



1962 Governor’s Race

It is hard to believe it has been 60 years since George Wallace’s first victorious race for governor. Let’s go down memory lane and reminisce about the 1962 Governor’s race and Wallace’s classic inaugural victory.

The 1962 Governor’s Race really began in 1958. The Governor’s chair and the race for it was the big show in Alabama politics in that era. Being a U.S. Senator was secondary in Alabama politics.

Governor is still probably the most important and glamorous political position, but it certainly was at that time. Television had not come into its own. Most Alabamians did not own a TV. There were no southern major league baseball teams to follow, such as the Atlanta Braves, who were still in Milwaukee at that time. The closest team was the St. Louis Cardinals, and they were miles away and not really in the south. The Grand Ole Opry was only on the radio on Saturday night. So, southerners had to include politics as a prime source of entertainment. That is why we had such colorful political characters. They were really our entertainers and, in some cases, real clowns. Thus, we had more entertaining politicians than the rest of the country. We had a legacy of Jimmy Davis and Huey Long in Louisiana, Bilbo in Mississippi, the Talmadges in Georgia, and the most colorful of all time was our very own 6’9” Big Jim Folsom.

Big Jim was the most uninhibited, gregarious, fun loving of them all. He traveled the state with his country band the “Strawberry Pickers.” Alabamians thought Big Jim’s barefoot musical antics and down home soaking the rich speeches spiced with country humor were better than the circus coming to town. Big Jim was first elected Governor in 1946. He upset the Big Mules of Birmingham and the Big Planters of the Black Belt to become the first people’s Governor in 50 years.

All twelve Governors before him had been picked in the closed door board rooms of Birmingham and had been well heeled Big Mules or Big Planters and had gone out and given dull speeches and simply bought the election with corporate and large agricultural money. Big Jim went directly to the country people all over the state and most people in Alabama at that time were rural or lived in small towns. He convinced them that he was their friend. He won their hearts.

He became the youngest and most progressive Alabama Governor in history. He was the little man’s big friend. However, the Governor could not succeed himself. It was one four year-term, and you were out. So Big Jim left after four years, 1946-1950.

A quaint aristocrat named Gordon Persons became Governor from 1950-1954, but Big Jim came storming back to win a landslide victory in 1954. He won without a runoff, despite the fact that most of the State’s big daily newspapers endorsed other people and predicted he would lose. He became only the second person to be elected to two terms. Bibb Graves had done it earlier in the century. Big Jim served his second term from 1954-1958, then waited out another four years and was running for his third term in 1962. He was legendary by this time and had almost unanimous name identification as simply “Big Jim,” but he was up against another populist and maybe even better politician, George Wallace.

George Wallace had run his first race for Governor in 1958 and lost to John Patterson. Patterson had beaten Wallace for two reasons. First was sympathy for Patterson resulting from his daddy’s assassination at the hands of the Phenix City mafia, but primarily because Patterson was the most ardent racist and segregationist. Patterson was the candidate of the Klan and race was the issue in 1958. Wallace was considered the moderate, but Wallace woke up the day after the defeat and swore he would never be out-segged again.

After George Wallace’s loss to John Patterson in 1958, Wallace worked tirelessly for the next four years, 1958-1962, while Patterson served his only term as Governor. Wallace made sure he was the racist segregationist candidate in 1962.

Race was the only issue in the 1962 Governor’s race. Wallace rode the race issue to his first victory as governor, defeating Big Jim Folsom and State Senator Ryan DeGraffenreid of Tuscaloosa. That 1962 race had an interesting, entertaining, and historical twist to it that I will share with you next week.

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Justice Will Sellers

Ninety years ago, Portugal was the poster child for instability. New governments came and went roughly every 6 months. Change seemed the only constant, which created a vacuum of leadership tailor made for military intervention. Out of the confusion and the void of effective leadership emerged one Antonio Salazar; he would govern Portugal for 36 years.

American Secretary of State Dean Acheson remarked that Salazar was the closest thing in the 20th century to the philosopher-king outlined in Plato’s “Republic”. That was high praise, indeed, but was it accurate?

Having a benevolent dictator who could act immediately and unilaterally, without the niceties of a parliament, plebiscite, or consent seems on the surface to be a good thing. But, finding that one individual who possessed the necessary qualifications to consistently act unselfishly and only in the national interest, was a challenge.

And 90 years ago in Portugal, if there was one thing the country needed, it was an educated man of action who could stabilize the economy and plan for the future. Once Portugal became a republic and removed its king, diverse political parties diluted any chance to have a majority to govern parliament, much less the country. The lack of any cohesive governing coalition in the 1930s was a recipe for disaster, and Portugal was fast approaching a crisis.

Rather than turn to a national hero or military junta, Portugal found an academic - an economist no less - and made him prime minister. This meritocratic approach would have made Plato proud and certainly bolstered the prospects for economists everywhere yearning to work in government. But Salazar not only worked in government, he became the government.

To remain truly independent and balance uncertainties in the world economy, Salazar knew he needed to control the state budget without making concessions to lenders that might have hampered Portugal’s sovereignty. As perhaps only an economist could do, he tamed government finances and stabilized the economy. His austere solutions were

The Quest for Stable Government

accepted because they yielded results. The country took a deep breath, accepted Salazar’s prescriptions, and achieved equilibrium.

Having proved himself with Portugal’s finances, Salazar began to consolidate power, a process that culminated in making him a dictator. This gradual shift, beginning with competency to manage the economy, ended in a form of autocracy that was neither fascist nor communist.

Salazar’s theory of government was unusual and unique for the times. The Portuguese, like people everywhere, were looking for simple results: food, shelter, and prospects for improvement. Salazar provided this, and his success at meeting these needs allowed him to develop a dictatorship that was camouflaged as a philosopher-king.

For some reason, there is a certain allure to having a single person in authority make decisions based on the best interests of the governed. Since Biblical times, citizens yearn for a leader who can solve problems quickly and efficiently.

Political factions seem to stand in the way of good government and of a system that truly meets the needs of its people. When frustration is high, it is common for citizens to examine the existing system of government and consider new ways to solve problems.

In Portugal, Salazar was the true meeting of the man and the moment. But it is dangerous to use the example of his initial success to validate his other beliefs in government and how a modern state should create a future for its people.

Salazar did not believe in democracy and thought the expression of the people’s will in the form of an elected parliament was misplaced. He distrusted the people and believed in the rule of an elite class, which he advocated in public. His vision of government consisted solely of himself as an anointed prime minister who was better educated and more capable of understanding the needs of his people. It was he who would act and make decisions for the country.

While Salazar did have the trappings of a parliament and tolerated unions and other interest groups, the power of government rested with him. He might listen to various groups and have them

consider solutions to problems, but implementing a plan was exclusively his domain. In essence, he was an autonomous and unaccountable high school principal

For a while, this system worked. The consistency of having a singular ruler, educated as he was and truly solving problems, created a legitimacy if not an aura of infallibility, but it could not last. Once the crisis of World War II subsided and war profits ceased, Portugal was left with the many inefficiencies of a bloated bureaucracy and a state that relied increasingly on suppression of any innovative ideas.

At some point, Portugal leveled off and economic growth slowed. The rule of a single man, increasingly unwilling to embrace new ideas, retarded Portugal’s entry into a global economy. The idea of a philosopher-king can be sustained for only so long before the inevitability of change and the tendency of the autocrat to stay in power gradually stagnates institutions that advance prosperity.

Forms of government that rely on peoples’ elected representatives to govern may seem inefficient and frustrate immediate action in a crisis. But the lack of immediate solutions, while annoying at the time, eventually validate a government that deliberates and considers effective change. Thoughtful government creates a vibrant future based on human action as innovation and experiments in democracy find more and better ways to advance society.

In times of crisis, an individual like Salazar seems like a satisfactory solution, but over time, the wisdom of a single point of failure in the person of a dictator is ill advised. Removing government from the people and trusting an elite ruler limits effectiveness to a personality. Democratic institutions and systems of government that diffuse power and trust people to make decisions provide greater stability and continuity.

Kings, be they philosophers or otherwise, can never provide the continuity needed to sustain development, growth, and the security needs of a modern state.

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ROBSERVATIONS...

by Robert Tate

BITS AND PIECES #15: WAKE UP AMERICA!

As I sit here today, I have to continuously shake my head. I have to ask myself, “What in the heck is going through the minds of so many Americans?” As a society, it seems as though we have lost our collective minds. I hate to say this, really I don’t, but so many of our citizens are just plain stupid, ignorant, evil, complacent or a combination of all. So here we go.

1. Illegals in Alabama. yellowhammernews.com/late-night-southern-border-flights-make-landing-in-alabama-cities/ According to *Yellow Hammer News*, From June 29 to July 1, there were seven flights from the southern border to Alabama. Each of these flights landed in Alabama in the early morning hours between 0228 and 0423. Two flights were cargo aircraft and five were passenger aircraft. If these flights indeed carried illegal immigrants into the state, in total, this could amount to over 1,000 people. And that is just here in Alabama. According to the Office of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, “southern states, such as Texas, could reasonably anticipate 3,087,742 illegal alien crossings by the end of fiscal year 2022.”

What is amazing to me is that so many people see nothing wrong with this. Really? It is as if their heads are buried in the sand like that proverbial cartoon ostrich. That some how our borders do not matter and that we should welcome all people with open arms. For some, idiotic, myopic reason, they cannot see that this is unsustainable and that a country without borders is not a country. It doesn’t bother these people in the least that many of these people are not just here for a better life. Many are terrorists (this year alone they have caught over 50) and criminals escaping their homeland to come here and continue living their criminal ways. Many are those previously deported for crimes, many violent and sexual in nature, but have made their way back here. This cannot continue but our political leaders seem apathetic to reality. Maintaining their power trumps (no pun intended) doing what is right for the country. But there is more insanity.

2. Groomers. The term groomers has been classified as hate speech on several social media sites like reddit. The term refers to discussing sex, sexual orientation and sexual reassignment with young children. According to the urban dictionary, a groomer is: someone who builds a relationship, trust and emotional connection with a child or young person so they can manipulate, exploit and abuse them. It goes on to say, the “Training, preparing or conditioning someone, usually over a longer period of time. Also used to refer to a paedophile's process of building trust with a child.” I am not sure what the problem is. No. I do not think adults should be discussing sexual topics with 5–10-year-old kids. Drag queen reading times in kindergarten? Really? Not a chance. But guess what, I don’t think there should be a hooker time with little kids nor should there be a heterosexual time with these kids. **Why in the heck does anyone think it is okay for strangers to discuss ANY sexual content with little kids that are not their own?** Some guy walks up to a kid at the playground and starts chatting up a little kid about sex and that is seen as a crime. RIGHTFULLY SO!! So why do we let teachers or other “approved” adults do the same thing? In my opinion, the term “groomer” is appropriate because these people who support this are doing exactly that; just like the urban dictionary aptly states. It is amazing that this is too hard for some to see. But like I said, I am not singling out one group. Nobody, straight, heterosexuals, LGBTQ, strangers to these kids neither have the right to do this. Shouldn’t school be about, uhhhhh, school?

It is sort of like several years ago, pedophiles were up in arms about their descriptive term. So, they want to now be called “minor attracted persons.” Okay, but you are still a pedophile. Done.

3. Saudi Fist Bump. President Biden just came back from a trip to Saudi Arabia. After calling the Saudi leadership a pariah, it took some nerve for him to actually go there. To be honest, he was probably told to do so and probably doesn’t remember it now anyway. But what was up with that stupid fist bump? Look, if you are going to go to another country, man up and shake the man’s hand. You can both sanitize ‘til your heart’s content later. The optics of an old, decrepit man fist bumping the Saudi crown prince was disappointing and laughable on the world stage. And this of course goes beyond the reason for the trip being to beg the Saudis to produce more oil when we fully have the ability to do it ourselves. Sad.

4. China in North Dakota. Of all the stories I saw this week, this one angered me more than any. If you can believe this, we, the United States of America has allowed China to purchase some 370 acres near Grand Forks, ND, which is in the heart of the Red River Valley. You got it, some pretty productive farm land there, folks. The company, The Fufeng Group, “which specializes in flavor enhancers and sugar substitutes, is reportedly planning to use the land for a \$700 million corn milling plant and it would create at least 200 jobs as well as residual opportunities for logistics, trucking, and other services.”

The major problem? This proposed plant will be just 20 minutes away from Grand Forks Air Force Base, one of our main drone bases. I was watching the news the other night and I could not believe what I was hearing; that Congress was in discussions on whether this would be allowed. I cannot believe they are even discussing this. It should be a one time, *hell-to-the-no*. Again, I cannot believe this is even a thing. What do you think the Chinese would say if we wanted to purchase 300 acres of land next to one of their military installations? They would tell us to go pack some sand. Again, rightfully so.

First of all, why are we even allowing a foreign country to buy land, not just a building mind you, but land within the United States? Why?

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It makes absolutely no sense. So, we just let a foreign entity buy land, farm it, possibly drill in it and then let them send those products back to their country? I honestly believe that every member of Congress or the Senate, Democrat or Republican who thinks this is a smart way to govern, should be immediately recalled and if I had my way, placed into a maximum-security prison for let’s say, forever. It makes no sense.

