100 civilians had been killed and at least eleven Blacks had been lynched. The New York Times reported: *“No period in the history of this city will be more memorable than the riot week. It will not be forgotten by this generation, and the stories of it will be transmitted to the generation that follows us.”*

The story of the New York Draft Riots is often treated as a footnote in history. Nonetheless, the riots were extremely violent and deadly. Lasting almost a week, the riots were finally suppressed by the appearance of several thousand troops, including New York State Militia and Union troops from New York, Michigan, and Indiana.

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Col John Eidsmoe

PANAMA CANAL: TIME FOR TEDDY ROOSEVELT’S BIG STICK?

South Dakota’s Mt. Rushmore exhibits the faces of four presidents immortalized in stone: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Theodore Roosevelt (TR).

As the story goes, one morning in 1979 Washington noticed that Roosevelt was missing from the monument. When asked, Jefferson said simply, “All I know is, he muttered something about it being HIS canal, and he picked up a big stick and started walking south,”

TR described his foreign policy as “speak softly and carry a big stick.” And who could blame TR for being upset? The Panama Canal was one of his greatest achievements, doing much to advance commerce between the Atlantic and the Pacific, shortening voyages from New York to California by about 8,000 nautical miles.

A marvel of engineering, the lock chambers operate to raise ships about 85 feet and then lower them to sea level at the other end. In 2024, 11,240 vessels traversed the canal, carrying more than 213,000,000 metric tons of cargo. The canal’s economic importance for world commerce and its strategic value for military transport cannot be overstated. As early as the 1500s, Spaniards recognized that a canal across the isthmus of Panama would save a lengthy voyage south around South America’s Cape Horn, the search for a northwest passage proving elusive. French efforts to construct a canal collapsed, so the United States stepped up to the plate. In 1902, under Roosevelt’s leadership, Congress passed the Spooner Act which authorized purchasing the French assets and negotiating a treaty with Colombia (of which Panama was then a part). Negotiations with Colombia broke down, but in 1903, Panama declared independence from Colombia. Some claim the United States orchestrated Panamanian independence; however, tensions existed between Panama and the Colombian government since the 1800s, including a short-lived independent State of the Isthmus (1840-1841) and a Panamanian rebellion in 1885. The Hay—Bunau—Varilla Treaty was negotiated between Panama and the United States, creating the 10-mile-wide Panama Canal Zone over which the United States was given authority to act as “if it were the sovereign.”

The United States governed the Canal Zone from 1914 to the 1970s, at which time the late President Jimmy Carter proposed giving the canal to Panama. Ronald Reagan strongly opposed the giveaway, saying we were giving the canal to a dictator (Omar Torrijos) “*who’s there, not because he had the most votes, but because he had the most guns,*” and that the world would see this transfer “*as once again America backing away and retreating in the face of trouble.*” Reagan declared, “We bought it, we paid for it, we built it, and we intend to keep it,” and polls showed a huge majority of Americans agreed with him.

Nevertheless, Carter managed to pressure the Senate to ratify (by one vote) a treaty

transferring control to Panama. Although of questionable constitutionality – because Article IV, Sec. 3, Clause 2 gives Congress exclusive authority over territories of the United States – this treaty recognized Panamanian sovereignty over the Canal Zone effective 1979 but authorized the United States to continue operating the canal through 1999.

President Donald Trump says it is now time for the United States to regain control over the canal. He notes that Hutchison Ports, a company based in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong, manages two ports on the canal – Balboa on the Pacific and Cristobal on the Atlantic. America’s chief adversary now has effective control over the Panama Canal! “*If these companies control both ends of that canal in a time of conflict, and the Chinese tell them, ‘Shut it down and don’t let the U.S. go through there,’ we’ve got a big, big problem,*” Secretary of State Marco Rubio explained. *A 2021 study by the Center for Strategic & International Studies warned that Chinese control over the canal is much more extensive than had been previously supposed. The 1978 prediction of U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.) may be coming true: “The loss of this canal would contribute to the encirclement of the United States.”*

Clearly, giving away the canal in 1979 was a bad mistake and a sign of weakness. But what can we do about it now?

Consider this: At the time he gave the canal away, Carter also signed a Neutrality Treaty with Panama, which guaranteed the canal’s permanent neutrality and authorized the United States to use military force, if necessary, to keep it open. So here is the answer: The United States is authorized to use military force to keep the Panama Canal open. This, I would argue, includes not only the right to act to prevent China from suddenly shutting down the canal but also the right to take preemptive force to prevent that from happening.

But sometimes Trump’s opening salvo is just a first step toward getting what he really wants. Perhaps his intent is not to send troops to Panama but rather to gain concessions that will give the United States firm assurance that a Chinese coup in Panama isn’t going to happen. A few possibilities could include increased U.S. military presence or increased U.S. infrastructure investment.

Keep watching. And Teddy, don’t put down your big stick.

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (*obcl.edu*), as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (*morallaw.org*), and as Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church of Notasulga (*woodlandpca.org*). He may be contacted for speaking engagements at *eidsmoeja@juno.com*. (Reprinted with permission from 1819 News)

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John Sophocleus

Anthony Burns Case: Impeding Federal Extradition

Winston Churchill’s History of the English Speaking Peoples [1995 Barnes & Noble p. 376] narrative on anti-slavery forces resistance upon Kansas-Nebraska Act 1854 passage in the US Senate (re)affirmed the principle of “popular sovereignty” triggering the Anthony Burns [https://encyclopediaivirginia.org/entries/burns-anthony-the-trial-of-1854/] incident in Boston. The Compromise of 1850 included a Fugitive Slave Act requiring slaves be returned to owners, even if in a free State and legislated the federal government responsible for finding, returning, and trying escaped slaves. Churchill asserts ‘innumerable’ minor incidents, but one day after the Kansas-Nebraska Act came into force, a Boston mob attempted to rescue Burns from deportation. Sound familiar?

Long time readers know I’m no fan of Churchill, his fingerprints are on many of the woes we suffer today. Perhaps what makes Winston’s follies most frustrating is his profound understanding of history and intuition shown in his writings of this sort illustrating the evolution of past ‘sanctuary cities.’ He detailed [still on p. 376] “It took a battalion of artillery, four platoons of marines, the sheriff’s posse, and twenty-two companies of the militia to line the streets and bring the slave to the ship at Boston wharf.” Churchill then quoted Morison and Commager’s Growth of the American Republic [vol. i, p. 622] “It cost the United States about a hundred thousand dollars to return the slave to his master. The real bill came later, and it was paid in blood.” For perspective, \$100,000 purchased 5,000 ounces of gold in 1854, approx. \$16 million today.

While Compromise Tariffs [1832 and 1833] averted war between States following the Tariff of Abominations [1828] triggering the Nullification Crisis, tariffs returned to the 20% average dutiable rate ‘benchmark’ with the Tariff of 1857. It wouldn’t be until the protectionist wing of the Whig Party morphed into the newly formed Republican Party that excessive Tariffs would be looking for ‘Judas rhetoric’ to advance their desired corporate welfare transfers in their platform plank for return of tariffs to 1828 levels. Churchill foreshadows what Boston’s resolve would ‘progress’ into... Article 3, Section 3 Treason in Baltimore (on Patriot’s Day for those who appreciate irony) April 19,1861 - First Blood in actual war between States.

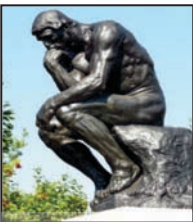
One of many brilliancies designed into the US Constitution is averting civil war - i.e., two or more factions in conflict over the same government. A sovereign State(s) is free to exit, as they did the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union; militarily forcing a State(s) is treason, as Massachusetts did to Maryland. Allowing exit instead of a hegemonic union is what peaceful transfer of power [https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/01/01/opinion/peaceful-transfer-of-power-pax-romana-style/2063.html] may be, under circumstances of this sort. Imagine if Massachusetts and other States appalled by fugitive slave laws had exited the Union so those like Anthony Burns wouldn’t be compelled to return/deported and slaves would’ve had closer safe haven than Canada. Sadly, they were ripe for a corporate welfare political prostitute like Lincoln to use in accomplishing desired wealth transfers militarily instead of peaceful exit. Importation of slaves (Jefferson compromised to 1808 instead of 1789) had been abolished and State, etc. emancipations were working as designed. In the State Massachusetts shot up drawing First Blood in war between our States, 49% of Maryland Blacks were free.

If States had left the Union making slavery less tenable for slave owners, one may make the case the last slave State in the Americas would’ve ended in the late 1890s with Brazil before mass mechanization. Sad the legacy put on Blacks in our now forced coalition of states... that the ‘civil war’ of hegemony was to free slaves - many of whom had already been freed, freed themselves and/or were on the path of overcoming this detestation on their own accord. Much to admire w.r.t. Crispus Attucks and Black Soldiers not duped by the British in the American Revolution/War of 1812 to Black Confederates fighting against hegemonic union. Most Blacks were not given anything and those in fact emancipated were given very little, yet saddled by progressives who championed a debt not owed and white supremacy.

