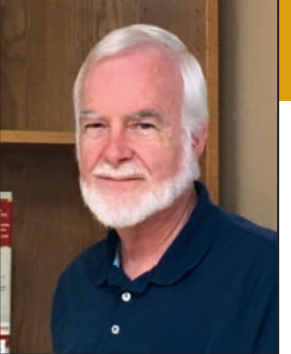


THE GAZETTE IS "THE VOICE OF REASON"!

Knowing our History affords us a better future!



"free, sovereign and independent States"



John Taylor

The Resumption Clauses

The discordant views in modern America mirror much of the animosity of the 1700s and 1800s. Unfortunately, there is presently a dearth of individuals who possess the wisdom and historical perspective of the Founding generation.

The great secession document known as the Declaration of Independence spelled out the colonies' grievances and asserted the God-given right of representative government. Many in Great Britain viewed colonial secession as treasonous since the colonies were part of

an empire -- not a voluntary union. Patrick Henry's perspective was: "If this be treason, make the most of it." Perhaps as a reflection of modern apathy, the unfair taxation that spurred the independence movement is trivial compared to current levels.

After winning their independence, the **"free, sovereign and independent States"** created a federal government and assigned to it specific duties best administered on a general level, e.g., creating a common currency, conducting foreign policy, protecting the borders of the States/country, etc. The first government was The Articles of Confederation and Perpetual Union (Perpetual in the sense there was no predetermined expiration date). Article II references the sovereignty of the States, echoing the 1783 Treaty of Paris.

Over time, the centralizers pushed for another constitution that granted more power to the federal government. The proponents of the U.S. Constitution insisted this new general government would still recognize State sovereignty; even nationalists like Alexander Hamilton described it as a compact between the States. Patrick Henry warned the Southern States to reject the Constitution, largely due to the avaricious nature of some of the "Puritans" in the North. Henry said that once they gained the majority, the South would be relegated to virtual colonial status. Nonetheless, the requisite number (9) of States "seceded" from the Articles and the U.S. Constitution became valid.

Reflecting foresight and historical perspective, three States--Virginia, New York, and Rhode Island--included Resumption Clauses as a condition of joining the U.S. Constitution.

Virginia's ratification included the following language: *"Do in the name and in behalf of the People of Virginia declare and make known that the powers granted under the Constitution being derived from the People of the United States may be resumed by them whensoever the same shall be perverted to their injury or oppression and that every power not granted thereby remains with them and at their will."*

New York's resumption clause stated: *"That the Powers of Government may be resumed by the People, whensoever it shall become necessary to their Happiness; that every Power, Jurisdiction and right which is not by the said Constitution clearly delegated to the Congress of the United States, or the*

departments of the government thereof, remains to the People of the several States, or to their respective State Governments to whom they may have granted the same....."

Lastly, **Rhode Island's** provision stated: *"That the powers of government may be resumed by the people, whensoever it shall become necessary to their happiness: That the rights of the States respectively to nominate and appoint all State Officers, and every other power, jurisdiction and right, which is not by the said constitution clearly delegated to the Congress of the United States or to the departments of government thereof, remain to the people of the several states, or their respective State Governments to whom they may have granted the same....."*

On February 5, 1861, Judah P. Benjamin stated: "The rights of Louisiana as a sovereign state are those of Virginia -- no more, no less." The simple fact is that all States possess the same rights of sovereignty.

The perceptiveness of these clauses surfaced as numerous regional disagreements arose after the Constitution was ratified. Animosity came to a head in the late 1820s/early 1830s via the Tariff of Abominations. This punitive tariff, that financially aided "favored" Northern industries and banks and severely harmed the agricultural South, was also viewed as a violation of the constitution's uniformity clause (Article I, Section 8, Clause 1). South Carolina nullified this discriminatory tariff. This led to a Force Bill giving Andrew Jackson the power to have the military collect import duties. Cooler heads prevailed, war was avoided, and the tariff was lowered over time. However, this was a foreboding of future sectional arguments over tariffs, expansion of slavery, States' Rights, etc.

As we celebrate July 4th and American Independence, it is wise to remember that the Founders understood the experimental nature of the government they created. History shows republics typically last about 200-250 years before collapsing and that decentralization of power is the remedy. However, if any State or States were to now seek independence via the "resumption clauses" it is likely a new Lincoln would again claim the union is "indivisible." Any entity seeking self-determination should then prepare to be invaded.

Sources:

Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; "Patrick Henry," A-Z Quotes, at: <https://www.azquotes.com/quote/130162>; "This Thing We Call Sovereignty," (February 20, 2019) and "The Right of Secession, as Reserved by the States in Their Ratification of the U.S. Constitution," (June 1, 2018) by Diane Ruffino, from *For Love of God and Country, Tenth Amendment Movement*. Much of Ruffino's work used the following sources: Gene Kizer Jr., "The Right of Secession," and "Slavery Was Not the Cause of the War Between the States," Charleston Athenaeum Press; Albert Taylor Bledsoe, *Is Jefferson Davis a Traitor?* (1865). Reprinted by Forgotten Books (2012); Dave Benner, "Can States Secede from the United States?," IntellectualTakeOut.org, March 7, 2017; Donald W. Livingston, "The Secession Tradition in America," 1998; and "Ratification of the Constitution by the State of Virginia; June 26, 1788," *The Avalon Project* (Yale Law School).

Read other great articles in this month's issue on the history of our nation, remembering we live in the greatest nation in the world. Make no mistake, even with our faults, our freedoms and our great republic offers the world a pattern for all humanity.

Excerpt from reprint of article by Bobie Ames (June 26, 2012)

The Declaration of Independence: The Story of a Parchment

The Declaration was signed on August 2, 1776, and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The parchment was rolled up and rested undisturbed except when it was brought out to be signed by other delegates. When Congress, in order to avoid the British, was reconvened in Baltimore, the document was transported in a light wagon where it remained until safe to return to Philadelphia. It found temporary lodging in a number of locations, the courthouse at York, Pennsylvania, Annapolis, Maryland, Trenton, New Jersey, and New York's City Hall. When the First Congress convened under the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration was given in to the custody of the Secretary of State, returning to Philadelphia. President John Adams directed its move to the Federal City in the District of Columbia in 1800. In the summer of 1814, the threat of unfriendly British caused Secretary of State, James Monroe, to order its evacuation. It was stored in the home of a Reverend. Mr. Littlejohn, at Leesburg, Virginia, for several weeks. Then it was safely returned to the District of Columbia.

Complete article on page 6.

God Bless the USA



Great Quotes to Ponder!

"There is no art which one government sooner learns of another, than that of draining money from the pockets of the people. Adam Smith

"There are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by violent and sudden usurpations."
 James Madison



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God Bless America



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/>

“Working for Alabama” Legislation is Monumental



As former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives Sam Rayburn once said, and I'll paraphrase, “Any fool can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one.” In our political landscape today, from Washington, D.C. down, we have plenty of folks kicking down barns, but not nearly enough carpenters building them.

During the most recent legislative session, the legislature passed a package of bills called “Working for Alabama,” which is a prime example of building good, effective policy that will serve to address several real problems facing Alabama's economy – a package that has the potential to pay out in dividends for generations to come.

Anyone who is familiar with the legislative process knows that killing a bill is easy, but passing a bill of consequence is very difficult. Of the six ambitious bills included in the Working for Alabama package, every single one was passed within 50 days of their introduction – that is a real feat.

One of the primary goals of this package was to solve Alabama's demonstrably low labor force participation rate, which, ranking at 47 in the nation, puts us at the bottom of the list when it comes to having folks working and engaged in our economy. Any small business owner in our state is well aware of this issue, as it is one of the leading problems they face every day. We know this by the sheer number of “now hiring” signs on store fronts across our state.

Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth recognized this problem and worked with elected officials and leaders in the private sector to lay the groundwork to create a solution aimed at solving this problem. In 2019, Ainsworth led a new commission to identify the problems causing Alabama's low workforce participation rate and, more importantly, to develop ways to solve it. After several years of diligent work, which included input from fellow elected officials and private sector leaders, such as Alabama Power's President and CEO Jeff Peoples and Power South Energy's President and CEO Gary Smith – some of our state's top employers, Ainsworth's commission created a report that included ambitious

policy solutions aimed to tackle this problem and create economic success for our state for years to come.

Ainsworth's commission laid the groundwork for the policy solutions that comprised the “Working for Alabama” package, and they will serve Alabama's economy well for years and even decades to come. The solutions in this package are common sense, well thought out, and represent policies that we should all be able to get behind. This includes streamlining and making more efficient Alabama's workforce development strategies and programs, creating accountability to make sure that what our state is doing is actually working, a concept all too often lacking in government bureaucracy, and making sure that the people who actually employ Alabamians have a seat at the table when it comes to making these key decisions. That, along with resources such as a childcare tax credit, to make the ever-more expensive childcare services affordable for working parents – demonstrate just a few key issues included in this package.

This past legislative session was contentious in many ways, with divisive issues such as gaming causing sharp divides between the Alabama House, Senate and the Governor's Office. However, in large part thanks to Ainsworth's leadership, a coalition of elected leaders – both Republican and Democrat, along with our state's business community, the legislature was able to put those issues aside and come together to get something done for our state that will impact virtually all Alabamians.

This package gave our state's leaders, including Governor Kay Ivey, House Speaker Nathaniel Ledbetter, Senate President Pro Tem Greg Reed, and Democrat Leaders Anthony Daniels and Bobby Singleton, an issue in which they could put their partisanship aside and work together on addressing common sense solutions to very real Alabama challenges.

The instigation of this monumental Working for Alabama program came about in large part due to the efforts of Lieutenant Governor Will Ainsworth.

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



Robservations...

By: Rob Tate

BITS AND PIECES #21

I must admit, this is becoming an almost monthly event. With so much going on and so many topics to cover, it has become increasingly difficult to write about a single topic. As you can see, this month's contribution is no different. So, let's get started.

1. The toughest job in the country. This job is the White House Press Secretary. Let there be no doubt, there are dozens of difficult jobs. Jobs that tax bodies physically and that drain the mind and soul spiritually. But as I watch the news, I have come to believe that there is one job that ranks up near the top of being the most difficult.

To be clear, I do not feel sorry for **Karine Jean-Pierre**. Not in the least. It doesn't bother me that she has to take flaming darts to the face. I could not care any less. Not one iota. But let's face facts. She is a professional, reality denier. Let's not mince our words here. She denies facts that we all see. Some would argue, “lies.” Almost every day she denies facts. She denies facts to the American people, to the press pool sitting in front of her and when home alone at night, when looking in the mirror, certainly deep down she knows that she has spent another day not being honest to herself.