As for the North Dakota factory, at least the Chinese have promised that they will not do any spying once this facility is completed. Yeah, I am going to take their word for it. Bottom line, this should in no way be allowed to happen, no matter how many jobs they promise this facility will bring.

5. Did you see where President Biden said that he gets confused every time he hears “Hail to the Chief” being played. He said, “Every time I hear ‘Hail to the Chief,’ I wonder, where the hell is he? You think I’m joking, I’m not. I turn around and say, ‘Where is the President.’” ([www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/07/12/12joe-biden-every-time-i-hear-hail-to-the-chief-i-wonder-where-the-hell-is-the-president.](http://www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/07/12/12joe-biden-every-time-i-hear-hail-to-the-chief-i-wonder-where-the-hell-is-the-president/)) ‘Nuff said.

6. Shooting in Indiana Shopping Mall. Good guy with a gun, 22-year-old Eli Dicken, shot to death a would-be mass murderer. He fired 10 shots hitting the bad guy 8 times. Hats off to the good guy. Not surprising, the left has come out after the man who single handedly destroyed their worthless gun narrative. More to come.

7. The Bodega shop owner who stabbed his assailant to death and was subsequently charged with second degree murder, has had his charges dropped. Now is the time for this man to sue the Manhattan DA and for the Governor to recall this man. More to come on this as well.

8. Finally, I was watching the news the other day and I saw a cringe-worthy report, authored by economist Steve Moore and the Committee to Unleash Prosperity’s executive director Jon Decker. It was reported that 62 percent of Biden’s top political appointees and staffers “who deal with economic policy, regulation, commerce, energy and finance have virtually no business experience.”

The report went on to say that “only one out of eight Biden officials has what the authors deem “extensive business experience,” and the average level of business experience across the Biden administration is about 2.4 years. The median years of business experience among Biden’s top appointees is zero, since so few have any experience in the private sector, and the “vast majority of the Biden economic/commerce team members are professional politicians, lawyers, community organizers, lobbyists, or government employees.”

(www.breitbart.com/politics/2022/07/13/exclusive-ship-of-fools-62-percent-of-biden-officials-who-handle-economic-policy-have-zero-years-business-experience/)

And we are wondering how Biden and his administration have been getting it so wrong all along. And now we know. But the question of course is how can this be? How can this not be considered dereliction of duty? You are the President, you yourself have no business experience and yet surrounds himself with similarly ignorant people and then they go about trying to run the country. I said it once before and I will say it again. If President Biden were intentionally trying to destroy the country, what would he be doing differently that he is now? This insanity needs to be looked at with more scrutiny. Good luck getting any of the alphabet news groups to say anything about this.

DID YOU KNOW?

Tenth in a Series

President James Madison, "Father of the Constitution", vetoed a bill in 1817 providing for the federal government to fund the building of roads, canals, and improvement of waterways. His veto message to Congress said the bill violated Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

"The legislative powers vested in Congress are specified and enumerated in the eighth section of the first article of the Constitution, and it does not appear that the power to be exercised by this bill is among the enumerated powers."

By 1860, the Northern States had a commanding majority in Congress and were voting to spend most of the federal revenue to develop industry in the North. The General Welfare clause of Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution requires spending to be for the benefit of all the States.

Although the Southern States were providing two-thirds of the federal revenue through tariffs, approximately three-fourths of federal spending was in Northern States for the same type of 'internal improvements' President Madison said violated the Constitution.

Assuming powers not granted to it by Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, the federal government, dominated by Northern States also violated the Tenth Amendment.

"The Powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

Capt. Henry C. Sample Camp 2002
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John Sophocleus

publican turned Democrat that drove the last nails in the Party of Jefferson coffin. TJ championed the long road to freedom and independence which morphed into the hegemonic coalition we observe today after the success of the newly formed Republican Party four score after Jefferson penned our Declaration of grievances to separate from British mercantilism. The recent big govt. New York Democrat ‘donning’ the Republican moniker as president these past years is perfect illustration of how little party matters and how effective the duopoly has been decaying and destroying our freedoms. Anyone who thinks Hillary or her minions like Trump will ever serve time for their wrongdoings is childish on same intelligence level as those who believe ‘pro-wrestling’ is real.

Difficult to determine what’s more daunting to overcome; the dumb masses who showed on Jan. 6th feeling something fundamentally wrong with current events or the Dick & Liz Cheney type authoritarians (in lockstep with the rest of their command and control comrades at the hearing podium) who are the greater enemy of the US Constitution and the Republic it established. Dickens, in keeping with several Scriptures, asserted a greater caveat on ignorance in his era. As for presidents who’ve committed [Art. 3, Sec. 3] treason against a State(s), the one most vulgar and explicit is heralded by most as our greatest executive to ever reside in the White House. Harrington noted, *“Treason doth never prosper... what’s the reason? For if it prospers, none dare call it treason!”*

The Jan. 6th event at the capitol is what democracy [a.k.a., mob rule] looks like. Given my Greek heritage, I do not find democracy something worthy of aspiration. Furthermore, those shouting democracy the loudest are among the most deleterious oligarchs benefitting from our unrepresentative, uncompetitive, rigged system. To the generic, common productive citizen, it didn’t matter which political thief (Biden or Trump) was installed via the Jan. 6th, 2021 pomp and circumstance DC Kabuki show.

As I’ve written in past columns, we’re Not a Democracy: <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2022/02/01/opinion/were-not-a-democracy/2304.html>. No matter how many times ‘democracy’ is asserted by incompetent press and corrupt politburo members - from my county commission, to Goat Hill, all the way up to Moscow on the Potomac -- it doesn’t alter the design submitted and adopted in our 1789 Constitution. Further alarm declaring this nonexistent, over-romanticized structure [Democracy] in jeopardy aids and abets our political swindlers’ camouflage of the growing oligarchic result - i.e., political power increasingly more concentrated away from the people.

The few [often **Alabama Gazette** readers] seeing irony witnessing the fraction of protestors who indeed turned violent appearing very much like the end result of democracies (while being driven by federal hegemony) offer a scintilla of hope. Similarly compelling was commentary on politburo members championing democracy at the same time asserting no reason to arm and protect ourselves, while shamefully quick to barricade and summon weapons to defend themselves against the harm they promoted via so many unconstitutional actions. Sad these political thieves, who’ve destroyed so many lives, are so self-serving they’ve completely lost all capacity for empathy to consider why their hosts are angry at them as parasites.

I’ve read Jefferson’s Declaration making the case for independence and our 1789 Constitution many times; never recall finding the word or case being made for democracy. Art. 4, Sec. 4 makes clear each State must guarantee a republican form of government, providing sound guidelines in Art. 1, Sec. 2 on how this representative Republic of States will operate at the federal level to execute those few powers enumerated to the central government.

Of course, I don’t expect my incompetent ‘Felon Hubbard’ minion congressperson to understand this or champion a movement to make the House representative again as a Trump sycophant; a big govt. modern NY Democrat now wearing the Red jersey. Similarly, our minority gerrymandered congressperson who played one of the larger roles of making people homeless via eminent domain abuse (another ‘Trump-love’ item) is championing ‘voters rights’ but offers nothing to make the House (much less other geo-political divisions in our State) more represen-

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January Sixth Twenty Twenty-one: A Date Which Will Live in Stupidity

I can almost hear FDR’s shrill voice enunciating these words in my *“mind’s ear.”* The nation’s capitol was fatuously and ignorantly attacked...

Apropos to evoke **FDR** as a traditional, big govt. New York Republican turned Democrat that drove the last nails in the Party of Jefferson coffin. TJ championed the long road to freedom and independence which morphed into the hegemonic coalition we observe today after the success of the newly formed Republican Party four score after Jefferson penned our Declaration of grievances to separate from British mercantilism. The recent big govt. New York Democrat ‘donning’ the Republican moniker as president these past years is perfect illustration of how little party matters and how effective the duopoly has been decaying and destroying our freedoms. Anyone who thinks Hillary or her minions like Trump will ever serve time for their wrongdoings is childish on same intelligence level as those who believe ‘pro-wrestling’ is real.

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tative. These ‘public servants’ will continue to cry “Democracy!” while my county and the cities within become even LESS representative shown in the new census data and redistricting outcomes.

Understand it is foolish for anyone to dream one day we’ll ever have a Constitutional one for 30,000 (round-up) representative U.S. House where it is a part-time job which pays median income. If for no other reason than House members may actually realize what median income is each 2 year cycle. The ratio of one representative for every 700,000 (to well over a million in some States) will continue to get worse until this forced coalition finally fails. When historians contemplate this ancient hegemonic union’s passing, I pray it will not be believed this coerced union of States was just another democracy which failed but considered yet another tyrannical oligarchy (also feared by the Greeks) so future generations may identify and defend against the evil of their day.

Onto the DC police debacle, time take a ‘Mulligan’ and learn from not following our Constitution. <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/06/01/opinion/dc-statehood-time-to-take-a-mulligan/2163.html>. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 “To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings.”

No shortage of ‘bull-feathers’ these past months from politburo members championing modern Democrats like Comrade Trump (currently ‘Donning’ the Red) and Comrade Biden to make DC [District of Corruption] a 51st state. Little surprise ‘Moscow on the Potomac’ fails to consult our Constitution for guidance about Washington, DC in our now forced coalition of once sovereign States. No city in modern history displays greater sin and infamy living up to a namesake, particularly for one like Geo. Washington... most instrumental in winning independence for their geo-political unit(s), curbing mercantilism, abolishing importation of slaves, etc.

Three electoral votes wrongfully given to DC is just as great an abomination as the ‘taxation without representation’ suffered by those allowed to assert residency in the ten mile square proscribed in Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 17 cited above. House members I’ve interacted with (e.g., Brooks, Rogers, Sewell) understandably have no clue what the document they’ve taken an oath to uphold and defend guides them to accomplish; being sycophants for higher positioned politburo members like Comrades Biden and Trump is much more rewarding in this world.

In short, no residents at this federal installation/district (nor any other arsenal, fort, dockyard, magazine, etc.) are allowed/makes sense IF the document is followed. This ten miles (maximum) square was purposefully NOT to be a State, and it was important those employed, living/stationed there had residence in their home State for purposes of having a connection back to the places they are from/represent. Furthermore, I don’t think anyone pays attention to the text of our Constitution guaranteeing a representative Republic when our politburo finds the ability to abuse ‘Democracy’ much easier than the checks and balances of independent sovereignty.

No reason to have a DC mayor, police force, etc. to deal with demonstrations, real or imagined insurrections, ad naseum. If Sen. Schumer wants to incite demonstrators at the Supreme (or any other federal building) Court it is the responsibility of federal marshals on federal properties. If some Washington, HD places/properties are deemed historic sites, park rangers and administrators would serve that function. Just as our State has moved their capitol these past centuries, the time is long overdue to move our central government’s capitol. I suggest the name Lincolnton, FD - i.e., Federal District. This would reflect the failure of Washington’s vision of free and independent sovereign geo-political units addressing issues of abortion, drugs, gun laws, hate crimes, mask wearing, slavery, transgender, etc. It further affirms victory of Mr. Lincoln’s vision of a forced coalition of states Comrades Lenin, et al admired and replicated. I think it important for our posterity to understand what failed and what our command legal-political economy has and will wrought. Not very difficult to find a ten mile square more centrally located to place Lincolnton, FD on a large, inactive military base. Further thought could be put toward high-speed rail access if we can get the ICC and other unconstitutional agencies out of the way. If one really wants to be industrious toward a return to a representative Republic, install the infrastructure for thousands of House

THINK

Members as we’re designed to have where they may ‘zoom in’ to participate in Congress while actually among the 30,000+ they represent. An abandoned Air Force Base may be found which would already have the ability to handle Air Force One and the air traffic. Auctioning off land around the ten mile square for food, lodging, etc. would help offset the expense of the capitol move and improvements. If done, I pray for more straight shots, less errors, honesty and great wisdom after taking this ‘Mulligan’ - perhaps if we can get our Republic back on course, Lincolnton will not live up to the namesake and the Spirit of Washington may prevail.

As for the much ballyhooed “Peaceful Transfer of Power” [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/01/01/opinion/peaceful-transfer-of-power-pax-romana-style/2063.html>] I grow weary of so much rhetoric w.r.t. transfer of executive power in a hegemonic union these past several score. The world observed ‘peaceful’ transfers of power from Augustus to Tiberius, Herod ‘the Great’ to Antipas, etc. under Roman despotism and hegemony - is this Pax Romana really anything new under our earth’s sun or Son of God these past two millennia?

Trump’s 306-232 Electoral College (57%/43%) 2016 installment over Clinton’s 62,972,226 to 62,277,750 popular vote win was only the SECOND time a Constitutionally correct HoR does not mirror the popular vote as in 1888 when Harrison won the Electoral College (58%/42%) over Cleveland by a 233 -168 margin but lost the popular vote 5,537,857 - 5,447,129. Installing Biden with the same 306 Electoral College vote in 2020 is no more a ‘landslide’ than when Trumpocrats proclaimed landslide four years ago. The blue soviets would never agree with Trump’s red soviet nomenclature of a ‘mandate’ four years ago, but we’ve certainly heard the Joe & Nancy Show chorus assert their ‘mandate.’ Great Kabuki fodder for the political ‘pro-wrestling’ fans and voters.