Many States which championed accomplishing things militarily in the 1860s now cry foul when troops come into their subjugated state uninvited. Article 1, Section 8 makes clear calling forth the Militia [recall the 22 companies Churchill r eferenced above?] for endeavours of this sort - the National Guard is not Constitutional and been terribly misused these past several score. Kudos to James Hines writings and efforts against ending State militias to impose a national guard, along with libertarian Patrick Merritt’s efforts in Alabama to protect our guardsmen from abuse and misuse. I’ve included the 1861 Governor responses to Lincoln’s call for militia/troops to commit Article 3, Section 3 treason against their State in several past columns.

Deportations, tariffs, suspending writs of habeas corpus, fiat money gone wild, etc. is no surprise to those aware of US history and don’t look to late night TV show hosts like Colbert or reality TV show stars like Trump for perspective. I

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THINK

have no illusion about ‘the peaceful transfer of power’ we suffer from DC under our hegemonic “Pax Americana.” Sad to witness so many defending Biden and Trump, blind to their own interest instead of seeing two demons serving the same evil one. I understand why so many politburo members fear for their lives knowing how evil they’ve become from DC to my local corrupt county commissioners. Perhaps the best illustration was Felon Hubbard locking down Goat Hill when he first learned of the sniper shooting spree when Alabama’s Speaker of the House. I also have no illusions about the future of people suffering Roman type hegemony choosing the path of Barabbas over Jesus Christ.

This is what happens when peaceful divorce is impossible [https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/02/01/opinion/those-who-make-peaceful-divorce-impossible-will-make-domestic-violence-inevitable/2084.html] violence not seen since a group from a US territory showed their disdain for federal occupation and control back in 1954.

Jan. 6th is what true civil war looks like after failure to allow peaceful exit of sovereign State(s) or occupied territories. Again, civil war is fighting for control of the SAME government. Wise founding fathers’ design made civil war unlikely at best, foolish at worst – a State no longer wanting to be in the voluntary coalition would exit. I have no doubt Trump will be another Lincoln, he has the bust on his oval office desk to signal it while espousing the zeitgeist Judas rhetoric of fentanyl, eating cat and dogs, etc.

Few presidents showed more courage and sagacity than Buchanan trying to allow the peaceful transfer of central/federal power to a new coalition of States without bloodshed. After South Carolina seceded Buchanan asserted: “*Apart from the execution of the laws, so far as this may be practicable, the Executive has no authority to decide what shall be the relations between the Federal Government and South Carolina. He has been invested with no such discretion. He possesses no power to change the relations heretofore existing between them, much less to acknowledge the independence of that State. This would be to invest a mere executive officer with the power of recognizing the dissolution of the confederacy among our thirty-three sovereign States.*”

President Buchanan understood an integral part of guaranteeing republican forms of government within a sovereign State is the right of the people in each State to independently determine their desire to remain in any coalition/confederacy of States. No Legislature or Governor (of a State like South Carolina, seceded from the USA/changed to the CSA or from a State like Maryland, still in the USA) asked for federal troops to address civil unrest or insurrection within their State when considering the Force Bill. Not getting the February 1861 Force Bill from Congress after President Buchanan makes it clear he will not commit Article 3, Section 3 treason pressed Mr. Lincoln and the Republicans’ orchestration of military action before Congress reconvenes to accomplish their desired transfer of wealth and power.

President Buchanan adhered to the letter, Spirit and pre-Lincoln tradition of the Constitution, unwilling to fail his oath of office and step outside his authorization at perhaps the most difficult time since the Nullification Crisis. He understood there are no enumerated powers for the executive to act unilaterally, esp. in this manner not authorized. This is well reasoned by Buchanan in his following words:

“*The question fairly stated is, has the Constitution delegated to Congress the power to coerce a State into submission which is attempting to withdraw or has actually withdrawn from the Confederacy? ...After much serious reflection I have arrived at the conclusion that no such power has been delegated to Congress or to any other department of the Federal Government. It is manifest upon an inspection of the Constitution that this is not among the specific and enumerated powers granted to Congress, and it is equally apparent that its exercise is not ‘necessary and proper for carrying into execution’ any one of these powers.*”

Little wonder why pro-government/soviet historians unanimously place Buchanan as the worst president. Alas, the Republicans (since inception) have been more interested in using the tax code to pick winners/losers and redistribute wealth to specific interests over the general welfare, how many lives are damaged/destroyed in the process are of increasingly less concern. Much wailing and gnashing of teeth has been observed about the five deaths on Jan. 6th. I couldn’t help but think how much blood has been spilled and sacrificed on this esteemed altar of democracy via undeclared wars, subsidized abortion, wrongful takings, disuniform immigration and tariff policies, treaty violations, etc. these past several score as a forced coalition instead of the republican form of government joining independent, sovereign States guaranteed in the Constitution. There was a time we understood Greek history of standing divided, tall and strong against the united monolith of Persian tyranny. The Peloponnesian War further showed enough Greeks were also willing to stand strong and divided against the monolith of Athenian tyranny – sometimes the ‘good guys’ win...

Rogers Applauds Agreement to Raise NATO Spending Commitments to Five Percent of GDP



Congressman Mike Rogers
3rd Congressional District

June 25, 2025 - WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers (R-AL03) praised NATO’s decision to set a new increase in defense spending to 5% of gross domestic product (GDP) spending by 2035.

"NATO’s decision to raise its defense spending commitment to 5% of GDP is a vital response to the growing threat posed by Vladimir Putin and the deepening cooperation among Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea," said Chairman Rogers. "Front-line allies like Poland and the Baltic

states were already pulling their weight, and now the long-overdue investments pledged by other European and Canadian allies will strengthen the Alliance significantly. President Trump was right to insist that our Allies shoulder a greater share of our collective defense—and his leadership was critical to making it happen. Ultimately, a more lethal NATO, backed by continued U.S. leadership and real burden sharing, will deter our adversaries, preserve peace, and advance America’s national interest."

The landmark decision that reshapes the future of transatlantic security, NATO member states have agreed to raise their defense spending target to five percent of gross domestic product (GDP) by 2035, more than doubling the previous benchmark of 2%. The move comes amid rising global tensions and sustained pressure from U.S. President Donald J. Trump (R), who has long been critical of America’s European allies for underinvesting in collective defense.



The agreement was announced at the NATO summit in The Hague, where leaders from all 32 member nations signed a joint declaration reaffirming their “ironclad commitment to collective defense” under Article 5 of the NATO treaty.

A New Standard for Defense

Under the new framework, member states will be required to allocate:

- 3.5% of GDP to core military spending, including personnel, equipment, and operations.
- 1.5% of GDP to defense-related infrastructure and resilience measures, such as cybersecurity, energy security, and civil preparedness.

Each country must submit annual plans outlining a credible path to reach the 5% target by 2035. The alliance will conduct a formal review in 2029 to assess progress and adjust for evolving threats.

Trump’s Influence and Strategic Calculus

President Trump hailed the agreement as a personal victory.

“I’ve been asking them to go up to 5% for a number of years, and they’re going up to 5%,” President Trump told reporters. “From 2%, and a lot of people didn’t even pay the 2%. So I think that’s going to be very big news”.

During Trump’s first presidency his demands were met with skepticism from European leaders and critics of the President alike. Since then Russia has invaded Ukraine exposing that Europeans don’t have the men or material to fight a lengthy ground, air, and naval war like what Ukraine (who is not a NATO member) is experiencing. That as well as concerns about instability in the Middle East as well as concerns over China’s global ambitions have convinced European leaders that they need larger and more modern armies, navies, and air forces.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called the agreement a “quantum leap in our collective defense”.

Spain’s leftwing socialist government has publicly stated it will not meet the 5% target. Belgium and Slovakia have also expressed reservations, though they did sign the declaration.

French President Emmanuel Macron voiced concern over the financial burden, especially in light of U.S. trade tariffs.

The spending hikes will mean hundreds of billions of dollars in new defense spending for Canada and Europe over the next decade. Analysts say it will bolster deterrence against Russia, modernize aging military infrastructure, and expand NATO’s capabilities in cyber and space domains.

Brandon Moseley

ILHAN OMAR:

The annoying and rabidly anti-Semitic squad member from Somalia recently decried that the United States is becoming one of the worst counties in the world. She said that she grew up in a dictatorship and doesn’t remember witnessing anything like what she sees in America today. Wow. Do you think she simply doesn’t remember or know about the 300,000 to over 1 million people who have died in the Somali civil war(s) that have been raging basically non-stop since 1988? Yeah, that is America today. Just go to travel.state.gov and look at the Somali travel advisory. It starts with, “*Do not travel to Somalia due to crime, terrorism, civil unrest, health, kidnapping, piracy, and lack of availability of routine consular services.*” And it goes down from there. Over 50% of the population lives in poverty and is a country that doesn’t produce anything of note outside of agricultural items. If you are in the market for some frankincense and myrrh (for real), that is your go to place I suppose. I am not knocking Somalia but to say that America is becoming worse than them is insane; just like Omar. But I will be willing to buy Omar a one-way ticket back to Somalia if she can never set foot in America again. I am sure there is at least one village in Somalia that is missing their idiot and they would like to get her back.

