

# The Greatest of Our Generation Maybe Any Generation!

The earth shook in the college football world as Nick Saban announced his retirement on January 11. First the stats: At Alabama his record was 201-29 with seven national titles. Saban and Bryant are the only two head coaches to win national titles at different FBS schools. He dominated the SEC with a record of 107-18. He has sent more players to the NFL (123) than any other head coach, those players amassing over \$2 billion in player contracts.

These stats were not built on money but on a disciplined style of coaching that focused on developing the character of a young man while pursuing the greatest competitive goal, victory.

Few people can locate Croatia on a map (on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and across from Italy), but that is where his family originated with his grandfather emigrating to Oregon in 1895. His father was a coal miner in West Virginia, who taught him life lessons he would never forget including his strong Catholic upbringing. He married his childhood sweetheart, Ms Terry, in 1971. They have two children.

"Saint Nick" may take an employment break at Lake Burton in Georgia or stay in Jupiter island, Florida for a while, but with his many divers business interest from a Ferrari dealership and a tuscaloosa hotel along with his Nick's Kids philanthropy, one can be assured he has just turned another page in a wonderful life.



## FEATURE JANUARY ARTICLES

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GUT  
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TIME

Robservations  
See page 3

In the thirteen years that I have been writing these Robservations for the Gazette, this is the first time that I am writing an “in your face” religious column, if you will. Although I am sure my leanings come out many times in my writings, this was never intended to be the purpose of my Robservations column.

I must admit that this Christmas Season has been a little challenging for me. Not so much with issues in my own home but I see many things that given the

opportunity and if allowed, they can take my focus away from what is important. Whether it be the contentious divorce of my best-friend who lives in another state, the economy, health of several fellow-church-members, the absolute incompetent hash this administration continues to make out of our southern border, Israel vs. Hamas or war in the Ukraine, there are many things that can be used to take our attention off what God intends for us.




IS IT GOOD  
TO THINK  
ABOUT  
LEGAL  
ISSUES  
FOR THE  
NEW YEAR?

Ronald A.  
Holtsford  
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I presume you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) which is important as there may be some changes such as to an inherited IRA. Ask your investment professional. You should also think about your legal estate planning. After all you are a year older; you may have gotten married, had a new child, had a child reach the age of majority (19 years), gotten divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the workforce and be off your payroll. Even if the child is

off your payroll you may keep them on your health insurance until they reach age twenty-six (26) as a buffer or necessity if you still have a family plan but it may be that you decide not to continue to carry the young adult child if the plan has changed and the cost can drop significantly. Your financial estate planning goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate.



Happy New Year  
“Adventures”  
In 2024  
(Instead of  
Wasting Time on  
New Years  
Resolutions)

Lester Spencer  
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Make God your first priority so that you are not trying to get God-needs met by a person. No human being can meet all of your needs. Since we are made in the image of God, there are certain needs that we have that can only be met by God. Many people spend their lives trying to get their God-needs met by other human beings. They become very disappointed and disillusioned, because they set themselves up for failure.

There are certain needs that your spouse or good friends can meet for sure. But when it comes to the God-need areas of our lives such as spiritual fulfillment or self worth or forgiveness or the experience of grace... only God can meet these needs and offer what you must have to feel completed and whole.



### JANUARY 2023 Contributing Writers:

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# INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

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

## 2023 OBSERVATIONS AND ACCOLADES

I know we are in a new year, but allow me to look back into 2023 and share with you some observations and accolades from the last year.

My old friend Mac McArthur has been Executive Director and Chief Cook and Bottle Washer of the Alabaman State Employees Association for 26 years now. He is one of my best friends and we talk about once or twice a month. Our conversations last an hour as we enjoy regaling stories of Alabama politics. Nobody knows Alabama political stories or Alabama political history better than Mac.

Mac McArthur has accomplished something never before done in state history for state employees. State workers have received a cost of living raise for five of the last six years. In addition, they have benefited from the state picking up most of the tab for the increased cost of their health insurance escalation. In by-gone years, state employees would get a cost of living raise about every six years.

I continue to be impressed by State Senator Will Barfoot. He has become very effective in only his second term. He is very popular around the capitol and extremely popular in his Senate district. I bet if you polled his counties of Crenshaw, Elmore, the suburbs of east Montgomery and his hometown of Pike Road, Will would be the most popular public official in those venues. He is also an astute and fair Chairman of the State Senate Judiciary Committee.

However, Barfoot probably would not outdistance the mayor of Pike Road, Gordon Stone. Even though still young, Mayor Gordon Stone has become a legend. Gordon was elected to the small community of Pike Road City Council in 2000. He became the first mayor in 2004. He has planned and overseen the amazing growth of Pike Road from a community of less than 1,000 people to a city of approximately 10,000 today. He has been mayor of Alabama's fastest growing city for 20 years.

It seems only yesterday when Gordon and the beautiful Ellen Mosely were young lobbyists at the Capitol. They met around Goat Hill and married. They have been married for 34 years. Gordon heads the Association of Higher Education. Ellen's father was a long time superintendent of Ozark City Schools.

While we are talking about Montgomery area political folks, Montgomery State Senator Kirk Hatcher is the real thing. He is a genuine and sincere gentleman. He is really an educator and church leader at heart. He is not a politician. He is a Christian public servant, who loves his community and church, which he grew up in.

Senator Kirk Hatcher and Senator Will Barfoot have become good friends of mine and sometimes seek my counsel on Alabama politics. I have told both over the years that they have more power and influence as one of 35 State Senators than one of the 435 members of the U.S. Congress. Barfoot (R-Pike Road) and Hatcher (D-Montgomery) would have been favorites to be the Republican and Democratic nominees for the new 2nd Congressional District. However, it appears they have taken my advice and settled into their state senate seats. I guarantee you that both will have a better lifestyle being one of 35 Alabama State Senators and spending every night in their own beds in Montgomery as opposed to flying back and forth to Washington every week and being lost as last on the totem pole in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The Alabama Community College System has taken their rightful place as the King of Higher Education in the state. With 24 colleges and more than 130 locations and 155,000 students, they are the primary vehicle for providing workers and managers for today's economy for Alabama businesses, both large and small. Jimmy Baker has done an outstanding job as Chancellor. His years of experience in state government and, more importantly, in the business/private sector, has allowed him the foresight to lead in the development of jobs that are most needed today for Alabama economic and manufacturing growth.

Jimmy Baker has a right hand man that has evolved into his mainstay. Dr. David Walters, the Vice Chancellor of Adult Education and Special Projects and Systems Initiatives is just what his title states. He wears three hats and works non-stop. Each one of his titles is a full time department head's job. He is a real workhouse for Jimmy Baker and ACCS. He is a tireless worker and enjoys and thrives on what he does. He believes in his mission and is passionate about it. Even though he works three jobs, he finds time to enjoy his family.

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



### Justice Will Sellers

When James Monroe addressed Congress 200 years ago, many assumed his annual message would be limited to legislative initiatives. Since he had no spin doctors to help him explain his position, clarify its broad impact, or narrate its context, it was left to him to simply announce the Monroe Doctrine and let others decide its ramifications.

Two centuries ago, the New World was shedding Old World political connections as new nation states were emerging after achieving independence. President Monroe clearly understood the general feelings of his fellow countrymen and realized that the unique American experience provided him a forum to declare his nation's place in the World Order.

The Monroe Doctrine is remembered primarily for its bold limitation on European influence and colonization in the Western Hemisphere, but other parts of the doctrine were of equal importance and expressed American sentiments about the rest of the world. Specifically, the doctrine stated that America had no interest in conflicts in Europe but would respect the existing order in the New World.

When viewed in hindsight, the doctrine was in many ways a concise statement of how America viewed the world and coupled its role with a tinge of isolationism. President Monroe told the entire World that the Western Hemisphere was off limits to European powers. It was a bold move for a nation that was not yet 50 years old and had no military to enforce the policy, but the policy was supported by George Washington admonition that America not involve itself in foreign wars.

The American Revolution changed the dynamics of foreign policy, foreign trade, and foreign investment. Once the revolution ended, wars in Europe waxed and waned with alliances that switched and boundaries that moved so frequently it was hard to keep an accurate tally. Monroe understood that America had no interest in these changing relationships and was ill suited to fully appreciate the dynamics of European diplomatic intrigues.

Monroe's main interest was preserving a sphere of influence with America as the dominant power. There was no need to allow this continent to become a proxy for the varied changes in European politics and reconquest of former colonies. Keeping America stable and secure with its energies devoted toward territorial growth and trade was the president's ultimate goal.

He knew from experience that wars were expensive and diverted time and talent away from domestic improvement. Thus, it was easy for him to disclaim any involvement in Europe, its political theories, and various continental wars, but it was another thing to make a bold statement that European powers were not welcomed to assert control over liberated ex-colonies. Even bolder was the assertion that any such involvement by another country, would be considered a hostile act against the United States.

This provision of the doctrine might be viewed as a NATO-like pledge that any attack by a foreign power against a territory in the Western Hemisphere would be met with force of

## The Monroe Doctrine Turns 200

arms from the United States. Since the United States had a very limited navy and no standing army of any measure, this statement had no enforcement mechanism. If a foreign power tried to invade another country, the U.S. would have been helpless to take effective action, but the Monroe Doctrine had a silent guarantor in the form of the British Empire, which had plenty of ships and troops to enforce the policy. The British acquiesced to the Monroe Doctrine because limiting other countries' involvement in the New World was advantageous to its long-term interest.

It is not a stretch to say that the Monroe Doctrine cemented the Anglo-American relationship while ensuring American and British interests would never again be so adversarial as to incubate hostilities. From this point forward, the two nations would be joined together in almost a common enterprise of trade and international stability.

Without having to fight wars, the United States could focus on opening and subduing the rest of its territory. For at least some period of time, the expansion of the country created such opportunities that any foreign influence was not occasioned by military invasion, but by swarms of immigrants leaving the old world behind to seek fortune and opportunity in a new place with little historical memory to retard its progress.

Rather than being innovative, the Monroe Doctrine sought to express the consensus of American sentiment about its view of its place in the world. The influx of immigrants would also support this idea that once their home country was on the distant horizon, they were liberated from the politics of the Old World that limited freedom and advancement. Immigrants coming to the United States would gladly agree that they, too, had no desire to involve themselves in the politics of a country they had left. So, while Americans wanted limited involvement with the politics and factious belligerence of Europe, they did not want foreign influence in the New World. Americans would be motivated to apply force only if European countries attempted to assert themselves in our sphere of influence.

This was true even in the last century. During World War I, most Americans had no desire to send troops to Europe, but sentiment changed only after a secret German diplomatic initiative was uncovered promising Texas, Arizona and New Mexico to Mexico if it would ally with the Kaiser. Ending any thought of European influence in our country's affairs proved a strong motivator.

Likewise, in World War II, Franklin Roosevelt was unable to arouse American interest in defeating the Nazis, but once Hitler's secret plan to divide Latin America into Nazi-controlled vassal states was exposed, the average citizen began to sense the Nazi threat.

For 200 years, the Monroe Doctrine has been a centerpiece of American foreign policy. Its broad provisions continue to affirm a commitment to regional independence and put other nations on notice that the Western Hemisphere is a self-determination zone with no tolerance for foreign influence or territorial threat.

Perhaps President Xi needs a refresher course?

(Reprint)

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*Owners Loretta Grant and Sam Adams  
wish all a Very Merry Christmas!*

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Robservations...

By: Rob Tate

GUT CHECK TIME

*In the thirteen years that I have been writing these Robservations for the Gazette, this is the first time that I am writing an “in your face” religious column, if you will. Although I am sure my leanings come out many times in my writings, this was never intended to be the purpose of my Robservations column. I must admit that this Christmas Season has been a little challenging for me. Not so much with issues in my own home but I see many things that given the opportunity and if allowed, they can take my focus away from what is important. Whether it be the contentious divorce of my best friend who lives in another state, the economy, health of several fellow church members, the absolute incompetent hash this administration continues to make out of our southern border, Israel vs. Hamas or war in the Ukraine, there are many things that can be used to take our attention off what God intends for us.*

*This Robservation is not intended to preach to anybody. If you are a non-believer reading this, okay. If you are a believer, okay as well. This not intended to push any buttons or to point a self-righteous crooked finger at anybody. This is simply a tool that I found many years ago that I try to use as a personal gut check to see where I stand with God and my walk with Him. Simple. Nothing nefarious here. Several years ago before COVID hit, several guys from our church did a bi-weekly prison ministry and one night I taught on this subject.*

This “Inventory of the Heart” can be found online and the first place I ever saw it over a decade ago was in Ronnie Floyd’s The Power of Prayer and Fasting. Again, the purpose of this “inventory” is not to pit us against one another but to take an personal and honest look at how we stack up against God’s uncompromising standard. Although certainly not comprehensive, this inventory is nevertheless a great place to start a private self-examination. Ephesians 4:1 tells us that we are to “walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called.” The word worthy in Greek is axios which means “appropriately, after a godly sort or worthily.” We are called to live a sanctified life; a life in which we strive daily to become more Christlike. And no, it is not easy.

I always marvel at people who point accusatory fingers at Christians and say stupid things like, “I saw you do this” or “I know you did that.” Yes. Absolutely, every single Christian on planet Earth today will “miss it” at some level at some time. And for many, this is an everyday occurrence. Uhhhhh, we are human and matter whether we strive for perfection, none of us are. That is what the blood is for. Mess up, fess up and get under the blood. At the same time, that doesn’t give us the heretical antinomian doctrine that releases Christians from observing moral law because of God’s grace. Although God’s grace is unlimited, to argue that one can sin-repent-sin again and repeat misses the entire point entirely. Although salvation is NOT dependent upon our earthly works, as Christians our daily walk should show evidence of said salvation. A holy and sanctified life should be our daily goal.