This is any rational observer’s expectation where peaceful divorce is impossible [<https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2021/02/01/opinion/those-who-make-peaceful-divorce-impossible-will-make-domestic-violence-in-avoidable/2084.html>] to those who may recall JFK’s famous 1962 quote. Born in ‘62 I’ve wondered what citizens thought when hearing, “Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable,” from this soon to be assassinated president making such great gains toward freedom - e.g., reducing the outrageous 92.7% marginal income tax rate, blocking moves to further debase our currency, growing weary of CIA, et al types after Bay of Pigs lies and deception along with the military industrial complex pressing for more resources to Vietnam... to enumerate a few specifics. My mind drifted to another suspicious assassination of that era to evoke a favourite quote from Coretta Scott King, *“Freedom is never really won; it must be fought and won every generation.”* Perhaps generations to come will learn to successfully fight for freedom after understanding so many prior generations promoted, welcomed and embraced ever more tyranny and command economy policies/programs.

Jan. 6th is what true civil war looks like after failure to allow peaceful exit of sovereign States or occupied territories. 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. The uninvited army into Maryland (April 1861) was the first to explicitly commit treason; the armies repelling this treason was not insurrection - i.e., they were not trying to take over their State government or trying to take the federal government they seceded from to coerce other States. State legislators or governors did not request federal government protection from the armies/soldiers serving their own State.

Small wonder 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 redistributive 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 failed altar of democracy via undeclared wars, subsidized abortion, wrongful takings, 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. A date of infamous stupidity indeed...



by Perry O. Hooper, Jr.

Founder Let the People Speak
Former Alabama State Representative
AL State Republican Executive Com.
AL Trump Victory Chairman 2016
AL Trump Elector 2016
AL Trump Team Leader 2020

THE FIST BUMP THAT WAS SEEN ‘ROUND THE WORLD

On his 4-day trip to the Middle East, Joe Biden gave a new definition to Barack Obama’s foreign policy of “Leading from Behind,” and it is not good. “The Shot Heard ‘Round the World” refers to the opening gun shoot in April 1775 in the opening battle in our War of Independence from the tyranny of King George and the British Empire. Americans were seeking their God giving rights of independence. The fist bump seen round the world will be forever remembered as the greeting that Joe Biden gave Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud, when with his hat in his hand, begging him for more oil, sacrificing our energy independence.”

Fist bumps are a traditional way to say “way to go” to a friend and ally. You see them all the time in baseball dugouts when a player is greeted by his teammates after hitting a homerun or making a great catch. In Saudi Arabia, the world saw a picture that is worth a thousand words. The picture they saw was Biden telling the world. “I was just kidding when I called the Prince a Pariah. I am know telling you that all is well with Saudi Arabia and their brutal regime. It doesn’t matter how many Washington Post journalist they order dismembered. As Democratic Senator Chris Coons told CNN’s Jake Tapper, “The American people were revolted from what they saw.”

Saudi Arabia got everything they wanted: an audience on their terms with the American President. Presidents only visit peer nations. Now Biden has made

them for the first time our peer, no matter what their record is on human rights. So, what did we get in return? As Kellyanne Conway stated, not even enough oil for the tinman’s can in the Wizard of Oz. So, why did he humiliate our great country? The answer is plain and simple. The far left-wing radicals that control the Democrat Party do not want our energy independence that President Trump delivered. If it truly were about the existential threat of climate change as they claim, they would not want drilling anywhere. In fact, they would insist on drilling if it had to be done in a country with an EPA, not Saudi Arabia. Since day one of his administration, Biden has done everything in his power to destroy our energy industry. His party is against our energy sector period. Why? It is all about our freedom as ordinary citizens. They only believe in freedom of liberal elites. Energy independence gives us all independence from their government edicts. So, what horrible regime will he beg next for oil? Iran, who claims now they have the enriched uranium to make the nukes to destroy Israel? Will they choose Venezuela who has invited China to be their partners in energy and infrastructure development giving our biggest adversary a major foothold in our hemisphere? We may get a little bit more oil from Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Venezuela but at what cost to our world standings and energy independence? We can produce oil cleaner and more efficient for our use within our borders. We can then export our excess capacity to our true allies around the world. President Trump fully embraced President Reagan’s “Peace through Strength” doctrine and actions. This especially requires strength in all areas of our energy sector. When our energy sector is weak and dependent, there can be no true peace in the world. This is not a Republican policy. It is an America policy.

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SO WHAT IS THE CASE THAT OVERTURNED ROE v WADE? CAN PRECEDENT BE OVERTURNED?



Ronald A. Holtsford

That case recently decided is *DOBBS, STATE HEALTH OFFICER OF THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, ET AL. v. JACKSON WOMEN’S HEALTH ORGANIZATION ET AL.* The Gestational Age Act of Mississippi was challenged by a Mississippi abortion clinic and one of it’s doctors.

The Act states “[e]xcept in a medical emergency or in the case of a severe fetal abnormality, a person shall not intentionally or knowingly perform . . . or induce an abortion of an unborn human being if the probable gestational age of the unborn human being has been determined to be greater than fifteen (15) weeks.” Miss. Code Ann. §41–41–19. Justice Alito wrote the majority opinion in which all conservative leaning justices including Chief Justice Roberts agreed. Additionally, Justices Thomas, Kavanaugh and Chief Justice Roberts wrote individual concurring opinions meaning that they agree but may write their own opinion to include similar or additional legal theories as to why they concur with the opinion of Justice Alito, who was tasked to write the opinion by Chief Justice Roberts. All liberal leaning Justices, Breyer (since retired), Sotomayer and Kagan wrote a dissenting opinion which I will not quote for purposes of this article. The total pages of the majority opinions and dissenting opinion number 213 pages, so hopefully I can do justice in condensing this into a few paragraphs.

The majority opinion is that the United States Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Justice Kavanaugh additionally stated that the Constitution is neither pro life nor pro choice. Justice Alito, summarizing the argument for *Roe V. Wade* says that the abortion right arises out of a woman’s right to privacy. He additionally quotes the 1992 case of *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa v Casey* (hereinafter Casey), that it adds abortion as a “liberty” under the 14th Amendment and its due process clause. Casey otherwise supports itself on the basis of *stare decisis* which continues to propagate law based on precedence (*Roe v Wade*). Secondly the Court looked to historical roots of abortion rights which it does not find. Due process is discussed as a division of two categories, those being the first eight Amendments to the Constitution and rights believed to be fundamental, but not mentioned in the Constitution. The Court looked for other precedent which may give a right to abortion; it found none.

The Court stated that the Court decision in *Roe v Wade* was wrong. Just because precedence has been set does not make it right for all time. Justice Alito said, “Some of our most important constitutional decisions have overruled prior precedents.” Justice Alito went on to say, “Roe was on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided, Casey perpetuated its errors, and those errors do not concern some arcane corner of the law of little importance to the American people. Rather, wielding nothing but “raw judicial power,” *Roe*, 410 U. S., at 222 (White, J., dissenting), the Court usurped the power to address a question of profound moral and social importance that the Constitution unequivocally leaves for the people. *Casey* described itself as calling both sides of the national controversy to resolve their debate, but in doing so, *Casey* necessarily declared a winning side. Those on the losing side—those who sought to advance the State’s interest in fetal life—could no longer seek to persuade their elected representatives to adopt policies consistent with their views. The Court short-circuited the democratic process by closing it to the large number of Americans who dissented in any respect from *Roe*. “*Roe* fanned into life an issue that has inflamed our national politics in general, and has obscured with its smoke the selection of Justices to this Court in particular, ever since.” *Casey*, 505 U. S., at 995–996 (opinion of Scalia, J.). Together, *Roe* and *Casey* represent an error that cannot be allowed to stand.

As an example, the Court specified another wrong decision from the late 19th Century in *Plessy v Ferguson (Plessy)*. *Plessy* said that the education for black and white children should be equal but separate. *Brown v Board of Education*, righted that wrong over fifty years later.

The majority opinion noted that without grounding in any “constitutional text, history or precedent”, the effect of *Roe v Wade* was set out as a “legislative” decision in the manner in which it was formulated. An arbitrary viability line was set by the court regarding the life of an unborn child and did not consider advances in medicine that might make the chance at life possible at an earlier gestational age than at the time of the decision. The *Casey* case, almost twenty years later, criticized the trimester scheme of *Roe v Wade*, abandoned the reliance on “right to privacy” but held on it’s “undue burden test” and by virtue of stare decisis.

“*Our opinion is not based on any view about if and when prenatal life is entitled to any of the rights enjoyed after birth. The dissent, by contrast, would impose on the people a particular theory about when the rights of personhood begin. According to the dissent, the Constitution requires the States to regard a fetus as lacking even the most basic human right—to live—at least until an arbitrary point in a pregnancy has passed.* “

The defenders have said, “Without the availability of abortion, they maintain, people will be inhibited from exercising their freedom to choose the types of relationships they desire, and women will be unable to compete with men in the workplace and in other endeavors. “

The Solicitor General, whose job it is to argue cases on behalf of the United States, among other arguments said that to overrule *Roe* and *Casey* would threaten other rights found under the Due Process Clause. The Court pointed out that the question of the case has to do with the Constitutional right to abortion and nothing else. While *Casey* identified that political thinking or the opinion of the public may influence a decision, the Court stated that it cannot be influenced by such. Certainly, the conservative justices have paid the price of independent thinking in being threatened, especially with Justice Kavanaugh having a stalker that surrendered before he carried out the possible murder of the Justice or those that chased Justice Kavanaugh from a restaurant.

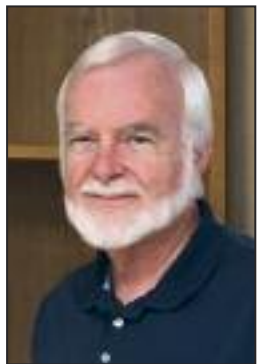
Finally, the Court said in the majority opinion, “(e) Abortion presents a profound moral question. The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each State from regulating or prohibiting abortion. *Roe* and *Casey* arrogated that authority. The Court overrules those decisions and returns that authority to the people and their elected representatives. “

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

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

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

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John M. Taylor

COMPACT IS MORE THAN A THEORY

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Recent Supreme Court rulings have stirred up a “hornet’s nest,” especially the Dobbs abortion decision on June 24, 2022. Roe vs. Wade created a so-called right to abort an unborn child, presumably traced back to Margaret Sanger--the “progressive” ultra-racist, eugenicist, authoritarian--and her ilk in Planned Parenthood. The latest ruling actually mirrors the way federalism is supposed to work, i.e., abortion is not a federal issue (enumerated in Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution); it is a Tenth Amendment issue reserved to the States.

Thus, a State such as Massachusetts may allow abortion whereas a State such as Alabama may disallow it. The citizens of the respective States through their representatives will decide. The other recent case involving the 2nd Amendment right to defend oneself (reflected in most State constitutions) is a God-given or natural right whereas termination of a pregnancy (or whatever verbiage one uses) is not. All federal gun laws are unconstitutional—that is a State issue.*

American schools have done a poor job teaching about the creation of our federal republic. The 1783 Treaty of Paris recognized the States as the sovereigns. Jefferson’s 1798/1799 Kentucky Resolutions and Madison’s 1798 Virginia Resolution also touched on State sovereignty, largely as a rebuttal of the draconian conditions within the 1798 Alien & Sedition Acts. The constitution was sold as a “federal” document—a few duties were delegated to the general government and the majority remained with the States. Since there “is not/never was” a so-called “American people,” this structure allowed for the differences in various regions of the country. Thus, the “compact” was pivotal to the constitution’s passage, especially in light of the nationalist theory pushed by many Federalists.

“Nationalists” such as Daniel Webster, Joseph Story, John Marshall, and later Abraham Lincoln contended the people as a whole--not the individual States--created and/or agreed to the constitution, a claim made despite massive evidence to the contrary. They also alleged the States did not “accede” to the constitution; therefore, they could not “secede” from it. If the intention was to create a “Soviet-styled” government, their contentions make sense; however, the intention was to create a voluntary federal republic (“If you can keep it.” As Ben Franklin stated.)

A compact is a voluntary agreement between two or more parties. The original compact, the Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union, was not literally perpetual since the States seceded from it. The Articles were used as a launching point for a “more perfect” union that only required nine States to join to make it valid--it was a voluntary agreement or compact among the States that joined.