All of us have seen the videos of President Biden at the recent G-7 forum, being led off the stage by former President Obama and at the Juneteenth celebration in Washington. The man is absolutely NOT there. He is not. Anybody can see it. We all see it. Even foreign leaders are beginning to speak up and wonder. The Australian press has been relentless for the past four years and videos do not lie. Well, enter Jean-Pierre. The most recent inane claim is that all these videos of an aimlessly wandering or rigidly standing President are “fake” and are put out to embarrass the President. When he was standing motionless at the Juneteenth celebration with that vacant look on his face, we are to believe that he simply did not want to dance. When the Press Secretary claims that the videos are fake, she is expecting the entire world to ignore what we are all seeing with our own eyes. And if those videos are indeed fake, why not reproduce the official videos that show something different? Why? Because they show the same thing. Contrary videos do not exist. Don't be surprised if some “official” video shows up a month from now after they have had a chance to create the real fake.

I admit that I was wrong. I truly felt that Biden would not make it through his first four years. I actually wrote this is a couple of my Robservations. Likely the only thing keeping him in place was his second in command. NOBODY wants her in the driver's seat. But the entire world sees what Biden has become yet the White House insists on ignoring it and trying the old Jedi mind trick of, “These are not the droids you are looking for.” I remember a back and forth between Jean-Pierre and Peter Doocy of Fox News. Doocy was grilling her on immigrants coming across the border and she infamously replied along these lines, “Look, Peter, it is not like they are just walking across the border.” What? Everyone in the press pool nearly collapsed. But yes, being a professional reality denier has got to be tough. Whether somehow justifying the Chinese balloon scandal, Biden's claim that his uncle was eaten by cannibals during WWII (watch the video – sad), the complete failure of this administration to handle to border, or ignoring the President's declining health, the list goes on, young Jean-Pierre has a definite difficult job to perform. I would not want it.

2. Caitlin Clark. An entire book can be written about this subject. To be honest, like many of us, I never heard of her until late last year. Our neighbors and good friends are from Iowa and by default, we became “fans” of Caitlin Clark despite my utter hatred for all things basketball. If basketball comes on the television, within 15 nanoseconds, the channel is changed to something more interesting like the channel where you sit and watch paint dry.

But I can at least respect individual talent in any sport. Clark has that talent in levels above and beyond most of her contemporaries. The vitriol on display by her opponents and the press is shameful. Let's be honest here if we can, many of the players hate Clark simply because she is White. In my world that is called racism or at



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least prejudice (not the same thing). Despite the idiotic claim that Blacks cannot be racist, we can be some of the most racist people on the planet and yes, many of us display that everyday and at every opportunity. If Clark, as the all-time leading NCAA scorer were Black, we would have seen none of this and yes, she would be on the Olympic team. You can ignore this if you want but I believe it is 100% true. Prove me wrong.

What is sad, however, is that many of the women in the WNBA are totally oblivious to what Clark brings to the table. It reminds me a lot of when Tiger Woods first showed up on the professional scene. Yes, he got a lot of push back from some of the White golfers and pundits. He did. Things were said, his talent questioned. There was an attitude of, “He was a good amateur but now he is up here with the big boys, he is not going to dominate the game.” Then in 1997, Tiger won the Master's by 12 strokes. A record still today. People started to take note of his talent and his bravado. In one four-day period, the entire golfing world shared a collective gasp and thought, “What the heck did we just witness? We have to do something.” What did they do? Well, they didn't go out of their way to physically intimidate Tiger but a lot of the soft-bellies started going to the gym and working out. They started running and eating right. In a nutshell, they started to improve themselves. They practiced, drilled and putted. In order to compete with this young phenom, they had to start working harder. In effect, Tiger made his opponents better. To compete, they had to work harder. Status quo was no longer status quo.

And guess what happened next? As they improved, their standings increased. With their increased play and of course with Tiger just being in the field, they all started making more money. Tiger improved their standards of living by bringing more money to the table. More people, non-golfers started watching on television; me included. More people began to play golf; not me. This is what one might call a fact. Enter Caitlin Clark. WNBA attendance is up. Viewership is up. The players, instead of working harder and improving their game like the golfers of almost 30 years ago, many are content with bad mouthing Clark or worse, in my not-so-humble opinion, assaulting her on the court. They will not allow their inherent racism and prejudices to welcome this intruding figure into their world of mediocrity. “How dare she make us want to work harder.”

When Jackie Robinson came into the major leagues, he was shunned, bullied, beamed by pitches, denied the ability to stay in some hotels with the rest of his team and absolutely that was wrong. Movies and television shows make that absolutely clear. While many in “my” community will acknowledge this wrong doing, they seemingly embrace similar treatment of a young woman entering “their domain.” The willing acceptance of this boorish behavior is shameful. Again, to the Olympic team. I have heard stupid comments like Clark has not proven herself on the court (highest scoring NCAA player in history – duh) or the committee feared that her fans might riot if she didn't play (her fans are not ANTIFA or any other leftist group prone to rioting). It is all racist, prejudice, and small-minded insanity. It is what it is. I for one hope that Clark weathers this storm, she will, and comes out on the other side better than how she entered. At the same time, I hope that some of the other women in the WNBA will get a clue, work on their own skills and improve the overall game.

3. Women in the Draft. I was watching the news yesterday and yes; this subject came up yet again with another bill before Congress. I have written on this subject numerous times and answered questions on talk radio several years ago. My last Robservations on this subject was March of 2023. It is on the Alabama Gazette website under the title, “Don't Hate Me Because I'm Right.” Senator Josh Hawley, a man I respect a lot, said, “Not now, not ever.” I cannot disagree more. I am sure I will attack this subject again at a later date but for now I am unable. All I can say is that anytime, anywhere I will debate anybody on this topic. Prove me wrong or change my mind, actually I wish you could. All I ask is that if you want to debate me on this subject, leave your unrestrained and irrelevant emotions and arguments devoid of facts at home. Come to me with evidence with perhaps a smidgen of emotion or walk away. Do we really want equal rights for men and women or is it only selective depending upon what you want to see? What makes you feel good? Can we pick and choose what equality we want? The day women rightfully earned the right to fly combat aircraft, this argument about the draft should have been flushed down the toilet. I will be standing by.



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Ronald A. Holtsford

What has been the controversy regarding the GUN ACCESSORY, THE BUMP STOCK?

The use of automatic weapons when fighting an opponent can cause great fear in that opponent who may only be able to return fire each time the trigger to a weapon is pulled by the finger. An automatic weapon or machinegun can by definition fire multiple rounds with a single pull of a trigger by a finger or single finger engagement of the trigger.

Firing a semi-automatic weapon is hard enough when you have a fair amount of control, especially a handgun at anything greater than close range. Firing an automatic weapon for more than a very short period of time (short bursts) causes the weapon to rise into the air as you fire and accuracy is greatly diminished.

There is a device that will fit Glock semiautomatic handguns but not all handguns and that item is called a "Glock" switch. This device turns a Glock into a machinegun by definition and is therefore considered illegal. The Alabama House of Representatives passed in early May 2024 a law to make the Glock switch, illegal. It has gone to the Alabama Senate and I am unsure where that stands. Using the switch, a user can empty an extended magazine in a very short amount of time. A handgun magazine does not have the capacity that an automatic rifle has which may have an extended magazine, even two magazines taped together that can be quickly flipped around after the first magazine is emptied. Automatic rifles can also use drums that hold very large quantities of ammunition.

In addition to using a Glock switch, which is illegal, the Glock is not manufactured to be used as an automatic device and may not physically hold up to a quick succession of multiple rounds of ammunition.

The device popularized for a semiautomatic rifle to give a machinegun type effect is the bump stock. Like so many things that were invented innocently enough, evil people use good things for an evil purpose. Just as the internet was developed and can connect people from all over the world for good things so can it be used to commit financial crimes against others, lure children to evil people and provide lewd web sites to attract mostly men to develop addictions to lure them away from marital relationships or entice them into premarital visual addictions. Bumpstocks can be used for evil when a day at a shooting range to experience something like firing an automatic weapon turns into using multiple magazines to fire dozens of rounds at any gathering of people. While the person firing fortunately loses accuracy, the bumpstock use can still provide a withering fire as one pulls the front stock forward while depressing the trigger. The single trigger pull does not meet the definition of the trigger pull of a machinegun in that the stock moves after each recoil and the trigger then quickly engages again and again.

At a concert in Las Vegas in October, 2017 a man used the elevation of a hotel room to shoot down onto the crowd. The man was using a bumpstock. There were almost sixty deaths and around five hundred wounded individuals. Prior to that shooting, the ATF did not consider a bump stock device as converting a semi-automatic weapon to a machine gun. After the shooting, the ATF reversed their stance and considered the use of bump stocks as converting weapons to machineguns. The ATF exceeded their statutory authority and rewrote the definition of a machinegun and gave the owners of bump stocks an ultimatum that they could either destroy their bump stock or turn it in to avoid criminal prosecution. Michael Cargill surrendered two bump stocks to the ATF under protest and then filed suit. The case eventually found its way to the United States Supreme Court and is titled as *Garland v. Cargill*, Merrick Garland being the United States Attorney General.

Justice Clarence Thomas wrote the majority opinion that was recently decided on 14 June 2024. While the opinion itself is multiple pages and focuses not only on the history of the bump stock but describes in detail how the bump stock works. The description of how the bump stock works is then carefully analyzed against the official definition of a machinegun. The sticking point is the definition in that a machinegun requires only a single finger pull to fire multiple rounds typically from a high capacity magazine. The bump stock with a finger pull of the trigger and with the other hand pulling the fore end of the stock forward allows the recoil of each shot to move the gun in a fashion that the finger rapidly engages the trigger immediately after it is disengaged.

Justice Thomas went further to say that the ATF had exceeded its statutory authority. It was a definite win for those that support gun rights. As much as I personally enjoy guns for recreational use, I do hope there is a method to keep tools from criminals that might be used for evil purposes.

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

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

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SOLAR FARMS VS MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAND OWNERS!

By Brandon Moseley, Gazette Special Reporter



On Tuesday, June 25th an estimated crowd of nearly 200 persons attended an informational meeting about a proposed 1,800-acre solar farm on Mount Zion Road near Snowdown in a rural area of Montgomery County.