¹ www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/walz-calls-for-decency-after-minnesota-shootings-it-s-not-about-mean-tweets/ar-AA1GOhfg?ocid=BingNewsSerp
² <https://nypost.com/2025/06/16/us-news/gov-tim-walz-walks-back-call-for-meaner-dems-after-minnesota-assassinations/>

Rob Tate

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

Republican Matt Woods wins big in Senate District 5 special election

June 24, 2025 – JASPER, AL – State Representative Matt Woods (R-Jasper) defeated Democrat Ryan Cagle to win the special election of State Senate District 5.



The unofficial results show Rep. Matt Woods (R) with 7,707 votes, 86 percent. Ryan Cagle (D) finished second with 1,238 votes - 13.81 percent. 17 votes went to write-in candidates - .19 percent.

Woods told the Tuscaloosa News, “I look forward to being a conservative voice for all of District 5. We’ve got a lot of good things happening in Alabama and I’m going to work hard to ensure we remain a conservative, pro-growth, and pro-freedom state”.

Alabama Republican Party Communications Director Jeannie Burniston released the following statement:

"Congratulations to Senator-elect Matt Woods on tonight's victory. During his time in the House of Representatives, Matt has been a consistent fighter for conservative values and protecting Alabama families. From championing the REACH Act, which gives adults another pathway to earn a high school diploma, to passing the Alabama Child Protection Act, which criminalizes the use of AI to generate child pornography-Matt Woods has proven he's serious about getting results. We're excited to see his continued leadership and impact in the Alabama Senate."

SD5 includes Fayette, Lamar, and Walker Counties, as well as portions of Jefferson and Tuscaloosa Counties.

This seat became vacant earlier this year when former Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Reed (R-Jasper) resigned to join Governor Kay Ivey's (R) cabinet as Secretary of Workforce. Reed is tasked with overseeing the transition of the Alabama Department of Labor into the Department of Workforce.

Rep. Matt Woods' election to the Senate means that his House seat now becomes vacant. Gov. Ivey will set the dates for qualifying for the special election to fill the vacancy in HD13.

The crushing win demonstrates both the personal popularity of Woods and the strong preference for the Republican Party in SD5.

Governor Ivey Announces \$23.2 Million in SEEDS Grants to Boost Alabama’s Economic Growth

June 24, 2025 – MONTGOMERY, AL – Governor Kay Ivey on Tuesday announced that applications for the third round of Alabama’s Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) grant program will open on July 1, 2025, with a total of \$23.2 million available to support site assessment and development efforts across Alabama.

The SEEDS program, administered by the Alabama Department of Commerce in partnership with the Economic Development Partnership of Alabama (EDPA), is designed to strengthen the state’s portfolio of industrial sites, enhancing Alabama’s competitiveness for high-impact economic development projects.

Once the application window opens, communities can apply for SEEDS funding via a portal on the EDPA website until the deadline of September 30, 2025.

The first two rounds of SEEDS funding supported a total of 56 sites statewide, helping local communities and economic development organizations advance critical site readiness efforts.

“Alabama continues to be a leader in economic development, and a key factor in that success is ensuring we have development-ready sites available,” said Governor Ivey. “The SEEDS program is a smart, strategic investment in our future — and I look forward to seeing even more communities benefit from this next round of funding.”

In the third round of funding, SEEDS will provide support for both site assessment grants to evaluate the potential of new or underutilized sites and site development grants to fund targeted improvements that increase a site's readiness for industrial projects.

“We’ve seen firsthand how SEEDS funding can transform promising properties into serious contenders for job-creating projects,” said Commerce Secretary Ellen McNair. “This next round of funding will allow us to build on that momentum and continue preparing Alabama’s communities for long-term growth.”

EDPA plays a key role in administering the SEEDS program and ensuring that investments align with the state’s broader economic development strategy.

“We are proud to partner with Governor Ivey and the Alabama Department of Commerce to help communities unlock the full potential of their industrial sites,” said EDPA President Miller Girvin. “SEEDS is making a real difference on the ground, and we’re excited to work with local leaders to make Round Three another success.”

EDPA said applicants who need a site consultation or have questions should contact Greg Blalock at gblalock@edpa.org or (205)943-4750.

What Constitutes TREASON?

Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.

The Congress shall have Power to declare the Punishment of Treason, but no Attainder of Treason shall work Corruption of Blood, or Forfeiture except during the Life of the Person attainted.

U. S. Constitution
Article 3





ICE

ICE Conducts Raids Across Alabama

June 24, 2025 — There have been a series of immigration enforcement actions by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) across Alabama this week.

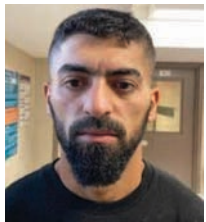
U.S. Senator Katie Britt (R-Alabama) said on social media, “The Biden Administration knowingly released Iranian illegal aliens into the interior of our country for four years. Open border policies don’t just threaten our communities, they put our national security at risk. Grateful @POTUS continues to

secure our border and our nation.”

ICE has arrested 11 Iranian nationals across eight states, because they pose a potential security threat. One of those was arrested on Tuesday in Locust Fork in Blount County. He reportedly was still carrying his Islamic Republic of Iran Army identification card in his possession.

FOX10 News is reporting that federal agents have conducted an illegal immigration raid at the new Gulf Shores High School construction site on the Foley Beach expressway. The FBI confirms that 37 suspected illegal immigrants have been taken into federal custody.

The Birmingham Times, the detentions occurred at the Intensive Supervision Appearance Program (ISAP) office in Birmingham’s Southside, where undocumented immigrants regularly report as part of an alternative-to-detention program. Multiple individuals were taken into custody during these visits.



The man arrested in Locust Fork, Alabama on June 22, 2025, was identified as Ribvar Karimi, a former Iranian Army sniper who served from 2018 to 2021. According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Karimi entered the United States legally in October 2024 on a K-1 visa, which is issued to foreign nationals engaged to be married to American citizens.

Karimi married his American fiancée, Morgan Gardner, in January 2025, but failed to adjust his immigration status as required by law. He is currently being held in ICE custody pending removal proceedings. His wife, who is seven months pregnant, has publicly defended him, stating that he is a proud immigrant who “loves America” and had no malicious intent.

Federal officials have not publicly linked Karimi to any specific terrorist activity, but the Department of Homeland Security has emphasized a renewed focus on

identifying and removing individuals with potential ties to hostile foreign governments.

In Gulf Shores the FBI, in coordination with Gulf Shores Police, Orange Beach Police, and the Baldwin County Sheriff’s Office, detained 37 individuals during the raid. The operation was described as a federal immigration inspection, and those arrested were transported to a federal facility for processing.

The City of Gulf Shores and Gulf Shores City Schools issued a joint statement clarifying that the construction site is under the control of a private general contractor, distancing themselves from the enforcement action.

ICE confirmed the arrests in Birmingham, stating that those detained had final orders of removal issued by immigration judges and had failed to comply.

“If you are in the country illegally and a judge has ordered you to be removed, that is precisely what will happen,” ICE said in a statement. The agency emphasized that the ISAP program is designed to ensure compliance with immigration court rulings and that enforcement actions are now being carried out under stricter guidelines reinstated by the Trump administration.

Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-Alabama) acknowledged the operations, saying they are not limited to Birmingham but are occurring across the state. “If you’re here undocumented, you do need to check in at your local office. If you don’t, you’re breaking the law by not showing up,” Tuberville said.

The raids have drawn sharp criticism from immigrant advocacy groups.

Lisa Moyer of Bham Migra Watch told reporters the detentions “a betrayal of trust,” noting that those detained were already participating in supervised release programs.

Allison Hamilton is with the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice.

Hamilton said, “The message is very clear that immigrants are not welcome or wanted in this country”.

The raids come amid a broader national crackdown on undocumented immigration. Over the weekend

ICE has recently conducted high-profile enforcement actions at construction sites in other parts of the country—including Tallahassee, Florida, where over 100 undocumented workers were detained in late May 2025. These operations are part of a broader federal initiative targeting unauthorized employment in the construction industry, particularly under the renewed immigration enforcement priorities of the Trump administration.

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency—ICE—was created in 2003 when the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was created after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. It combined the old Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with borders and customs enforcement into one agency.

Support YOUR Local Law Enforcement

Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office

(334) 832-4980

◆ www.montgomerysheriff.com



Sheriff
Derrick Cunningham



Chief Deputy
Kevin Murphy



JOIN THE MCSO CERT TEAM!

Date: 07/14/2025 6:00 PM
07/19/2025 1:00 PM

Sheriff Cunningham and the staff of the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office would like to invite Montgomery County Citizens to participate in our Citizen’s Academy. The academy meets for six (6) consecutive weeks, but only one (1) night per week for one (1) hour. The participants of the Citizens Academy are guaranteed to have fun while learning about the duties and obligations of the Sheriff’s Office. The six week program will probably be one of the most enjoyable times of your life. While our ultimate goal is to make you aware of what is going on in your community, how to report suspicious activities/crimes as well as how things are handled from a law enforcement perspective, I can assure you fun will be had by all who are in attendance. I look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

Training Classes:

Patrol - The functions and responsibilities of the deputies.