How did the Founders and other supporters describe the creation of the U.S. Constitution? Meticulous research by Albert Taylor Bledsoe (Was Davis a Traitor?), reveals the following:

- Alexander Hamilton said the constitution would “be in fact and in theory, an association of States, or a confederacy.” (77)
- Thomas Jefferson said “The States entered into a compact, which is called the Constitution of the United States.” (27)
- Writing to Edward Everett of Massachusetts, James Madison described the constitution as “a compact among the States in their highest sovereign capacity.” And referenced the States as “the parties to the Constitutional compact.” (17)
- John Quincy Adams expressed, “Our Constitution of the United States and all our State Constitutions, have been voluntary compacts, deriving all their authority from the free consent of the parties to them.” (18)
- Governor Edmund Randolph articulated, “the accession of eight States reduced our deliberations to the single question of union or no union.” (13)
- Patrick Henry stated, “If it (the constitution) be amended, every state will accede to it.” (13)
- Elbridge Gerry proclaimed he “was opposed to a partial confederacy, leaving other states to accede or not to accede...” (13)
- Nationalist Justice Joseph Story said, “Rhode Island did not accede to it, until more than a year after it had been in operation.” (14)
- George Washington stated: “If these, with the States eastward and northward of us, should accede to the federal government...” (14)
- In 1787, Benjamin Franklin referenced eleven States had joined the constitution “and the accession of a twelfth is soon expected.” (14)
- Judge St. George Tucker called the constitution “a compact between the States.” (26)
- Edmund Pendleton said “This is the only Government founded in real compact.” (26)
- Gouverneur Morris said the constitution is “a compact...between the United States, each enjoying sovereign power.” (75)

Other than the views of the Nationalists, it is clear the U.S. Constitution is a voluntary compact among the States. Bledsoe’s book was cited as one of several reasons Jefferson Davis was not brought to trial, i.e., the U.S. government was not willing to chance that a jury would validate the reality of a voluntary compact of sovereign States.

Sources: *Was Davis a Traitor?* by Albert Taylor Bledsoe [Using the Internet Archive version, page numbers are in parentheses by each quote.]; “Restoring the Compact Theory: Vital to Restoring the Constitution,” by Tim Dunkin, Published Sep 3, 2015; “Jefferson’s Views on the Union as a Compact Among the States,” *Tenth Amendment Center*, by Gennady Stolyarov II, Published Apr 8, 2009; “Compact or Collectivism,” by Al Benson, Jr., October 19, 2014.

*Republicans created the first “federal” gun laws when they treasonously forced the Southern States back into an “involuntary union.



John Martin

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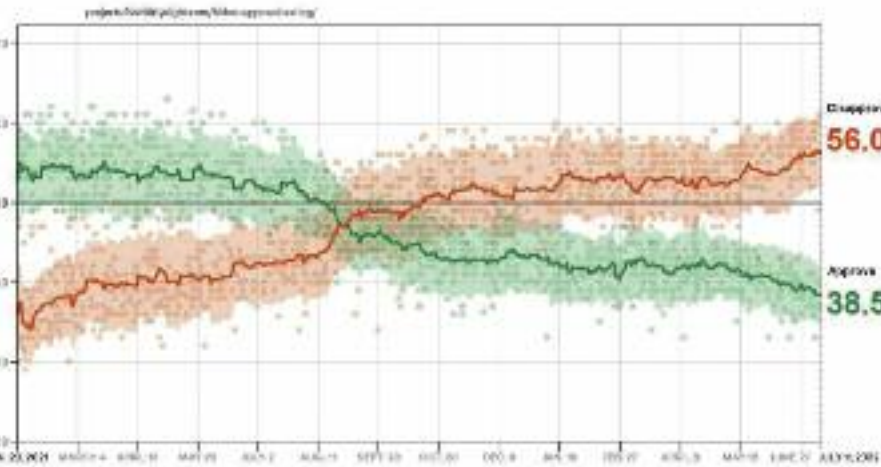
Biden's Waterloo

Beginning on January 20th of last year, America has been suffering from the reckless and devastating actions of Joe Biden, our most destructive and incompetent president so far in this century. On his very first day in office, he signed a multitude of punitive executive orders that have thrown our nation into a tailspin of rampant inflation and dependency for many essentials, especially petroleum and its derivatives.

Prior to Biden, under the blessings of Donald Trump, America's oil production exceeded its imports for the first time in over half of a century. New sources were being discovered and new pipelines were under construction. We were out from under the thumb of OPEC and other, often hostile petroleum exporters.

But Biden ended it in one fell swoop with nothing more than a pen. He revoked the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline, destroying an essential oil conduit from Canada, along with 11,000 American jobs and \$1.6 billion in wages. He also forbade drilling in large portions of Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico.

Today, even extreme economic liberals are waking up to the call of reckless policies, intolerable inflation, and shortages of many products and services. In less than seven months in office, Biden's approval dropped below 50%—more than any other president in such a short time. Today (July 11), his disapproval has soared to 56% and is still climbing.



Biden's approval and disapproval ratings

Biden shut down nearly half of potential drilling in the National Petroleum Reserve/Alaska—our country's largest tract of public land, which is about the size of Indiana. According to the BLM, it produced over \$56 million in oil and gas leases in 2019 alone. Biden also canceled oil lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska's Cook Inlet.

Now Biden faces a dilemma. At election time in 2020, gasoline was averaging \$2.10 per gallon nationwide. It has recently passed \$5.00—an increase of 138% within a year and a half. OPEC, Russia, and Venezuela are reaping huge profits. Republicans are furious. Most Americans are outraged. Many Democrats are waking up and beginning to wonder why they killed the goose that laid the golden eggs.

Biden had already promised the Democrats and environmentalists that he would end our dependence on fossil fuels. We now suffer the result of his actions. He is whining for suppliers and OPEC to increase production. With oil prices and profits at record levels, I'm sure they will try their best. But Biden is not inclined to lower gasoline prices in any meaningful way.

Biden has no comprehension of the necessity of petroleum—not only for fuel, but a multitude of other essentials—plastics, lubricants, highway pavement, cosmetics, building materials, chemicals, and many, many others. Providing these products with renewable sources cannot be done for at least many decades and probably a century or more. Biden's pipe dream of a few years is economic stupidity. This past June, our overall inflation rate has topped 9.1%—a 41 year record.

By the way, Joe, did you know that the pumping stations along the pipeline you just killed were to be powered by solar and wind? And did you know that transporting that oil by truck, rail, or less direct pipelines will consume additional fossil fuel? Instead, Biden proposed to spend an extra \$500 billion of our taxes every year "to make facilities more reliant on clean energy and purchase zero-emissions vehicles."

What can we do to fix this dilemma? **This mid-term election year, we can vote for enough fiscally conservative Republicans in both houses to install enough veto-proof votes to reverse Biden's reckless authority.** Open up drilling leases. Continue with pipeline construction. Open up free markets. Repeal stupid environmental regulations. End ethanol mandates. Give Volkswagen a full pardon and restitution for their so-called "cheating" on tiny emissions.

And one more thing: **Allow the building of more refineries.** Since the mid 1990's, oppressive government regulation has shut down over 150. We now have only 150 left that still operate. Did you know that the last refinery in the United States was built in the early 1970's? Thank you, EPA, for destroying our energy independence!

Besides corrupt energy policies, Biden has many other liabilities. A big one is his willingness to admit just about any criminal or potential terrorist to cross our borders and invade our country. He promised to legalize the estimated (at least) 22 million aliens already here, signing several executive orders to prioritize their needs over those of Americans, and even prioritizing "minority communities." He placed a moratorium on deportations, and ordered the immediate release of all detainees, including the criminals. There is no rational way we can admit every impoverished peasant with ten children without becoming destitute ourselves. It is national suicide.

Re-entering the Paris Agreement was another no-brainer. Donald Trump had a very good reason to scrap its stupid ideas, which include "carbon taxes"

Faulkner University Announces Candace Owens As 2022 Benefit Dinner Speaker

Faulkner University's President-Elect Mitch Henry announced Candace Owens as the 2022 Benefit Dinner Speaker. Faulkner University's annual benefit dinner is a longstanding tradition and a red-letter-event on the social calendar every year for Montgomery and the River Region. In the past Faulkner has had the opportunity to bring in global thought leaders such as Prime Minister Tony Blair, President George W. Bush, Ambassador Nikki Haley, Dr. Ben Carson, Tom Brokaw and most recently Vice President Mike Pence.

CONTACT: Rebecca Burylo, public relations manager at 334-386-7489 or rburylo@faulkner.edu

and other insane daydreams. Returning the U. S. to the World Health Organization was a similar reckless action. Joining these worldwide socialist movements is a serious threat to our national sovereignty.

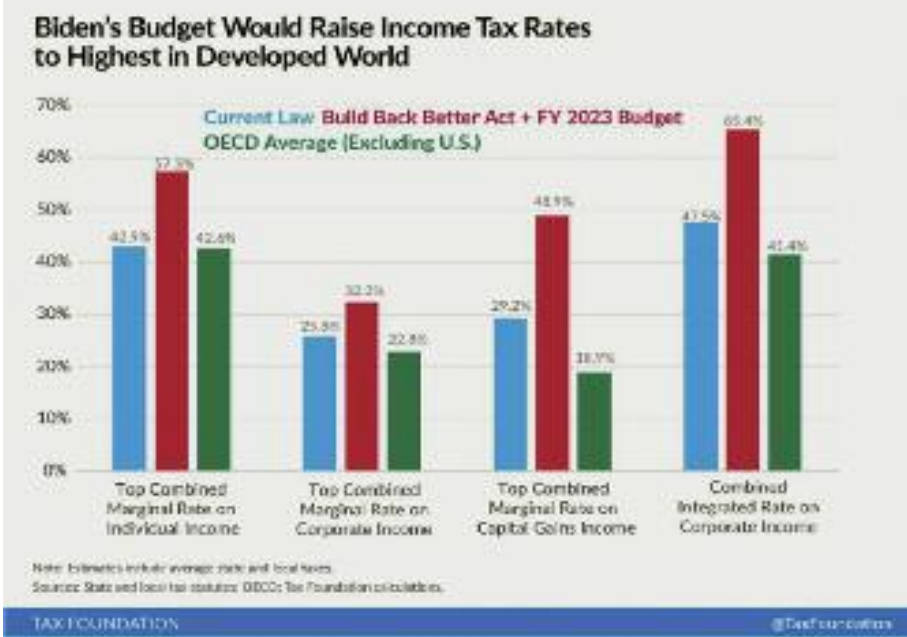
Biden's goal of imposing 100 million COVID vaccines in his first 100 days has resulted in the deaths and disabilities of untold thousands of Americans. The real numbers may never be revealed for many years, if ever. He also mandated face masks on federal property and nearly all forms of public transportation.

Biden's botched Afghanistan withdrawal left an unknown number of Americans stranded while bringing back many other unqualified non-Americans. He also left behind many millions of dollars worth of weapons and materiel for ISIS and the Taliban instead of shipping it out prior to the withdrawal.

And don't forget: Biden has proposed some serious tax increases. His top tax rate proposals are well beyond our current rates and even farther beyond the rest of the industrialized world (OECD). Here are the consequences if his "Build Back Better Act" passes and becomes law:

- 1st number -- U. S. Current Law.
- 2nd number – Biden's BBBA + FY 2023 Budget.
- 3rd number -- OECD Average (excluding U.S.)

1. Top Combined Marginal Rate on Individual Income -- 42.9%, **57.3%**, 42.6%.
2. Top Combined Marginal Rate on Corporate Income -- 25.8%, **32.3%**, **22.8%**.
3. Top Combined Marginal Rate on Capital Gains Income -- 29.2%, **48.9%**, 18.9%.
4. Combined Integrated Rate on Corporate Income -- 47.5%, **65.4%**, 41.4%.



Are you ready to pony up? Nationwide, this year's midterm election is expected to be a bloodbath for Democrats. We cannot afford to wait two more years to throw out Biden. We must eliminate his allies NOW to assure that his reckless policies do not destroy America and the freedom for which it stands.

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Defend Against SCAMMERS WHO TARGET YOUR Social Security Benefits

Scammers are always finding new ways to steal your money and personal information by exploiting your fears. The most effective way to defeat scammers is to know how to identify scams and to ignore suspicious calls and emails.

One common tactic scammers use is posing as federal agents or other law enforcement. They may claim your Social Security number is linked to a crime. They may even threaten to arrest you if you do not comply with their instructions. Here are three things you should do:

- Hang up right away or do not reply to the email.
- Never give personal information or payment of any kind.
- Report the scam at oig.ssa.gov to immediately notify the law enforcement team in our Office of the Inspector General.

You should continue to remain vigilant of phone calls when someone says there’s a problem with your Social Security number or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

*There are a few ways you can identify a scam call or email.
Remember that we will never:*

- Threaten you with benefit suspension, arrest, or other legal action unless you pay a fine or fee.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Require payment by retail gift card, cash, wire transfer, internet currency, or prepaid debit card.
- Demand secrecy from you in handling a Social Security-related problem.
- Send official letters or reports containing personally identifiable information via email.

If you do not have ongoing business with our agency, it is unlikely we will contact you. Again, if you get a suspicious call claiming to be from us or law enforcement about Social Security, you should hang up and report it right away to our Office of the Inspector General at oig.ssa.gov.

A NEW—AND FASTER—WAY TO REQUEST A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

Do you need an original or replacement Social Security Number card? We now have a new – and faster – way for you to start online.

When you go to our Social Security Number and Card web page at www.ssa.gov/ssnumber, we now ask you a series of questions to determine whether you can.

- Complete the application process online.
- Start the application process online, then bring any required documents to your local office to complete the application, typically in less time.

Once you complete your application (online or in-person), we will mail the card after we process the application. Please understand that we don’t issue cards at our offices.

Finish your application in the office.

If you need to visit an office, please follow these steps to complete the application:

1. Learn what types of documents you need to bring to your local office.
2. Print and save the online control number shown once you complete the online application.
3. Bring the online control number – along with the documents – to your local office within 45 days to finish your application. Find your local office using our Office Locator at www.ssa.gov/locator
4. Check in at the kiosk when you arrive.
5. Meet with one of our employees to verify the information that you completed online and review documentation.