Infinity Global spokesperson Tom Anderson fielded residents many concerns in a meeting that went for two hours and twenty minutes.

A packed crowd of farmers, ranchers, and homeowners said that they did not want the project in their community.

"I am here to answer questions about solar," Anderson said. "This is really designed to help us begin a conversation." "Infinity Global is a US based solar and battery development company. Our company is headquartered in Miami," said Anderson. "We are a privately held company," that has been in business for five years. "We have operations and developments going on in about a dozen states."

"We are a U.S. based company," Anderson explained. "We are owned by a mixed group of investors," with some of them being Americans and some being foreigners.

Anderson explained that the company will utilize "existing buffers and features to keep this away from property boundaries." "We are going to leave a minimum of 25 feet of buffer." There would be a 500-foot setback on Mount Zion Road.

"We are passionate about the land," Anderson said. "On this site fortunately, there are no endangered or threatened species." "Existing streams and impoundments will remain in place."

"We don't use industrial style chain link fence," Anderson added. "We have got a lot of grass. The deer can jump the fence," to graze. The company will design the project "to allow them to migrate from one part of the project to another." Anderson explained that the panels move during the day to catch sunlight, but at their highest point they would be about nine foot up in the air.

Anderson did acknowledge that solar farms do not bring jobs to an area outside of the initial construction of the project.

"We will likely have a contract with a local landscaper," to keep the property mowed) Anderson explained. "One or two people on site for the first couple of years. We don't pretend that a

project is going to bring 150 to 200 jobs."

Anderson said that they were invited to the state by the Alabama Power Company in 2022 when APC asked for companies to present them with proposals. "Alabama Power did not specifically invite us, they invited the industry to submit proposals," Anderson told the crowd. "We chose this land because there was an existing landowner who was interested in doing this project."

The Arrington family owns several thousand acres in Montgomery County in addition to this 1,800-acre tract.

"There is no phase two," Anderson assured residents. "There was never a plan for a phase two."

"A lot of people are concerned that we are going to seed this with a turf seed, so it is like a golf course or yard," explained Anderson. "We are trying to simulate a natural prairie system for this area. We will probably have more flowering species than what is out there now. It is really good for ground nesting birds."

Most of the land in the area is used by cattle ranchers for grazing.

"We are looking at a sheep maintenance strategy," said Anderson. "There is a sheep herding industry in the state." "Sheep really like the inside of solar farms." Cattle and solar panels do not mix well. "Cattle unfortunately are heavy and like to scratch on things," said Anderson. "Sheep ignore the solar panels." Anderson did say that none of their current projects are utilizing sheep.

"We have done a good amount of geotechnical work to understand the soils out there," said Anderson. "For basic solar design we are using a firm out of Dallas. Our engineering firm is Alpha which is based in North Carolina. We do partner with local engineering firms because they understand local licensing practices we also use local seed."

"We take a long-term view on our projects," said Anderson. "Solar panels have a useful life of 35-40 years." Anderson explained that new solar panels convert solar energy from the sun into electricity with about a 25% efficiency; but they lose about 3 percent of their effectiveness annually so after about 40 years they are only working at 17% efficiency.

"We are all landowners in this room, and we are not really happy with the person that sold us out," one rancher said.

"You are putting a lightning rod over my house," said one elderly homeowner near the site.

Another elderly resident with a pacemaker expressed concerns about the solar panels generating a magnetic field that will interfere with the operation of his pacemaker.

One resident expressed concerns that the noise from the power inverters would be a nuisance.

"There will be no nuisance noise at the property line," Anderson said. "OSHA standards are a limit of 85 decibels at three feet and no noise at 150 to 200 feet. The buffer and the vegetative cover work to eliminate the noise." The Alabama Legislature has passed incentives for building green energy projects. "We have a regulatory environment that provides tax credits for these projects," explained Anderson.

Anderson was asked if these projects would be profitable without federal and state tax credits and subsidies. "Honestly no sir. I am just being honest with you," Anderson said. "This is a free market project we are answering the demands of private industry."

One resident expressed concern about toxic materials, specifically cadmium telluride leaching from the solar panels. Cadmium telluride is used by one manufacturer," Anderson explained. "We do not plan to ever buy panels from that manufacturer."

Anderson promised to allow residents to have deeded access to a small legacy cemetery that is on the property.

One resident asked about the dangers of lithium batteries. "Our system will not have batteries," Anderson answered.

Another resident asked about runoff from the site.

"There were some projects that were poorly planned, poorly regulated that were some real disasters," Anderson acknowledged. "Our property is already in grass. Anderson said that they will work with ADEM (the Alabama Department of Environmental Management) on runoff and stormwater management plan. "We will work hand in hand with the state to make sure that

these streams are protected," said Anderson.

"Why can't you go someplace else?" one resident asked. "We have a landowner who is willing to work with us," Anderson answered. "We understand that we are not going to work out of here holding hands."

A solar farm has already been built in rural Montgomery County by another company.

The local volunteer fire chief said that in the year that that facility has been operational there have been two fires already, and one of them his department responded to and they were told they could not use water to fight the fire. "They are correct, you do not put water on an electrical fire," Anderson said.

The chief said that all of the panels made it difficult to get trucks or bulldozers in to fight the fire.

Anderson promised to work with first responders on developing a plan.

"What have you seen of property values decreasing," one resident asked. Anderson said that property values will drop during the construction phase of the project but once it is up and running he has talked to realtors who say that the neighboring property loses seven percent and other realtors say that there is no effect.

"I have been to both of these meetings, and I have yet to see any benefit for South Alabama," one local rancher said. "We would rather you not come," one resident told Anderson.

Anderson said that they have an option to purchase the 1,600 acres, but do not own the Arrington property presently.

There is another project that is also moving through the process in Montgomery.

6,000 ACRES IN THE ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR SOLAR PROJECTS.

Shelby Stringfellow is with the Montgomery Chamber of Commerce. He said that they do not recruit solar farms because they don't bring any jobs to the community. Anderson said that the company will only get single digit returns from the facility once it is built – if it is ever built.

Please visit AlabamaGazette.com for continuing coverage of this story.

To connect with the author of this story, or to comment, email brandonmreporter@gmail.com

This may not be in your area now! But, that could happen in the very near future. How will this affect our homes, health and businesses? Shows no benefit for us! Just big money for out-of-state -businesses. We don't need government "green" consuming to our beautiful lands.



Col. John Eidsmoe

SAMUEL ADAMS: FATHER OF WHAT REVOLUTION?

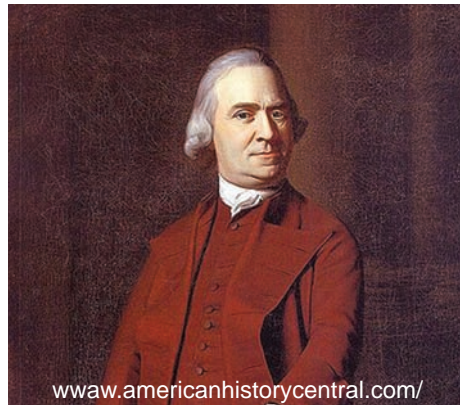
Many today know the name of Samuel Adams more for ale and pubs than for American history. But Thomas Jefferson said of him, "I always considered him as more than any other member [of Congress] the fountain of our important measures." Preparing his first inaugural address, Jefferson recalled, "I often asked myself, is this exactly in the spirit of the patriarch of liberty, Samuel Adams?"

Encyclopedia Britannica says Sam Adams "did more than any other American to arouse opposition against English rule in the Colonies." He was a frequent speaker in the cause of independence, and he organized committees of correspondence so the colonists could keep each other informed of new political developments. A lover of music, he organized singing societies throughout Boston, but he infused them with politics and it was said that they turned out "more revolutionaries than songbirds." The black-robed New England clergy were often called the "Black Regiment," and when Sam Adams sounded the word in Boston, it would be echoed in Puritan pulpits throughout New England.

But few historians ask the crucial question: Why did Samuel Adams want independence from Britain? For the answer, let us look at the other side of this American patriot. He is known by some as the "Father of the American Revolution." But his biographer John C. Miller calls him the "Last of the Puritans."

Sam Adams enrolled in Harvard College, and while he was there, the Great Awakening of 1740 swept through the campus and through the nation. At that time the old Puritan zeal of New England seemed to be fading, and as Adams's biographer John C. Miller says, gentlemen's sons came to Harvard "prepared to spend four years in sloth and pleasure," but with the preaching of George Whitefield they were "seized with remorse and became so zealous for Christ's Cause as to devote themselves entirely to Studies of Divinity." Miller says,

"Sam Adams never forgot those stirring days during the Great Awakening when George Whitefield 'thundered in the Pulpit against Assemblies & Balls,' and New Englanders seemed to turn the clock back to the time of Winthrop and Cotton. The glimpse Adams caught of 'Puritanism' in 1740 had profound influence upon his later career. It became one of his strongest desires to restore Puritan manners and morals to New England: in his eyes, the chief purpose of the American Revolution was to separate New England from the 'decadent' mother country in order that Puritanism might again flourish as it had in the early seventeenth century. Adams hoped to do by means of a political revolution what George Whitefield had done through a religious awakening. Puritanism was his goal; revolution his method of attaining it."



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Foundation for Moral Law

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He especially opposed the lax morals and materialism that seemed to pervade New England after the fading of Puritanism. He identified with the old Romans who defended the Roman republic against the encroachments of empire, and he favored a free society in which old Puritans and old Romans would both feel at home. He therefore rejoiced with American independence, and when after Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4 and completed the signing on August 2, 1776, Adams declared,

"We have explored the temple of royalty, and found that the idol we have bowed down to, has eyes which see not, ears that hear not our prayers, and a heart like the nether millstone [cf Psalm 135:13-18]. We have this day restored the Sovereign, to whom alone men ought to be obedient. He reigns in Heaven, and with a propitious eye beholds his subjects assuming that freedom of thought, and dignity of self-direction which He bestowed on them. From the rising to the setting sun, may His kingdom come."

Sam Adams served in the Massachusetts Legislature from 1765-74, in the Continental Congress 1774-81, as a delegate to the Massachusetts Ratifying Convention at which he reluctantly supported the U.S. Constitution only after receiving a firm promise that a Bill of Rights would be added. He then served as Lt. Governor under John Hancock 1789-97 and as Governor 1793-97, in which capacity he issued a fasting proclamation on March 20, 1797, stating "...we cannot better express ourselves than by humbly supplicating the Supreme Ruler of the world that the rod of tyrants may be broken into pieces, and the oppressed made free; that wars may cease in all the earth, and that the confusions that are and have been among the nations may be overruled by promoting and speedily bringing on that holy and happy period when the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ may be everywhere established, and all people everywhere willingly bow to the sceptre of Him who is Prince of Peace."