K-9 - See how we train and learn what we look for with the use of our canine partners.

Sex Offenders - See the who, why, and where Sex Offenders live and their requirements.

Legal Division - How to obtain a pistol permit and how legal papers are processed.

Civil Process - Serving papers from the court and the eviction process.

Warrants/Fugitives - Learn the warrant process and how fugitives are brought to justice and held accountable for their actions.

Detention Facility - The “Jail” - take a closer look at how the jail operates and the arrest procedure. You don’t want to miss this night!

Investigations - Take an inside look from arrival, to processing the crime scene, to making the arrest. This will be a night you will never forget!

Class Demonstration Day - Firing some of the weapons and experience the Firearms Training Simulator.

How to Enroll:

Applications can be submitted at our website:

www.MontgomerySheriff.com

Applications can also be requested by calling the Administrative Office

at **334-832-7113**

or in person at 100 S. Lawrence St.



The Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office (MCSO) will be hosting a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training class at the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office. CERT is a program that trains volunteers in basic disaster response skills. It allows civilians to help their community prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters, as well as assisting the MCSO in times of need.

Class Dates:

July 14-18 (Monday-Friday) 6 PM – 9 PM
July 19th (Saturday) 9 AM – 1 PM

If you would like to become a CERT team member or have questions about the program, please contact Sgt. Garner with MCSO Support Services at 334-832-2515.

Requirements:

- Resident of Montgomery County
- At least 21 years of age or older
- Pass a criminal background check
- Attend weekly meetings

Autauga County SHERIFF’S OFFICE

(334) 361-2500

162 W 4th Street,
Prattville, AL

www.autaugasheriff.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

Lowndes County SHERIFF’S OFFICE

(334) 548-2222

1 S Washington St
Hayneville, AL 36040

[www.facebook.com/
LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/](http://www.facebook.com/LowndesCountyAlabamaSheriffsOffice/)



Sheriff
Chris West

POLICE OFFICERS PRAYER

Lord I ask for courage
Courage to face and
Conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me where
Others will not go...
I ask for strength
Strength of a body to protect
others and strength of spirit to
lead others...
I ask for dedication.

Dedication to my job to do it
well.
Dedication to my community,
to keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern for
others who trust me and
Compassion for those who
need me...
and please Lord through it all
Be at my side.

AMEN



NOTICE!

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE
AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND
UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG
WITH CURRENT NEWS!
www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



We Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette
as much as our Veterans!

**Gunnery Sergeant
Michael Martin Vicente**

**Colonel
Francis Scott Key**

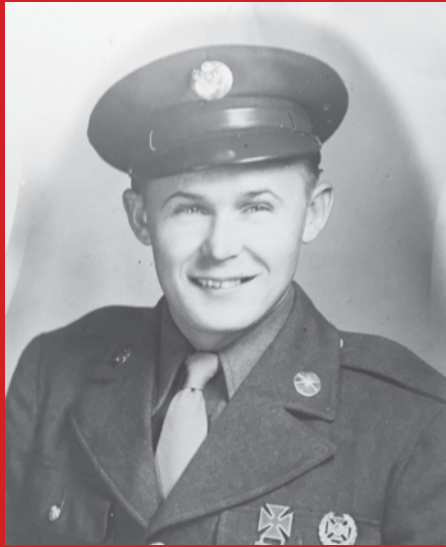
**Chief Master Sergeant
Donald McAndrew**

Dr. Martha P. Simmons

*God
Bless
the
USA!*

Support our local
Veterans
organizations!

WWII Veteran Robert S. Kohn Will Celebrate 103 years!



WWII Veteran Robert Shafton Kohn will celebrate his 103rd birthday July 28, 2025. He fought in the U.S. Army Infantry in the Battles of the Bulge and the Rhineland
His article was published in the December 2019 issue.

WWII Veteran James O. Dozier Celebrates 100th Birthday

On May 31, 2025, the 100th birthday on June 2, 2025 of the WWII veteran, James O. Dozier, was celebrated at the Crossroads Community Church in Elmore, AL. Dozier served as an artillery cannon crewman in the liberation of Europe from the Nazis.



American Red Cross volunteer, Martha Poole Simmons, honored James O. Dozier at his 100th birthday celebration.

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



June 9, 2025 - WASHINGTON, AL. – Today, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) released a video honoring U.S. Marine Corps Seargent Curt Griffith as the June “Veteran of the Month.” Excerpts from Sen. Tuberville’s remarks can be found below, and complete remarks can be found here.

“Our veterans have a unique way of turning hardship into opportunities. No one displays that better than Sergeant Curt Griffith of Florence, Alabama.

Curt experienced tragedy at a young age, losing his dad when he was only six years old. Despite growing up in a single-parent household, he found a sense of community and purpose in the Marine Corps. And now, he helps bring that same feeling of community to children in the Shoals.

Curt also put his military skills to use—particularly getting involved with the local Marine Corps League and Toys for Tots charity. Thanks to Curt’s leadership, the program has expanded to five counties in Northeast Alabama: Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Winston, and Marion. The program helps meet needs of children in the local community, especially at Easter and Christmas. Through Curt’s leadership, the children Toys for Tots serves has grown its reach from 200 to almost 2,000 children in just a few short years. He works around the clock each year, to help remind children they are not alone.

Curt is a great example of what strong leadership and a will to serve those in need can do. It’s my honor to recognize Curt Griffith as the ‘June Veteran of the Month.’”

Senator Tuberville recognizes a different Alabama veteran each month for their service and contribution to their community. Constituents can nominate an Alabama veteran and submit their information to Senator Tuberville’s office for consideration by emailing press_office@tuberville.senate.gov.

Senator Tommy Tuberville represents Alabama in the United States Senate and is a member of the Senate Armed Services, Agriculture, Veterans’ Affairs, HELP and Aging Committees.



VETERANS JULY BIRTHDAYS

James C. Poole Jr.....	July 1st	Willam L. Struthers.....	July 12th
Jerry L. Gantt.....	July 3rd	Gilbert R. Monismith.....	July13th
James E. Salminen.....	July 3rd	David Headley.....	July 17th
Michael Springer.....	July 4th	J.R. Jimenez.....	July 18th
William C. Stewart.....	July 5th	Cheryl D. Grinstead.....	July 23rd
Jerry L. Sailors.....	July 8th	Charles W. Ashley.....	July 24th
Bill Allison.....	July 9th	Christopher Laneaux.....	July 24th
Raymond Keel.....	July 9th	James A. Campbell.....	July 27th
Donald D. Lehman.....	July 10th	Robert S. Kohn.....	July 28th
John A. Brown.....	July 11th		

In Memory



Petty Officer Third Class Peggy Holley
passed away May 26, 2025 at the age of 102.
She served as a WAVE during WWII.
Her article was published in the February 2023 issue.

DAR Celebrates Flag Day and the Birthday of the U.S. Army

The Captain William Bibb Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) proudly hosted a Flag Day Tea at the Trinity Episcopal Church at Wetumpka, AL, on June 14th commemorating two powerful milestones in American history, the adoption of the United States flag and the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army.

Held in a spirit of reverence and patriotism, the event brought together members of DAR, distinguished guests, veterans, and community partners for a program that honored the enduring legacy of both the American flag and the Army’s centuries of service and sacrifice. The program opened with the Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard presenting the Colors setting a solemn and dignified tone. Attendees heard greetings from Alabama State Regent Malinda Williams, NSDAR Vice President General Patrice Donnelly and Lydia Lanford, President of the Alabama Society of the Children of the American Revolution (C.A.R.). Special recognition was given to numerous state officers of the Alabama Society DAR and members from multiple DAR chapters across the region in attendance.

Featured at the event was the presentation of the Hannah Arnett White Medal to Earl Gillian in recognition of his outstanding cooperation and service to the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Hannah White Arnett Medal is one of DAR's newest recognitions and was presented to him by his wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Kathleen Tobias who are members of the DAR. The heartfelt

moment underscored the spirit of gratitude and recognition that defined the day.

A highlight of the afternoon was a moving address by Colonel Charles “Tony” Bonasera, U.S. Army, Retired, whose distinguished 37 year military career and continued dedication to service inspired all in attendance. His reflections underscored the event’s theme of remembrance, commitment and national pride. The program concluded with a unifying moment as guests stood together with small flags in hand and sang “You’re a Grand Old Flag,” led by musician Troy Helms whose performance added a heartfelt touch to the day’s celebrations.

With deep appreciation for veterans and a steadfast dedication to honoring American history, the Captain William Bibb Chapter reaffirmed DAR’s mission: to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism for generations to come. The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) is a women’s service organization whose members can trace their lineage to an individual who contributed to securing American independence during the Revolutionary War. Today’s DAR is dynamic and diverse with over 185,000 members in 3,000 chapters in the United States and abroad. DAR members annually provide millions of hours of volunteer service to their local communities across the country and world. DAR chapters participate in projects to promote historic preservation, education and patriotism. Over one million members have joined the organization since its founding in 1890.