That’s it! You’ll receive the card in the mail, usually within 7 – 10 business days.

We’re continuously expanding our services to put you in control and help you secure today and tomorrow for you and your family. Please share this information with your friends and family – and post it on social media.

Change Address/phone number Online with *my Social Security*

If you receive Social Security benefits, the easiest way to change your address and phone number is by creating a personal **my Social Security** account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. Once you create your account, you can update your contact information from your preferred location. This feature is available for people who receive retirement, survivors, or disability benefits, along with Medicare enrollees. If you receive Supplemental with your account. Visit our **my Social Security** web page to get started. To create an account, you must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Provide a valid email address.
- Have a Social Security number (SSN).
- Provide a U.S. mailing address .
(includes military addresses, APO/FPO/DPO, AE, AP, or AA).

Once you have a valid email address, you are ready to create your personal my Social Security account. When you visit **my Social Security**, select the “**Create an Account**” button. You will have the option to create your new **my Social Security** account with one of our two credential partners: **Login.gov or ID.me**.

- **Login.gov** is the public’s one account for simple, secure, and private access to participating U.S. government agencies.
- ID.me is a single sign-on provider that meets the U.S. government’s online identity proofing and authentication requirements.

Please note, if you already have a Login.gov or ID.me account, you can select the appropriate button to sign in with either one and access your personal **my Social Security** account. If you previously verified your identity with Login.gov or ID.me, you don’t need to do so again. If you don’t have a **Login.gov** or **ID.me** account, please select the “**Create an Account**” link to start the one-time registration process.

If you create a new Login.gov credential, we will still complete the identity verification part, so you will need to provide some personal information to us. You will also receive an activation code from us to complete the process.

Remember, you can do much of your business with us online at www.ssa.gov/online.

Understanding the Need for a Representative Payee

You may know someone who gets a monthly Social Security benefit or Supplemental Security Income payment and who also needs help managing their money. If someone you know needs help, we can appoint a person or an organization to act as a “representative payee” responsible for receiving and managing a person’s benefits.

When we assign a representative payee, we select someone who knows the beneficiary’s needs and can make decisions about how to best use their benefits for their care and wellbeing. Representative payees are responsible for completing an annual form to account for the benefit payments they receive and manage. They must complete this form and return it to Social Security by mail or, if they have a personal **my Social Security** account, they can file it online using the Representative Payee portal. Account holders can get a benefit verification letter and manage direct deposit and wage reporting for their beneficiaries. Learn more about the portal at www.ssa.gov/myaccount/rep-payee.html.

You also have the option to identify, in advance, up to three individuals you trust to serve as your future representative payee and help manage your benefits, if the need arises. We call this Advance Designation. We offer Advance Designation to capable adults and emancipated minors who are applying for or already receiving Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security Income, or Special Veterans Benefits. With Advance Designation, you and your family can enjoy peace of mind knowing someone you trust may be appointed to manage your benefits. Find more information about:

- Advance Designation at www.ssa.gov/payee/advance_designation.htm.
- Representative Payees at www.ssa.gov/payee.

- Training videos on the duties of a representative payee at www.ssa.gov/payee/rp_training2.html.
- Publications about representative payees at www.ssa.gov/payee/newpubs.htm.

If you know someone who needs help managing their monthly benefits, please consider becoming a representative payee. You can also help by sharing this information with friends and family.

EXPAND your SOCIAL SECURITY KNOWLEDGE WITH THESE FIVE TERMS...

We strive to explain your benefits using easy-to-understand, plain language. The Plain Writing Act of 2010 requires federal agencies to communicate information clearly in a way “the public can understand and use.” This can be particularly challenging when talking about complicated programs like Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, and Medicare.

Take a moment to learn a few common Social Security terms and acronyms!

COLA: This stands for “Cost-of-Living Adjustment.” With COLAs, Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits keep pace with inflation. Most years, your monthly benefit amount will get a COLA, which usually means extra money.

Credits: As you work and pay Social Security taxes, you earn credits – previously called “Quarters of Coverage” – that count toward your eligibility for future Social Security benefits. You can earn a maximum of four credits each year. Most people need 40 credits to qualify for benefits. Younger people need fewer credits to qualify

for disability or survivors benefits. For more information, see Social Security Credits at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10072.pdf.

Earnings Record: This is the chronological history of the amount of money you earned each year during your working lifetime. Your credits remain on your Social Security earnings record even when you change jobs or have no earnings for a period of time. Review your earnings record with a personal my Social Security account at www.ssa.gov/myaccount.

FICA: This stands for “Federal Insurance Contributions Act.” It’s the tax withheld from your wages that funds the Social Security and Medicare programs.

Now, if any of these terms or acronyms comes up in conversation, you can help explain what they mean. Visit our online glossary at www.ssa.gov/agency/glossary to learn more of our terminology and deepen your understanding of how Social Security works for you.

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

*Kylle’ McKinney, SSA Public Affairs
Specialist: kylle.mckinney@ssa.gov*

Support local Law Enforcement



Sheriff Cunningham



Montgomery County Sheriff's Office

(334) 832-4980 ♦ www.montgomerysheriff.com



Chief Deputy Murphy

HEAT WAVE!

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Foundation was created to assist the citizens of Montgomery County and law enforcement during natural disasters and critical needs.

Due to the unprecedented heat wave that has overtaken Montgomery County and the State of Alabama, the Foundation is supplying bottled water to members of the public, particularly children, elderly, the homeless and others exposed to outside activity.

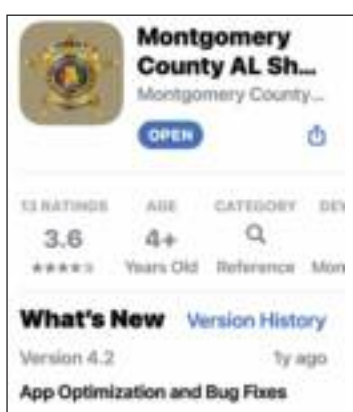
On duty deputies will be distributing the bottled water for several days while the heatwave remains in our community. If you have any questions, please call 334-832-1339.

Sheriff's Office App

If you haven't already heard, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office has a phone app called "Montgomery County AL Sheriff" that can be accessed through your phone's app store. Once you have added this app to your phone, you can easily set your phone up to receive important push notifications. Push notifications are quick, important messages that can notify you of road closure(s), blocked road(s), anything pertinent to your travel, escape, etc. While our app can help you with many things including checking to see if someone is in the county jail, it is most helpful to receive push notifications. After you have downloaded the app, go through the follow steps to make sure your phone is set up to receive the push notifications:

- Go to your phone's setting icon
- Scroll down and click "Applications"
- Scroll down to "MCSO" or "Montgomery County AL Sheriff"
- OR**
- Click "Application Manager", if it the location
- Click "Notifications"
- Turn 'on' "Allow Notifications" and "Previews in pop-ups"

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



Social Media

Social Media

Search

Facebook Sheriff of Montgomery Alabama

Instagram Mcsoal



Firearms Familiarization Course

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



For information on the next class, please call 334-832-1339.

Ring Neighbors Program

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is excited to be on Neighbors in our efforts to connect with residents and improve the safety of our communities. Neighbors allows you, the user, to share photos, videos and information related to local crime and safety incidents so fellow residents can stay informed.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office can view what local residents have posted publicly to Neighbors and can now chime-in with relevant updates or safety alerts to help residents stay informed. You do not need a Ring device to join Neighbors. Anyone with a smartphone can download the Neighbors App in order to receive updates and have the option to post photos or videos from any device.

Feel free to spread the word and make sure to always report criminal activity and emergency situations directly to the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office by calling 911. Visit: <https://ring.com/neighbors>



Project Lifesaver

Project Lifesaver is a search and rescue program operated by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and public safety agencies across the country. The program targets "at-risk" individuals who are prone to wandering away from their safe environment. The program is designed to reduce potential injury of adults and children with the propensity to wander due to Alzheimer's, dementia, autism or other cognitive diseases.

Research conducted by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that one in ten people in Alabama 65 and older have developed Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The percentage increases with age: 17 percent of people age 75-84, and 32 percent of people aged 85 and older have Alzheimer's dementia. In Montgomery, AL, approximately 15.1% of the population is 65 or older.

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Project Lifesaver is committed to assisting the community and keeping your loved ones safe!

Visit: www.montgomerysheriff.com/public-interest/project-life

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Dr. Martha Poole Simmons

Honoring Our Heroes



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

Col William Randall Ray: Age 66

Col William Randall Ray served 35 years in the Alabama Army National Guard. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) included beginning as the Fire Direction Officer and then as Executive Officer in Field Artillery. He transferred from Combat Arms to Support where he served as a Maintenance Control Officer, Executive Officer and as Commander of the 778th Maintenance Company. He then transferred to the 226th Area Support Group (ASG) and served as a Logistical and Maintenance Officer. From there, he transferred to the 31st Area Support Group serving again as a Logistics and Maintenance officer then to the 200th Material Management Center (MMC) serving as Director of Munitions and from there to the 145th Chemical Battalion where he served as Battalion Commander.

Col Ray’s decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons were: Meritorious Service Medal (three), Joint Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (five) Army Achievement Medal (four), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal w/one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal w/three Bronze Service Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/”M” Device and one Silver Hourglass, Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon with numeral “6”, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Citation, Veterans Service Medal of Alabama with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Special Service Medal of Alabama, Service Ribbon of State of Alabama with 911 Clasp, Faithful Service Medal of Alabama with one Silver and one Bronze Saint Andrews Cross and Active Duty Basic Training Ribbon.

Col Ray was born January 10, 1956 in Grady, AL, to his parents, William E. and Myra S. Ray. He was reared there and graduated from South Montgomery Academy in May 1974. Following the footsteps of his father who had served in the AL Army National Guard with deployment to Korea, Col Ray volunteered for military service joining the AL Army National Guard in June 1974. Beginning as a Private, he completed Basic Training at Ft. Polk, LA, and Ft. Leonard Wood, MO, returned to Ft. Rucker, AL, and then served with the 31st Aviation Battalion at Montgomery, AL.Using the G.I. Bill, he attended college at Troy State University’s main campus and at Auburn University at Montgomery and then graduated with honors from Faulkner University with a B.S. Degree in Business Administration in 1980. Col. Ray completed OCS at the AL Military Academy at Ft. McClellan, AL, and was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in 1980 after which he began his Military education preparing himself for further military leadership. He completed the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course in 1981, the Field Artillery Cannon Battery Officer Course in 1981, the Nuclear, Biological & Chemical Defense School program in 1983, the Unit Commander’s Course in 1987, the Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, TACCS, SAMS II, MSOffice I & II Computer Course in 1990, the Command and General Staff College, the Hazardous Materials Handlers Course in 1996, the Associate Logistics Executive Development Course in 1997, the Chemical Officer’s Course and Joint Senior Leader’s Course in 2003 and the Chemical Pre-Command Course in 2004. Col Ray is Branch Qualified in Artillery, Ordnance EOD, Logistics and Chemical.

Col Ray served in overseas logistics operations including operations in Panama, Ecuador, Honduras, Korea, and Germany. He participated in Desert Shield/Desert Storm moving from Saudi Arabia to Kuwait and finally into Iraq. He served in “Operation Roving Sands” in New Mexico and on the Joint Task Force-Staff of the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. He served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom moving from Germany to eastern Turkey and served as the Deputy J4 for the Joint Task Force- Liberia, operating from SETAF Headquarters in Italy, and participated in Joint Training Exercises in Romania. Col Ray has had a distinguished military career beginning as a Private and retiring as Colonel. He retired from military service June 1, 2009.

While serving with the Alabama Army National Guard, Col Ray was also gainfully employed as a civilian where he worked as a Licensed General Contractor in Montgomery, Pike and Elmore Counties, AL, from October 1986 to



October 1990. He planned and directed construction operations for insurance claims, repairs, and new construction.

Col Ray moved from General Contracting in the construction fields to Military Contracting where he worked as a Property Administrator and Business Manager for the Training Service Center (TSC) at Ft. Rucker, AL from October to October 1999. He performed managerial accounting and business functions related to contract performance, prepared budgets, authorized purchases and payments, analyzed financial trends, supervised warehouse operations, transportation, receipts, maintenance, storage and issue, determined Surplus Property disposition, conducted personnel selection, hiring and evaluation, developed, updated and implemented operational plans, evaluated and allocated resources, personnel and equipment to assigned task, prepared monthly, quarterly and annual reports and analyzed and quantified trends in operational cost and equipment usage and/or purchases.

Col Ray’s third career since leaving military service was serving as the Program Supervisor for the State of AL from October 1999 to October 2019. This involved professional, managerial, administrative and supervisory work in program management for Federal and State Grant Programs. He assumed responsibility for day-day operational management of Federal and State Grant activities and functions for the AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs/Law Enforcement/Traffic Safety Division and then moved into the State’s Economic Development Division.