If you complete this “inventory” and take an honest look at yourself, you may be surprised at what you find. I will take a leap and say most “will” be surprised. When I taught this lesson, I did an honest assessment and reported that I was at best a C student. Many of the 54 questions arranged in 13 areas, are piercing. But remember, this is strictly between you and God and He already knows the answers. He wants us to know the answers. Forgiveness, worry, pride, gossip; the list goes on. Many of these questions for some will seem like a no brainer. Others? Ouch. If 1,000 people take this assessment, there will be 1,000 different results. Why? Because we are all different and the enemy knows this. I have written an entire book on this concept. As we start 2024, I encourage all believers out there to accomplish this inventory of your heart. Today’s world is such that anytime a believer can be led astray or spiritually injured, there are forces more than ready to take advantage of that. Take the test, shore up your faith and begin living that sanctified life for Christ. There is no day like today.

INVENTORY OF THE HEART

GOD IS CALLING US TO BE AUTHENTIC

1. In everything give thanks; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.

*1 Thessalonians 5:18*

– Do we worry about anything?

– Have we forgotten to thank God for all things? The good and the bad?

– Do we neglect to give Him thanks for our breath, our health, for life itself?
2. Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us.

*Ephesians 3:20*

– Do we shy away from attempting to do things in the name of our heavenly Father because we fear we are not talented enough?

– Do feelings of inferiority keep us from our desired to serve God?

– When we do accomplish something of merit, do we choose to give ourselves or God the glory?
3. You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.

*Acts 1:8*

- Have we been hesitant to thank God for miracles performed in our lives?

- Have we believed it is good enough to live our Christian lives in a casual manner and that it is not important to share the good news of our deliverance with others?

– Are we sharing the Gospel?

– Are we involved in advancing the Gospel across the world, at home, in our city, etc.?
4. For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.

*Romans 12:3*

– Are we overly proud of our accomplishments, talents, families?

– Do we have a rebellious spirit at the thought that God may want to change our stinking thinking?

– Do we brag to others what we have?

– Do we swell up with pride when receiving compliments?
5. Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

*Ephesians 4:31*

– Do we complain, find fault, argue?

– Do we nurse and delight in a critical spirit?

- Do we carry a grudge against believers of another group or denomination because of different “truths”?

– Do we talk behind people’s back?

– Are we often angry with ourselves? With others? With God?
6. Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

*1 Corinthians 6:19*

– Are we careless with our bodies?

– Do we defile our bodies with unholy sexual acts?

– Do we overeat?

– Do we take care of our bodies?

– Do we desire to be physically fit?
7. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

*Ephesians 4:29*

– Do we use language that fails to edify others?

– Do we tell off-color jokes or stories that demean others’ race, habits or culture?

– Do we condone these comments when guests are in our home or with colleagues?

– Do we curse?
8. Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity.

*Ephesians 4:26-27*

– Do we close our eyes to the possibility that we may be a landing strip for Satan when we open our minds to him through ungodly practices, psychic predictions, occult literature, violent and sex driven movies?

– Do we seek counsel for daily living from horoscopes in the paper, on television or the web as opposed to seeking God?

– Do we let Satan use us to set up barriers that inhibit the cause of Christ in our churches and in our homes through criticism and gossip?
9. Not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; (i.e. Not slothful in business.)

*Romans 12:11*

– Are we chronically late in payment of debts? If at all?

– Do we charge more on our credit cards than we can afford?

– Do we neglect to keep honest tax records?

– Do we engage in shady business deals?

– Do we inflate our financial worth?

– Do we get into business partnerships with unbelievers?
10. Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul.

*1 Peter 2:11*

– Are we guilty of a lustful eye toward the opposite sex?

– Do we fill our minds with sexually oriented Internet sites, lewd movies, books and magazines?

– Magazine covers? Centerfolds?

– Especially when alone?

– Do we indulge in lustful activities that God’s Word condemns such as fornication, adultery, or perversion?

– Do we have improper Internet relationships?

– Are we engaged in pornography in any way?
11. Bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgives you, so you also must do.

*Colossians 3:13*

– Have we failed to forgive anyone who has hurt us, physically, spiritually, emotionally?

– Have we written off people as not worthy of our friendship?
12. So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

*Matthew 23:28*

– Do we know in our hearts that we are often not what people see?

– Are we possibly hiding behind being active in our churches as a cover for our activities away from the body?

– Are we mimicking the Christian faith for social status or acceptance in church or community?

– Are we real?
13. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

*Philippians 4:8*

– Do we enjoy listening to conversations that hurt others?

– Do we pass it on?

– Do we believe rumors or partial truths, especially about an enemy or competitor?

– Do we choose to spend little or no time each day allowing God to speak to us through His Word?

THAT WHICH WE NEED

TO SURRENDER TO GOD:

OUR MINDS	(The way we think)
OUR WILLS	(What we are convinced we should be or do)
OUR EMOTIONS	(How we feel)
OUR BODIES	(The sum of who we are)
OUR TALENTS	(The abilities for which we sometimes claim full credit)
OUR ATTITUDES	(Often our selfish response to others)
OUR MOTIVES	(What we know really drives us to succeed)
OUR CAREERS	(The business of life that too often becomes our own life)

PASS

FAIL





Ronald A. Hottsford

# Is it good to think about any Legal Issues for the New Year?

2024



Without specifics about yourself I’ll make this answer generic in a personal and in a business sense.

I presume you looked at your financial estate planning (401k, mutual funds, stocks and bonds, life insurance, etc) which is important as there may be some changes such as to an inherited IRA. Ask your investment professional. You should also think about your legal estate planning. After all you are a year older; you may have gotten married, had a new child, had a child reach the age of majority (19 years), gotten divorced or suffered the death of a spouse or even a child. You may have a child graduate, enter the workforce and be off your payroll. Even if the child is off your payroll you may keep them on your health insurance until they reach age twenty-six (26) as a buffer or necessity if you still have a family plan but it may be that you decide not to continue to carry the young adult child if the plan has changed and the cost can drop significantly. Your financial estate planning goes hand in hand with your legal estate planning and you should discuss that with your lawyer, not that he or she will try to advise you on whether your investment advisor is steering you correctly but rather the impact of your financial worth on your legal estate.

For 2024 the gift tax exclusion moves up one thousand dollar from last year to \$18,000.00 a person, as a gift (child, grandchild, etc.) not requiring the filing of a Gift Tax return or up to \$36,000 to a person if both you and your spouse gift to the same person once per year. There is a unified lifetime basic exclusion and generation skipping tax (GST) limit of \$13.61 million in 2024 per individual. There may be a tax advantage for the wealthy in that and if this seems to be something that might be helpful to your financial planning you should seek the advice of an accountant or other tax/ financial professional (may include a tax attorney). For 2023, there was a \$12.92 million total unified estate tax exemption per individual; 2024 will provide a \$13.61 million unified tax exemption as stated above. The total GST and total estate tax exemption are unified in total in that they cannot exceed \$13.61 million The portable portion mentioned above may be available to a surviving spouse who may be able to combine through election their unused estate credit amounts up to a total of \$27.22 million. See your tax professional after the death of the first spouse if your assets are in the millions. Remember that life insurance is considered for estate tax purposes if you have control over the policy (i.e. ability to change the beneficiaries, cancel the policy, etc). Some individuals have large insurance policies and in the past not inconceivable for high middle class people to have an estate over prior limits but the possibility could even exist with some wealthier individuals. If you die in 2024 with an estate of greater than \$13.61 million (or \$27.22 million for a second to die spouse if entirely portable) then that amount over \$13.61million will be taxed at 40%.

With President Biden and the Democrats in control of the Senate and Executive branches, the estate tax increases will sunset on 31 December 2025 and the limit will be cut in half adjusted for inflation. Rather than the annually successive increase from \$13.61 million this year, set to be rolled back in 2026 to around \$7 million per individual, it is a distinct possibility that things may roll back earlier; but when and how much is anyone’s guess. The midterm changes were not the expected bang and of course there is another Presidential election in just under a year.

With that said you need to pull out your **Last Will and Testament** and review it. If you have had any life changes (marriage, divorce, death, large inheritance, new child, etc.) a new Will may be in order. If you don’t have a Last Will and Testament you need to have a lawyer prepare one as soon as possible. Why do you need one? Because if you don’t then the State of Alabama has one for you. Some of the spousal examples under the rules of intestacy (dying without a Will); (1) first \$100,000 to spouse and then 1/2 of the remaining estate to the living parent(s) when there are no children, (2) if children then the spouse gets \$50,000 and 1/2 of the rest, (3) if one or more of the children are not yours then the surviving spouse only gets half of everything, period. This is probably not the estate plan you have in mind. There are internet sites and software programs that can also assist with a Last Will and Testament but there is no guarantee that it will pass muster regarding state rules on probate nor a guarantee that it will do what you want upon your death. The best chance of meeting estate goals is through a lawyer and if you are of moderate means, you may be surprised that it is less expensive than you think. In the long run a Will may save money since an intestate estate when probated requires the bonding of the Personal Representative and an inventory of the decedent’s estate. I run into too many old or non-attorney prepared defective Wills when it really counts and there is an attempt to probate the estate. Obviously such probate is not without issue. If you have an out of state prepared Will it should be acceptable for probate since under the Full Faith and Credit Clause (Section 1, Article 4) of the United States Constitution a valid Will prepared in one state is valid in Alabama. There can be issues so a review with an Alabama attorney is always a good thing to do.

Aside from the Last Will and Testament you may want to have a Power of Attorney prepared, both one for financial reasons and health. Most prepared these days are durable which require wording that the power of attorney is effective even in your disability or incapacity. Financial Powers of Attorney became a statutory form as of 1 January 2012. Most attorneys have concerns about the filling in the blank and initialing choices format and most now insert tried and true language used in their practices for their many years. A financial Power of Attorney is now by default a Durable power; however I insert the needed language anyway to make sure that there are no questions about it’s durability. A Power of Attorney (POA) can be very powerful and placed in the wrong hands can be damaging such as a daughter that is named AGENT and decides to sell your lake house and push you towards moving to an assisted living facility. On the other hand, naming a trusted AGENT and retaining the POA for future needs can be extremely beneficial. The POA can be used so that someone can write your bills for you during incapacity, file your taxes and with health/ Health Insurance Portability and Privacy Act (HIPAA) provisions monitor your care with the doctors and hospital as well as handle medical insurance billing. The POA may also be used to nominate whom you would want as a conservator or guardian should one need to be named for you through a Court proceeding. A health care power of attorney can be used to coincide with the Advance Directive mentioned below should you have need to name another or others to help with health care decisions.

The final personal document would be an **Advance Directive for Health Care**, which is composed of a Living Will and Health Care Proxy nomination. It will allow you to make certain decisions about end of life issues should you later become unable to speak for yourself and two doctors have determined that you will likely die in the near future. This is the document that Terri Schiavo DID NOT have and for that reason the court found the testimony of the “husband” who was then living with another woman to be credible as to Terri’s final wishes. Hmmmmmm. Naming a Health Care Proxy is the same as

naming a health care power-of-attorney such as under a POA. The proxy is given limited rights under which situations that they can make decisions. And by the way, the ex-spouse automatically loses that job as proxy upon divorce. That’s dodging a bullet!

If retirement is nearing and you will also receive Social Security consider that the 2023 **Medicare Part B** will move from the 2023, \$164.90 to \$174.70 per month dependent on whether the senior is subject to the statutory “hold harmless” provision. With higher income brackets so does the cost for Part B increase. If you need nursing home (skilled nursing) care under Part A, days 1-20 are fully covered provided you continue to meet Medicare’s requirements for those days; the co-payment for days 21-100 (if you qualify) will be \$204.00 per day (\$200.00 per day in 2023. After day 100 you are 100% on your own unless you have some other means of long term care payment. If you have not already checked on long term health care insurance you should do so now. It not only will cover nursing home care but can also cover assisted living or in home care. If you consider this insurance also look carefully at the options since they may be equally as important as the policy itself. This includes inflation increases which are very important or even the option of continued coverage for a certain amount of time when one with “forgetfulness” forgets to pay the premium.

With the exception of a few states and the District of Columbia, the individual mandate under the **Affordable Care Act** (Obamacare) was changed in 2019 to zero. That of course continues to be contentious in that without the mandate it is argues that the ACA is null. Four states and the District of Columbia have state mandate penalties though Vermont has no penalty attached to their mandate. The time to make health care changes under the ACA open enrollment ended 07 December 2023 and unless you have a qualifying event or become eligible under Medicaid/ CHIP after the open enrollment period passes this will be the last opportunity until the 2024 period begins in October. Older Americans may be eligible both for Medicare and Medicaid and impoverished Americans may be Medicaid eligible when they cannot afford premiums under Obamacare and some Americans are eligible for insurance from the market place with subsidized premiums.

If you are currently in business or considering a business what about entity? A sole proprietorship offers pass through taxation but no limited liability. Your personal and business assets are at risk in a lawsuit. A **Limited Liability Company (LLC) or a Registered Limited Liability Partnership (RLLP or LLP)** offers the same pass through tax advantages as well as limited liability. A **“C” Corporation** offers the same limited liability but there is taxation on the corporation and taxation on the shareholders. If you are in one of these entities and about \$80,000.00 plus salary talk to your accountant about the possibility of an “S” corporation election. Current tax considerations suggest that pass through entities not involved as professional service businesses (accountants, attorneys, etc) such as sole proprietorships, **LLC’s, LLP’s and S Corporations** may take an additional significant percentage off their income. Because pass through entities are taxed at the owners tax rate this will give an additional percentage decrease in taxable income.

In addition to the advantages of pass through taxation and limited liability there may also be some self-employment tax advantages since some of the income can be paid to a shareholder- employee as a profit distribution. The Internal Revenue Service however looks for **Shareholder- Employees** that pay themselves substandard salaries for their position in order that they can take more from the company as a distribution and save more on Self Employment taxes. The IRS will consider a reasonable income based on IRS summarized factors considered by a Court case from the Eighth Circuit, which advised shareholders to give them careful consideration in establishing their compensation. The factors are:

- (1) Employee qualifications;
- (2) The nature, extent, and scope of the employee’s work;
- (3) The size and complexity of the business;
- (4) Prevailing general economic conditions;
- (5) The employee’s compensation as a percentage of gross and net income;
- (6) The employee-shareholder’s compensation compared with distributions to shareholders;
- (7) The employee-shareholder’s compensation compared with that to non-shareholder employees or paid in prior years;
- (8) Prevailing rates of compensation for comparable positions in comparable concerns; and
- (9) Comparison of compensation paid to a particular shareholder-employee in previous years where the corporation has a limited number of officers.