Alabama DAR Officers L to R: Melanie McDaniel - Organizing Secretary; Sharon Deaton - 1st Vice-Regent; Malinda Williams - State Regent; Rebecca Rid-dick - Chaplain; Laura Murray – Librarian:



Sons of the American Revolution Color Guard



Senior Master Sergeant Jeremiah Daniel Bybee: Age 43



Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal with one Service Star, Humanitarian Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal with one “N” Device and one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air and Space Overseas Service Ribbon Short, Air and Space Overseas Ribbon Long with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Air and Space Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air and Space Longevity Service Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters, USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon with one Service Star, Air and Space Training Ribbon, Air Force Basic Training Ribbon and NATO ISAF Medal.

SMSgt Bybee was born October 11, 1981 to his parents, Eric and Carolyn Bybee, in Great Falls, Montana. Both of his parents served in the Air Force with his father serving 10 years on active duty and his mother serving three years on active duty and four years on Reserve duty. He is the third generation of his family who has served in the U.S. Air Force. Because of his parents’ service in the Air Force, the family often moved to various assignments during his childhood, and even after his family returned to civilian life, his family moved often. Finally, the family settled in Jonesboro, GA, where he reached the rank of Life Scout in Boy Scouts and participated in drama, swimming and literary competitions at Mount Zion High School graduating in 2000.

SMSgt Bybee’s military service began with his volunteering to serve in the U.S. Air Force beginning October 10, 2000. He completed six weeks of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, and he was assigned to work in Aircraft Maintenance. He was sent to Sheppard AFB, TX, for training in maintenance of aircraft weapons systems for 16 weeks. After completion of training, he was given a permanent assignment to the Weapons Section at the 79th Aircraft Maintenance Unit during April 2001-March 2011. He began this type of service at Shaw AFB, South Carolina. While there, he experienced six deployments. During February 2002 to May 2002, he served as a Weapons Load Crew Member with the 379th Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia. During August 2004 to March 2005, he served as a Force Protection Specialist with the 469th Air Expeditionary Wing, at Alt AL Salem, Kuwait. During November 2006 to January 2007, he served as the Maintenance Debrief Element Chief with the 379th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, at Al Dahlfra, United Arab Emirates. During November 2007 to April 2008, he served

as the Weapons Load Crew Team Chief with the 379th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Unit at Kunsan Air Base, Republic of Korea, and during August 2009 to March 2010, he served with the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan.

SMSgt Bybee then had three permanent changes of assignment, followed by one deployment and one more permanent change of assignment before retirement. During March 2011 to March 2013, he served as weapons expediter in aircraft maintenance at Kusan Air Base, Korea. During March 2012 to March 2015, he served as Load Monitor Element Noncommissioned Officer in Charge as nuclear surety specialist with the 703d Munitions Support Squadron at Volkel Air Base, the Netherlands. During March 2015 to February 2019, he served a permanent assignment as the Weapons Section Chief 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron in Aviano Air Base, Italy. During August 2016 to February 2017, he deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa as the Senior Enlisted Leader, 510th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron. He then served with the 100th Air Refueling Wing, Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom during February 2019 to October 2019 serving as First Sergeant. He then served as a member of the 488th Intel Support Squadron out of Offutt Air Force Base, NE, during October 2019 to May 2020 as a First Sergeant located in England. Next, he served at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, United Kingdom during May 2020 to July 2021 serving as First Sergeant, and his last assignment was at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, as First Sergeant Academy Instructor during July 2021 to Oct 1 2023. SMSgt Bybee retired from military service October 1, 2023.

SMSgt Bybee used the Air Force Tuition Assistance Program and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Military History from the American Military University of West Virginia in 2017. He is currently enrolled in the Veterans Readiness and Employment Program, a program for disabled veterans to go to school to be trained for a job to get back into the work force. Since 2023, he has been the Chief Operations Officer for GameDay for Heroes, an organization that hosts events for veterans such as the Mike McKeen Veterans Memorial Golf Tournament and Birmingham Bowl Veterans Experience. The goal of GameDay for Heroes is to “make veterans better civilians.” He is a member of the American Legion Post 2019. He is also a volunteer with Troop Eight of the Boy Scouts of America serving as Committee Chair. SMSgt Bybee and his wife, Christi, have been married 23 years, and they have three sons.

SMSgt Bybee’s conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Air Force has meant to him are: *“Military service was not just a job or a career; it was an amazing opportunity to better myself, my family, and everyone around me all while being able to provide service to my country as a way to say ‘thank you’ to everyone who came before me.”* He is not worried about how people will remember him, but he is concerned about people with whom he has interacted. He believes that he should leave things better than he has found them. He doesn’t want people to remember him for him, but he wants people to remember the people that he has touched.





Chief Master Sergeant Robert E. Dinsmore: Age 55



Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and NATO Medal for Yugoslavia.

CMSgt Dinsmore was born September 5, 1969 to his parents, John and Eleanor Dinsmore, in Dayton, Ohio, and he was reared there. He graduated from Bethel Local High School in Tipp City, Ohio, in 1988. He volunteered for military service and entered service in the U.S. Air Force November 10, 1988.

CMSgt Dinsmore's military service began with his completion of six weeks of Basic Military Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB). After completion of the Aircraft Armament Systems Specialist Technical Training Course at Lowry AFB, CO, in March 1989, he then began working as an aircraft armament systems specialist and retrained as an MH-53J/M aerial gunner in 1994. He worked as a bomb loader on the F-15, a twin-engine all weather fighter airplane, the F-4 Phantom II, a two-seater twin engine all-weather long-range suppressor jet interceptor and ighter-bomber, and the B-52 Boeing Stratofortress, a long-range sub-sonic jet-powered strategic bomber.

He served at Kadina Air Base, Japan, for two years during April 1989 to April 1991. Then he served at Loring A.F.B., Maine, with the 44th Munitions Maintenance Squadron for one year during April 1991 to June 1992 as a load crew member loading the B-52. He returned for a second deployment to Kadina Air Base, Japan for two years loading the F-15 for two years during June 1992-June 1994.

CMSgt Dinsmore switched from loading bombs to working as an aerial gunner on the Sikorsky MH-53 J/M PAVE Low helicopter, a long-range special operations and combat search and rescue helicopter, with the 20th Special Operations Squadron at the Air Force installation, Herbert Field, FL, for two years during July 1994 to November 1996. This was followed by assignment to RAF Mildenhall, England, for four years during November 1996 to November 2000 with the 21st Special Operations Squadron RAF continuing to work on the MH-53 helicopter as an instructor. After extending his service in the U. S. Air Force, he served at Kirtland AFB, N.M., for four years. First, he worked during November 2000 to September 2003 with the 551st Special Operations Squadron as the MH-53J Evaluator Aerial Gunner. Second, he served there during September 2003 to July 2004 as the MH-53J Aerial Gunner Aircrew Training Device Manager and Instructor Aerial Gunner with the 58th Training Squadron. Third, he served during July 2004 to November 2004 as the HH-60G Instructor Aerial Gunner with the 512th Rescue Squadron. He then served at Nellis A.F.B, NV, during December 2004 to December 2007 working as the Flight Superintendent and HH-60G Evaluator Aerial Gunner on the HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter, a four-blade, twin engine medium-lift utility military helicopter used in combat rescue operations. He then returned to serve five more years at Kirkland AFB, NM. First, he served during December 2007 to September 2009 as Operations/Squadron Superintendent and HH-60G Evaluator Aerial Gunner with the 512st Rescue Squadron. Second, he served during September 2009 to February 2012 as the Superintendent of Staff and HH-60G Evaluator Aerial Gunner with the 58th Special Operations Wing. Third, he served during February 2012 to March 2013 as the Squadron Superintendent/Chief Enlisted Manager and HH-60G Evaluator Special Missions Aviator. He continued serving as the Chief Enlisted Manager and AC-130W Aerial Gunner the 73rd Special Operations at Cannon A.F.B., N.M. for 18 months during March 2013 to October 2014. His last place of service was at Barksdale AFB, LA, with the Headquarters Air Force Global Strike Command for four years during October 2014 to December 2018 as the AFGSC Career Enlisted Aviator Major-Command Functional Manager on the Bell UH-1 Twin Huey, a twin-engine medium sized helicopter performing Intercontinental Ballistic Missile support and security missions. CMSgt Dinsmore retired there December 1, 2018.

CMSgt Dinsmore's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Military means *to him are: "Serving in the military definitely gave me a sense of pride of defending our country and a sense of purpose. My jobs in helicopters, special operations, search and rescue and nuclear defense were all critical to someone's life at some point. The feeling that I was doing something that was bigger than myself was amazing. That is why I kept going to work every day and stayed 30 years. My whole life has been spent in service in the military, as a voluntary fire-fighter and an EMT for a while. After I got out of military service, I wanted to continue serving, and that is why I started Operation Combat Bikesaver, now reimagined as ETS (Veteran Education Training & Support). I wanted to give back and to make a difference in someone else's life."* He would like people to remember him as caring and as being a provider.