Although in 2022, Col Ray maintains that his current occupational status is retired, actually, he is the business owner of the Justalil Rodeo Company (Children’s Rodeo and Western Festival Company) that produces, for the past 25 years, the Little Boots Rodeo. His duties and responsibilities include livestock acquisition and management, directing events (management, planning and coordinating all aspects of rodeos), facility coordination, facilities contracts, insurance procurement, sponsorship procurement, advertising, contestant registration, livestock procurement, and development of rules and regulation per event.He and his wife, Nancy also conduct Children’s Western Festivals and Mutton Busting events for various rodeos held throughout AL, FL and MS.

In addition to his involvement with rodeos, Col Ray operates the Double R-Farm, a 100 acre farm/ranching operation in Grady, AL where he spends his days working on the farm and enjoying the retired life.

Col Ray and his wife, Nancy, have been married 38 years, and he has one stepson. They are members of the Grady Church of Christ in Grady Alabama. He holds membership in the American Legion, the VFW, the Southeastern Livestock Exposition (SLE) and the AL Cattlemen’s Association.

Col Ray’s conclusions about his military service are, “It wasn’t always easy, but few things in life worth having are. My careers, both military and civilian, have been filled with challenges. These challenges have proven to be a confidence builder, and now they are a source of prestige and pride that gives you a sense of accomplishment.”

Col Ray states, “If generations even remember me at all, I want them to remember me as someone that tried to live life to its fullest. I traveled the world participating in military operations and exercises. I have worked with hundreds of communities throughout the State attempting to enhance their economic development and improve their quality of life. I have been actively involved in the livestock business,and I like to believe that through all of this,I have had a positive impact on future generations.”

Lt Col Julie Martin Harris: Age 77



Lt. Col Julie Martin Harris served over 20 years in the U. S. Air Force. Her Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Administrative Service Officer. Her decorations, medals, badges and citations included: Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award Ribbon with Valor device with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Recognition Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Lt Col Harris was born in Anniston, AL, June 3, 1945 to her parents, Joseph Martin Harris and Leana Harris. She graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1963. Her leisure time was spent playing golf. She graduated from Athens State University with a double major in psychology and physical education in 1968. She taught physical education at Foley, AL for one year.

Lt Col Harris began her military service in the U.S. Air Force completing OCS December 8,1969 at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX. Her first assignment was at Eglin AFB, FL, for one and one-half years as the housing officer and then as the Women in the Air Force commander. She then served at the Tactical Air Command (TAC) at Langley AFB, VA. Lt Col Harris served a tour for one year at Nakhon Phanon Royal Air Force Base (NKP), Thailand. From there, she served at the Air Force Training School at Lackland AFB as the first female in the Air Force selected to serve as a flight officer commander. Next she served as an instructor of military history at the Air Force Academy, CO, for two years. She then served as the administrative support director to the Secretary of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

Lt. Col Harris’ military education included: (1) Air Force Administrative Officer Course for 10 weeks in May 1972, (2) the Squadron Officer School for 11 weeks in September 1974, (3) Air Command and Staff College Seminar in June 1979 and (4) Administrative Systems Management Course for 43 weeks in June 1981.

Lt Col Harris’ served as an instructor of military history and combat arms at the Air University at Maxwell AFB, AL, where she retired from military service February 28, 1990. She reflects upon her military service saying, “It has meant everything. It was my life. I gave it all that I had.” She would like future generations to remember that she went to school, graduated and served her country.

Following her military service, Lt. Col Harris worked selling real estate for the Aronov Realty Company in Montgomery, AL. She has enjoyed swimming and playing golf during her leisure time.



Master Sergeant David George Simonton: Age 65



Master Sergeant (MSgt) Simonton served 20 years in the United States Air Force including tours in Desert Storm and in Korea. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Communications Computer Systems Operations Craftsman and Security Police Journeyman. His decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons awarded included: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with five oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters, Southwest Asia Service Medal with three Service Stars, Korean Defense Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with four oak leaf clusters, Small Arms Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training and Kuwait Liberation Medal.



MSgt Simonton was born October 6, 1956 to his parents, Candler J. Simonton and Edna Marie Simonton, in Boston, MA, where he was reared at Mansfield, MA, until the age of 10. He then lived at Virginia Beach, VA, and he graduated from Princess Anne High School there in June 1974. He attended

college for one semester and worked installing air conditioners in cars for one year.

MSgt Simonton joined the Air Force in 1976, completed Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, and he completed training at the Air Force Police Academy serving as a security police officer in the missile field for four years. Because of a medical issue, he had to change his type of work. He cross trained as a computer operator and became a computer management specialist and a network manager. He served at Malstrom A.F.B., MT, 1976-1981, six weeks at Kessler A.F.B. to train in technology, a return to Malstrom A.F.B. and to Langley A.F.B. VA, for three years 1981-1985. His first deployment was to Kuan Air Base, Korea, for a consecutive in place tour for two years and to Taegu Air Base, Korea, for a consecutive in place overseas tour for two years. He returned to the U.S.A. to Homestead A.F.B., FL followed by service in the Middle East to Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates installing computer systems December 1990 to June 1991. He then returned for a second deployment to Kuan Air Base, Korea, for one year and then to Osan Air Base, Korea, for two years. MSgt Simonton's last assignment was at Maxwell A.F.B. Gunter Annex, AL, in 1994 where he was first in charge of software testing for six months and then as Project Facilitator where he supervised the installation of a new computer system on many Air Force Bases in the United States. MSgt Simonton retired at Gunter Annex September 30, 1996.

MSgt Simonton's education included receiving an Associate Degree (AA) from Community College of the U. S. Air Force in Information Systems April 26, 1988, an Associate Degree (AA) from the University of Maryland in Liberal Arts May 13, 1995 and a B.S. Degree in Computer Science and a minor in Psychology from Excelsior College, an online private college, in 1997. After his military retirement, MSgt using the G.I Bill attended Alabama State University. He received a Master's Degree in Computer Science from Troy State University December 14, 1999.

MSgt Simonton worked for the Unisys Corporation, an American multinational information technology services and consulting company for one year. Then he worked for the AL State Treasury Department for one year and one-half years in 1999 and then in the AL Department of Human Services until he retired in 2014.

MSgt Simonton and his current wife, Nan Suk, have been married 35 years, and they have one son, Daniel, now living in Duluth, GA. They met and were married while he was stationed in Korea. They are both retired, and they enjoy gardening and playing with their dog. They are members of the Korean United Methodist Church of Montgomery. He is a member of Post Two American Legion, the V.F.W. and the Sergeants Association. From a previous marriage, he has two daughters, Kimberly Lawler living in Seattle, WA, and Amber Stevens living in Great Falls, MT.

MSgt Simonton's conclusions about his military service are, "I originally joined the military for the college benefits that I would receive, but after retraining into the computer field, I decided to make the military a career. I have a very positive feeling about my entire military career. When I first joined, I thought I was going to serve for a short time, but I feel that I was blessed when the Air Force cross trained me into the computer field. This made me more positive about staying in the Air Force. Today I would say that the Air Force is a great opportunity for training and how to get along with people."

Resources for Veterans



Veterans Crisis Line
www.veteranscrisisline.net



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

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

Gold Medal Romay Davis received Congressional Gold Medal

Montgomery resident, Romay Catherine Davis, received a Congressional Gold Medal July 26, 2022 at Montgomery City Hall. This 102 WWII WAC served in England with 855 female African-Americans in the 6888th Unit sorting mail so it could be delivered to the G.I.'s. Davis' article was published in the January 2022 issue of the Alabama Gazette.

Col Eries Mentzer, Commander Maxwell Air Force Base, presents the Congressional Gold Medal to Davis.



Veterans love reading *The Gazette!*



Sergeant First Class James Owen Dozier
(US Army)



Army Specialist Dale Gamble
(US Army)



Private First Class Roy Franklin Stephens
(US Army)



Master Sergeant Ronald Lewis
(US Marine Corps)

Veterans Celebrating Birthdays

Fenton Wesley Johnson: August 4

Carolyn McMeans: August 18

Jackson B. Dismukes Jr.: August 9

Neal B. Schultz: August 20

Marion Lee Hornsby: August 11

Donald Lee Applegarth: August 30

Charles E. Morris: August 10

Joseph Edward Boyett: August 31

Patrick Louis Campbell: August 17

Congratulations!

100 Yrs and Counting!

Robert Shafton Kohn

WWII veteran, Robert Shafton Kohn, celebrated his 100th birthday on July 28, 2022. He served with the U. S. Army's Infantry for 52 days in the WWII Battle of the Bulge. His article was published in the December 2019 issue of the Alabama Gazette.



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Soul Searching

Visionary Leadership And The Two Biggest Land Deals in U.S. History (That Almost Never Happened)

The two biggest land deals in U.S. history almost never happened and many critics thought at the time that they were two of the worst mistakes in American history. How wrong the critics were....

The real estate industry may see some large land deals these days such as the \$2 billion Antilla building in Mumbai or the 105,000 square foot megamansion in Los Angeles known as “The One” which recently listed for \$295 million and is the most expensive listing in the U.S. right now. But these pale in comparison to the two biggest and most historic land deals.

The first one is Russia’s sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867. It is one of the biggest land deals in history. This deal gave the U.S. 375 million more acres and a huge domestic source of oil ad other natural resources. The U.S. purchase of Alaska from Russia is considered to be the largest land deal in history. Fearing another war with Britain after the Crimean War, Russia rushed to sell Alaska to the United Sates for just \$7.2 million or about 2 cents per acre. Since much of Canada was controlled by Britain and the Russians considered them their arch enemy, they were afraid British Colombia would take over Alaska. Plus, Russia needed the money to bolster it’s finances.

Today, Alaska is worth astronomically more than \$7.2 million. The State of Alaska encompasses 586,412 square miles and churns out hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil each year plus has many other natural resources. It is also home to several very strategic U.S. military bases.

The second biggest land deal in U.S. history was the Louisiana Purchase from France in 1803 which proved to be transformational to the United States. This purchase added 512 million additional acres and 13 states. The purchase price? \$15 million.

Of course, today the land in the Louisiana Purchase is worth infinitely more and encompasses 827,000 square miles. To show you how big it was the Louisiana Territory which was purchased included Louisiana, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas along with most of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota and Minnesota. This is a huge land mass. Can you imagine the United States without these 13 key states plus Alaska?

Well, believe it or not, these two deals almost never happened. And they would not have happened if not for two visionary people. Secretary of State William Seward and President Thomas Jefferson.

William Seward was the Secretary of State under Abraham Lincoln during the Civil war and Andrew Johnson after the war. Seward had also served as the Governor of New York and as a U.S. Senator. Seward had a broad vision for the commercial and economic expansion of the United States and started talks with the Russian government in 1864 about selling Alaska. The Civil War stalled their talks. But after the war was over, Seward renewed the talks and signed a treaty with Russia to buy Alaska. Despite the bargain price of just 2 cents per acre, Seward was ridiculed in congress, and, in the press, the purchase of Alaska was called “Sewards Folly” and “Sewards Icebox.” President Andrew Johnson was also criticized in the newspapers calling Alaska Andrew Johnsons “Polar Bear Garden.” Fortunately, they didn’t let the critics and visionless people stop them from this key purchase. What a deal?

President Thomas Jefferson was widely criticized for the Louisiana Purchase because he didn’t seek congressional approval before he made the deal. Many believed he was acting above and beyond his constitutional authority. Which he probably was. Secondly, many Federalists worried that the U.S. was funding a war against Spain by buying the land from Napoleon. But, despite the attacks and the critics, Thomas Jefferson unilaterally signed the deal to purchase the Louisiana Territory. Thank God he didn’t listen to the naysayers and the criticism. He pursued the vision for an expanded America which would open the doors for the United States to become the greatest country and the super power it has become.

Visionary leaders like William Seward and Thomas Jefferson helped make the United States the great nation it is today. They expanded our territory, our resources and our potential significantly through these two land deals. The two biggest land deals in U.S. history changed our country forever.... But they almost never happened.

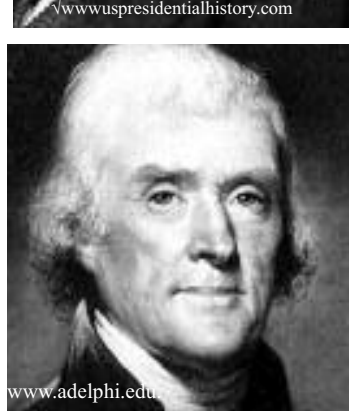
If Seward and Jefferson had listened to the critics and the naysayers and not made these land deals happen, our country would be much, much smaller today with significantly less resources and people. Perhaps the America we know and love today would never have developed into the beacon of strength and freedom in the world without these visionary acquisitions of land.

I have traveled to all of these beautiful states included in the Louisiana Purchase, and, this Summer, Janeese and I traveled for the first time to Alaska which is truly gorgeous, wild and definitely the last frontier. I cannot imagine our great country without these magnificent states and their amazing people. I would encourage everyone to get outside and travel to these incredible places and be sure to remember with appreciation how we got them. It was visionary leadership!

Never underestimate the power and the potential impact of a vision. Perhaps, God has a vision he has given you. If not, pray and ask the Lord to give you one. It may be your purpose in life to pursue that vision.... that dream he has placed in your heart. Remember, however, that when it comes to visions and dreams for your future or your family or your business or your church or your city..... there will always be critics and naysayers. Hold fast to your vision!