An **“S” Corporation** election only exists through the IRS and has specific requirements. So you can be an existing LLC, C Corporation, etc. but elect via the IRS as an “S” Corporation. Ask your accountant about whether it is right for your business.

Additionally, the **Corporate Transparency Act takes effect 1 January 2024**. There are twenty-three exceptions to inclusion in the Corporate Transparency Act. It seems that the exclusions relate to businesses that are already for one reason or another highly regulated. Many of the exclusions deal with companies that deal with money in the sense of banking, investment and insurance. As well there is a large corporate exclusion. There are items not yet in place that are needed for compliance so it’s difficult to follow the regulated time frames. Most lawyers that assist in business are trying to navigate the rules without everything being in place.

I hope that this has helped with your question. If you need a lawyer you can contact the Alabama State Bar Lawyer Referral service or ask a trusted friend about a lawyer that they might recommend.

*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."*





Col John Eidsmoe

## THE BIBLE: UNDERMINED BY LIBERAL THEOLOGY

Church and State are separate kingdoms, but both are established by God upon the authority of His Word, the Bible. Christian churches have historically recognized the Bible as the inspired and authoritative Word of God, and as President Andrew Jackson said, "The Bible is the rock upon which our republic rests."

But during the last two centuries, the Bible has been under unrelenting attack. Unsurprisingly, secular philosophers denounce the Bible as a collection of fables, myths, and legends loosely put together by ignorant and superstitious men. But shockingly, many in the mainline churches parrot the same attacks and say the Bible must be "demythologized" to make it acceptable to the modern world.

In the mid-1800s, the school of "higher criticism" arose out of this mindset, holding that modern scholars must examine the Bible critically to determine whether it is really true. Within higher criticism arose the documentary hypothesis, often called the Graf-Wellhausen theory or simply the JEDP theory, which holds that the first five books of the Bible (the Pentateuch, Genesis through Deuteronomy) were not written by Moses under the inspiration of God but rather were the work of at least four different writers identified as J, E, D, and P at a later time over a period of hundreds of years.

The JEDP theory holds that, wherever the Pentateuch refers to God as Jehovah, this must be the work of anonymous writer identified as J. Wherever God is called Elohim, this is the work of the E writer. Then came the D writer who wrote the original form of Deuteronomy. And then, centuries later and perhaps after the Babylonian Exile in the 500s BC, a priest called the P writer took the works of J, E, and D, revised and redacted them, and rendered the Pentateuch into its present form.

Conservative Christians need to understand the JEDP theory, because it is foundational to theological liberalism, and because many in mainline churches consider it established fact and are astounded that any intelligent Christian would question it.

But even more importantly, conservative Christians need to know why the JEDP theory is false. I will therefore present ten leading reasons to reject the Graf-Wellhausen theory as a modern fable.

- (1) Different names for God do not mean different authors; rather, they indicate different purposes. Jehovah is God's Name; Elohim is simply a generic word referring to God, god, or gods. Depending on my purpose, I sometimes refer to my wife as "Mrs. John Eidsmoe" or sometimes "Marlene." The author is still me.
- (2) No ancient manuscript has ever been discovered that contains only the writings of J, E, D, or P. All ancient manuscripts show the Pentateuch as one complete document.
- (3) No ancient writer, Jewish or Gentile, ever indicated that the Pentateuch was written by anyone other than Moses.
- (4) Whenever the Pentateuch is quoted in either the Old Testament or the New Testament, it is treated as the work of Moses.
- (5) Jesus quoted from the Pentateuch, attributing it to Moses (*Matthew 8:4; 19:7-8; Mark 7:10; 12 :26; Luke 16:31; 24:27, 44; John 5:46-67; 7:19*).

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This presents a dilemma: If Moses didn't write the Pentateuch, did Jesus know that? If He did, He wasn't truthful; if He didn't, He wasn't all-knowing. An attack upon the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch is ultimately an attack upon the divinity of Jesus Christ.

(6) The Pentateuch was already old in the days of King Josiah (600s BC) (II *Kings* 22), was well-known during the Babylonian Exile (*Daniel 6:5; 9:10-13; Ezra 7:12-26; Nehemiah 1:7-9*), and was reinstated after the Exile by *Ezra and Nehemiah (Ezra 9-10; Nehemiah 8-10)*.

(7) If the Pentateuch were written in later times, why does it contain no reference to the kingship other than the prophetic reference of *Deuteronomy 17* and no reference to the Temple or to Mt. Zion?

(8) After the Jews returned from the Babylonian Exile, they spoke Aramaic, a mixture of Hebrew and Babylonian/Chaldean. If the Pentateuch were redacted by the P writer after the Exile, why is it in Hebrew rather than Aramaic, and why is the rest of the Old Testament in Hebrew except portions of Daniel and Ezra?

(9) Wellhausen assumed that Moses and the Hebrew people were illiterate and therefore could not have written or read the Pentateuch in the 1400s BC. But the Ebla Tablets reveal that Mesopotamia (from which Abraham migrated around 2,000 BC) was a highly literate society filled with schools and libraries. As the British Assyriologist A.H. Sayce wrote, "The Babylonia of the age of Abraham was a more highly educated country than the England of George III." Furthermore, Egypt had a written language well before 2,000 BC. Raised in the palace of the Pharaoh, Moses certainly knew how to read and write.

(10) Finally, as Herbert F. Hahn observes in *The Old Testament in Modern Research*, Wellhausen did not develop his theory "merely from an objective reading of the sources," but rather "consciously based his exposition on the evolutionary view of history" under which "it was inconceivable that the nomadic ancestors of the Israelites could have held the lofty, monotheistic conceptions ascribed to Abraham."

And so, following Darwinism and the fad of nineteenth-century scholarship that attributed multiple authorship to everything from Beowulf to Shakespeare, higher critics placed themselves above the Scriptures and declared them to be the work of men rather than God and therefore not to be trusted as authoritative. This freed liberal theologians to depart from the Bible and wander abroad in the trackless fields of their own imaginations, denying the basic doctrines of Creation and the Fall, sin and salvation through the substitutionary atoning work of Jesus Christ on the Cross.

As Billy Graham began his Bible-based ministry of evangelism, a reporter told him a religion professor had accused him of setting the church back 200 years. Graham replied, "I'm sorry to hear that! I am trying to set the church back 2,000 years!" -- back to the time of Jesus Christ.

Amen, brother! Take away the anchor of the Word of God, and theology and jurisprudence are cast adrift by every wind of doctrine.

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John Sophocleus

kind inquiry on my "Tough Roe to Hoe" column [<https://www.alabama-gazette.com/story/2021/10/01/opinion/tough-roe-to-hoe/2231.html>] evoking Solomon's wisdom. This third king of Israel reigned circa 968-928 BC, heralded for his wise judgments.

One of the more notable Solomon decisions I wanted readers to recall comes from **1 Kings 3:16-28** reproduced (New American Standard Bible) below:

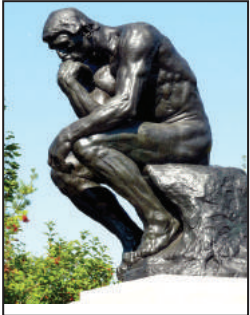
*16 Then two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 The one woman said, "Pardon me, my lord: this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. 18 And it happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. 19 Then this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant was asleep, and she laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. 21 When I got up in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead! But when I examined him closely in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne!" 22 Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son."*

*But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." So they spoke before the king. 23 Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" 24 And the king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, "Cut the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." 26 But the woman whose child was the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son, and she said, "Pardon me, my lord! Give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other woman was saying, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; cut him!" 27 Then the king replied, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother." 28 When all Israel heard about the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king, because they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

Relishing a break from writing more "Boob & Mike Show" episodes or "Malice in Hubbardland" chapters, I submit dialog for a Judge Solomon Show I pray readers would find more substantive than the usual TV fare broadcast by Judge Judy, et al.

**Solomon, Third King of Israel:** So Mary, you come before my court for an abortion order to fatally evict the recently discovered child from your womb.

## SCOTUS: What Would Solomon Do?



Mary of Magdalene, Texas: Yes your Excellency. My body, my life and my property; My choice.

THINK

**Solomon:** Where's your physician (theatrically scanning the faces in his court for effect) to provide evidence that allowing this child to reside in your body, on your property, puts your life in great danger?

**Mary:** I can't provide any physician willing to do this your Excellency. [Mary tried relentlessly to find a physician to lie on her behalf, but all feared the skills of King Solomon's cross-examination and discipline for malfeasance in his court] It's just NOT fair!

**Solomon:** In keeping with your sense of 'fairness' Mary, shall I call for my sword to slice you and the child into equal halves... each half to bear the consequences of your freedom of choice?

**Mary:** No! I'll simply flee (looking down still contemplating the severity of this radical egalitarianism) to Sodom, Mexico or Gomorrah, Kansas...

**Solomon:** You may be able to flee Mary, but no killing of this sort will be allowed or subsidized in my kingdom. The righteous abhor murdering any soul property owners want evicted, no matter the trespasser's or unwanted squatter's age. Given your prior "No!" answer, it is easy to imagine you in trespass or squatting would not want to be murdered. Do you have anything to add before the court decides?

**Mary:** No... (again looking down in disappointment)  
**Solomon:** Mary of Magdalene's request for fatal eviction is DENIED. I'm amending her petition to request proper eviction of this person from her property which is granted as of this date. Mary will be compensated for the remaining duration of this unwanted squatter, in other words, until born. Compensation is the same rate as my lowest grade infantryman provided housing, health care, etc. who may be called into hazardous duty. If, upon birth, Mary wishes to keep her child instead of relinquishment to clerics - she will be awarded custody and return of all compensation will be forgiven. Do you understand my decision and Spirit of fairness Mary?  
Mary: Yes Excellency.

**Solomon:** Very well Mary, go forth in Peace and I pray to never see you again in this court under such circumstances.

*I close in similar Spirit wishing all my cherished Alabama Gazette readers a prosperous 2024 filled with many blessings!*

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John Martin

# The Threat from Hamas

Just before dawn on Saturday morning, October 7, 2023, about 4000 people gathered in a remote part of southern Israel north of the Re'im kibbutz, about 3.7 miles east of Gaza and began celebrating the last day of the Sukkot holiday with a Supernova music festival. Organizers had promised a "journey of unity and love" with dance, music, art, and drinks. The people were happy and cheerful as they danced and prepared for the gala event.

Without warning, Hamas militants arrived in motorized paragliders, each carrying a pilot and a gunman armed with an AK-47. As they began shooting, other militants drove bulldozers through multiple locations of Israel's perimeter defenses and drove numerous trucks loaded with gunmen into their southern cities. Soon they massacred hundreds of innocent victims and kidnapped dozens of others, screaming and crying, as they assaulted, tied them up, loaded them onto their trucks, and hauled them away back into Gaza. The surviving patrons evacuated the area as rapidly as they could.

Hundreds of militants were "everywhere." They quickly surrounded the site and blocked all of the roads going in and out. People ran in all directions, but many were still within range of the gunmen, who shot and killed them. The militants methodically prowled around and shot everyone on sight. They fired at every car that tried to flee and made certain that nobody survived. They dismembered and burned victims and took photos and videos for social media. They decapitated children and babies and crushed their skulls. They tied children together with wire and set them on fire. In front of her parents, they gang raped a girl and gouged out another's eyes and chopped her fingers off.

A "dead" body by a car began to stir. As he raised his head, a militant ran up and shot him point blank into his head.

A woman, thinking help was arriving, jumped up and waved her arms. Then bullets bounced around her, and she fell dead onto the ground.

Soon, every accessible victim had been killed or kidnapped. The militants finished their field day with a binge of looting from the victims' pockets, handbags, backpacks, and suitcases. During this time, other Hamas back in Gaza fired over 5000 rockets into Israel. Wikipedia described it as "the largest terror attack in Israel's history, and the worst Israeli civilian massacre ever." It was Israel's 9/11.

Military informants say about 90% of Gaza's population of 2.2 million supports Hamas, which makes a peaceful settlement very problematic. Nearly half (47%) of its people are under age18—essentially children, and easily persuaded to learn the lifestyles of terrorist anti-Semites. As early as age 5, they learn how to shoot, kill people, and make bombs and suicide vests. They actually have comic books to show them how. Every year Hamas runs summer camps where it trains children in weapons and military tactics and to endorse "martyrdom" against Jews and Christians.

Arab World for Research and Development (AWRAD), an internationally respected research and consultancy agency based in Palestine, stated that the great majority of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank are against peace with Israel on any terms, that 75% support the October 7 massacre, 85.9% reject coexistence with Israel, 71.1% are committed to the restoration of "historical Palestine" as a final resolution, and 74.7% support the creation of a Palestinian state "from the river to the sea" as the only acceptable resolution of the conflict.

What should we do to STOP this carnage?

The first action for us for us is to STOP ALL AID for Gaza and its allies. That's ALL aid, no matter how desperate it might be. Those people are too cruel. Rael Wissdorf reported, "The deeds of Hamas surpass even the atrocities of the Waffen SS."

Bombing the Hamas tunnels may not be a good strategy. Hundreds of hostages in them could die. Claire Jordan, secretary to the Defense Desk at The Daily Telegraph, said: "My boss, Major General Eddie Fursdon, did a big article about how chemical weapons don't need to be lethal, or even especially unpleasant. Something which makes enemy soldiers vomit or hallucinate for a couple of weeks takes them out of the fight, in the short term, just as effectively as killing them, while tying their own side up with caring for them.... I'd find one end of the tunnels and pump pepper, itching powder and ipecac down there.... That lot would make the tunnels unuseable for DECADES."

We should NEVER put American boots on the ground. Let Israel fight its own war. It has a very strong military and is able to do what it needs to take care of itself WITHOUT American involvement.

A ceasefire will only provide time for Hamas to regroup, reorganize, re-supply, make new plans, and build up strength to continue the conflict for many extra years. Israel has specifically stated that it will not agree to any ceasefire until the hostages are released.

So far, Israel is gaining ground. It has much experience in rooting out terrorists, destroying their infrastructure and gathering intelligence, all while suffering minimal casualties.