While in the military, CMSgt Dinsmore used the G.I. Bill and received a B.A. Degree in Business Management from Santa Fe College of Art and Design in 2003, and he received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 2008. When CMSgt Dinsmore retired from military service, he again used the G.I. Bill and received an Associate Degree in Machine Shop from Central AL Community College in 2022. Since then, he has worked as a machinist at All Phases and Industries, a trusted solution for North American buyers of fabricated, cast and machined metal products, at Mt. Megs, AL.



In 2019, CMSgt Dinsmore started Operation Bikesaver. This then became VETS (Veteran Education, Training & Support, and its mission is to provide support programs for veterans that decrease suicide rates and improve mental health while enhancing their well-being with education and engaged training in the trade arts. Veterans lose something when they leave military service. VETS has created programs to regain some of what the veterans have lost. The focus is on camaraderie, teamwork, friendship and reclaiming that incredible sense of purpose. A hands-on approach is taken by using motors, metals, minds and music to get veterans off of the couch and into a caring environment where they can learn, be involved and take charge of their own lives again. The VETS programs are offered in an alcohol and drug-free space.

The programs include:

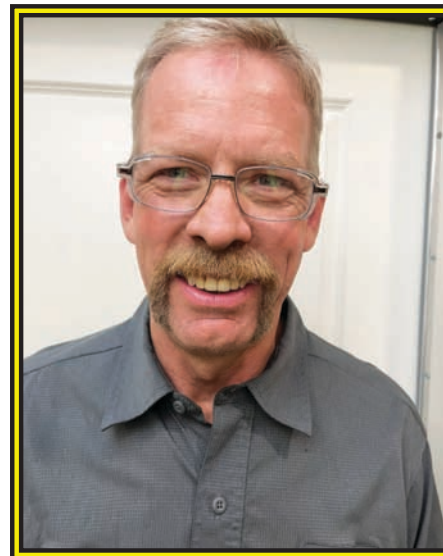
- (1) **Shop Day** where veterans work on cars, motorcycles and anything mechanical to repair or customize them into a unique one-of-a-kind vehicle.
- (2) **Metal Night** focusing on welding, machining and bending metal to create tools, works of art or to repair broken things.
- (3) **Peer Support Group** with a safe veteran-only environment to heal and move forward in life.
- (4) **Music Night** making and listening to music which is healing so a musical jam session is offered where veterans can hang out, learn to play a chord or two or simply explore music and fun.

Veterans can come and learn how to work on motorcycles without paying anything because funds are provided by donations and grants. When a veteran earns a motorcycle build, he is provided with a \$2000.00 budget which can be used to do anything the veteran wants to a motorcycle or his desired vehicle. Metal Night is on Thursday 6:00-8:00. On Sunday 8:00-5:00, veterans can be involved in maintenance and customization of motorcycles and cars, and a free lunch is served to veterans.

The site is located at
2711 Kent Road, Tallassee, AL.

Further information can be obtained at the web site:
www.vetsprograms.org or by e-mailing to: **info@vetesprogram.org**

CMSgt Dinsmore and his wife, Stephanie, have been married nine years. They enjoy traveling via a two-seater motorcycle and seeing the country. He is serving as the Senior Vice Commander of the VFW Post 5035 in Tallassee, AL, a member of the American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans and the River Region Veterans Coalition in Montgomery, AL.



Sergeant Major Barbara Anne Meek: Age 84



Command Sergeant Major Barbara Anne Meek served 22 years in the U. S. military including active duty in the U.S. Army and duty in the Army Reserve and National Guard. She received the following medals, decorations, citations and ribbons: Army Commendation Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Reserve Achievement Medal, Georgia National Guard Distinguished Service Medal and Guard/Reserve Readiness Medal.

CSM Meek was born January 23, 1941 in Prattville, AL, to her parents, Raymond and Ella Mae Meek. Her father served as a Sergeant in the U.S. Army in Europe at the

Battle of the Bulge during WWII. Her brother, Col Donald Meek, served 34 years in the U.S. Army including two combat tours in Vietnam. She was reared in Prattville and graduated from Prattville High School in 1959 and then attended the University of AL for two years. She then was employed with the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA, where she rose through the ranks to a GS-14 the senior civilian grade in Civil Service. She received a BS Degree in Biological Sciences and Secondary Education from Auburn University in 1977.

CSM Meek at age of 31 volunteered for duty in the U.S. Army beginning November 7, 1972 and served on active duty for 1.5 years until she transferred to serve in the Army Reserve in April 1975. The rest of her military service was in the National Guard. She began as a basic soldier then as a combat medic and on to a clinical specialist. She retired from military service in 1988. CSM Meek retired from employment with the CDC in 1995. At age 55, she served as an EMS paramedic in Dekalb County, Georgia. She then worked with Atlanta's Caldwell Bank as a realtor. Following the September 11, 2001 attack, she volunteered to serve with the Georgia Department of Defense known as the Georgia State Defense Force where she worked with the Training and Doctrine Command. She was promoted to the rank of Command Sergeant Major. Then the CDC recalled her for employment as a contractor. She retired from this and all employment in 2017. Since employment, CSM Meek has been a member of the American Legion, the VFW and the Catholic church.

CSM Meek states that serving in the U.S. military means: *"It means giving back to a country that has been good to me from the time that I was a baby to the final stages of my life. The camaraderie of being with people that have been there and done the walk were benefits."* She would like people to remember her as being a patriot.



RADICAL LEFTISTS WANT TO SEE AMERICA FAIL

COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA



What we have seen on display in California this week is complete anarchy—and a total embarrassment. It’s un-American, unpatriotic, and is rooted in Marxism. But we shouldn’t be surprised. The Democrat party has been taken over by radical leftists who hate this country and want to destroy our way of life. They want to see America fail, and this week’s riots in Los Angeles, along with other blue cities like New York and Chicago, are just the latest example of their plans to destroy this country.

All of this, by the way, is because President Trump has the audacity to enforce the law and deport criminals who are not supposed to be here in the first place. Deporting criminals is not a particularly controversial topic either—97% of Americans support deporting criminals who have been convicted of violent crimes and a majority of Americans believe that illegals who have committed any crime should be deported. Well, I have news for you: coming here illegally is a crime in itself.

This country was built upon generations of hardworking immigrants who came here the right way in hopes of a better life. But a nation without laws isn’t a real nation, and that means we have to enforce our immigration laws.

Unfortunately, it appears that California Governor Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass don’t agree. I’ve seen third world countries run better than California under Governor Newsom’s leadership. Crime is out of control, taxes are through the roof, and there are so many regulations it makes your head spin. Instead of addressing these issues, Governor Newsom seems to be more concerned with going viral on social media and boosting his future presidential campaign than keeping his fellow citizens safe. And Mayor Bass’ virtue-signaling press conferences have been no better.

It’s unacceptable—and if you ask me, I think both Governor Newsom and Mayor Bass should be arrested for deliberately failing to follow the law. Los Angeles is literally up in flames, but these two are more concerned with protecting their images. They have allowed violent riots

to rage on for days, which are in direct opposition to President Trump’s orders to deport criminals. That makes them complicit.

You might be asking yourself—what incentive do these “leaders” have to sit back and do nothing while Los Angeles burns to the ground? Gavin Newsom and Karen Bass do not believe in the rule of law. There are plenty of “normal” Democrats who believe in this country and support our Constitution. But they are not the ones who are in charge.

Over the past few years, the Democrat party has experienced a hostile takeover from a small but vocal group of fringe lunatics who have forced the party further to the left. That’s why Democrats continue to find themselves on the wrong side of every 80/20 issue. I don’t know if it is Trump Derangement Syndrome or some other disease, but their brains have been broken ever since Donald Trump entered the political arena. We’ve seen several rounds of this type of rioting behavior since then. Whether it was during President Trump’s inauguration in 2017, the "social justice" riots in 2020, or the antisemitic protests we have seen on our college campuses since the October 7th terrorist attacks, riots are the new normal for the Democrat party.

These people hate Donald Trump and will do whatever it takes to derail him and his agenda. Over the past four years, Democrats did everything they could to prevent Donald Trump from running for president. They baselessly impeached him twice, slandered him, raided his home, had him arrested, and two deranged assassins even tried to take his life.

But despite all of that, President Trump was overwhelmingly reelected on November 5, 2024. 77 million Americans sent a clear message at the ballot box: enough is enough. A majority of this country did not just vote for President Trump—they also sent a clear REBUKE to the radical Democrat party. They rejected Democrats’ open borders, which have allowed fentanyl, rapists, murderers, and gang members to flood into our communities. They voted to restore law and order in this country. And they voted for mass deportations. In just five months, the Trump administration has already created the most secure border in history and is working around the clock to deport the millions of people who came here illegally under Joe Biden.

This is the United States of America. We are a nation of laws. We are not going to be intimidated by a few radicals who hate this country. We are certainly not going to sit on our hands while they burn our cities to the ground. That’s why President Trump deployed the military to restore law and order. If these anarchists who are rioting hate this country so much, they can leave.