My favorite Bible verse about visions and dreams is found in *Joel 2:28. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.”*

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



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Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group

What is the Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group?

The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is an affiliate of the National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS). The group consists of parents, family members and friends of individuals with Down syndrome. The group meets the second Friday of every month at Vaughn Park Church of Christ in Montgomery.

The Montgomery Area Down Syndrome Outreach Group is definitely making strides in spreading awareness in the Montgomery area! Through the annual Buddy Walk the group has been able to raise enough funds to purchase books to donate to local libraries, schools and teachers in the tri-county area, distribute gift baskets to new parents of babies born with Down syndrome in all Montgomery hospitals, provide educational speakers during our monthly meetings, host play dates, group outings and so much more!

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Community Editor

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

RAMER CLASS REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1957

65TH REUNION - RAMER HIGH SCHOOL



L-R:
Gayle McKinney
Carolyn Menefee Hicks
Margaret Motes Boyd
Ruth Smith Ray
Katie Russell Cleghorn
Lawrence Ford
Delores McKinley McLaughlin

Ethleen Boyd Bazzell
Bill Collier
Mike Moseley
Pat Moseley
Ester Suggs Jones
Knox Norman
Cecil Humphrey

CLASS OF 1947

75TH REUNION - RAMER HIGH SCHOOL



R-L: **Voncile Walton Talley**, **Mary Kate Stubbs Campbell**
Loyd Smilie, **Ted Paludan**



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BIRTHDAYS!**

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KENTJUNE 10TH
NITA....JUNE 22ND

Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2 Mike & Laura Lane | 19 Jason & Shawn Adams |
| 4 Frances & Ted Watts | 19 Rob & Minerva Tate (36th) |
| 5 Michael & Jackie Moseley | 21 David & Elizabeth Miller |
| 7 Todd & Nikki Windham | 22 Johnny & Betsy Walker |
| Zach & Magan Grambling (12th) | 24 Frank & Aileen Kovacic |
| Charlie & Debbie Moore | 25 Bill & Jane Grubbs |
| 9 Turpin & Angie Ashurst | 27 Johnny & Regina Johnson (38th) |
| 11 Mack & Susan Terrell | Barbara & Tommy Ratliff (34th) |
| 13 David & Julie Livingston | 28 Dr. Karl & Brenda Stegall (57th) |
| Tim & Cherie Meadows (28th) | 29 Mike & Deborah Kirk |
| 16 Leon & Pearl McClain (64rd) | Bill & Sharlotte Younklin |
| Terri & Michael Taylor (36th) | David & Suzanne Webb |
| 18 Earl & Theresa Henderson | 30 Randy & Mae Bishop |



August Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Cindy Bolton | 14 Darlene Fuller Davis |
| Ty Bolton | Jill McCain |
| Heide Doran | 14 Patsy Norman (70th) |
| 2 Nichole Lansdon Gibson (48th) | Ricky Webster (73rd) |
| Chloe Taylor Jordan | 15 Connie Mainor (59th) |
| George McCurdy | Claudia Adams (100th) |
| Moe Parker | Earl Russell (72nd) |
| Sheryl Schall | 16 Billy Betts (73rd) |
| Tim Schall | 17 Tyler Schoknecht |
| Rhonda Tatum | Max Webb |
| Gerald H. Thompson (95th) | 19 Carl Boyd (68th) |
| 3 Frances Byrd | Shannon Grant |
| Lisa Wooten | 20 Caleb Holmes (44th) |
| 4 Harry Baker | Sydney Mills |
| Chuck Bolton | 21 Lorraine Hall |
| Harris Bolton | Paula Jones (68th) |
| Linda Hix | Madison Boyd Williams (14th) |
| Eveline & Ernestine Trafford | 22 Tom Garlington |
| (72nd) | O. C. Thompson (93rd) |
| 5 Chuck Gambrell | Rhett Tucker |
| Ellie Harper (5th) | 23 Lamar Higgins |
| 6 Chase Cumbie | Lindsey Woodall Brown |
| Luke Davis | 24 Terri Gulsby |
| Tony Drake | Lori McGough |
| Joshua Jones (37th) | Mary Iva Sellers |
| 7 Anna Louise Moseley | Preston Webb |
| Bill Ratliff (87th) | 25 Loyd Smilie (93rd) |
| 8 Mallory Hitson | 27 Angie Herndon |
| Lauren Meredith | 28 Bill Hix |
| 9 Audrey Alison | 29 Charlie Blount |
| Perry Mason (63rd) | Jimmy Grant (68th) |
| Don White | Glenn Fuller (87th) |
| Doris Williams (95th) | Diane McLaney |
| 10 Hilda Furlow (96th) | Dawson Moore (5th) |
| 11 Wayne Roy (75th) | Paul Reynolds |
| Shawn Terrell | 30 Imogene Bryan |
| 12 Trisston Burrows | Mary Ester Cook (89th) |
| 13 Bobby Boyd (62nd) | 31 Winnie Barton |
| Barry Ehrlich | Chloe Mills |
| Maxine Scroggins | Sallie Rhodes |

Belated 19th Birthday to Eli Browning July 24th

Belated Wishes

**Rev. Nick & Rebecca Hughes celebrated their
2nd Anniversary on July 25, 2021**

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

Neuhoff, Barbara Anne (91)Feb. 2 , 2022
Clark, Thornton (84)June 21
Rhoades, (Rt) Maj. Glenn E. (72).....	June 21
Taylor, Sr. , Charles "Buck" Jackson (91)June 21
Crum, Leigh Ellizabeth Kathleen (48)June 27
Davis, Sr., Walter Frank (80).....	July 3
McLendon, Jr., Benson Rayfield "Mac" (76).....	July 4
Azar, Norma Ruth Altmiller (89).....	July 5
Story, Charles E. (82).....	July 5
Gray, Cecile "Ceci" Gay (71).....	July 6
Green, Mary Harrod (79)	July 6
Carmichael, Ronald Aubrey (70)	July 7
Gosdin, Carrie Lou Cline (95).....	July 7
Davis, Beverly. (74).....	July 9
Foster, Betty Holland (820).....	July 9
Hill, Frances Hightower (83).....	July 9
Taylor, Jr., James "Jay" Edmond (57)	July 10
Belle, June Heather (71)	July 12
Cagle, Jean Beatty (92).....	July 12
Chase, Parker Gerhard (26).....	July 13
Smitherman, Allie Carolyn "Bootie" Williams Cook (91)	July 13
Ufford, Katie Lafoy (90).....	July 13
Mullins, Eloise "Ellie" Jo Shull (97).....	July 14
Dekle, Robert Gore (97).....	July 15
Gainey, Walter Holice (87).....	July 15
Pickler, Sr., Mark Evan (65)	July 16
Terling, Jr., Anthony Austin (9).....	July 16
Wingard, Jr., Samuel "Sam" Harold (75)	July 18
Deal, Faye (86)	July 20
Sellers, Marian Malinda Wingard (93)	July 21

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- WARD, Mary Alice.....July 3
- PARSONS, Ann
- SAVAGE, Brett Lee.....July 6
- BRANDON Ewell Messer.....July 10
- GRAHAM, Cayla Destiny..... July 11
- WOODALL, Sharon Ann
- EASON, Kenneth Marvin
- RICHARDS Sr., William Charles.....July 21
- BROWN, Mary Elizabeth (Becky) O’Hearn..July 23
- CHILCOTE, Baby Girl Charlotte Rae.....July 26
- ROBINSON, Richard H. July 27

ROTARY SERVING COMMUNITIES IN THE RIVER REGION



Prattville/Millbrook Sunrise Rotary

Prattville/Millbrook Sunrise Rotary meeting with outstanding leadership by President Jamie Brown. Her super organizational skills were evident in how she runs her club. This Rotary Club meets at a hidden gem in Alabama, Lanark Alabama Wildlife Federation. . This club gives over \$10,000 in local grants each year in addition to many hours of service by members to local community projects. Assistant Governor Roy McAuley is a member of this club. As we were leaving the meeting over 300 students were arriving to attend a summer camp!

Brundidge Rotary Club

Enlightening meeting with the Brundidge Rotary Club organized on March 8, 1938 meets at the Brundidge United Methodist Church. President Markeith Blakey is energetic and excited to lead the club again this year and sincerely loves his community. One of their newest members is the new Pastor, Bro. Kevin. The club just received a district grant to purchase girls weight room equipment. This club is very involved in many community service projects ranging from scholarships, delivering meals to shut ins, and other local needs in the community. The club just completed their “Kiss a Pig” service project. They are a very giving club and have a history of “Service Above Self! I was presented with a Key to the City of Brundidge by Willie Wright, the City Manager representing Mayor Isabell Boyd. (This is my first key to a city ever) Also the club presented me with a basket of local made Brundidge and Pike County items and goodies.



Wetumpka Rotary Club

Wetumpka Rotary Club meeting at the Wharf. Michael Dozier, club President, and Wetumpka Rotarians were eager to get the new information and Rotary International Initiatives as they embark on a new Rotary year. Very good attendance with 1 female guest interested in joining the club. Thank you to Roy McAuley, Assistant Governor, with 48 years of service and Rotary membership for attending.



This club was founded in 1938 and continues financial support to community needs through service projects and reaching into their pocket.



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Alabama Taxes

Alabama has a 4 percent state sales tax rate, a max local sales tax rate of 7.50 percent, and an average combined state and local sales tax rate of 9.24 percent. Alabama's tax system ranks 39th overall on our 2022 State Business Tax Climate Index

Many people choose to retire or move to Alabama to work because they learn of the overall tax opportunities here. Alabama is tax-friendly toward retirees. Social Security income is not taxed. Withdrawals from retirement accounts are fully taxed. Wages are taxed at normal rates, and your marginal state tax rate is 5.90%.

If you take the standard deduction, the total amount will depend on your Alabama adjusted gross income (AGI) and filing status. The allowable deduction decreases as your income increases. Here is an overview of what you can expect:

- Single: \$2,000 – \$2,500
- Married filing separately: \$2,000 – \$3,750
- Head of family: \$2,000 – \$4,700
- Married filing jointly: \$4,000 – \$7,500

Notably, married couples filing separately must choose to take the same type of deduction, unless both taxpayers have been living separately for the full tax year. If you paid taxes on any of the following items during the last tax year, you could deduct them from your taxable income:

- Real estate taxes
- FICA tax (Social security and Medicare)
- Federal self-employment taxes
- Railroad retirement tax
- City, county, and occupational tax
- State unemployment insurance tax
- Federal gift taxes
- Personal property tax
- Generation-skipping transfer tax

Meanwhile, Alabama doesn't allow you to deduct some taxes. These taxes include state and local sales taxes, taxes you paid for someone else and income taxes paid to a foreign country. And while state income taxes aren't deductible, taxes paid to another state may qualify for a tax credit.

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TODAY'S WOMAN

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



Tears & Laughter:

All grown people need a place of their own

I heard a report last week suggesting one way to deal with inflation is to live with your parents.

As a parent, I would suggest that this may not be a viable plan.

And let me go ahead and make a disclosure, because I understand we live in a sensitive culture. To this day, I know if I have some kind of crisis, I can show up at either of my parent’s doorstep, and they will shelter me.

I offer this same umbrella to all of adult children who have already moved out and married and multiplied.

But...my mama and daddy do not want me to move back in with them. They love me. They want me to visit. But they do not want me to show up with a U-Haul.

The same applies to my own. I love them. I want to get their together and have supper about once a week. I enjoy my daughters all coming over on a weekday just to hang out together. I planned my life in such a way as to include these things. I value them. And yet...I do not want my adult children to move back in with me.

Chances are your mama and daddy do not want you and your whole family – including that third husband of yours they have never been all that crazy about, and all your kids, and their dogs, cats, hamsters, fish, anxieties, retainers, and phone chargers – to move in with them either, no matter what kind of savings it affords.

In fact, if they move in, I’m moving out. That is how strongly I feel about the matter.

Many of you can remember columnist and humorist Erma Bombeck, she described family as being the ties that bind and gag.

If you do not understand Erma’s sense of humor, let your grown kids move back in with you.

Times have sure changed. Kids today do not want to be considered grown until they are around 30. They want to start living adult lifestyles at about 12, but do not want to be fully responsible for their actions and their emotions until much later. Financial independence is a foreign notion to many of them.

My friend Anna and I used to work on our own equation back in high school during Algebra II class. We would try and figure out how much we would each have to make to be able to afford an apartment when we turned 18. Neither of us had trouble at home or felt pressured to move out, we just wanted to be grown.

We felt ready. We had our hope chests – a couple sets of dishes, a nice table cloth, two sets of sheets, and an electric can opener. We wanted our freedom. We wanted to set our own rules and plot our own paths.

Parents today have become enablers. It is our tendency as parents to provide, to intervene, to cover. We do not want them to experience the pressure involved in figuring things out on their own and solving their own problems.

Few things are more difficult because we all love our kids so much, and yet the result if you can find the strength to allow it, is the development of fully mature adults.

On the flipside, there are also ramifications if you do not allow your adult children to figure out their own issues and find ways to solve their own financial problems. They start believing the way to handle inflation is by moving back in with you.

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



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Trisston’s Tidbits ...