With a Gaza population of over two million and its estimated 75-90% likely Hamas supporters, Israel is faced with a huge task to exterminate the threat. Some people have stated that the only workable solution would be to kill them all—as Borat said, "Every last cockroach." Collateral damage would be enormous. Innocent people and hostages would die. But like Sodom and Gomorrah, some might consider it the only workable action.

But maybe not. Jack Zohar suggested a simple alternative: "What they (Hamas) really ought to do is stop trying to kill Jews and a miracle will occur. None of them will ever again be attacked by the IDF. It really is that simple... Leave

the Israelis alone. They just want to live their lives unmolested."

The big problem we must address at home is the multitude of Hamas-type terrorists who have set up networks onto our own soil. Their hateful fruit is now ripening and spreading like wildfire. As soon as the news reached America, as expected, Jewish demonstrators held rallies in our major cities. But hundreds of anti-Semites also covered the streets across the nation. Some became violent and blockaded public highways and bridges for hours. Some picked fights against the Jews and even spat on them. A history professor from Cornell University called the Hamas attacks on Israel "exhilarating" and "energizing."

This was a big wake up call to inform the American people how corrupt our own government has been by allowing unvetted terrorists to immigrate here for the past several decades. It was a reminder of the frenzied crowds that screamed and cheered on New Jersey's north shore as they watched the World Trade Center towers collapse across the Hudson River. Today, the top three American cities with the most Hamas supporters are Chicago, Dallas, and Washington, D.C.

We should take the UTMOST care with our own immigration policies. We should NEVER admit anybody who even might be a terrorist. Why should we allow even ONE of them into our country? We should do everything possible to excise all terrorists who are already here.

Accepting Palestinian refugees is a very stupid idea. When Jordan allowed some, they tried to set up a state of their own within it and attempted to assassinate King Hussein bin Talal. Therefore, they got kicked back out. Then Lebanon accepted them, and they started a ten-year civil war. Kuwait also accepted some. There they helped Saddam Hussein take over. Since the Muslim Brotherhood assassinated its leader, Anwar El-Sadat, for making peace with Israel, Egypt has no desire to be next. WHY SHOULD WE?

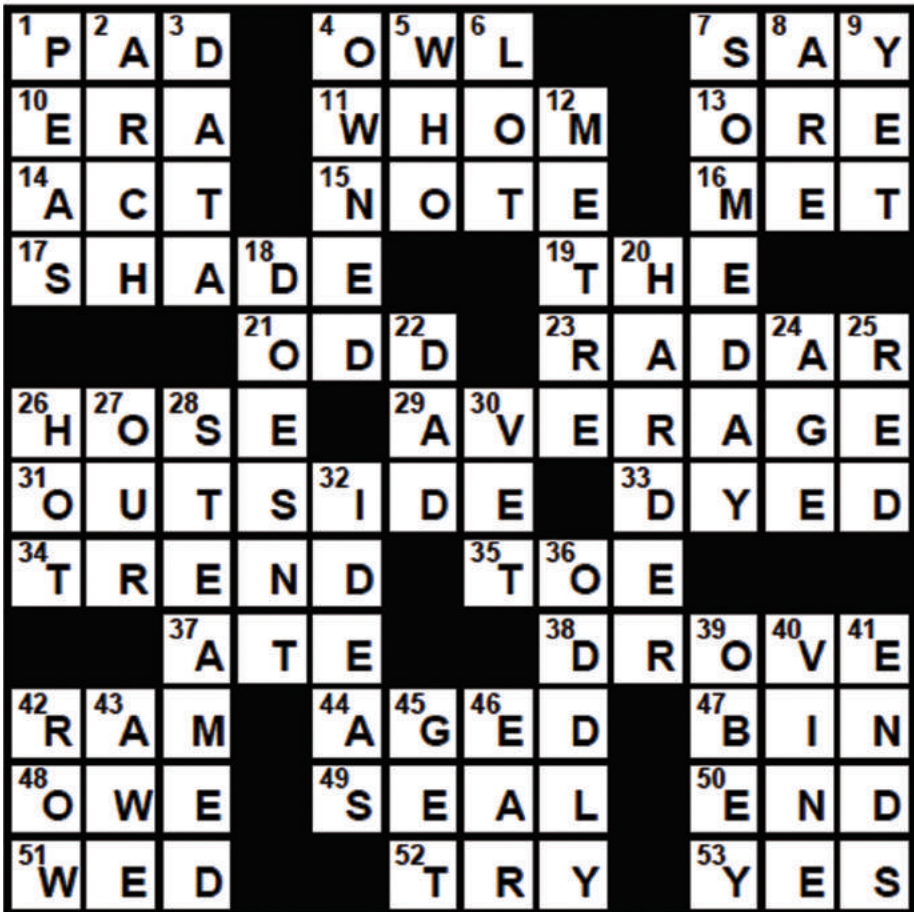
And after all of this, Joe Biden plans to give Gaza and the terrorist-training Palestinian Authority 100 million dollars of our money for "humanitarian aid" and even allow Gazan "refugees" to import more terror over here with NO vetting.

Can you run to Washington and scream, "HELL NO?" Could we impeach Biden and our Congress for aiding and abetting the enemy? And finally, don't forget the 2024 election.

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John Taylor

# Robert E. Lee: An Exemplary American

The assaults on Robert E. Lee and anyone who fought for Southern Independence never abate. Lee symbolizes most things his critics hate – he was a devout Christian, he believed in the sovereignty of the States within a voluntary federal republic, his primary allegiance was to Virginia (his “country”), and he felt “Union” at the point of a bayonet undermined the entire American experiment in self-government. One might ask: Why did the colonies seek independence if the goal was replication of the mercantilist British Empire they left? Lee’s beliefs are typically criticized by the usual suspects: neocons/Trotskyites, “globalists,” “socialists,” and others who despise the traditional Christian South. These individuals dominate “higher education,” corporate media, and what some generously call “entertainment.”

There are many areas concerning Lee that rile those who harbor strong hatred for the South. For example, many criticize Lee because he was the steward over the Custis slaves. They conveniently ignore that Lee opposed slavery, treated those under his control in the manner prescribed in the Holy Bible, and freed the slaves under his stewardship on December 29, 1862. Lee stated: “If I owned four millions of slaves, I would cheerfully sacrifice them for the preservation of the Union, but to lift my hand against my own State and people is impossible.” (Abbeville)

Lee has also been criticized for believing Blacks were better off in America than Africa (most were slaves in both). He was a man of his times but, unlike many of his contemporaries (like Lincoln), Lee was not known to advocate deportation of Blacks or to refer to them in derogatory terms (like Lincoln, William T. Sherman, John Sherman, Ben Wade, etc.)

Lee opposed secession, even referencing it as “revolution” but, once Virginia voted to secede (after Lincoln called for the invasion of sovereign States), he felt duty-bound to follow. He saw the horrors of fighting against one’s own family. Furthermore, invasion of a State was deemed to be a treasonous act of which Lee, or anyone who understands a voluntary federal republic, would take no part in.

At the behest of Winfield Scott, Lincoln offered Lee command of Union forces. He respectfully declined, a major reason being his unwillingness to fight against his own people. Lee loved the original Union and dutifully served in the U.S. Army for decades; however, he did not view the federal government as a de facto God (as did Sherman and others).

Lee fought for independence. Ironically, this angers many Americans – especially those who believe Hamilton’s invention that the sovereign States are not really sovereign.

In the West Point Class of 1829, Lee finished second and received no demerits. Lee was adamant about duty, contra our present world of “What is in it for me?” Lee won the admiration of Presidents Theodore Roosevelt, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and others. He has been praised worldwide by statesmen, religious leaders, scholars, etc. The present military “woke leadership,” which distances itself from Lee, is like a parody from the old National Lampoon magazine or Saturday Night Live. What a sad world we live in when great Christian men like Lee are demonized. The Book of Isaiah states: “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!” These are the times in which we live.

On February 18, 1874, four years after Lee’s death, Georgia Senator Benjamin Harvey Hill addressed the Southern Historical Society: “When the future historian shall come to survey the character of Lee, he will find it rising like a huge mountain above the undulating plain of humanity, and he must lift his eyes high toward heaven to catch its summit. He was a foe without hate, a friend without treachery, a soldier without cruelty, a victor without oppression, and a victim without murmuring. He was a public officer without vices, a private citizen without wrong, a neighbor without reproach, a Christian without hypocrisy, and a man without guile. He was a Caesar without his ambition, a Frederick without his tyranny, a Napoleon without his selfishness, and a Washington without his reward. He was obedient to authority as a servant, and loyal in authority as a true king. He was gentle as a woman in life; modest and pure as a virgin in thought; watchful as a Roman vital in duty; submissive to law as Socrates, and grand in battle as Achilles!" (Martin)

Lee stated: “My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.” “Woke” statist e.g., Seidule, Warren, Milley, Austin, will likely never understand honor and integrity as they are antithetical to their world. Thus, they will never understand great men like Robert E. Lee.

Sources: “The Christian Character of Robert E. Lee,” by Pastor David Martin, Solid Rock Baptist Church, 2006, at: <http://www.solidrockbaptist.net/the-christian-character-of-general-robert-e-lee.html>; “Why Lee Still Matters,” Abbeville Blog at: <https://www.abbevilleinstitute.org/why-lee-still-matters/> ; “Secession is Nothing but Revolution,” from A Letter of R. E. Lee to His Son “Rooney”, William M. E. Rachal Note: From the January 1961 issue of The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (volume 69), pp. 2–6, at: <https://leefamilyarchive.org/reference/essays/rachal/index.html> ; Robert E. Lee Quotes at: [http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/Notable %20 Lee%20Quotes.htm](http://www.sonofthesouth.net/leefoundation/Notable_%20Lee%20Quotes.htm); and “Tom DiLorenzo’s Guide to American History,” by Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr., at: <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2023/12/lew-rockwell/tom-dilorenzos-guide-to-american-history/>

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## Economic ~ Social ~ Moral ~ Constitutional Conservatism

# Advent and the Whimsical Nature of Christmas

We know that Christmas is centered around the birth of Jesus, the Christ child, but what is it about the Christmas season that is so different from the rest of the year? Kindness seems to emerge, benevolence is more prevalent, evil thoughts take a pause, differences are often suspended, and “Merry Christmas” greetings broadcast in the market square are jubilant as if to say, “God Bless You.”

It is a centuries old quest to somehow bottle the grandeur, supernatural attributes, and ambience of Christmas and spread it over the rest of the year. The lyrics of “Its Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas” capture this idea, but the underpinning landscape runs much deeper. So, let’s look at Advent, which embodies the divine mysteries of this hallowed and coveted time of year.

Embodied in the ancient Christian liturgical calendar, Advent comes from the Latin word adventis, which means coming or arrival. The Bible does not say anything specifically about observing Advent, but Christian history chronicles Advent all the way back to 480 AD. Advent and Lent, both celebrated during the liturgical year, have two common themes: penitential (sorrowful and atonement) and pilgrimage (journey to a holy place). While Advent looks forward to the coming Messiah’s birth, Lent prepares for His Resurrection.

In the four weeks leading up to Christmas Day, churches that observe ancient liturgy light candles each week of Advent, all of which have significant meaning.

Week one represents HOPE! There is a sense of great excitement, hope, and anticipation of the coming of the Savior. The first candle is referred to as the Prophecy Candle and signifies the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about a coming Messiah.

Week two represents PEACE! One of the names of Jesus is “Prince of Peace.” To honor this, we intentionally seek to find the good in our fellow men rather than focusing on their faults. Somehow, differences are set aside during Advent. This second candle is referred to as the Bethlehem Candle.

Week three represents JOY! “Joy to the World” is one of the classic carols we sing, reflecting joy in the salvation of mankind and in the fact that the one who liberates us from sin is coming soon. Referred to as the Shepherds Candle, this third candle is rose pink and signifies the halfway point in our pilgrimage to discovering the Messiah. This Sunday is also known as Gaudete Sunday, which in Latin means “rejoice.”

Week four represents LOVE! God’s unconditional love for mankind was manifested in giving us HIS only begotten son who would reconcile God with man. Known as the Angel’s Candle, this fourth week in Advent reminds us to find love in our heart for our fellow man, giving generously to show that unconditional love to others, even though something as simple as giving the hard-working waitress an astonishing Christmas tip.

In 1999, my wife, son, and I were blessed to go on a pilgrimage to Israel during Advent and the Jewish religious holiday of Hanukkah. One of the grand and whimsical moments of the trip happened at the birthplace of Jesus in Bethlehem. As we were descending the stone-hewn stairs under the altar of the Church of

the Nativity (a Coptic church), we heard the thunderous and jubilant voices of a tour group of pilgrims from Chicago singing, “Oh Come, Let Us Adore Him.” With candles lit in the nativity crib, we joined them in singing this worshipful hymn. It was as if we were arriving with the shepherds, paying homage to the newborn King. Unforgettable!

Children serve as our role models during Advent, demonstrating great anticipation of Christmas Day with a guileless heart. In the New Testament (**Matthew 18:4**), we are admonished to become humble like little children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Old Testament prophet Isaiah sets the tone of Advent (**Isaiah 11:6**), also incorporating children: **“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.”** God’s Peace Filled the Earth!

As we approach Christmas Day during Advent, may we take on the humility of a child, looking with excitement to the Hope of HIS coming, the Peace on Earth He brings, and the Joy He puts in our hearts, all while allowing his unconditional Love to flow from us to others.

Discovering Advent is discovering the supernatural attributes of Christmas.

Merry Christmas and may God bless you and your family.



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



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JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEX TRAFFICKING OPERATION

The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, US Marshals, Montgomery Police Department and District Attorney Daryl Bailey conducted a sex trafficking operation whereby 15 individuals were arrested in Montgomery. Furthermore, each individual was charged with the following:

- 1. Attempt Human Trafficking 1st
- 2. Electronic Solicitation of a Child
- 3. Traveling to Meet a Child for an unlawful Sex Act.



Law Enforcement Appreciation Bags

We'd like to give a very special "Thank You" to Dr. Tammie McCurry and the Sorors of Tau Rho Mu Christian Sorority for providing law enforcement appreciation 'goodie' bags. They will come in handy more than you know as serving the citizens of Montgomery County is our priority and often, we have to miss a meal and these bags will be appreciated so much!