Sam Adams's love of Puritanism held firm to the end. His last known correspondence was a letter to Thomas Paine rebuking him for having published a pamphlet attacking Christianity. He died in 1803 at age 81, and is buried in a Puritan cemetery, the Old Granary Burying Ground. As his biographer Miller concludes, "Sam Adams was at last among the Puritans."

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John Martin

Argentina's Miracle Worker

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

Back in 2018, I wrote an article about Zimbabwe when it was poised to become blessed with a great economic recovery. In 2008, Tendai Biti became finance minister, and in a 30 minute speech, he announced the end of essentially all government interference in the economy. He treated Zimbabwe to instant free markets. Regulations, licensure, import permits, and exchange and price controls all went out the window. In 2009, Biti replaced his country's worthless hyperinflated dollars with U.S. dollars and South African rands.

In a few weeks, Zimbabwe's economy blossomed with explosive impact. Food and fuel shortages suddenly vanished. Empty supermarkets stocked up to their limits. The once rampant inflation dropped to a minus 7%, and within two years dropped to the lowest in southern Africa. Over the next four years, the economy grew about 8% annually. Tax revenue jumped almost eight fold. Foreign currency abounded. Unemployment plummeted. Entrepreneurs thrived and made record profits. Masses of people bought cars, took vacations, and sent their kids to the best private schools.

The magic of laissez faire (just leave me alone) had almost overnight transformed this destitute third world loser into a model of first world prosperity.

But it did not last. In 2013, in an election that was probably stolen, Mugabe's party regained full control and immediately re-imposed the previous government shackles—thus ending Zimbabwe's four years of glory.

In June, 2018, Zimbabwe had another opportunity to re-elect Tendai Biti and restore his policies, but he lost in a rigged election. Zimbabwe slid back into an impoverished third world cesspool, where it remains to this day.

NOW FOR ARGENTINA

On December 10, 2023, Javier Milei, a true libertarian with a flamboyant personality and a strong media presence won in a landslide election to become Argentina's new president. He said that the State is a criminal organization and that taxation is theft. He strongly supports laissez-faire economics, aligning specifically with minarchist and anarcho-capitalist principles and the Austrian School of Economics. He immediately enacted a comprehensive overhaul of the country's fiscal and structural policies, supporting freedom of choice on recreational drugs, firearms, sex, and same-sex marriage, although he tends to oppose abortion and euthanasia. He supports closer relationships with the United States and Israel, and distancing from China and Russia.



www.britannica.com

During the early 1980's, when Argentina's exchange rate was collapsing, Milei became interested in economics, studied it intently, earned several degrees, and focused onto an economic career. By 2016, he had written more than 50 academic papers.

Milei is a self-proclaimed anarcho-capitalist who supports minimizing government to the utmost, and focusing on justice and security with a philosophy rooted in life, liberty, and property, along with free-market principles.

From 2020 to 2021, Milei strolled through Buenos Aires neighborhoods and talked with the common people, pledging to never support any tax increases or new taxes. He denounced politicians as "rats" in a caste of "useless parasitic politicians who have never worked" on TV, radio, and YouTube.

He has taken several trips to the U.S. and had meetings with Donald Trump and Elon Musk. In February, 2024, while speaking at a CPAC meeting over here, Milei pledged to "make Argentina great again" and promised to deliver "shockwaves" to his home country.

During his first six months, Milei wasted little time and warned his people "to brace for pain" with a "shock therapy" of hundreds of austerity measures. He cut government ministries by half, terminated 70,000 state jobs, slashed federal aid, and devalued the peso and then replaced it with the U.S. dollar.

Argentina had been suffering from one of the world's highest inflation rates and more than a decade of economic stagnation, rising poverty, and was teetering on the brink of economic collapse. Milei's clear mandate is to eradicate inflation and reignite economic growth—a top priority.

Milei signed Decree 70/2023, deregulating the Argentine economy. The monthly inflation slowed down from 25.5% in December, to 20.6% in January, and down to 13.2% in February, 2024. Argentina's dollar-denominated international bonds reached new highs in March, with the 2029 and 2030 issues close to or at record high prices.

Argentina's economy has a great deal of potential to prosper. While many countries struggle to diversify and integrate into the global economy, Argentina has many opportunities for sustained growth, including high-tech developments in agriculture, oil and gas, information technologies, and software. Argentina is also blessed with huge deposits of lithium, an essential element in the booming market for electric car batteries.

Milei plans to cut the deficit by five percentage points of GDP in 2024. Progress has already been made with a fiscal surplus in the first quarter of 2024 (see Table). Deep spending cuts across the board have slashed primary expenditures 35% below those of 2023.

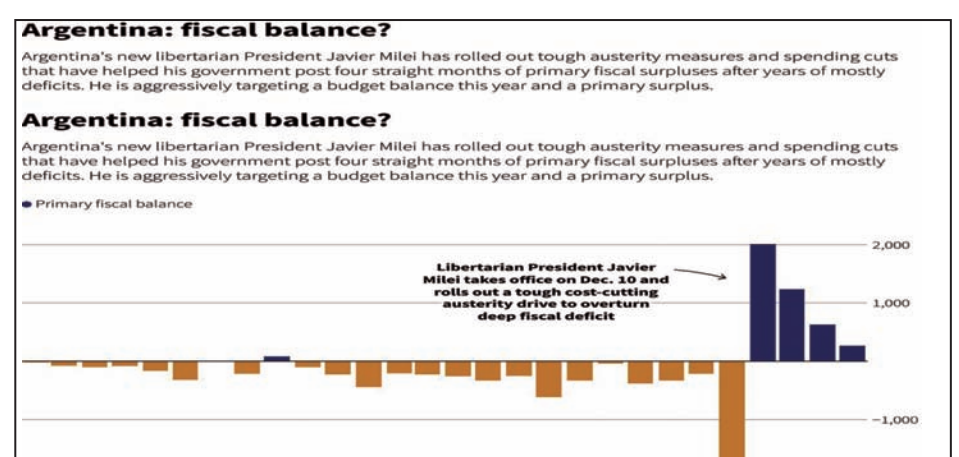
The entire world is watching. Perhaps the governments of at least a few other nations will pay attention and work to mimic the fantastic success that can be attained with laissez faire policies and getting abusive government out of the way—just leave people alone.

Once again, minimizing government, reducing taxes, slashing spending, and getting government intrusion out of the way has proven to be the "magic bullet" to ensure economic prosperity and individual liberty for everybody.

Today, the U. S. is deeply mired in the quicksand of bloated government, reckless spending, excessive taxes, and overbearing regulations and mandates. When will our representatives, senators and president gain the backbone to eliminate these atrocities and join Argentina's blessing with Javier Milei?

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John Sophocleus

Ballot Box v. Jury Box



THINK

Those familiar with Alabama's rigged duopoly election results understand Jury Box removal of corrupt politicians (re)installed via uncompetitive Ballot Boxes. Highly restrictive ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandered districts, poor voter turnout with weak open records laws, buttressed by our unresponsive ethics commission make our State ripe for a higher incidence of attempted Jury Box discipline with election results so unrepresentative of the population. Well seasoned, righteous politicians like Dr. Jimmy Blake (who the Red Party

exiled because of his sound stand against authoritarians) noted Republicans wouldn't have achieved ballot access allowing them to compete decades ago - i.e., when Alabama was a one party Blue State -- if the current Red Party 'super-majority' rules had been in place back then. The traditional Democratic Party now long faded away... modern Democrats take a cut of the graft from their increasingly shrinking turf which aids and abets the duopoly result destroying our quality of life. This exacerbates the shrill, bi-polar Kabuki Theatre - most visible when Bush/Clinton and Biden/Trump type political crime families take center stage.

Fundamental knowledge of statistics is required to understand a well voir dired jury box will not mirror the low-turnout, uncompetitive ballot boxes which install so many mentally and morally deficient candidates. Recent polls suggest approx. 70% are dissatisfied with the 'recycled' duopoly presidential candidates. The parasite(s) blindly voting for Biden because their wealth transfer flows from the Blue soviet in power is no surprise; oft referred to as social welfare queens. The parasite(s) blindly voting for Trump because their wealth transfer flows from the Red soviet in power is similarly no surprise; oft referred to as corporate welfare queens. These biased sycophants can be shepherded out of jury boxes but on the other hand, they're the 'die-hard' participants in our low turnout duopoly ballot boxes.

Among the 'dumb masses' who want to put on their Blue/Red jersey instead of being informed on issues, it is clear about 20% will vote for whoever the Blue soviets nominate; about 20% will vote for whoever the Red soviets nominate. Voters who refuse to participate are exactly what the duopolists want. In keeping with the spirit of Stalin for those who anguish over which soviet is 'better' - doesn't matter which authoritarian you voted for -- you voted for 'us.' This is why a very small number of eligible voters determine election outcomes where very little is communicated from results driven more by party than issues and adherence to one's oath of office.

The greatest 'soul searching' some jurists may suffer in Ballot v. Jury Box cases is coming to terms with voting for Biden/Trump (here in Alabama, Siegleman/Hubbard types) contemplating the 'lesser of two evils' while digesting how corrupt a politician they keep wasting their votes as they listen to testimony and consider documents in evidence. Shameful how many support and vote for Biden/Trump crime family types justifying a small, short-run wealth transfer... discounting the long-run harm to our economy and quality of life.

The 'ballot box v. jury box' case I followed most closely was the Felon Hubbard trial. God bless the efforts of Judge Jake Walker, Prosecutors Davis and Hart along with righteous jurors. Even long time 'public servant' Pebblin Warren's assistance with jury determination didn't save her fellow corrupt politburo member. This unpolluted, unbiased jury vote was undoubtedly a different sample than Speaker Hubbard was accustomed to - i.e., more representative than Hubbard's hyper-gerrymandered district, low voter turnout skewed result he'd so easily exploited. Unanimous guilty votes are more fathomable without straight ticket voting, protective duopoly party primary fundraisers, uncompetitive ballot access laws, big money BCA subsidized ad campaigns, etc. to shield this felon, extremely well funded by coconspirators. Shameful Auburn voters reinstalled this political prostitute knowing the 23 felony counts - able to read Canary, Riley, Shelby, et al emails, view evidence and witness the poor intellect and flawed integrity of this public servant. The amount of resources and talent required to discipline corruption proffered by this terribly uncompetitive political result is a huge tax on our economy and collective Spirit; better done at ballot boxes than courts if a more competitive political process were allowed. Akin to weeding the garden (a job which is never done) one of our biggest destructive weeds was removed as House Speaker. Sadly, Felon Hubbard's replacement is a similarly spirited public servant decaying our quality of life.