God bless our President, and God bless our troops and law enforcement officers who are doing everything they can to keep Americans safe. That’s what real leadership looks like. Gavin Newsom should get off Twitter and take some notes.



American Red Cross Volunteering with Service to the Armed Forces



Volunteers carry out 90% of the humanitarian work of the Red Cross helping one displaced family or thousands providing care and comfort to an ill or injured service member or veteran, or teaching others how to respond to emergencies.
It’s through the efforts of ordinary people that the Red Cross can do extraordinary things.
The Red Cross responds to an emergency every eight minutes.

Volunteers are needed for the following positions in the Central AL area:

- Local Level VAVS Representative:** This leadership position is responsible for assisting the local representatives in supporting coordination between the Red Cross and the VA Health Care Facilities.
- Maxwell Health Clinic Volunteer:** This person provides assistance with tasks in a clinic setting and supports staff in a variety of tasks with patient care as well as enhance the morale of patients.
- Service to the Armed Forces-Event Volunteer:** This person supports the Services to the Armed Forces Department and assists with programs such as Military Stand-downs, Yellow Ribbon events, parades and other events.

To apply, please visit: www.redcross.org/volunteer

For more information: Contact: Sandy Zuiderhoek: phone: 334-201-1620 or E-mail: sandy.juiderhoek@redcross.org

Become a Central AL Veterans Healthcare System volunteer:

Contact: Tamerea Hendricks, Director of Volunteers; phone: 334-5490-0832 (His); 334-272-4670 (Operator); Voluntary Services: ext. 34748 (on 1st floor)
Address: 215 Perry Hill Road, Montgomery, AL 36108
Address for volunteering at VA Out Patient Clinic: 8105 Veterans Way, Montgomery, AL 36117.



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George Washington: The Greatest American

In the month of July, as we celebrate the birthday of our great country on July 4th, it is a great time to reflect on a person who many refer to as the **"Greatest American"**! But what, you might ask, made George Washington worthy of such a title? To be honest, after visiting his home and the Washington museum at Mount Vernon as well as studying more about his life, George Washington has become one of my hero's. So, I might be a bit biased. But here are a few reasons why I think he is the "Greatest American."

George Washington was known for his bravery in battle. As the leader and the General of the continental army during the Revolutionary War, he frequently led his troops into battle on the front lines and did so with such courage and fearlessness that he inspired his men to fight even in the face of great danger, adversity and unspeakable odds. His ability to rally the American troops by his bravery and courage no doubt impacted the outcome of the Revolutionary War beyond measure. In one battle for example, Washington had two horses shot out from under him and four bullet holes in his coat while riding up and down the lines to rally the troops. It is not an overstatement to say that there would be no United States of America and, therefore, no July 4th celebrations without the bravery and courage of George Washington!

Washington is also considered the **"Father of the Country"** because of his great leadership in the founding of America. He was a visionary leader who had a clear picture of the future of the United States, and he worked hard and sacrificed everything to achieve that vision. He was a thinker and a planner who worked on strategies which would empower the United States to thrive and become a very successful country. We are living everyday in George Washington's dream and vision for this country that became a reality because of his visionary leadership.

He was also a servant leader who never sought his own fame and glory. Washington always involved other leaders and recognized their great contributions to the cause. Great leaders always surround themselves with very talented and gifted people to accomplish the goals that are critical to the cause. After serving two terms as President having been elected unanimously both times, there were



many who wanted him to stay on as President and run for a third term. But Washington chose to set a precedent for all future Presidents, and he stepped down to return to his farm in Mount Vernon. Washington was making a huge statement to all Americans and to the world that we are democracy, and we will be lead by elected leaders and not by Kings or tyrants.

And perhaps most importantly, Washington walked with great integrity and was known for being a person of character who always kept his word and sought to do the right thing. He practiced self discipline and was respected by others for being truthful and honest in all situations. He also did not tolerate people who were untrustworthy or people who lied or sought to manipulate others for their own gain. He expected those around him to always speak the truth and to be loyal.

As we prepare to celebrate our country's birthday on the Fourth of July, and as we seek to enjoy all our country has to offer this Summer, I pray we will remember the "Greatest American" and seek to emulate him in all that we do and in the way we live and treat each other.

One place you may want to consider visiting this Summer is Washington's beautiful and well preserved house and 500 acre farm at Mount Vernon in Fairfax County, Virginia which was established in 1757. There is a wonderful restaurant, museum and store there plus you can visit the grave of George and Martha Washington as you explore the beautiful grounds of the property!

**Happy Fourth of July
and God Bless America!**



Today's Woman

Trisston's Tidbits:

By: Trisston Wright Burrows
Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



Have you ever seen an apple tree eat apples? Have you ever seen a fig tree eat a fig? I will answer that for you. No, you have not. Trees feed on water. The fruit that a tree produces is not for the tree. It's for whatever is passing by. Just like the gifts that the Lord has given to you are not for you. They are for other people. They are for the people passing by. Think about that for a minute.

"Feed Them"

John 21:17 tells us, *"The third time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?'"*

Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, *"Do you love me?"* He said, *"Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."* Jesus said, *"Feed my sheep."*

When you sustain yourself on living water, our Lord Jesus Christ, you will produce amazing fruit. But that fruit is not for you. That fruit is to give other people to bring them closer to the presence of God. That's why you can give somebody a gift when you're going through your own depression. That's why you can give somebody a word that completely turns their life around when your own life is in shambles.

God's going to put people in your life that are going to feed you with their fruit. God will also put you in somebody else's life for you to feed with yours.

My friend, never refuse an obligation to feed somebody else with the fruit that you've produced. There's a lot of hungry people out there. Feed them.

Many Blessings!



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Judge Peggy Givhan

With flags flying, festive bunting hanging, and balloons floating, all of this red, white, and blue screams the Fourth of July. And next year we will be celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the birth of our nation. So we can start this year and cheer for our country's birthday for a whole year. In honor of this celebration, I have a pot garden in my backyard with red, white and blue flowers. Several of the pots have bright red geraniums, others with blue salvia, and white vinca. Now that all of these flowers have matured, they are a stunning sight. And they will be the show case for the outdoor July 4th barbecue.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--TRUMPET VINE



easy to grow and attract hummingbirds and other pollinators. Another attribute is that they drop their dead heads. In my wanderings through the plants at the Big

Campsis radicans, trumpet vine, is also known as trumpet creeper, hummingbird vine, is a species of flowering vines native to Eastern North America. Known as a fast growing climber prized for its profusely red, pink, orange or yellow tubular flowers. It is well suited for zone 8 and is found in zones 5-9. Its popularity is found in its ability to cover trellises, garden gates, fences, and even trees QUICKLY. They are

Southern Gardening Potpourri for July



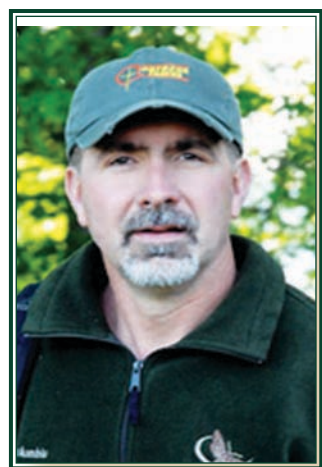
Box stores, I have not run across trumpet vine. However nurseries such as Green Thumb and Little Mountain Growers may be a resource. One caution is that trumpet vines are mildly toxic for humans and animals, so if you are handling the stems or flowers of this vine, wash your hands afterwards.

I am a big fan of planting trees, shrubs and other flowers that I term in "a sequence of bloom". This technique ensures that there is something blooming in your yard at all times. Now it is not rocket science to keep annuals and perennials blooming in spring and summer and into the fall. But many times, that is it until next spring. I went through my yard recently and wrote down by the month what I have blooming all year.

1. December-January.....Camellias and Sasanquas
2. February.....Kiss- me- at -the -Gate
3. March.....Forsythia, Dogwood, Redbud, Japanese Magnolia
4. April.....Spiraea, Cherry Trees
5. May.....Magnolia grandiflora, Catalpa, roses
6. June.through frost.....Crepe Myrtle, Vitex

And then there are a variety of vines, bulbs, and corms blooming through most of the year.

Happy Fourth of July and Good Gardening



Gary Miller

gary@outdoortruths.org

Many years ago, when I first started Outdoor Truths, I wanted to be connected with some hunting and fishing companies. I felt like any association would help me grow the influence I wanted to have. I was not only able to get some sponsorships, but I actually became a pro-staff member for a few of those companies as well. Even now, I hesitate to even mention the name "pro-staff" because it involves the word "pro." And if there is any word that I should never be associated with, it's the word pro. I laugh even as I write this. But for some reason, the real pros were busy with real pro stuff, so the trophy spike killer was available. So, there I was trying to act like I knew what I was talking about at places like Bass Pro Shops and trade shows. Now don't get me wrong, I never lied about my adventures or exaggerated my accomplishments, but I did stand

in a place where real pros stand and have to talk about things that real pros talk about. But I had to do it with surface level knowledge and experience. It was uncomfortable at times, and very humbling at times, but it was part of the responsibilities that came with the position. Silence and solitude were not an option. I didn't want silence or solitude, I just felt like I either had very little to offer, or that once I opened my mouth, my real status would be exposed. And this is also the dilemma for those of us who are Christians.