Thank you again for your continued support!



Inmates Graduate from Council on Substance Abuse Program

The Montgomery County Detention Facility, in a cooperative partnership with the Council on Substance Abuse, recently presented courses on anger management and drug counseling to inmates in the MCDF. The participation was voluntary. The six-week course gave students information on understanding anger, anger styles, using coping skills, soft skills dealing with conflict, and using emotional intelligence. Drug counseling and awareness was also offered.

Six individuals completed the course. They have become model inmates who are working diligently to improve their lives and future. Other inmates are seeing the positive impact the courses have made and are eager to participate in future programs. We are honored to see the achievements they have made. A bonus to the graduation was a pizza party when the students were awarded their certificates. In addition to the COSA courses, The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is proud to offer curriculum in GED, culinary arts, and building maintenance. In the near future, we will be expanding classes and opportunities for inmates to learn and become certified in trades and professions that will assist them in future employment.

We look forward to enhancing these classes and other mentoring programs that will be a medium for these individuals to become fully employed and contributing members of our community.



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Sheriff  
Chris West

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

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

**U. S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION**  


**MISSION STATEMENT**  
Protect the American people, safeguard our borders, and enhance the nation's economic prosperity.

**ENDURING MISSION PRIORITIES**  
**Counter Terrorism** – Anticipate, detect and disrupt the threat of terrorists, their weapons and actions to protect the people and economy of the United States.  
**Combat Transnational Crime** – Detect, deter and disrupt transnational organized crime that threatens U.S. national and economic security interests at and beyond the border.  
**Secure the Border** – Protect the Homeland through the air, land and maritime environments against illegal entry, illicit activity or other threats to uphold national sovereignty and promote national and economic security.  
**Facilitate Lawful Trade and Protect Revenue** – Enable fair, competitive and compliant trade and enforce U.S. laws to ensure safety, prosperity and economic security for the American people.  
**Facilitate Lawful Travel** – Enhance, enable and transform the travel experience by anticipating, detecting and intercepting threats prior to and at ports of entry.



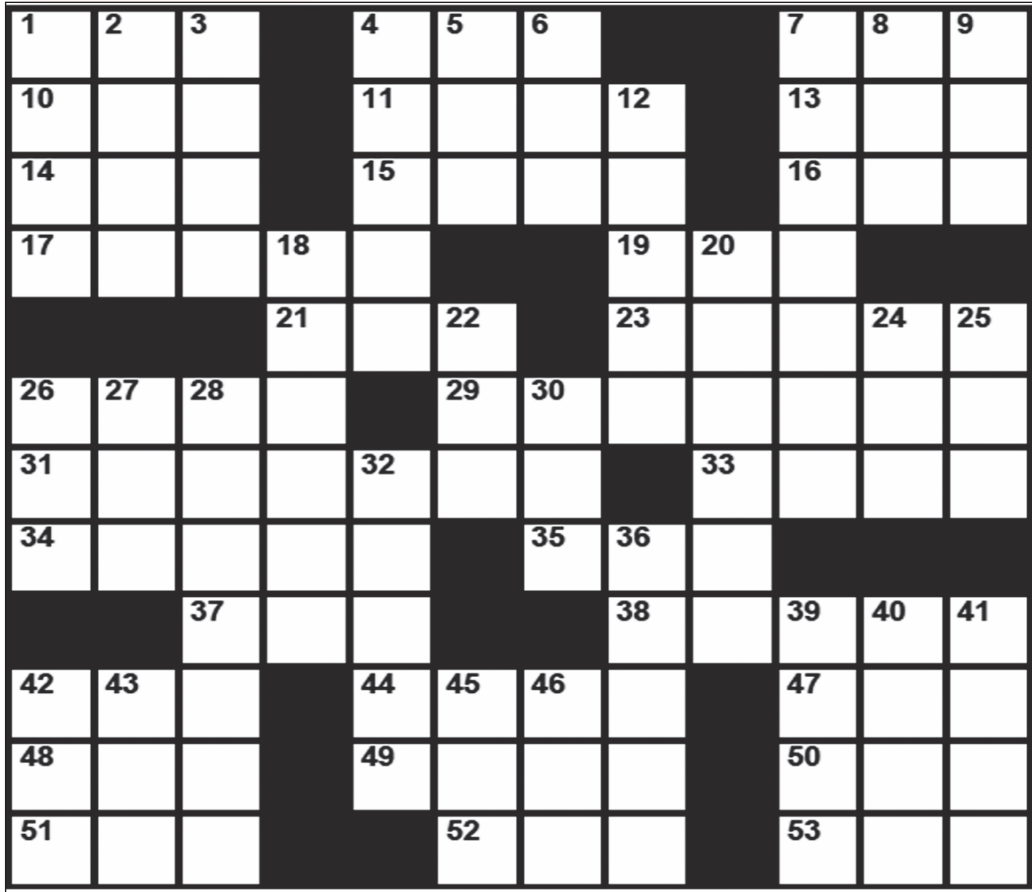
MYLES MELLOR CROSSWORD

Myles Mellor is one of the top crossword writers in the world. Published in over 1000 magazines, newspapers and web outlets. Over 20,000 cross-words published worldwide. Visit him at:

<http://www.themecrosswords.com/>

Also see his CBS interview at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7emsBZqvohY&t=22s>



ACROSS

- 1. STENO'S NEED
- 4. TAWNY, FOR EXAMPLE
- 7. "HOW DO I \_" USHER
- 10. DEPRESSION
- 11. "FOR \_ THE BELL TOLLS"
- 13. MINE EXTRACTION
- 14. BE IN A CAST
- 15. PUT DOWN
- 16. SAW FACE-TO-FACE
- 17. TINT
- 19. Popular title article
- 21. Abnormal
- 23. Spidey sense
- 26. Nozzle site
- 29. So-So
- 31. Alfresco
- 33. Tinted
- 34. Political analyst's topic
- 35. Piggy
- 37. Had a bite
- 38. Showed off the car, in a way
- 42. Farm father
- 44. MOLDY
- 47. Trash receptacle
- 48. Be behind
- 49. BARKER
- 50. TERMINATION
- 51. Tie the knot
- 52. Have a go at
- 53. Affirmative statement

DOWN

- 1. Podded veggies
- 2. Chief
- 3. Dossier contents
- 4. Possessed
- 5. Doctor of sci-fi
- 6. Parcel
- 7. In the foreseeable future
- 8. It might come after you
- 9. Up to now
- 12. Race distance
- 18. "Crime \_ pay"
- 20. TOUGHER
- 22. POPS
- 24. TIME OF ONE'S LIFE
- 25. WARNING HUE
- 26. \_ diggity dog
- 27. Lord's Prayer start
- 28. Spent time in the sauna
- 30. Scrutinize
- 32. Brainchildren
- 36. ATYPICALLY
- 39. DO AS DIRECTED
- 40. CREEPY PLANT
- 41. "LOOSE" THINGS
- 42. PROPEL A BOAT, MANUALLY
- 43. COW, MAYBE
- 45. PICK UP
- 46. SERVING OF CORN

Answers on Page 6



# Honoring Our Heroes



## 2023 Wreaths Across America at the Wetumpka City Cemetery

The Sentry Riders Motorcycle Group (SRMG) and Captain William Bibb Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (CWB) joined together to co-sponsor Wreaths Across America by the laying of 232 wreaths on veterans' graves at the Wetumpka City Cemetery December 16, 2023. Wreaths were donated by members of the sponsoring groups and members of the River Region Community.

Paul Wolbeck (SRMG) welcomed everyone and requested a moment of silence to remember the Fallen, the Prisoners of War, the Missing in Action and to honor those who have served and are serving the great nation's armed services. The Wetumpka High School JROTC presented the colors as Captain William Bibb DAR Regent Kathleen Gillian Tobias sang the National Anthem, and an opening prayer was given by Acting Chaplain Alicia Cargil Chalker (CWB). Local veterans took part in the very meaningful ceremony by placing ceremonial wreaths representing each branch of service: Representing the US Army was Sergeant Anthony Albert. First Sergeant Bill Bonner represented the US Marines. Chief Quartermaster Carl Edwards represented the US Navy. Representing the US Air Force was Staff Sergeant John Cullen. Currently serving in the US Space Force, Major Sallie Duncan represented it. Representing the US Coast Guard was Specialist David Rogers, Jr., and Senior Airman Price Jackson presented a wreath in memory of 93,129 United States Servicemen from all branches whose last known status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action who have never returned to their families or home. They shall not be forgotten. Taps were played by bugler Raymond Keel from Bugles Across America.



Master Sergeant Paul Robert Williamson



Petty Officer Shanarik Deone McNeal



Major Timothy Lawrence Tormey



Ensign Cecil H. Prescott Jr.

Hope you enjoy reading the Gazette as much as these guys.

## Sgt. Joseph Collins: Age 104!

Sgt. Joseph Collins was born January 11, 1920, in the Welona community of Coosa County, AL, and except for the four years that he served with the United States Army Air Force during WWII, he has lived in Rockford, AL, in Coosa County. His parents were William Milton Collins and Jessie Virginia Allison.



WELCOME HOME SOLDIER!!

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Buddy Martin Wilson	Jan. 3rd	Robert C. Cerha	Jan. 14th
Jerry Glen Wheat	Jan 4th	George Robert Partridge	Jan.16th
Geof.Allen Colt	Jan. 6th	William A. Grinstead	Jan. 21st
Willaim Randall Ray	Jan. 6th	Rosa Scott	Jan. 23rd
Joseph Collins	Jan. 11th	Billy Gene Bonner	Jan. 28th

## Petty Officer Third Class Peggy Holley: Age 101

Petty Officer Third Class (PO3) Peggy Holley celebrated her 101st birthday on December 13, 2023. She served three years and 16 days in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Services (WAVES) in the U.S. Navy.



## Master Sergeant Ronnie Edwin Kinsfather: Age: 75



Master Sergeant (MSgt) Ronnie Edwin Kinsfather served 20 years and eight months in the United States Air Force. His Military Occupational Specialty Code (MOSC) was Telephone Plant Maintenance superintendent. His decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons included: Air Force Commendation Medal with four Devices, Air Force Achievement Medal with one Device, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device with four Devices, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon with three Devices, National Defense Medal, Air Force Overseas

Loing Tour Ribbon with one Device, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one Device, Air Force Training Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal with four Devices, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Devices and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

MSgt Kinsfather was born September 17, 1948 to his parents, Elvin and Alice Kinsfather, at Houston, TX, where he was reared and graduated from M.B. Smiley High School in May 1967. After working at various jobs for seven months, he decided to join the U.S. Air Force.

MSgt Kinsfather volunteered and entered military service January 3, 1968. MSGT had 12 assignments at Air Force bases including four overseas tours. Beginning at the rank of Airman, he received five promotions in rank during his military career. He completed Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) San Antonio, TX, with the 3704th Basic Training Squadron Flight 9. He then completed training at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, TX, with the 3752nd Student Squadron to work as a telephone installer and maintenance man. MSgt Kinsfather completed eight assignments with this type of MOSC including the following: (1) Barksdale AFB, LA, with the 46th Communication Squadron, at the rank of Airman, (2) Binh Thuy AB, Republic of Vietnam with the 1880 Communication Squadron at the rank of Airman 1st Class, (3)

Vandenburg AFB CA, with the 392 Communication Squadron at the rank of Sergeant, (4) Langley AFB, VA, with the 1913 Communication with his family accompanied at the rank of Sergeant, (5) Sembach AB, Germany, with the 2134th Communication Squadron at the rank of Staff Sergeant, (6) Langley AFB, VA, with the 1913 Communication Squadron at the rank of Staff Sergeant, (7) Hofn Air Station (AS), Hofn, Iceland, at a radar station with Detachment 4 Operating Location A, 1913th Communication Group at the rank of Staff Sergeant, (8) Kelly AFB, San Antonio, TX, with the 1923 Communication Group at the rank of Technical Sergeant, (8) Lindsey ASN, Wiesbaden, Germany, with the 2063 Communication Squadron at the rank of Technical Sergeant and (9) Maxwell AFB, AL, with the 1973 Communication Group at the rank of Master Sergeant where he retired from military service August 31, 1988.

After his military retirement, MSgt Kinsfather worked temporary jobs with various companies at Montgomery, AL. Using the G.I. Bill, he completed training in air conditioning and installation at the John M. Patterson Technical College at Montgomery, AL. He then worked for 20 years with Climate Service Inc., a heating and air conditioning company at Montgomery, AL, retiring in May 2011.

MSgt Kinsfather and his wife, Blanche, were married 49 years before she passed away, and they had three children and three grandchildren. They were members of the Vaughn Park Church of Christ at Montgomery, AL, and they enjoyed fishing on the AL coast. He is a member of the American Legion Post Two and the VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96. He served as a volunteer at the Central AL Veterans Health Care Outpatient Clinic for four years during 2015-2019.

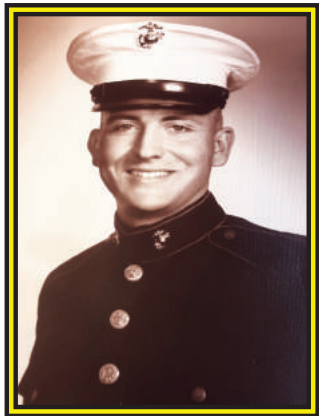
MSgt Kinsfather's modest conclusions about his military care are: "I served my country for freedom." He would like people to remember him as being someone who would stay with a job and not quit on it.







Corporal Andrew Carnegie Nolin: Age 86



Corporal (Cpl) Andrew Carnegie Nolin served three years on active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps and three years in the Marine Corps Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Motor Vehicle Operator. He received the Good Conduct Medal.

Cpl Nolin was born August 22, 1937 to his parents, A. C. and Agnes Nolin at Montgomery, AL, where he was reared. After graduating from Lanier High School in 1955, Cpl Nolin attended Auburn University for two years, and he joined the U.S. Marine Corps October 1, 1957.