By Trisston Wright Burrows
site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

“Walking in Someone Else’s Shoes”

I am not sure how many of you have watched the movie "Freaky Friday" with Jamie Lee Curtis and Lindsey Lohan, where a mother and her teenage daughter exchange bodies. It's a hilarious comedy where they both get to experience what it's like to be the other person and their day-to-day situations.

This movie reminds me of how powerful it is having the opportunity to understand other people. We have this opportunity in our lives every day. And yet, how many of us take the opportunity? We don't need to be quite as extreme as exchanging bodies, but we can step into other peoples' shoes, metaphorically speaking.

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: *Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.*” **James 1:19**

Stepping into other people's shoes enables great communication to take place, even under difficult circumstances. Many of the problems we experience daily are due to either a lack of communication or poor communication. One of the best ways to improve communication and break down any barriers is to understand other people. Once we truly consider things from another's perspective and understand what inspires them in their own beliefs, fears, hopes, joys, and challenges, then interpersonal relationships can improve dramatically.

Stepping into the shoes of another and learning what it's like for them in their day-to-day life is a great opportunity for you to grow personally and benefit from powerful communication. So how do you step into their shoes?



I suggest having an awareness that you able to step into another’s shoes. Perhaps, instead of just jumping ahead with any communication, whether written or verbal, I invite you to stop and consider what it's like in the other person's shoes. If appropriate, you may choose to spend some time gaining a better understand of them by asking some questions and listening to their responses fully.

One of the greatest lessons God has taught me is that “I don’t know what I don’t know.” In addition, God is often willing to teach us if we open our hearts, mind, and mouth. Then, humbly ask Him to show us. You may quickly learn that it may not be an easy lesson. In fact, if you had realized the pain before the gain, you might not have signed up for this class at all. Walking a mile or even a minute in someone else’s shoes gives you a new perspective and often appreciation for the life they live, the ways they serve and suffer, and the blessings you have. Most importantly, it shows us how God provides all we need in everything He calls us to do and go through.

Many Blessings

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Source: Google / Roy Williams

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Opened in 1985 by Debbie Deese and her father, Red, this 1910 schoolhouse became the icon for Southern food and hospitality in the small community of Grady, AL. It has been known for its buffet, fresh ingredients and delicious dishes, including the apple cheese casserole.

But do not despair! The family will continue to serve great food and hospitality to its friends of the surrounding areas. **See you at Red’s!**

Pick up your Gazette at Red’s!



Bret and Rae



Recently, I decided to eat lunch at Martin’s Restaurant. I had lunch, stepped up to pay and stated that I was so glad she had **reopened**. **She responded, “I NEVER CLOSED”**. I was quite taken back. There had been so much news coverage about Martin’s closing, which in the long run has hurt business. People still call and don’t realize it really **never closed**.

Go by and visit Mary Ann at Martin’s and let her know we appreciate the years of great food and service to our area from her family. Having a restaurant is never easy, especially after Covid. Food and service was great! Don’t forget the wonderful deserts.

(Don’t forget to pick up your Gazette at Martin’s.)

Southern Gardening

Potpourri for AUGUST



Judge Peggy Givhan

Recently I had a disaster in my flower garden with a rogue armadillo rooting and digging up some expensive Pentas that I had just planted a few days before. The unfortunate incident occurred at the farm which is in south Dallas County. I have had trouble with these critters before, and I ordered from Amazon a product named Armadillo Scram. It seems like I used up the whole bag in 2 areas about a year ago. So what do they say, out sight, out of mind. After replanting these Pentas which most survived, I ordered more of the repellant. But before it came, my son's dog, Belle, chased down both of these destructive pests and in an instant we had 2 funerals. I now look at Belle as a heroine.

Annuals, perennials and even herbs have escalated in price. For instance, herbs at any of the box stores costs about \$5.00 per plant. Ridiculous. So I have begun sowing seed in black plastic 6 packs and when I ran out of them, I used the cardboard egg cartons that I saved after using the eggs. These are great as they do not seem to dry out as quickly as plastic and when the seeds are big enough to plant in the garden, you can plant the carton as is into the soil. The spacing for most seedlings is just about right. Some plants need to be sown directly in the garden without transplanting from the seed tray. These would include: zinnias, cleome, and cosmos. These can be sown at any time from April through late fall. We in zone 8 can have, for example, 3 crops of these wonderful tall showy annuals.

This year I have had great luck wintering over **Dragon Wing Begonias, and geraniums.** Around the end of March, I cut off any dead stems and leaves from the plants and put them into large outdoor pots, fertilize, and water them in. Do not be discouraged as they will most probably look a little rough. Within a couple of weeks they will put on new growth and thrive. Now at the end of July or the first of August, they will have gotten so large, it will be necessary to cut them back by a third. If I do not cut them back, within a month they will get leggy and flop over. I admit this task is hard to do because they look so beautiful, full of blooms and so vibrant. But you must be ruthless if you want an outstanding pot garden for fall. During the summer months I fertilize the geraniums at least 3 times per month, and usually feed the begonias a liquid fertilizer about one time per month.

Some people still have not learned that to prune flowering shrubs such as camelias, azaleas, and forsythia now, will assure that these bushes will have no blooms next spring. Someone asked me why their indica azaleas were spotty bloomers for years, and then I found out their annual ritual of pruning all shrubs late summer was the reason why. One can prune these flowering shrubs as much as you desire up to 6 weeks after their spring bloom.

Here is another tidbit I have learned over the years which helps with increased indeterminate tomato production. Of course plenty of fertilizer, periodically pruning up the plants from the bottom to let in more light. The difference between determinate and indeterminate tomatoes can be summed up by saying that determinate plants produce all at once and the indeterminate plants bloom and produce until frost.



Happy Gardening!

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OUTDOOR Truths



By Gary Miller



I have a favorite blanket. Don't laugh. You probably do to. And if you don't now, you once did. Deny it and I'll just ask your momma, and she'll show me picture after picture of you with your thumb in your mouth and your blanket over your shoulder. My own son was not only attached to a certain blanket, but he also had a favorite corner of the blanket. I can remember that blanket having to be restored several times and ultimately becoming a series of knots that simply held one piece to the other. My blanket is special for a few reasons. It's only wide enough for me, it's camo, it's two layers of fleece, and my daughter made it for me. Just writing about it makes me want to stop what I'm doing and go get it.

If you think about it, blankets are prized possessions of many women today. Except this blanket is no longer in use. It is for safe-keeping and for remembering family and events. It is their mother's or grandmother's quilt. It was put together one piece at a time from swatches of clothing or fabric that had made its way to the rag pile. Part of a coat has been sewn to a strip of a worn-out shirt. The other side of that shirt is attached to the leftover seat of an old pair of blue jeans. A portion of a baseball jersey is attached to a sliver of your first pair of pajamas. Each piece seemingly no longer of any value on its own and seemingly without any connection to the other. And yet there it is, one whole tapestry, completely understood, and of immeasurable value. All from what was once falling-apart, worthless swatches of unconnected material. Except to the seamstress. Except to the one who was there for the first onesie and the first silky blanket. Except for the one who understood that each section was always a part of the whole, that there were no random events, and there were no worthless pieces.

God is taking every swatch of your life and sewing them together. What you see as worthless and worn-out, He sees as indispensable and ready for its best use. What you see as unconnected, God sees as vital to the whole. What you see as insignificant, He sees as essential in who He is making you to be. And what you see as a flaw, He sees as what will be someone's favorite corner of your life. God has been there from the very beginning, and not one piece of your life will be wasted. Individually they may not make sense, but God is bigger than your pieces. He is not only making you into a quilt to be admired and remembered, but also into a blanket to be used to bring comfort and assurance to others.

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Gary has written the Outdoor Truths article for 20 years. He has also written four 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

Get Gary to come speak at your next wild game dinner or men's event!

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Southern Cuisine

Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef
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“As a Super Bowl commercial showed, people weren’t quite sure what to make of the items delivered in their Uber Eats orders, as they attempt to eat products ranging from a stick of deodorant to a tube of lipstick.” If you ordered deodorant and lipstick, no matter what else you ordered, if you can’t figure out which is which, then you should have someone else ordering for you. And have someone else open the packages for you. If you are ordering the items needed for these recipes from a web page and you can’t remember what you ordered or why, then you need more help than from just a friend. Green olives are not marbles. And mayonnaise is not facial cream.

I try not to make the recipes for the items featured in my articles, too complicated. The first thing everyone should do when starting a recipe is to read the complete recipe. Make sure you know what you are making. Make sure you have all the ingredients.

With the weather being like it is, (hot and muggy) I decided I would try

some no cook or minimum cook recipes. They make good leftovers. Also, since I have had company staying with us, I always end up with leftovers. I could write a cookbook with recipes that use only leftovers. I have some friends and relatives that will not eat leftovers. My usual comment is if you won’t eat leftovers, don’t cook so much food.

Every morning when I go to the kitchen to make my coffee, I look in the refrigerator and plan my breakfast around the leftovers I find. My favorite breakfast is a “Leftover Omelet”. Sometimes there is so much leftover that I have leftovers from breakfast made into another meal for lunch. I have already made an omelet from the leftovers from the recipes that I am using in this article.

My final comment on leftovers is this: With the prices for your food going up so much, if you don’t eat all of it, you are throwing away money. The recipes for these meals do not have a set serving size or number of servings. Just eyeball it and use your best judgement.

This meal is perfect for the hot weather. No cooking and easy to make. This recipe can be doubled or halved depending on how many people you want to feed.

ANTIPASTO WRAPS

INGREDIENTS:

- 8 ounces light cream cheese slightly softened
- 2 tablespoons fresh basil snipped
- 1 garlic clove,
- 6 (8 inch) sun-dried tomato tortillas
- 6 romaine lettuce leaves
- cup mozzarella cheese shredded
- cup pitted ripe olives, sliced
- cup roasted red pepper, diced
- cup water-packed artichoke hearts chopped
- 4 ounces salami
- 4 ounces ham



METHOD:

Mix cream cheese with the basil and garlic. On each tortilla, spread about 2 tablespoons of this mixture on the tortillas to within 1/4 inch of the edge. Layer with romaine, salami, ham, and cheese. Next, layer on the olives, roasted red peppers, and artichoke hearts that you prefer. Tightly roll up the tortilla and cut in half on the diagonal. Enjoy!

I like this recipe on a hot day even though it is a spicy recipe. If you prefer, omit the jalapenos and use plain Fritos. I doubled the peppers and used canned chipotles in adobo sauce for the extra kick. And I added more Fritos to stretch the servings for the salad.

SPICY FRITO CORN SALAD

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 (15 1/4 ounce) cans corn kernels, drained
- /cup chopped roasted red pepper, plus 1/4 cup for garnish
- /cup chopped green bell pepper
- 1 small jalapeno chopped plus
- 1 small jalapeno cut into thin rounds
- /cup finely chopped red onion
- 2 scallions sliced thin
- /cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon adobo sauce
- 2 limes juiced
- 3 ounces chili cheese Fritos
- corn chips lightly crushed
- cup cilantro leaf
- cup crumbled Cotija cheese



METHOD:

In a large bowl, stir to combine corn, roasted red peppers, green bell pepper, chopped jalapeno, chopped red onion, scallions, mayonnaise, adobo sauce, lime juice and chopped Fritos. Season to taste with salt and pepper and transfer to a serving dish. Garnish with 1/4 cup chopped roasted red bell peppers, sliced jalapeno pepper, cilantro leaves and cotija cheese.

This recipe calls for cooking and using fresh corn on the cob. A few more steps than usual but the outcome is worth it.

CHILLED CORN SOUP WITH SHRIMP, AVOCADO AND TOMATO RELISH

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 large leeks thinly sliced (white and light green parts only)
- 1 tbsp coconut oil
- 3 ears corn, husked, silk removed
- 2 cups vegetable broth
- 1 avocado, pitted, peeled and diced
- 6 oz grape tomatoes quartered lengthwise
- to 10 leaves fresh, thinly-sliced basil
- 8 oz small or medium shrimp, peeled and deveined, tails removed
- 1/4 tsp sea salt
- 1/8 tsp fresh ground black pepper
- 2 tbsp fresh lime juice



METHOD:

In a large saucepan on low, heat oil until melted. Add leeks and cook, stirring occasionally, for about 8 minutes or until softened. Meanwhile, over a large bowl, cut corn kernels from cobs. (TIP: A sharp, serrated knife would work well.) With a heavy knife, cut each cob into 2 to 3 pieces.

Add corn kernels and pieces of cob to pot with leeks. Add broth and 2 cups water and increase heat to high. Once boiling, reduce heat to low, cover and simmer for 25 minutes.

Remove pot from heat and discard cobs. Let cool for 10 to 15 minutes, then purée soup with an immersion blender. (Alternatively, carefully purée soup in batches in a food processor or blender.) Transfer to a large bowl, cover and chill for at least 4 hours, or overnight. In a small bowl, toss avocado, tomatoes and basil.

Heat a nonstick skillet on medium. Season shrimp with salt and pepper, add to skillet and cook for 3 to 4 minutes, turning once, until just opaque.

Just before serving, stir lime juice into chilled soup. Ladle into bowls and garnish with avocado-tomato mixture and shrimp, dividing evenly.

“Real cooking is more about following your heart than following recipes.”

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