Some readers ask my forecast. It'll be sometime before witnessing a similar Siegelman result for Biden until he's out of office. Although politburo members try to hide behind immunity (from the White House to our local corrupt minions at county courthouses) doubtful many high courts may be that vulgar, more specifically to allow so-called "absolute immunity" to Biden/Trump offenses we've observed. The 'I Believe in Mike Hubbard' minions, in eerie déjà vu, congregated for Trump months ago in Montgomery, now officially 'donning' the Felon Trump moniker as expected by those anticipating a righteous verdict. Entertaining DC Impeachment Kabuki Theatre these past years, but does anyone really expect the politburo to address real violations which would bring down most of the presidents I've observed in my lifetime?

If Alabama history is any guide (sadly we bear the shame of 'kick-starting' this big government Democrat's installment into the White House with mental pigmy types like Sessions) this is the likely playbook for sentencing. And yes, I know Trump currently 'dons' the Red jersey for those who care more about Party than consistent rule of law for Biden/Trump crime family types...

Religious leaders of questionable integrity will stand behind Trump. Recall an Auburn UMC retired pastor still shilling "Belief in Mike Hubbard" while some thought our community would be better served advancing belief in God. Furthermore, as a good Spiritual advisor, shepherding a political thief (as a

correctly convicted felon) toward penitence to save his soul seems the more convincing narrative before sentencing.

Next may be bankers who will claim Trump did nothing wrong as they were paid back - no discussion of the loan(s) rejected to sound businesspeople (without several Chapter 11 failures) who refused to commit fraud, etc. Loans/economic activity which would've proffered more competitive, productive results than the usual soviet outcomes from manipulating disuniform tax favoritism, eminent domain abuse, etc. Remember an Auburn Bank executive sobbing on behalf of his friend Mike Hubbard? Getting unsecured loans at the expense of stockholders and other [proven] competent businesspeople who could improve our general welfare over Hubbard's political theft and cronyism wasn't part of this sentencing witness' diatribe. Sad the prosecution didn't provide some I know harmed by Hubbard's reign, similarly doubtful anyone will have the courage to speak at Trump's sentencing of his past harms which make his fraudulent business reporting mild in comparison. Banks, coaches, duped donors, friends, et al who provide even more money to postpone thieves and manipulators of Felon Hubbard/Trump sort from finally meeting an unbiased, righteous reckoning are most deleterious.

Then there will be minions using their politburo clout to get Felon Trump off on appeal. Recall a city mayor on the witness stand also shilling belief in Mike Hubbard as a 'good man' reiterating Felon Hubbard's impetuous (dare I type contemptuous toward Judge Walker's Court?) attorney's assertion of exoneration on appeal. Considering ALDoT and other transfers to facilitate the cancerous growth and tax collusion in Lee County, one certainly wondered this mayor's criterion for "good." Too bad anti-trust laws are not evoked against colluding entities like Auburn and Opelika when raising taxes. Revealing to see low income residential electric customers subsidizing 'Gig City' corruption and using county equipment to clear and grub for this mayor while rural (mostly poor, black) folks can't get to their churches and jobs because of poorly maintained roads which result from misallocations of this sort. Little surprise a corrupt mayor(s) will label Felon Trump a 'good' man.

Of course there'll be many DC political prostitutes slobbering all over themselves to be the 'Trumpiest' sycophant... from Felon Hubbard's minion Rep. Barry Moore to Senators Teletubby and BCA Britt. I recall the most vulgar of 'unrighteous witnesses for the wicked' was Congressman Rogers reminding Judge Walker of Felon Hubbard as a "first offender." It was all the more laughable this dullard attorney lawmaker offered no discussion of Hubbard's serial felony offender status. I'm sure this public servant would make the same argument for rapists convicted on 12 counts if it served his self-interest, regardless of others harmed.

Mr. Hart did finally take this despicable DC witness to task as ringleader of the "I like Mike" PEP RALLY (even the memory of Eisenhower is not safe in the hands of these Republicrat charlatans) impugning the grand jury immediately after handing down 23 felony indictments; resulting in 12 convictions. Shamelessly undeterred, Rogers went on to berate the jurors (sound familiar?) who correctly convicted this pollutant that damaged our economy, taxpayers, students, etc. Hubbard and Rogers political 'graftmaster' public servant dance is easy to follow in: <http://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2016/02/01/opinion/the-graftmaster-two-step-hubbard-doe-see-does-with-rogers/672.html>. Prosecutor Hart explaining to Felon Hubbard's defense 'Dream Team' their innocence rhetoric had no bearing on sentencing was perfect; Hubbard no longer enjoyed the presumption of innocence once convicted on 12 of the 23 felony charges. Rogers was again an embarrassment to the citizens of 3rd District showing such great contempt for our legal system in open court. Shameful voters re-install such an abomination these past many elections instead of participating/writing in a righteous name when no competition is allowed on the ballot.

Another glaring point of irony is the lack of 'bluff and bluster' on how great the system is and how well it works with the Felon Hubbard/Trump results. One could see 'Noon Day Devil' Hubbard reveling when 'public servant' Rep. Moore was found not guilty of a well documented perjury charge. Perhaps it served the purpose of emboldening Hubbard all the more for the jury to see his true colours. Similarly, Felon Trump is never at a loss for hubris on his accomplished parasitism subsidizing his failed business acumen.

Wish more applauded sage Jake Walker's judicial performance. His patience given all he endured from the defense team and Felon Hubbard minions to adjudicate the 23 felony charges was inspirational to deliver the final result honourably. Long time readers are accustomed to my citing the Decalogue of Exodus; I'd like to close with Exodus 23 (KJV) which I find most applicable to those planning to be sentencing witnesses for Felon Trump:

- 1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.
- 2 Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment

In closing, be wary of political hacks championing ballot box re-installment of Biden/Trump as some sort of vindication over the jury box. Duopoly voters are the problem and our once righteous Republic's greatest shame. Either authoritarian back in the White House provides little relief for the generic productive citizen, once again displaying the dysfunction of an unconstitutional (post 435 limited HoR) electoral college, restrictive ballot access laws, etc. destroying our once great, independent coalition of States. Deo Vindice... in the end God vindicates.

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HISTORICAL NEWS WE CAN USE!



Five Hundred Years Ago, Peasants in Central Europe Revolted Against Their Overlords.

Inspired by the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther's confrontation with church hierarchy, peasants staged an insurrection which challenged the socio-economic order. This revolt would have a lasting impact on Europe and set the stage for future conflicts between the elite aristocracy and the growing middle class.

Justice Will Sellers In 1524, the strata of society was organized according to land: its ownership, its use and ultimately, its profitability. The various plagues that decimated Europe in the past century had created a greater demand for labor. This demand allowed workers to earn more and moved a number into a comfortable class which owned and worked their own property, but inflationary pressures from the influx of gold and silver from the New World undercut some of these achievements and threatened to reverse any gains.

While there has always been friction between tenant and landlord, serf and master and labor and management, these conflicts are routinely managed such that each side receives some benefit from the other, sustaining a sound relationship and enduring community. But this stability becomes threatened when the social fabric starts to unravel. When people feel an existential threat to their livelihood and community wellbeing, they seek some form to redress, but when there is no outlet available, anxiety leads to action.

Five hundred years ago, several factors combined to create an atmosphere ripe for rebellion. First, the civil law that allowed greater ownership of land was jettisoned and replaced by Roman law, which limited the ownership of property to the aristocracy, concentrating landed wealth in the hands of a few.

In some instances, property not owned by the elite was confiscated when the owners were unable to pay taxes, and in these times, the local nobility acted without any check to balance their power and consider the propriety of their actions. In short, there was little that a growing middle class could do to ensure that their rights - both personal and property - would be protected from usurpation by the arbitrary actions of their neighborhood prince.

The societal changes brought about by the Protestant Reformation was also a contributing factor. Luther's theological disputes with the Catholic Church were championed by many who saw the church in less of a spiritual context and more of an overarching political institution holding rulers and nobility accountable. Luther's actions were misinterpreted as less of a theological re-set and more of a challenge to the order of society.

In many places, the peasant revolt was aided by Luther's followers, who equated the structure of the church with the political organization of their community. Thus, Luther's challenge to the church hierarchy was used to question authority of the nobility: how they received it and why it should be maintained. Since Luther advocated reading the Bible and avoiding simple tradition to explain theological concepts, others wanted to use this same model to understand and impose a new political order.

And, as the middling peasants considered their plight and saw the possibility of

losing what rights they had gained and property they acquired, they were susceptible to new ideas of their rights, underpinned by a radical theology. Initially, it was not abundantly clear what the peasants wanted.

On one level, the rebellion might be seen as the action of disgruntled workers who felt abused, neglected and under-appreciated, but when this discontent was encouraged by radical reformers, what could have been a local problem, grew and became regional, infecting most of Germany and parts of France, Switzerland and Austria.

The rebellion became less of a list of specific grievances unique to their locale and more of a larger, more thoughtful review of fundamental rights and a specific demand to secure them. None of the rebels was content with their station in life, but they wanted to reach some accommodation to define the rights to which they were entitled and to take action to secure them. As the rebellion gained strength, so too did the need to provide structure to the revolution. It was in this context that the peasants developed Twelve Articles, which summarized their demands and explained the reason for their rebellion.

In addition to demanding that distinctions between the nobility and the peasants be abolished — "we hereby declare that we are free and want to remain free" — the Twelve Articles also sought to curb income, property and inheritance taxes while limiting compulsory labor and advocating the free use of lands for hunting and grazing. Requiring that tax revenues be used to take care of the poor rather than being squandered on clerical projects was yet another goal.

As an attempt to give the middle-class specific rights and limit the mandates of the nobility, the Articles are not viewed as radical in today's terms. Martin Luther commented favorably that the Articles highlighted issues that the nobility should address and noted that certain abuses should be corrected. Luther would have been all for having a public debate on the Articles and discussing ways to improve the plight of the peasants.

But Luther was no fan of violence, chaos or instability.