Cpl Nolin’s military service involved his serving as a chauffeur to three different U.S. Navy admirals from the aircraft carriers, USS Intrepid, USS Franklin D. Roosevelt and USS Independence. The USS Intrepid (CV/CVA/CVS-) also known as the Mighty I was one of 24 Esser-class aircraft carriers built during WWII. The USS Franklin D. Roosevelt was the second of three Midway-class aircraft carriers. The USS Independence, final member of the Forrestal class of conventionally powered aircraft supercarriers, was one of the Navy’s best aircraft carriers, and it had the most battle experience.

Cpl Nolin was stationed at Mayport, FL, for a couple of months around October 1958 while on the USS Intrepid. While serving on the USS FDR and USS Independence, he was stationed at the Naval Station at Norfolk, VA. When the USS Independence was being repaired at dry dock in New York City, he would hitchhike home to Virginia on Fridays to be with his family on Saturdays and then hitchhike back to NYC on Sundays. On the USS Intrepid, he cruised the Caribbean Sea. On the USS FDR, he cruised the North Atlantic Ocean, and on the USS Independence, he cruised the Mediterranean Sea. Cpl Nolin completed his active duty military service July 15, 1960 at Albany, GA.

After his military service, Cpl Nolin graduated from Auburn University with a B.S. Degree in Industrial Management in 1962. He returned to Montgomery and worked with his father and uncle who owned Nolin Manufacturing Company which made commercial refrigeration equipment for supermarkets and convenience stores. There were three locations of this company in Montgomery. He ran the company until 1971 when the company was sold. Next, he formed his own company, Freedom Oil Company, and drilled for oil for eight years in KY, MS, LA and other states until 1979. He then worked in real estate development in northwest FL and speculated in real estate in other areas.

Cpl Nolin and his wife, Syble (Baker), are the proud parents of two children, Michael Andrew Nolin and Dawn Nolin Geiger, and they enjoy spending time with three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He has served as a deacon, and he has been a Sunday School teacher for over 60 years at the Capital Heights Baptist Church at Montgomery, AL. He has enjoyed hunting and fishing for many years.



Concerning his military service, Cpl Nolin summed it up with the following words: “I was proud to be a Marine during the first years of my marriage. I was gone a lot, and my wife and I learned how to support each other as we grew up together. It was an important part of the foundation for our 65 years of marriage.” Cpl Nolin has lived at the same location at the top of one of the highest hills in Montgomery since he was six years old except when he served in the Marine Corps. He built his current home and assisted in remodeling three others where family members have lived on the hill. He purchased architectural wood and antique fixtures for use in building and decorating his house. He would like people to remember him as being a good son, husband and father and as a servant of the Lord.



Col Dennis M. Drew: Age 81



Col Dennis M. Drew served 28 years in the United States Air Force. His Military background included: (1) Dean, School of Advanced Air and Space Studies, (2) Director, Air Power Research Institute, (3) Chief, Strategy and Doctrine, Air Command Staff College, (4) Staff Division Chief, HQ Strategic Air Command, (5) Missile Operations Staff Officer and (6) Personnel Staff Officer. He received the following decorations medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Medal, Air Forces Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with six oak leaf clusters, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Drew was born May 27, 1942 to his parents, Harry and Ione Drew, at Seattle, WA. He was reared at Bend, Oregon, and he graduated from Bend Senior High School. He graduated from Willamette University with a B.A. Degree in History and having participated in the R.OT.C. while at college, he entered active military service and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1964.

Col Drew’s military service began at Mr. Home Air Force Base (AFB) ID for two years as Personnel Officer. Volunteering for deployment to Vietnam, he served for two years at Tuy Hoa Air Base at South Vietnam with a fighter wing and at Nakhon Phanom Air Base at Thailand with an Air Command wing where he served as a Personnel Officer. Following deployment, Col Drew served as a launch crew commander in charge of 10 nuclear tipped ICBMs at the Francis E. Warren AFB, WY, for 6.5 years. Then he served at the Strategic Air Com-

mand Headquarters at Offutt AFB, NE. His military career changed with his assignment to attend the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell A.F.B., AL , for 10 months followed by his service first as an instructor for three years and then for the remaining 14 years of his military service there as Chief of Strategy and Doctrine, Chief, Warfare Studies, Deputy Director for Research at the Air Power Research, Director for Research Air Power Institute and Dean of the School of Advanced Air Power Studies.

During his military service, Col Drew earned a Master of Science Degree in Business Management from the University of Wyoming in 1972 and a Master of Science in Military History from the University of AL in 1985. While at Maxwell AFB, he led the establishment of the Air Power Research Institute which became the “think tank” for the Air Force. He authored, coauthored and edited six books, and several book chapters and monographs and authored numerous articles in professional journals concerning airpower strategy and doctrine, and he traveled all over the world to teach and to speak for allied air forces. His efforts also led in the establishment of the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies. Col Drew retired from military service in 1992. For 16 years, he remained working as a civilian as the Vice Commandant at the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies retiring in 2008.

Drew and his wife, Sue, have been married 61 years, and they have two children and four grandchildren. They have enjoyed traveling on cruises, and they are members of the Dalraida Methodist Church of Montgomery, AL. Col Drew is a member of the Military Officers and Airmen Association.

Col Drew reflected on his military career, the time spent at the Air Command and Staff University and his writings stating: “I had the good fortune to be selected to attend ACSC at Air University. Those 10 months there totally changed the direction and focus of my Air Force career. I learned a great deal at the staff college including how important professional education should be to the Air Force. The years at the Air University allowed me to think, write and publish.”



Petty Officer 2 nd Class Samuel Brown: Age 61



Petty Officer 2 nd Class (PO2) Samuel Brown served a total of 30 years in the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) including eight years on Active Duty and 22 years in the Reserve. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Storekeeper. He had skills in logistics, purchasing and contract management. He received the following medals, citations, awards and ribbons: Coast Guard Distinguished Service Medal for search and rescue mission after Hurricane Katrina at New Orleans, LA, the U.S. Coast Guard Unit Commendation Medal for the fight against drug trafficking to the United States and two Good Conduct Medals.

PO2 Brown was born April 22, 1962 to his parents, Chester and Louella Brown, at Miami, FL, where he was reared and where he graduated

from Miami Killian Senior High School in 1980. He enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard at the age of 19 in October 1981. He completed the eight week course of instruction in Enlisted Basic Training at the Coast Guard Training Center at Cape May, New Jersey. There PO2 Brown learned what he needed to succeed as a junior enlisted member. He learned everything from military justice to ethics and Coast Guard history. He completed hands-on training in a variety of topics, including firearms, seamanship, firefighting, damage control, and first aid.

His service in the U.S. Coast Guard included assignments on ships off the coast of Miami, FL, and South Carolina. He began serving on the USCG Dauntless, a medium endurance cutter. It had the reputation of being the premier among the nation’s “drug busters”, and it played a major role in search and rescue. After serving two years on the USCG Dauntless, PO2 Brown served at the small boat USCG Station Cortez at Sarasota, FL, for one year. Next, served at the USCG

radio station at Miami, FL for one year. Then he served at the USCG Station at Boston, MA, for six months. This was followed by six months of service at the USCG Yard at Baltimore, MD, where ships were built, repaired and renovated. His final assignment on active duty was at the USCG 7 th District Command at Miami, FL, from 1986-1990. He then served in the USCG Reserve with assignments in the Base Support Unit at Miami Beach, FL, and at the USCG Base at Mobile, AL, until he retired from all military service in January 2011. While serving in the Reserve, he received a B.S. Degree in Federal Contract Management from Summit University in 2000.

After military retirement, PO2 Brown worked as a Contract Specialist with the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs in its awarding of contracts for procurement of supplies first at the VA Hospital at Miami, FL, and then at the VA Hospitals at Montgomery and Tuskegee, AL, 31 years retiring from all employment in 2021. PO2 Brown and his wife, Tammy, have been married seven years. He has three children, two stepchildren and five grandchildren. He enjoys playing golf, fishing and bowling. He is a member of the Mercy Baptist Church, Central Montgomery Optimist Club and the American Legion. He serves as a mentor and instructor for youth coaching them in football, basketball and baseball at the YMCA. PO2 Brown’s reflections on what serving in the US Coast Guard means to him are: “It definitely made me a better man, father and provider. It put me on a good path of service.” He would like to be remembered as a good Christian man who loves God and his family, who did good for other people, who was a hard worker, provider, loving, trustworthy and who was a good person.







Kyle’ McKinney



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Social Security Administration  
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Cell: (334) 479-1242

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS  
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## THIS NEW YEAR – LEARN ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

Social Security programs touch the lives of more than 71 million people. We work hard to ensure critical benefits and other services are accessible to you. Consider the start of the new year as an opportunity for you to engage with Social Security online. This begins with creating your free and secure personal **my** Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Once you create an account, you can:

- Apply for retirement, spouses, or disability benefits.
- Apply for Medicare.
- Check your application status.
- Request a replacement Social Security number card.

If you do not receive Social Security benefits, you can use your personal **my** Social Security account to:

- Get personalized retirement benefit estimates.
- Get your Social Security Statement.
- Get estimates for spouse’s benefits.
- Get instant proof that you do not receive benefits.

If you receive benefits, you can use your personal **my** Social Security account to:

- Change your address (Social Security benefits only).
- Set up or change your direct deposit information (Social Security benefits only).
- Instantly get proof of benefits.
- Print your SSA-1099.

Your personal **my** Social Security account has a secure Message Center. You can choose to receive the annual cost-of-living adjustments and the Medicare income-related monthly adjustment amount online. Unless you opt-out of receiving notices by mail that are available online, you will receive both mailed and online notices. Your personal **my** Social Security account offers easy access to features that save you time when you do business with us online. Check out our other resources available at: [www.ssa.gov/onlineservices](http://www.ssa.gov/onlineservices) for your convenience.

**IF YOU DID NOT APPLY FOR MEDICARE PART B** (medical insurance) within three months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from January 1 to March 31 every year.

If you don’t enroll in Part B when you’re first eligible for it, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage.

Your monthly premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare). You may also read our publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf).

## 5 THINGS TO KNOW WHEN YOUR CHILD WITH DISABILITIES TURNS 18

When your child turns 18 years old, they legally become an adult. This is an important time to consider their financial future – especially if they need additional care into adulthood. Here are 5 things that may help you prepare for this milestone:

### 1. Health and Welfare Decision-making

When your child legally becomes an adult, you can no longer make certain decisions for them about their health and welfare. However, you can stay involved through:

- **A Representative Payee:** Social Security will determine who best serves as a Representative Payee for your child’s benefits. To learn more about the Representative Payee program, read our webpage at: [www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/payee/index.htm).
- **Guardianship:** This requires court involvement. It may be necessary if your child can’t execute a power of attorney. Please consult an attorney for assistance.

### 2. Changes in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Eligibility

- SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness who have income and resources below specific financial limits.
- If your child receives SSI, when they turn 18 we will review their eligibility for continued SSI payments based on the disability rules for adults. For more information, please review the publication, What You Need To Know About Your Supplemental Security Income (SSI) When You Turn 18 at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11005.pdf). Please be sure to review this with your child. We also encourage you to check out Social Security’s Youth Resources page at [www.ssa.gov/youth](http://www.ssa.gov/youth).

### 3. Education Transitions

- If your child attends public school, they have a few options to continue their education, such as pursuing:
- A diploma: They may pursue further education in college or trade programs with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). More information on the IEP is available at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-118.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-64-118.pdf).

- A certificate: They may have the opportunity to continue in a transitional program in their high school even after they complete their senior year. Most are permitted to remain until they turn 22.
- Employment: Local Vocational Rehabilitation Services can assist with employment options during pre-graduation IEP meetings.

### 4. Support for Living Arrangements

- Once your child turns 18, they may choose or qualify for different living arrangements depending on the services they already receive. If your child receives therapy services at school, how will they receive them once they leave? They could receive them through a Medicaid waiver or private insurance.
- Qualification for respite services may also look different. Respite services allow family caregivers time to step away from their duties. It is essential you understand all the benefits and options available to your child after they complete high school before deciding on living arrangements and services.

### 5. Financial Protections

- Special Needs Trust: Update estate planning documents before your child turns 18. Otherwise, inheritance may terminate your child’s governmental benefits.
- ABLE Account: You can deposit funds into this account up to a certain limit each year; however, there are limits on what its funding covers. More information on ABLE accounts is available at [www.ssa.gov/payee/able\\_accounts.htm](http://www.ssa.gov/payee/able_accounts.htm)
- Children receiving benefits on a parent’s record may continue to receive those benefits until age 19 if they’re a full-time elementary or secondary school student. People who have a qualifying disability that began before age 22 may also be eligible to receive child’s benefits at any age. For more information, please review the publication, Benefits for Children at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10085.pdf).
- As your child turns 18, consider these issues while you navigate their financial future. For more information, please contact the Special Needs Alliance at [www.specialneedsalliance.org/contact-us](http://www.specialneedsalliance.org/contact-us) or visit the Social Security website at [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov).

### GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE PART B

Scams to steal your personal information are at an all-time high. That’s why it remains critical to safeguard important personal documents like your Social Security card. A Social Security card is not an identification document. In many situations, you only need to know your Social Security number (SSN). Your physical card is not necessary for most business needs.

Do you need evidence for work? There are several documents you can use instead of your card. These include:

- Birth Certificate.
- Permanent Resident Card or Alien Registration Receipt.
- Employment Authorization Document.
- Form I-94 or Form I-94A.

You do not need to show your physical card to apply for certain benefits. You can simply provide your SSN for benefits like:

- Housing.
- Health insurance.
- Food assistance.

You should also know your physical card is not required as evidence for the Department of Motor Vehicles. The only state that requires a physical card is Pennsylvania. For all other states, acceptable evidence includes:

- W-2 forms.
- Form SSA-1099.
- Non-SSA-1099 forms.
- Pay stubs.

Keeping your card at home reduces the risk of loss or theft – and helps you keep your information safe. To learn more about keeping your card and information safe, please visit our Fraud Prevention and Reporting webpage at [www.ssa.gov/fraud](http://www.ssa.gov/fraud).

### HOW PROVIDING RACE AND ETHNICITY DATA HELPS ALL CUSTOMERS

We are continuously working to better understand how Social Security’s programs serve the public. Collecting race and ethnicity data for research and statistical purposes is one way for us to determine whether we are equitably serving the public. Applicants and customers may voluntarily provide this information. It does not affect decisions on benefit applications.