It stands out to me that after Jesus rose from the dead, He gave his disciples a

responsibility. He said, *"You will be my witnesses."* But then He gave them instructions to wait. Don't do anything. Just wait. There's no doubt they were ready to tell anyone who would listen, about what they had just witnessed. They needed no impetus. They needed no charge. They needed no motivational speech. And yet the instructions were to wait. But why? Because their witness needed to be empowered. It was that important. It needed to be empowered because they were not pros. In fact, they were not even beginners. They were the first. They had nothing. They knew nothing. And without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, their normal, simple, and even sinful lives would be exposed as having words with no transformational power. So, they waited, and then the Holy Spirit was given. And when the Holy Spirit came, it first showed up in the form of language. Each foreigner there heard the gospel in their own language, from people who otherwise couldn't speak that language. There's no doubt the first command to believers and the first purpose of the Holy Spirit was to give witness. Solitude and silence was and is not an option. I know you feel inadequate. I know your life is not the best example. I know you're not a pro. But you have the Spirit. And the Spirit takes your story and transforms it in the ears of the listeners. Jesus said, *"You will be my witnesses."* Not His pros. Because there are none.

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



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Patricia Killough
Community News

Home Town Community News

A New 483 Area Code is Coming to the Alabama 334 Region

Beginning July 23, 2025, you should begin using the new dialing procedure whenever you place a call from the 334 area code. If you forget and dial just 7 digits, your call will still be completed.



Her First Rodeo

It was her First rodeo! Recently, Virginia Beth Wyatt (like the Sheriff) Weatherly from Mountain Brook had her first birthday party complete with saddles, hay bales and even a boot licking birthday cake. Proud parents, Sarah Ross and Patrick, threw quite a shindig at their new home on the mountain top for the happy one year old. Over 75 friends and family gathered to celebrate and feast. A bouncy castle and tented tables were prepared in the lovely backyard, but a wicked storm popped up to dismantle the scene. So, the wagons were circled and all had a hoedown, down under, in a makeshift party room in the basement. The country band played without a "hitch" and the delicious spread was gobbled up. The party lasted much longer than the 15 minute summer storm ,but it will be ONE to remember!



ALA Alabama Girls 2025

had a successful week on the campus of The University of Alabama. 400 rising seniors participated in legislative sessions, campaigned for office and heard from outstanding speakers throughout the week. The delegates leave more patriotic, with a better understanding of what good citizenship means, and with LOTS of new friends. (Girls State is sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary)



Humane Society of Elmore County News

We are now into the hot summer days of summer so time to ensure your pets safety if they stay outside during the day while you are away. Shade, moving air if possible and plenty of clean, cool water are critical. Ensure your outside pet's water is not only in shade but that there is a LOT of water available to your pet. Plastic children's wading pools can work great as some dogs will also lay in the water to cool off. Inexpensive box fans can greatly help as well with moving shaded air but please make sure your dog(s) cannot chew on the power cord and make sure to routinely clean the fan to reduce any fire hazard from accumulated dust and hair.

Dog houses MUST be well shaded otherwise they are just mini-ovens that no pet will want to go into. If you think an unshaded doghouse is adequate shelter for your pet, just crawl in one this summer and see how you like it. Our wish, of course, is for dogs and cats to be inside your home so they can enjoy the air conditioning or fans with their human family. For those with 'short-nosed' dogs like Bulldogs, Pugs, Frenchies, Boston Terriers and more, keeping them in air-conditioning is critical! These snub-nose breeds are HOUSE DOGS IN SUMMER as they can easily suffer heatstroke or death if left out in the high heat, even if they have shade.



Hope Hull, Ala. (June 17, 2025) – There's a six-foot-tall bundle of joy at the Alabama Safari Park. The birth of Gertie marks the first giraffe calf born at the Park. After a gestation period of 15-17 months, Greta delivered her first calf on May 8. Gertie weighed 115 pounds and stood five feet and seven inches at birth. (1664 Venable Road, Hope Hull, Alabama 36043 - 334-288-2105)

"Gertie's just like any baby—silly, playful, and full of personality," said Park Director Kait Wilson. "She's got the best little mean mug we've ever seen, and while she's not always thrilled with mom's over-preening, the bond between them is heartwarming. Greta Lynn has been an incredible mother—attentive, patient and still one of the most beloved members of our herd."

Guests visiting the Park can spot Gertie alongside Greta in the giraffe habitat. Giraffe calves nurse for up to a year and grow quickly in their first months. The park's animal care team quickly ensured both mom and calf had everything they needed. Now thriving and full of energy, Gertie is beginning to explore and interact with her surroundings under Greta's watchful eye.

Reticulated giraffes are among the most iconic yet vulnerable animals in Africa. Listed as "Vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), populations have suffered a decline of nearly 40% during the past 30 years, largely due to habitat loss and poaching. With wild populations estimated between 4,500 and 4,700, each birth is a hopeful step in the effort to protect the species.

The Alabama Safari Park is home to a growing herd of giraffes and more than 700 animals from around the world. Guests can enjoy three miles of drive-through safari from the comfort of their own vehicle and watch animals roam freely in large, natural habitats.



Main Street Montgomery Launches "Art, Eats & Beats" Promotion

MONTGOMERY, Ala.— Main Street Montgomery's Promotion Committee is proud to launch a new event, to happen on the third Friday of each month called "Art, Eats & Beats" starting on June 20th from 4pm to 8pm.

The program is designed to bring Montgomerians downtown after work for a unique summer evening experience.

On the 3rd Friday of each month, the entertainment district area from the Riverfront going up to Dexter and beyond to S. Court Street will be transformed into a walkable entertainment district, free to the public and family friendly.

Starting at 4pm, Montgomerians can catch a local art exhibition, hear outdoor music or enjoy a special refreshment while strolling the streets in the downtown area.

Over two dozen participating businesses – restaurants, hotels, including a bake shop and bookstore – are offering 3rd Friday specials: discounts on merchandise, live music, special drinks and menus, and much more. "Art, Eats, & Beats" adds a new dimension to summertime fun in downtown Montgomery.

"Downtown Montgomery is the premier entertainment district, with a great

collection of attractions, hotels, retailers, bars and restaurants all located in one walkable neighborhood," said James Little, interim Director for Main Street Montgomery. *"Swing downtown with your co-workers, neighbors and/or friends for a good time, our merchants are ready to create an experience that will keep you coming back for more."*

A complete list of participating downtown businesses, information and area specials can be found on the Main Street Montgomery website at www.mainstreetmontgomery.org or on the **Facebook event page 3rd Friday "ART, EATS & BEATS"**.

About Main Street Montgomery

Main Street Montgomery (MSM) is a place-based revitalization partnership, committed to getting people downtown by investing time and resources to build a vibrant and sustainable Downtown Montgomery for all to enjoy. Supported by The City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce.

Learn more about Main Street Montgomery visit

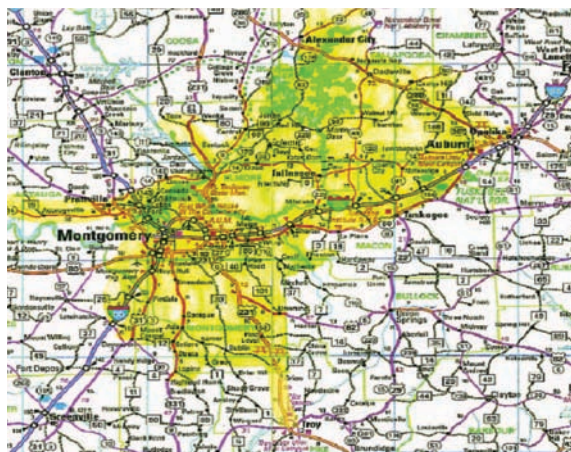
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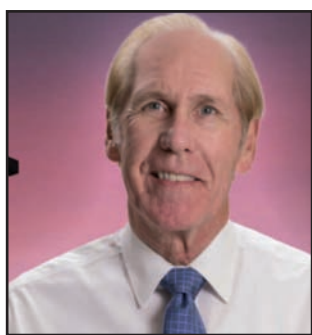
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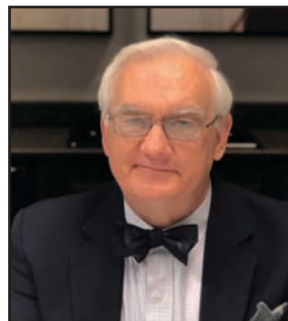
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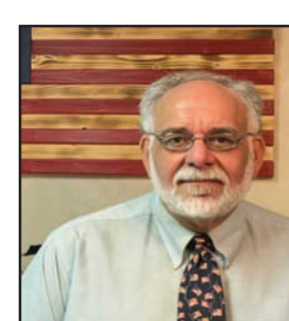
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