Discussing societal improvements was fine and appropriate, but once the peasants went into open rebellion and used theological themes as a license to undermine society and massacre members of the nobility, Luther condemned the revolt.

Around 25,000 copies of the Twelve Articles were printed and distributed throughout the countryside, but as the revolt became more violent and leaders misappropriated Luther's teachings to justify their actions, the nobles united and killed more than 100,000 peasants.

At the time, the Twelve Articles would be linked with radical political ideas and disregarded. Thereafter, Luther limited his work to the spiritual realm and argued against using theology to inform existing political structures. The peasants' revolt moved him to conclude that God had established government, and to challenge such temporal authority was to challenge God's order.

The peasants' revolt was another milestone for communities desiring self-determination, limited taxation and freedom of conscience.

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Article by **Bobbie Ames** (June 26, 2012)

The Story of A Parchment: the Declaration of Independence

"The story of the Declaration is a part of the story of a national legacy, but to understand it, it is necessary to understand as well its makers, the world they lived in, the conditions which produced them, the confidence which encouraged them, the indignities which humiliated them, the obstacles which confronted them, the ingenuity which helped them, the faith which sustained them, the victory which came to them. It is, in other words, a part, a very signal part of a civilization and a period, from which, unlike his Britannic Majesty, it makes no claim to separation. On the contrary, unsurpassed as it is, it takes its rightful place in the literature of democracy. For its primacy, is a primacy which derives from the experience which evoked it. It is imperishable because that experience is remembered." We are quoting David C. Means, Assistant Librarian of the Library of Congress in the publication, "The Story of A Document," Washington, 1950.

The Declaration was signed on August 2, 1776, and filed in the office of the Secretary of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia. The parchment was rolled up and rested undisturbed except when it was brought out to be signed by other delegates. When Congress, in order to avoid the British, was reconvened in Baltimore, the document was transported in a light wagon where it remained until safe to return to Philadelphia. It found temporary lodging in a number of locations, the courthouse at York, Pennsylvania, Annapolis, Maryland, Trenton, New Jersey, and New York's City Hall. When the First Congress convened under the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration was given in to the custody of the Secretary of State, returning to Philadelphia. President John Adams directed its move to the Federal City in the District of Columbia in 1800. In the summer of 1814, the threat of unfriendly British caused Secretary of State, James Monroe, to order its evacuation. It was stored in the home of a Reverend. Mr. Littlejohn, at Leesburg, Virginia, for several weeks. Then it was safely returned to the District of Columbia.

By 1823, it was announced that a prominent engraver, Mr. William J. Stone, has for three years worked on and now completed a facsimile of the Original Declaration of Independence. now in the archives of the government, "that it is executed with the greatest exactness and fidelity; and that the Department of State has become the purchaser of the plate." This enabled American citizens to have their own copies of this, America's Birth Certificate, and also protected the original from unnecessary exposure. What school child of any generation would not recognize this parchment?

Daniel Webster, Secretary of State, in 1841, ordered various articles, including the Declaration, transferred to the National Gallery. Unfortunately, the Declaration along with Washington's Commission as Commander in Chief, hung on the wall for viewing, and both were exposed to "the chill of winter and the heat of summer."

The Declaration went back to Philadelphia for the

One Hundredth Anniversary, celebrated with a national exhibition. A grandson of Richard Henry Lee spoke on the occasion. The Philadelphia Press described the document as "age dimmed." At this time, in August, 1876, Congress adopted a Joint Resolution that a commission, consisting of the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, and the Librarian of Congress, be empowered to find the means to restore the writing of the original manuscript and the signatures.

Throughout the years, the care and preservation of the historical documents of our history have been a primary concern for the Chief of Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress. The papers of George Washington, of James Madison, of Thomas Jefferson, of Alexander Hamilton, and of Benjamin Franklin, were transferred from the Department of State to the Library of Congress in 1903. They are the focus of a legacy, unlike any other nation has ever enjoyed, a legacy of Christian self-government.

In the building housing these Archives, the Declaration has a permanent home, much like a "shrine." Designed by Francis Bacon (brother of Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial), the site is on the second floor of the Great Hall. Into New York black marble is inscribed, "The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States." Surrounding the entire shrine is a solid white balustrade of Italian marble, suggesting the chancel rail before an altar, which from the outside would provide a clear view of the charters.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, the documents were removed and safely deposited at Fort Knox, until all danger had passed. Hundreds of thousands of citizens gaze at the parchment annually. Some have understanding of their significance, and many do not. Jefferson wrote about the greatest gift of all, Liberty. We are created by the Creator, and we are all born with certain unalienable rights given to us by the Creator, that among these are the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This "right" of liberty will result in all manner of inequalities as we live our individual lives. The ones who work the hardest usually get ahead, the ones who are frugal try to avoid perpetual indebtedness. Those individuals who are good stewards of these rights are blessed by the One who gave these rights.

Patrick Henry gave careful warnings; "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel, for nothing will preserve it but downright force.""

In Jefferson's last letter to James Madison, fifty years after they met, he wrote, "...it has been a great solace to me, to believe that you are engaged in vindicating to posterity the course we have pursued for preserving to them, in all their purity, the blessings of self-government, which we had assisted in acquiring for them (the People).

Madison responded, "You cannot look back on the long period of our private friendship and political harmony, with more affecting recollections than I do.....and I indulge a confidence that sufficient evidence will find its way to another generation, to ensure, after we are gone, whatever of justice may be withheld whilst we are here."

The Declaration was not written as a legal document, Praise the Lord. Jefferson was not a lawyer, nor was Washington or Franklin. The Declaration was an outpouring from the heart of Jefferson. In this First Inaugural, he said it this way, "Sometimes it is said that a man cannot be trusted with the government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him?" Jefferson laid the foundation by declaring, "We hold these truths to be self-evident." This parchment is our anchor, our foundation, of what we believe about ourselves and about sustaining our inalienable rights.

The closeness of Jefferson and Madison was certainly a factor in Madison's design of the Constitution. The Declaration would spell out the philosophy of who we are as a people, as defined by our Creator. The Constitution defines how we can govern ourselves with the checks and balances to protect us from abuse, from tyranny.

On this July Fourth, on Independence Day, I hope that you will reread the Declaration of Independence and ponder this experiment upon the theory of human rights. When John Quincy Adams took office as President of the United States, he began his inaugural by stating, "I appear my fellow citizens, in your presence and in that of heaven, to bind myself by the solemnities of religious obligation to the faithful performance of the duties allotted to me in the station to which I have been called.....to secure the blessings of liberty to the people of this Union in their successive generations." Writing a letter to his son, he gave this advice, "You should adopt certain rules and principles for the government of your conduct and temper. It is in the Bible that you must learn them." John Adams, the father, wrote "truth, liberty, justice, and benevolence are the everlasting basis of law and government, and if these could be removed, the superstructure is overthrown, of course."

The founders of this nation were grounded and rooted in the Bible as the source of Truth. They did not look to the government for their identity. Revisionists have rewritten America's History for public education and the majority of the Media world, but modern Christian scholars, such as David Barton, are helping to rebuild the foundations of America's Christian History, which is our true History. The parchment, so treasured throughout our history, will continue to be a living document if we claim it, and live by its principles.



Mrs. Bobbie Ames was a contributing writer for the Alabama Gazette for over 8 years. She was an amazing historian. She is missed, but will never be forgotten. We are proud to reprint her article from June 26, 2012.



Kyle' McKinney



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**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
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CELEBRATE YOUR INDEPENDENCE WITH SOCIAL SECURITY

Every July 4, we celebrate our nation's independence. For nearly 90 years, our programs have helped create financial independence for millions of hardworking people. We have useful online resources like the *Social Security Statement (Statement)* and our benefits estimator tool that helps people not yet receiving benefits. The *Statement* shows the benefits that you and your family may be eligible for and provides personalized fact sheets tailored to your age and earnings situation. The benefits estimator tool allows you to get estimates based on different ages. These online tools can help you better prepare for your retirement.

If you're not receiving benefits

You can get the most out of your online experience if you have a personal *my Social Security* account. You can:

- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Get estimates for spouse's benefits.
- Get your Statement instantly.
- Get proof that you do not receive benefits.
- Check your application status.

If you're receiving benefits

You can use your personal *my Social Security* account to:

- Request a replacement Social Security card.
- Get an instant benefit verification letter.
- Start or change your direct deposit. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Change your address. (Social Security beneficiaries only)
- Get a replacement SSA-1099 or SSA-1042S instantly for tax season.
- Opt out of mailed notices for those available online.

You can create your personal *my Social Security* account at www.ssa.gov/my-account.

Our blog at blog.ssa.gov features news and information about our programs and services. You can subscribe and get notified each time we post a new blog so you can stay informed. From the blog, you can also connect with us on Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

With so many services and helpful information available online, we are here for you when you need us. Learn more at www.ssa.gov.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S TOP 5 WAYS TO PROTECT AGAINST IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft is when someone uses your personal information to impersonate you or steal from you. It is important that you stay safe online. Please review these data privacy and identity protection resources:

1. A great online resource is www.ssa.gov/myaccount. You can visit this page to open a secure *my Social Security* account, keep track of your earnings record, and identify any suspicious activity.
2. Our blog post, *Protect Yourself from Identity Thieves*, helps you understand how to spot, prevent, and report identity theft. You can check out this blog at blog.ssa.gov/protect-yourself-from-identity-thieves.
3. In our blog post, *Protect Your Online Identity With Strong Passwords*, we encourage better password habits to keep online data and accounts safe and secure. You can check out this blog for tips to help make sure passwords are strong at blog.ssa.gov/protect-your-online-identity-with-strong-passwords.
4. Our blog post, *Protecting Yourself from QR Code Fraud*, provides details to help safeguard from using Quick Response (QR) codes that may compromise your personal information. You can read this blog at blog.ssa.gov/protecting-yourself-from-qr-code-fraud.
5. Fraudsters use Social Security scams to mislead victims into making cash, gift card, or wire transfer payments to fix alleged Social Security number problems. Learn how to spot scams, check out our blog post *Social Security's Top 5 Scam Awareness Articles* at blog.ssa.gov/social-securitys-top-5-scam-awareness-articles.

We encourage you to help protect your vital information. Please share these resources with your loved ones.

SOCIAL SECURITY VIDEO CONNECT: CONNECT WITH US FROM ANYWHERE

We continue to find ways to make doing business with us easier. With our Social Security Video Connect option, you can conduct business with us using video on your personal device, from your preferred location.