**Why does it matter if people provide race and ethnicity data?** When customers choose to provide race and ethnicity information, it lets us know:

- Who our benefit payments and programs are helping and who may be left out.
- What unintended barriers may impact benefits and services.
- Where to expand outreach efforts.
- How to increase awareness of eligibility for programs and benefits.

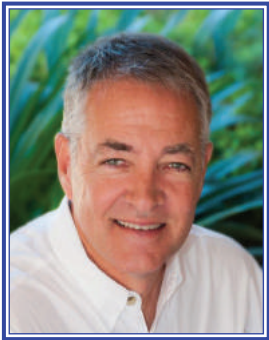
In other words, race and ethnicity data can help expand access to our programs, which is one of the objectives in our Equity Action Plan at [blog.ssa.gov/social-securitys-equity-action-plan](http://blog.ssa.gov/social-securitys-equity-action-plan).

Examples of how we use this information can be found on our Racial Equity Resources webpage at [www.ssa.gov/policy/about/racial-equity-resources.html](http://www.ssa.gov/policy/about/racial-equity-resources.html). Currently, we collect race and ethnicity information on applications for new or replacement Social Security number (SSN) cards. These applications can be completed:

- Online at [www.ssa.gov/number-card](http://www.ssa.gov/number-card).
- At one of our local offices or card centers.

Soon, parents may voluntarily provide this information when requesting their newborn’s SSN at the hospital. The option to provide this data will be available in participating states. We encourage you to provide your race and ethnicity information on your or your child’s application for a new or replacement SSN card. This information will help us better understand and serve all our current and future customers.





Dr. Lester Spencer  
President Pro Tem



GLOBAL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
ALABAMA EMERALD COAST CONFERENCE

Let 2024 be the year of new adventures! Plan out new adventures instead of wasting time on New Year’s Resolutions. Did you know that for 92% of people, New Year’s resolutions fail? The result is often discouragement, and we end up feeling like “**New year, same me.**” Try something different this year. Try planning New Year Adventures.

*So, what are some New Year Adventures you can plan for 2024?*

Plan Fun Adventures With True Friends

**“Not all those who wander are lost.” - J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring**

Plan some fun getaways with people you truly love to hang with. Be intentional. Take the initiative. Organize some adventures and invite others you love to join you. Plan to go somewhere that restores your soul and renews your spirit. I recommend a location in nature that allows the glory of God’s creation to fill your cup such as the mountains, the beach, the woods or any place that reveals the majesty and mystery of the Lord’s creative imagination to you.

These kind of adventures will serve several purposes. It will give you something to look forward to on the calendar. It will bless you with the wonder of being in God’s bountiful presence in the midst of His creation. It can provide an opportunity for you to have some rest for your soul, mind and body. It can also offer you some exciting adventures as you explore a new area via hiking, boating, sightseeing etc...

Spend Time With People That Fill Your Tank

**“Build strong connections with healthy people.” - Henry Cloud**

This one sounds so simple. But most people do not intentionally plan this out or see it as an adventure. But it can be. Most of us are surrounded by people that drain us. You may have great people that you work with hang with ... or you may not. But even really nice, good people can drain us. Not to mention the really difficult people or the narcissist in our lives who wear us down everyday.

We need to make time to spend time with those people who value us and believe in us. It is not selfish to want to be around people who love us and naturally fill our tank with kind and encouraging words. You do not ever have to have a choice when it comes to our own time. Do yourself a favor and plan some gatherings with people who love and appreciate you!

Stay Hungry For Growth

**“Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.” - Anthony D’Angelo**

Be content but never stop growing. Stay hungry for knowledge. Read books that challenge you and make you think, grow and improve. Listen to others who have expertise in different areas or subjects that interest you. Fortunately, there are countless books, blogs and podcasts on every subject imaginable. Pick some subjects that you are intrigued by and then read and listen to those with experience in those fields or endeavors. Always be looking to grow and expand your knowledge on various interesting subjects.

My suggestion is to pick several subjects that really fascinate you and then pick the 5 best books available on those topics. And then read them. Study them. See how you can apply the information you gather. Also, select 2 or 3 people who are very experienced in the fields of study who want to focus on. Then listen to their teachings or podcasts online. Perhaps, you can choose a Master Class type course.



Happy New Year “Adventures” In 2024 (Instead of Wasting Time on New Years Resolutions)

It might be a particular skill you are wanting to learn such as sailing, golfing, hunting, working out, fishing, cooking, sewing or whatever. You might want to take a course. Get some life coaching. Enjoy some lessons. Get a personal trainer. But always stay hungry to grow. Plan an adventure of growth for 2024!

Strengthen Your Relationship With God

**“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.” -Jesus, The Greatest Commandment, Luke 10:27.**

Make God your first priority so that you are not trying to get God-needs met by a person. No human being can meet all of your needs. Since we are made in the image of God, there are certain needs that we have that can only be met by God. Many people spend their lives trying to get their God-needs met by other human beings. They become very disappointed and disillusioned, because they set themselves up for failure.

There are certain needs that your spouse or good friends can meet for sure. But when it comes to the God-need areas of our lives such as spiritual fulfillment or self worth or forgiveness or the experience of grace... only God can meet these needs and offer what you must have to feel completed and whole.

**As Pascal put it: “There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each person which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ.”**

*How might you strengthen your relationship with God in 2024?*

- Invite Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior.
- Spend time alone with God in prayer and meditation.
- Read the Bible with the understanding that it is a love letter to you from God.

Attend worship at a church that believes and teaches the Bible and has a traditional, orthodox view and understanding of the scriptures and Christian teachings. Connect to a small group of dedicated Jesus followers on a regular basis. Find a place to serve those in need as you share the love of God with others.

Happy New Year Adventures in 2024!



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

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**[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)**





**Judge  
Peggy Givhan**

# SOUTHERN GARDENING

## Potpourri for January



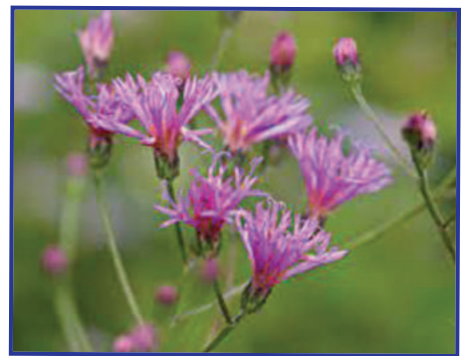
damaged. The same goes for the aspidistra or iron weed since it too will shoot forth new growth in the spring. Remember if you do not cut back now, but wait until late spring, the opportunity for full regrowth may be lost.

Since tulips have been in the crisper for 6 weeks, these can be planted now. But be sure that you have chilled them for a full 6 weeks before planting, so that means if you started say after Thanksgiving, then tulips need another couple of weeks before planting. If they are planted before fully chilled you risk a bloom which is very short stemmed and a complete waste of your hard earned money. If you cannot remember the exact date they entered the refrigerator, leave them in for a couple of weeks. We do not plant tulips in Montgomery until after January 1st because they may rot in the ground since our soil holds so much moisture and the squirrels eat them. One tip I have found helpful is when I plant any bulbs, I hide the existence of this act from bulb predators with leaves or other mulch. All of my knock-out roses appear to have survived and I will prune them in February. It most probably helped that I had heavily mulched them with pine straw in November. As to dusty miller and pansies, which I left outside during this brutal cold, both are alive and well. It appears that the lantana has survived. I did not risk sudden death for my satsuma and lemons trees, plumbago, peace lily, geraniums and dragon wing begonias, thus my back bedroom resembles a greenhouse.

The herbs that I kept outside in the ground with heavy mulch have survived this extreme cold. These include cilantro, marjoram, mint, parsley, rosemary, and verben. The jury is out for basil. And so much for the post-mortem of the flowers and herbs at my home.

## Ironweed (Veronia species)

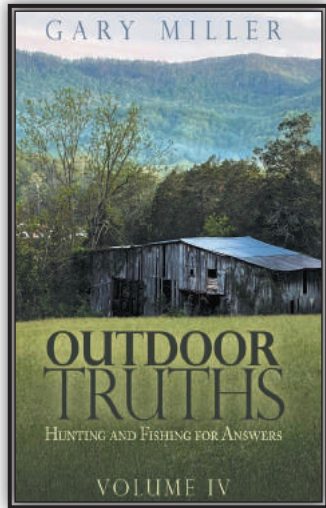
*Sometimes Aspidistra is known as ironweed, but not to be confused with this plant. This is a beautiful flowering tall perennial that is a great butterfly attractor in the garden. It grows from five to seven feet, has emerald green leaves and has a umbrella like clumps of dark purple blooms in late summer and early fall.*



*Ironweed dies back in the winter and is not an invasive plant. These flowers hold up well in a flower arrangement and once you grow these, they live on. It is native to the United States and will thrive in wet or dry soils.*



**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
AND  
GOOD GARDENING**



## I'M IN THE WOODS

*Gary Miller has written Outdoor Truths articles for 20 years. He has also written five books which include compilations of his articles and a father/son devotional. He also speaks at wild-game dinners and men's events for churches and associations.*  
[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)

Ever since last summer, I have been watching one particular buck. He's not a giant but he has a short third beam that protrudes straight out from the bottom of his main beam. It's only about 5 inches long but has another point growing from that. The deer is a mainframe 8 but this anomaly has always made the rack intriguing to me. And I decided early on, if I had the chance to harvest this one, I would. It would be my first non-typical. During hunting season, it has shown up on my trail camera many times, but always just before or after shooting light, or in the middle of the night. There have been other bucks about his size that I have watched, but my eye has always been on him. So, I've waited, watched, and wondered if he might show up at the same time, I'm in the woods.

One evening during rifle season, I was sitting in my barn. I had arrived a little early because the day was rainy and nasty, and I knew the deer would stir early. About an hour before dark, I looked out of my window to see a buck coming up the hill to my cover crop. My initial reaction was, "That's him! That's my buck." I grabbed my binoculars to get a closer look, but I couldn't tell for sure. I didn't panic because I knew where he was going. As he got into my field I waited until I

could get a viewing angle, to see if I could see this short third beam. He turned and sure enough I saw it! As I slowly reached for my gun, I had second thoughts about shooting him. I thought about what kind of buck he would be next year if I let him go. But after a few minutes I remembered that he was the one I had been waiting all year for, and he may not make it through this season because of the hunting pressure. So, I carefully aimed and pulled the trigger. He ran only about 30 yards before collapsing. I got the buck I had been looking for. I gathered my gear, stowed it in my truck and drove to my field, only to find that my deer wasn't my deer. It was a mainframe 8, but it lacked the one characteristic that had made it so desirable to me. I'm not sure how it happened. My only thought was that I wanted it to be him so bad, my mind grew that third beam. I wanted a reality that wasn't there. I was disappointed, knowing I would have let this deer walk, if I had known.

This is not the first time I have let my mind trick me. There have been plenty of times over the years, I have manufactured a reality that wasn't there. It was a decision that was not the right one. It was a purchase I justified when it wasn't justified. It was even a prayer I believed God wanted to answer, when in reality He didn't. The truth is our mind cannot always be trusted because it reacts to what it is fed. Whatever you are putting into your mind will be what the eyes see.



**Gary Miller**

**Termite**



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Patricia Boyd Killough

# Home Town Community News

**NOTICE!** Please send Patricia your family and friends:  
**BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, WEDDINGS AND EVENTS to:**  
**alabamagazette@gmail.com**

**May God Bless America in 2024!**



## January Birthdays

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Steve Campbell        | 15 Jennifer Williams   |
| 3 Jennifer Frazer       | John McClelland        |
| 5 Barbara Harrington    | Caroline S. Vocino     |
| Linda Perdue (69)       | 16 Ann Takacs Bugg     |
| 6 Ralph Pharr (82)      | Dale Weeks             |
| Yvonne Mielke           | 17 Charlene McClanahan |
| 7 Danny Bush            | 18 Dennis Armstrong    |
| 8 Sam Cassels           | Alva Chandler          |
| Burks Crane             | Joy Fleming            |
| Marilyn Evans           | 19 Connie Bush         |
| Mary Ellen Millis       | Nick Hughes            |
| Scott Mills             | 21 Tonya Cooley        |
| Trey Norris             | Jane Russell           |
| Gwen Pearson (95)       | Julio Vazquez          |
| Sarah Morgan Smith (20) | 23 Pam Higgins         |
| 9 Bobby Mills           | Jason Selvage          |
| 11 Jim Ard              | 24 Donna Gail Andersen |
| Sue Woodall (84)        | Tina Campbell          |
| 12 Carson Lane Abbott   | Anne Pinkston          |
| Liz Braswell            | 25 Mary Beth Wadsden   |
| Brenda Moseley          | 26 Mack Terrell        |
| 13 Theresa Henderson    | 27 Sophie Boyd         |
| Shirley Kirksey Jones   | 28 Bill Bonner         |
| T. J. Mills             | Darrell Self           |
| 14 Tiffany Andrews      | 30 Wanda Horsley       |
| John Black              | Doris Miller           |
| John T. Killough (75)   | 31 Hannah Johnson      |
| Doug Young              |                        |

**I KNOW THE LORD IS ALWAYS WITH ME.  
I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN FOR  
HE IS RIGHT BESIDE ME. Psalm 16:8**