Social Security Video Connect is available for:

- No-change replacement Social Security cards (U.S. citizens only).
- Date of birth corrections (U.S. citizens only).
- Benefit applications.
- Redeterminations.
- Overpayments.
- Medicare.

How to get started -

To get started with this new service, you will need a computer, tablet, or smart phone with a webcam and internet access. Once you have your device, please complete the following steps:

DEFENDING AGAINST SCAMMERS WHO TARGET YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

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

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

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

You should continue to remain vigilant if you receive a phone call from someone who claims there's a problem with your SSN or your benefits. If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter explaining your rights, payment options, and information about appealing.

When trying to identify if a call or email is a scam, *remember we will never:*

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

For more information on scams please visit www.ssa.gov/scam. Please share this information with anyone who may need it.

HOW WE SERVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY

We strive to deliver great customer service with helpful information for everyone. This includes improving access for underserved communities. We aim to reduce language barriers and increase access to Social Security programs, services, and benefits. If you are a person with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), know that we have the resources available to help you in your preferred language. We encourage you to learn about the resources that are available to serve LEP communities.

What resources are available?

We offer publications in languages other than English. Our non-English publications and other resources at www.ssa.gov/multilanguage are available in more than 12 languages. The multilanguage website also lists resources to support you in your preferred language.

We provide benefit information in Spanish at SeguroSocial.gov that includes:

- Retirement.
- Disability.
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

Our free interpreter services are available, by phone and in person, in more than 200 languages. These services are accessible by calling our toll-free number at **1-800-772-1213** or by visiting a local Social Security office and asking for an interpreter in your preferred language.

Diversity is one of our nation's greatest strengths. We want to ensure an inclusive environment for everyone we serve. Our Language Access Plan affirms our commitment to increase access to benefits and services for people who prefer a language other than English. To learn more, we encourage you to visit www.ssa.gov/site/languages.

SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS OUR MILITARY HEROES

1. Contact your local Social Security office or call **1-800-772-1213** between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday to schedule a video appointment. A representative will determine if a video appointment is appropriate for you. If a video appointment isn't appropriate for your needs, we can conduct the interview over the phone or in the office.
2. Provide your email address and phone number to receive an email with a link for the Microsoft Teams meeting.
3. Connect with us using that Microsoft Teams meeting link on the date and time of your appointment.

If you run into issues with Teams or need to reschedule your appointment, please contact your local Social Security office or call **1-800-772-1213**.

We strive to improve our customer service and increase the ways you can connect with us. Please share this information with your friends and family who may need it – and post it on social media.

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www.alabamagazette.com

Honoring Our Heroes



Martha P. Simmons
The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans. She has spent countless hours interviewing, writing stories of, the many great men and women that have served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.



WWII D-Day Veteran Sonarman Harry Ural Jackson

WWII D-Day Veteran Sonarman Harry Ural Jackson was honored June 6, 2024, the 80th anniversary of D-Day, at a commemoration event at the Crossings, a full-service senior living community in Montgomery, AL. Jackson, a 98 year-old Navy veteran, served three weeks as a sonarman on a subchaser at Normandy.

Two other WWII veterans who served in the Pacific Theater, Dr. Cecil Prescott and Eugene Crooks, were also honored.

Lee Jackson, the son of Harry Jackson led the attendees in singing the Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.

An American Red Cross volunteer presented a detailed biography of Jackson's military service and civilian life and gave him gifts of a bag of toilet articles and an insulated mug from the American Red Cross.

Susannah Cleveland, staff member of U.S. Senator Katie Britt, Alex Reynolds, staff member of U. S. Representative Barry Moore, and Machine Accountant Petty Officer Second Class Andrew DeLuca of the U.S. Navy Reserve Center in Bessemer, AL, brought greetings.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1. James C. Poole Jr. - July 1st
2. Jerry L. Gantt - July 3rd
3. James E. Salminen - July 3rd
4. Michael Springer - July 4th
5. William E. Stewart - July 5th
6. Bill Allison - July 9th
7. Raymond Keel - July 9th
8. William L. Struthers - July 11th
9. Gilbert R. Monismith Jr. - July 13th
10. David Headley - July 17th
11. J.R. Jimenez - July 18th
12. Cheryl D. Grinstead - July 23rd
13. Charles W. Ashley - July 24th
14. Christopher Laneaux - July 24th
15. James A. Campbell - July 27th
16. Robert S. Kohn - July 28th

Centenarian Veteran Robert Shafton Kohn Celebrates - 102nd Birthday

The WWII veteran, Robert Shafton Kohn, will celebrate his 102nd birthday July 28, 2024. Kohn served in combat in the U.S. Army for 52 days under General George Patton in the 3rd Army, 90th Infantry Division, 359th Battalion, Company M (Heavy Weapons).

He recently stated, "I would like to say as a survivor of WWII which included the Battle of the Bulge and the Battle of the Rhineland in which I received two Bronze stars that I am thankful to our Father above who saved my life during the battles. I also would like to state that I followed my training to the nth degree. I well remember a close call when a German mortar 88 landed within six feet of my prone position, but it did not explode. I thank God for saving my life and that I am alive today."



Major Lee Jamerson Stuckey

Sgt. Edwin Lloyd Faulkner

Chief Master Sergeant Dr. Beverly Hill

Col Stefan Eisen, Jr.

Sergeant Major Robert E. Parker

Corporal Vernon Wallace Young, Jr.



In Memory
Col Denis M. Drew
May 27, 1942
May 24, 2024

VETERANS CRISIS LINE - DIAL 988 then PRESS 1
www.veteranscrisis-



We hope you enjoy reading the Alabama Gazette as much as our Veterans!

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jeffery Mathews: Age 66



Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) Jeffery Mathews served 29 years in the U.S. Army. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Supply (76C) involving requests, receipts, storage, etc. of supplies and (920A) as a Chief Warrant Officer. CW3 Mathews' work also included working as a property account technician with inventory control, purchasing procedures and stock control. He received the following decorations, medals, citations and campaign ribbons: Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (two awards), Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (three awards), National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon and Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar.

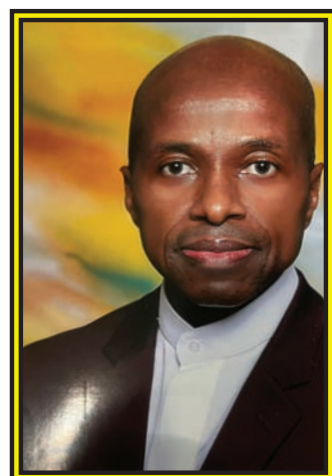
CW3 Mathews comes from a family with a history of military service in the U.S. Army. His father served in WWII and later two brothers also served in the military. CW3 Mathews was born June 3, 1958 to his parents, Joe and Mary Mathews in Montgomery, AL. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in Montgomery, AL, in May 1977. He worked with the grounds and support staff at Alabama State University until he volunteered for military service in the U.S. Army and began serving November 1, 1977.

CW3 Mathews completed eight weeks of Basic Training at Ft. Dix, N.J., and was assigned to work in supply, and he completed eight weeks of training in supply at Ft. Lee, VA, January 1st through March 1, 1978. He served at Ft. Benning, GA, for five years from March 1978 through April 1982. CW3 Mathews was then deployed to Mannheim, Germany from May 1982 through May 1983. He separated from active duty in May 1983. CW3 Mathews worked for the drug company, Revco, at its distribution center at Hope Hull, AL, from June 1983 until December 1984. He resumed his military service in January 1985 and worked full time with the AL Army National Guard for the United States

Property and Fiscal Office as a technician with supply for 21 years. While working full time, he started a Bible study in 1995 before work began and which is still active today on Thursdays at noon hosted by the full time chaplain. He attended the U.S. Army Warrant Officer School at Ft. Rucker, AL, in 1997. He used the GI Bill and received a B.S. Degree from Troy University in Resource Management in 2000. CW3 Mathews served in Baghdad, Iraq, with the 231 MP Battalion for one year during March 2004 until March 2005. While in Iraq, he was chosen as Senior Minister/Pastor of the gospel service. There is a five minute video of his preaching there on YouTube at "Preaching in Baghdad". Also while CW3 Mathews was in Iraq, he served as the Minister of music for his developed praise team for the battalion's chapel service. He retired from all military service in 2006.

CW3 Mathews reflects on his military service saying, "It was an honor and a privilege to serve with so many great men and women and to fulfil my purpose and calling while serving my country." After his military retirement, CW3 Mathews worked at the Central AL Veterans Health Care System in Montgomery as a Veterans Service Representative for one year during 2009-2010. He worked at the Kilby Correctional Facility of the AL Department of Corrections from 2012-2018 as a supply clerk. While working at the prison, he discovered what he calls the Common Denominator of Troubled Men and How Great Men Get Locked Up and published these in one book in 2022.

He has written and published three inspirational books, namely, (1) Faith That Dominated Baghdad, (2) Marriage Cardiology 101, and (3) Perfecting Man from Lockup. He is the founder of The Book of Mathews Ministries. He served as a pianist and associate minister for Starr Baptist Church in Montgomery from 1998-2005. Mathews and his wife Mildred have been married 40 years, and they are members of the Faith Chapel at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery.





Technical Sergeant Jason R. Hughes: Age 52



Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Jason R. Hughes served 12 years in the U.S. Air Force including nine years in the AL Air National Guard and three years in the Air Force Reserve. His Air Force Specialty Code was 2E2X5, Electronics Computers and Switching Systems. He received the following medals, awards, citations and awards: Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Service Star, Iraq Campaign Medal with one Service Star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Air and Space Overseas Ribbon - Short Tour, Air and Space

Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air and Space Longevity Service Award border one Oak Leaf Cluster, Armed Forces Reserve Medal Hourglass Device "M" Device three, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air and Space Training Ribbon and Alabama National Guard Active-Duty Basic Training Ribbon.

TSgt Hughes was born May 30, 1972, to his parents, Jack and Janice Hughes in Omaha, NE, and he was reared in Glenwood IA and, Bellevue, NE with his older brother, Jeff. After graduating from Papillion Lavista High School in 1992, he worked at various jobs for seven years.

TSgt Hughes' decision to enter the U.S. military resulted from his being raised in a patriotic family with a long, deep commitment to military service. His maternal grandfather and five paternal great uncles served during WWII, his uncle served for three years in the U.S. Navy and two cousins, one in the Navy, and the other in the Army. As a youth, he traveled with his family to many historical sites across America including: (1) homes of the former presidents of the U.S.A., Harry S. Truman, Gerald N. Ford, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, etc., (2) Washington, D.C., (3) Liberty Bell, (4) Mt. Rushmore, (5) Arlington National Cemetery, etc. These trips had an enormous impact upon his gaining an appreciation for the democracy of and service to America. In addition, his membership in the Boy Scouts of American where he attained the rank of Eagle Scout reinforced the Boy Scout's motto, BE PREPARED, which means, you are always in a state of readiness in mind and body to do your duty.