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

- |   |         |
|---|---------|
| Puckett, Beverly Carole Cummings (86).....  | Dec. 2  |
| Segers, Martha Emily Johnson (82).....      | Dec. 3  |
| Gillet, Rosemary Holloway (95).....         | Dec. 4  |
| Kendall, Melissa Moselle Holding (63).....  | Dec. 4  |
| Lambert, Rev. Lillian Webb (97).....        | Dec. 4  |
| Skinner, Margeret (Peddy) (91).....         | Dec. 4  |
| Mangum, Billie Claire Watson (96).....      | Dec. 6  |
| Adair, Henry Harold (93).....               | Dec. 7  |
| Anthony, Patrick Logan (51).....            | Dec. 8  |
| Williams, Doris Ruth Hulkan (96).....       | Dec. 8  |
| Falkner, Angela Diane Holt (53).....        | Dec. 10 |
| Roberson, Jerry W. (81).....                | Dec. 10 |
| Jones, Mary Alice Tatum (95).....           | Dec. 11 |
| Hopson, Charlotte Weaver (79).....          | Dec. 13 |
| Sasser, Robert E. (79).....                 | Dec. 13 |
| Peake, Mathew Denton (15).....              | Dec. 14 |
| Evans III, George Bismark (72).....         | Dec. 15 |
| Goggins, Masen Kade (17).....               | Dec. 15 |
| Hyland, Carol Brooks (81).....              | Dec. 15 |
| Lanier, Geraldine "Gerry" Mcqueen (93)..... | Dec. 17 |
| Fisher, Earl Greasse (80).....              | Dec. 18 |
| Stone, Marileta Powell (94).....            | Dec. 18 |
| Wood, Dr. Janice Ruth (68).....             | Dec. 18 |
| Wood, Catherine "Kay" Mae (81).....         | Dec. 19 |
| Parkhurst, Leroy "Butch" Stanley (74).....  | Dec. 23 |
| Burdette, Donald Ray (66).....              | Dec. 27 |
| Horton, Margaret French (79).....           | Dec. 29 |
| Southern, Myron (65).....                   | Dec. 29 |
| Wise, Lucy Catherine (93).....              | Dec. 30 |
| Berrey, Sr., Thomas "Lee" (60).....         | Dec. 31 |
| Hurley Sr., Joseph Virgil (92).....         | Jan. 1  |
| Jones, James Daniel "Dan" (84).....         | Jan. 1  |
| Jordan, Haley Skipworth (24).....           | Jan. 1  |
| Smith, Barbara Haney (79).....              | Jan. 1  |
| Norris Jr., Julius Nelson (83).....         | Jan. 2  |
| Pouncey, James Robert (83).....             | Jan. 2  |
| Crelot, Iris Lynn (95).....                 | Jan. 3  |
| Johnson, Ray Denmark (56).....              | Jan. 3  |
| Broadway, Johnny Ray (79).....              | Jan. 4  |
| Kniker, Joan Carol (81).....                | Jan. 4  |
| Perdue, Betty Seymour (94).....             | Jan. 4  |
| Watley, Melinda Joyce (68).....             | Jan. 4  |
| Wingard, Virginia Thomas (103).....         | Jan. 4  |
| King, Constance Joyce (72).....             | Jan. 5  |
| Brambir, Peter Gildred (90).....            | Jan. 6  |
| Taylor, William Reynolds (91).....          | Jan. 7  |

## January Anniversaries

- |            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| January 8  | Fred & Nancy Setzer  |
| January 14 | Mike & Debbie Green  |
| January 20 | John & Donna Russell |
| January 22 | Bob & Betty Crowe    |

## Possible Resolution Suggestions:

- Make your bed every morning.
- Limit my phone time.
- Don't sleep with electronics on.
- Limit gaming.
- Return calls promptly.
- Eat more vegetables.
- Limit sodas and fast food.
- Set a goal for steps per day.
- Get more sleep.
- Go to bed earlier.
- Wake up one hour before work/school.
- Refill gas tank when half full.
- Keep up with your car maintenance.
- Take time to eat a good lunch.
- Don't be on phone when with others.
- Open saving account for a rainy day.
- Save for retirement.
- Take at least one trip for 2024.
- Take care of your health.
- Take time for your family.
- Take time to read your Bible.
- Take time for prayer.
- Tell someone everyday you Love them.

## James Daniel "Dan" Jones



was born to James D. Jones Sr. and Mary Carter Jones on October 12, 1939, in Montgomery. Dan was raised in Pike Road by his grandparents since the age of five years following his father's death. He continued to live in Pike Road and went to Pike Road School until the ninth grade. Dan Jones later attended and graduated Sidney Lanier High School in 1957.

He served in several capacities as a Deputy Sheriff with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and later Sheriff of Montgomery County from 1991-1999.

Dan met and married the love of his life, Carol Sachar, and lived in Pike Road together raising three children. He was dedicated to his family and to his church.

Honorary pallbearers are his grandsons and The Montgomery County Sheriff's Department Honor Guard.

Services was held January 8, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Ridgecrest Baptist Church in Montgomery. Graveside services followed at Greenwood Cemetery with Honors.

In lieu of flowers, donations were made to Ridgecrest Baptist Church or the Alabama Sheriffs Youth Ranches at [alabamasheriffsyouthranches.org](http://alabamasheriffsyouthranches.org).



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

By: Amanda Walker

Tears & LAUGHTER

Be Ashamed to Tell Others to be Ashamed

Before I launch into my topic this [month], I want to acknowledge what happened in Wilcox County yesterday. A long time, much-loved, retired deputy with the Wilcox County Sheriff's Department, Deputy Madison "Skip" Nicholson, was killed by a gunman while responding to a domestic-violence call in the Yellow Bluff community.

Chief Deputy Trenton Gulley was also injured, but is expected to recover. The whole county is shrouded today in sadness. This will spill into tomorrow and into the upcoming week and on into the foreseeable future.

This follows the sudden and unexpected death of Camden's Police Chief, Tyrone Dale, from natural causes in recent weeks, along with the loss of our young and talented editor of the local newspaper, Ethan Van Sice. There are so few of us here. We all know and care for one another. Even people in jail are sad for these losses. We seek a comfort and strength only a higher power can provide.

So with that, I will write about shame.

It seems to be a go-to statement for some people. It may be said, even without thinking. But who in the hell in our world has the right or authority to tell any other person, no matter how pathetic they may be, to be ashamed? I'm absolutely sure it is frequently repeated in homes across the country. And I get that it is an attempt to make the conscience feel convicted and as a result encourage a change of behavior – one way or another. But where we most often see it and hear it is among politicians.

Just [recently] Representative James Clyburn, a Democrat – for what that is worth – was being interviewed and said Senator Joe Manchin, also a Democrat, should be ashamed for not being in favor of the huge social spending bill that many people are against because they think it will push the United States into being a Socialist country. Who is James Clyburn to tell Joe Manchin he should be ashamed...for doing his job? He hasn't committed some horrible crime or done something reprehensible. He is just being a Senator.

Joe Manchin should never tell James Clyburn to be ashamed of being James Clyburn. But that was not what happened. It was James Clyburn telling Joe Manchin that he, a United States Senator, serving in the Biden economy and working with that cast of comical characters in Congress, should be ashamed. Is not one of the core reasons for all of the many social programs that swoop in and serve as salvation for people is so that they do not have to feel or experience the emotion of shame or embarrassment?

I take it one of the reasons some people cling so tightly to their Bible is because it holds the hope of forgiveness. It allows repentance to take wrongs away as far as east is from the west. So we are not burdened by shame.

And that is not to say that there are not those among us who should be ashamed. There are evil people in the world. I'm not sure Joe Manchin is one of them, but they exist. I guess if we dig around in our pasts we could all come up with something we may regret and feel remorseful about and given any chance would do differently. But nobody has the right to point it out and appoint shame...especially a politician.

Remember  
Valentine's Day  
is just around the  
corner and Love is in the air.



Ms. Wheelchair  
America/Alabama  
2005

Trisston's Tidbits:

Encouragement for the New Year

Happy New Year! As we begin a new year, we share this hopeful greeting with friends and family. At times, however, we may need a little more...more from ourselves as well as the people around us. Perhaps what God told Joshua is just what we all need to hear and to believe.

"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9

As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement.

Just like the new year may bring up lots of questions for us: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that affect me or my loved ones?

The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge and He promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always". That's the reason we can most assuredly wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

So, let's be thankful for the gift of a new year. Be encouraged and be an encourager to others. May His light, grace, and love shine through each of us! Many Blessings!

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For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

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Bill is the author of the book, "A Safer Alabama" (2017) and the author of the book, "A Safer Alabama" (2017).

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# Southern Cuisine

**Chef David Spooner, Retired Chef**

Volunteer Fireman, Lowndesboro V.F.D., St. Paul’s Episcopal Church,  
Lowndesboro Board of Registrars, Lowndes County



*I hope you and your family had a wonderful holiday and were able to celebrate Christmas with your loved ones. This time of year is all about tradition. With the flu still lingering, busy schedules, and just life in general, some families extend their get-togethers into the New Year. If you are like me, you have fond memories of baking pies, giving of presents, or having a meal with your friends and family. All of this demands planning to make Christmas a memorable event. Did you prepare the traditional meal that you have every Christmas? What was the centerpiece this year?*

*This is a very important decision, and it set the tone for the entire evening. Once you decided on the main course, there are hundreds of side dishes, appetizers, and casseroles to include and do not forget the refreshments. Instead of the common baked turkey, try wrapping it with bacon. Try a cauliflower gratin instead of potatoes. Is it going to be a bacon-wrapped turkey or bacon wrapped scallops? Most likely, your family has already gathered so perhaps this column can help you prepare for the next big family meal, such as Easter! I did not follow tradition this year. It's fair game for you to prepare what ever you want and you do not have to check and make sure that the side dishes go with your main course. Instead of game go with seafood as a main dish or an appetizer. These suggestions are for side dishes. And can be served as a main dish or side dish at the pre-celebration meal. This is the meal that you eat while you are preparing the main meal, and it keeps people out of the kitchen while you prepare the main courses. After all, as a good host, you have to feed the stay over guests.*

*We will start with a simple side dish that will go with any main dish you to prepare – a baked vegetable that goes with any meat.*

## Asparagus Rollup

### Ingredients

- 24 thin asparagus spears (about 1/2 lb)
- 4 slices applewood smoked deli ham (about 6 oz)
- 1can (8 oz) refrigerated Crescent Rolls (8 cnt)
- 1pkg (5.2 oz) Swiss cheese
- 1tsp olive oil

Heat oven to 375°F. Line large cookie sheet with cooking parchment paper, or spray with cooking spray.

### Directions

Remove woody ends from asparagus spears; discard. In 10-inch skillet, heat 1/2 inch water to boiling. Add asparagus; reduce heat to medium-low. Cover; simmer 2 to 3 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain. Plunge asparagus into bowl of ice water to cool; drain on paper towels.

Cut ham slices in half; wrap one half slice around middle of 3 asparagus spears. Repeat for remaining ham and asparagus spears.

On large cutting board, unroll dough; separate dough into 8 triangles. Crumble and press a generous tablespoon cheese onto bottom wide end of dough. Place one asparagus and ham bundle on wide end of dough, and roll dough into crescent shape; place on cookie sheet. (Ends of asparagus will stick out of both ends of dough.) Repeat for remaining bundles. In small bowl, mix bread crumbs, Parmesan cheese and olive oil; mix well. Sprinkle on top of crescent dough, pressing lightly to stick. Bake 14 to 19 minutes or until deep golden brown. Remove from cookie sheet to serve.



## Smoked Oyster Roll

- 2 - 8oz. packages cream cheese
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire Sauce
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder
- ½ small onion, grated
- 3 Tbsp. Mayonnaise
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 2 - 3.75 oz. cans smoked oysters, drained
- Chopped pecans and/or parsley

### Directions:

Cream together cream cheese, Worcestershire, garlic powder, onion, mayonnaise and salt. Spread onto a sheet pan lined with plastic wrap about ½ inch thick. Chill for an hour. Place drained smoked oysters on top of cheese mixture and roll up; then roll into a ball. Roll the entire ball into either the pecans or parsley or a mixture of parsley and pecans. Chill 24 hours before serving. Serve with crackers. Freezes well. Serves 10-20.



## Not Your Grandma’s Collard Greens

### Ingredients:

- 3 bunches of collards (about 3 pounds)
- 1 onion, diced
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 2 Tbsp of olive oil
- 2 tomatoes, peeled and diced or 1 - 14 oz. can of diced tomatoes
- 2 chipotle peppers in adobo, chopped
- ¼ cup of smooth peanut butter no sugar added
- 1 Tbsp apple cider vinegar



### Directions:

Thoroughly clean each collard leaf, remove ribs and stems. Tear each leaf in half. In a large pot or Dutch oven, saute on medium the onions and carrots in the olive oil, until lightly brown, about ten minutes.

Add the garlic and cook for one more minute. Add the tomatoes and chipotles. Add torn leaves to the pot and add four cups of water. Bring water to a boil, and then turn heat down to a simmer. Add the vinegar and stir in the peanut butter. Cook greens for an hour and a half, or until they are the texture you prefer. *Serve with pepper vinegar or hot pepper sauce such as Tabasco.*

## Fish Tacos

There are as many ways to make fish tacos as there are recipes for tuna salad. This recipe uses breaded fish fillets and is baked. You can also use breaded catfish deep fried. And another variation is to use flour tortillas. ingredients Fish fillets, any kind you like (easiest is breaded so you only have to bake them.)

- 1 dzn corn tortillas (3 per person)
- Vegetable oil
- Jicama Salad
- Mango Salsa
- Iceberg lettuce shredded
- Baja Sauce
- Avocados, chopped in small squares and lightly covered with lemon juice

### Method

Prepare the Mango Salsa Prepare the lettuce and avocado. Thinly slice lettuce. Put in a small serving bowl. Sprinkle with cider vinegar (about a Tbsp) and salt (about a tsp). Mix in the vinegar and salt. Peel avocado and remove seed. Chop and reserve for later.



Heat the tortillas. One way to easily soften and heat a tortilla to simply heat it in the microwave for 20-25 seconds on high heat, on top of a napkin or paper towel to absorb the moisture that is released. Set aside. Cook the fish. Depends on the type of fish either fresh fillets or breaded, just follow your favorite method or manufacturers recommended method. Assembly: Spread a little Baja sauce on warm tortilla, then a little lettuce Add fish and top with Mango Salsa.

Serves four.

These tacos are better with the Baja sauce.

## Baja Sauce

### Ingredients:

- 12 oz mayonnaise
- 12 oz sour cream
- 1½ cups cilantro leaves
- 6 jalapenos, seeded and chopped
- 3 avocados, use pulp only
- 3 Tbsp fresh lime juice

### Instructions:

In a food processor, blend cilantro and jalapenos  
Add remaining ingredients and blend  
Keep refrigerated until serving





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