TSgt Hughes volunteered and entered service in the U.S. Air Force in Montgomery, AL, November 5, 1999. He completed six weeks of Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB), TX, in January 2000. He was assigned to the Combat Communications Squadron 232nd Air Force National Guard Unit in Montgomery, AL. He completed six months of computer and switching systems training at the 81st Training Support Squadron at Keesler AFB, MS, in 2001. While stationed in Montgomery, AL, TSgt Hughes completed three deployments to the Middle East, namely, (1) during February 2003-July 2003 at a classified location in the Persian Gulf with the 232nd Communication Squadron to set up voice and data communications three days before the Iraq War began, (2) during April-October 2005 in Afghanistan to work on telephone, inventory and cryptography security systems and (3) during January-June 2008 during Enduring Freedom in Iraq to maintain telephone cables and lines and work the help desk. TSgt Hughes served with the U.S. Air Force National Guard and in the Reserve 908th Airlift Wing on Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL, until his retirement November 5, 2011.

TSgt Hughes conclusions about what his military has meant to him are: "Because of my family's being patriotic, I was blessed as a child to travel on historical trips which highlighted the finer points of America's history. This gave me a sense of how fortunate we are to live in America. How could I not join the military?"

TSgt Hughes continues to work with IT operations in the AL Department of Finance where he has been employed for the past 20 years. He and his wife, Ashley, have five children between them. He is a life member and serves as post trustee of the VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96 in Montgomery, AL. In addition to his VFW Officer duties, he is the Post 96 videographer and produces videos for the Post's YouTube Channel, VFW Smith-Wynn Post 96 where viewers can see informative speakers from Post meetings as well as events the Post conducts or attends, such as Veteran Funerals, Ceremonial events, veteran spotlight videos, etc.



Specialist Travis Parker: Age 72



Specialist (SPC) Travis Parker served two years and six months in the U.S. Army. His Military Occupational Specialist included Medical Corpsman, Medical Specialist and Bandsman. He received the following medals, decorations, commendations and ribbons: National Defense Medal. Since his tenure in the military, he has exhibited excellent, dedicated and consummate service to veterans.

SPC Parker was born June 8, 1952 in Montgomery, AL, to his parents, Ted and Martha Parker. He was reared there and graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in 1970. While serving in the Army, SPC Parker took up residence in the Wiregrass Area which is named for having an abundance of grass having wiry stems and leaves, and it encompasses the southern portions of southern GA, southeast AL and the FL Panhandle.

After receiving a draft notice, SPC Parker volunteered and enlisted in the U.S. Army adding extra time so that he could become a Medic. He enlisted in Montgomery AL, in December 1972, and then completed eight weeks of Boot Camp at Ft. Knox, KY, although he preferred beginning service at Ft. Polk, LA, because of the cold winters in Kentucky which happened to be the worst in years. While at Ft. Knox, the Paris Peace Accords, officially the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Vietnam as a peace agreement, was signed on January 27, 1973 to end the Vietnam War. This resulted in the discontinuance of sending troops to Vietnam which meant his not having to serve in combat in Vietnam after his training. Next, he completed Advanced Individual Training (AIT) as a Medical Corpsman at Ft. Sam Houston, TX, and he was a mentor during part of the training. He was stationed at Ft. Rucker, AL as a Medic taking care of many returning Vietnam Veterans and as a Bandsman for two years before being Honorably Discharged from military service in July 1975.

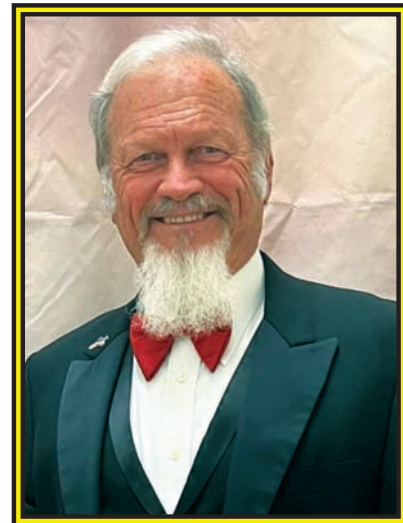
After his military service, SPC Parker used the GI Bill to attend Enterprise State Junior College (ESJC) and Troy State University. He later taught percussion at ESJC because he was a "Qualified Expert in his Field" partly due to having played drums in the Army Band thus bypassing the need for a college degree. While stationed at Ft. Rucker, he started a music store business, Travis Muzik, with eventual stores in the cities of Enterprise, Dothan, Elba, Troy and Daleville in southeast Alabama which continued for 35 years. He also had a tanning salon, Travis Tanz, for 10 years in Enterprise.

SPC Parker has worked in real estate for over 30 years as an investor and owner of rental property, and then he became a realtor for the retail part of that business. He had been a pre-med student in college, but while in the military, he decided that he preferred the business world. He worked for other real estate companies for 14 years and then started his own business, Travis Realty, three years ago. In his 17 years as a realtor, he has served as the President of the Wiregrass Board of Realtors on two separate occasions and as State Director for the AL Association of Realtors for five years. He has twice won the local Realtor of the Year Award, an Award bestowed by his peers and placed in the top five Realtors in Alabama one year. The public had voted him in the top two Realtors in the Reader's Choice Awards for four years before winning this award three times namely in 2021, 2022 and 2023. He is the only Premier Luxury Marketing Consultant in South Alabama. Reaching beyond state lines, he has been nominated for the National Association of Realtors Good Neighbor Award and RISMedia 2020 Real Estate Newsmakers. He is the first real estate agent in Alabama to be selected to be on the cover of Broker Agent Magazine. Some of his civic work has been featured on the Realtor's National Facebook page. A firm believer in all types of education whether as a youth or as an adult in business, he holds more designations and certification than probably the next three or four area realtors combined. He is one of the few realtors in the U.S.A. to have three certifications for working with the military. He was one of the two Wiregrass Real Estate Political Field Operatives representing Real Estate for the U.S. Representative Martha Roby during her last term in office.

In addition to real estate, he writes for the Southern Star newspaper in Ozark and Dale County, Alabama, and he has had articles published in other area printed media. His voluntary work is exemplary verified by being awarded the Gold National Presidential Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) by President Biden for his vast body of volunteer work. His dedication towards assisting veterans

is commendable. He is very active in veterans' organizations including AMVETS Post 7 serving as the Post Sr. Vice Commander and the State Public Relations Chairman, a past American Legion District Chaplain and currently Sr. Vice President of Legion Post 82 in Ozark, Vietnam Veterans of America local past Vice President, Coffee County Veterans Founder, Wiregrass Honor Flight Hub founder, etc. He is or has been a valuable member/officer in several civic organizations including the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, Civitan AL-West FL District Past Governor and past two term Enterprise Chapter President, Sons of the American Revolution Wiregrass Chapter President three terms and Hand up Enterprise Veteran Coordinator. His latest project is Guitars for Vets, and he will lead the opening of the first chapter in Alabama.

For his vast civic volunteering, SPC Parker has received well deserved recognition and honors such as the 2020 Enterprise Man of the Year, the Vietnam Veterans Veteran of the Year, the Enterprise Civitan Club Citizen of the Year twice, the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year and recognition from the Governor of Kentucky as an Honorary Kentucky Colonel. He is the Sons of the American Revolution Alabama State Chairman of the Veterans Committee and the Veterans Recognition Committee. He founded the Coffee County Veterans Organization to honor veterans both living and dead by placing flags and wreaths on the graves of veterans in more than two dozen cemeteries in the Wiregrass. They place moveable displays of 660 Flags for Forgotten Soldiers and place several 152 flag displays for Operation We Remember to bring the awareness of veterans' suicides to the forefront. He provided leadership in bringing the traveling Vietnam Wall to Dothan for the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War because he felt it was a tribute to those who had served during that time. He raised money to bring the traveling Vietnam Wall to the Wiregrass area in 2023. As a former Army Medic and current member of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), he wanted to honor first responders. He started the first local 9/11 Patriot Day Ceremony in 2020. Then he added 9/11 Ceremonies in 2022 for Daleville and Elba, AL, and helped with one in Geneva, AL. He is the Secretary of Recovery Operation of Coffee County (R.O.C.C.), a disaster readiness operation. He started the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony and the local Wreaths Across America events in 2015. He helped start the Association of Service Agencies (ASA) that gets area civic, church and governmental groups together to share information and ideas as well as to work together on projects. He is a counselor for the Military Support Group and the Battle Buddies Ready to Assist Veterans Everywhere (B.R.A.V.E.). He was invited to serve on the Coffee County Arts Alliance Board, the Wiregrass Blues Society Board and the local political party county and state committees. He is an active member of the Luxe Mastermind Networking Group serving as a mentor and with public relations. He is constantly asked to help civic groups get publicity with print, television, radio and podcast media, and he donates his time for this. WDHN-TV was so impressed during their coverage of his various projects that it did a What's Good in the Neighborhood segment on him and his voluntary work.



SPC Parker has one daughter and two grandchildren who think he is great, and he pays them good money to say so. His religious efforts include distributing Bibles as a Gideon as well as playing in the Church band and serving as one of the Public Relations coordinators for Joy Fellowship Church. He attends weekly Bible study classes and monthly "Men of Valor" meetings. He helps at the Faith Baptist Church Free Medical Clinic, and he coordinates the building of wheelchair ramps as well as collecting, repairing, cleaning and giving away used wheelchairs. He often serves as an inspirational speaker at various churches and civic groups for adults and youth. He does not have much leisure time as he still works 30+ hours weekly in real estate, reporting for newspapers, and devotes 40+ hours weekly to civic work. When he actually gets a few hours off, SPC Parker enjoys learning ballroom dancing.

SPC Parker reflects on his military service saying, "It gave me a break in life and a time to decide what I really wanted to do from then on. Obviously having served even a relatively short time is an extra source of pride. My time in the service was very uneventful, but I believe that I have done a good job for veterans since I got out." He would like people to remember that he tried to help other people by getting various groups to work together and to work more efficiently. Because he was brought up in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and helping at church and through the examples and teaching of his parents, he has been helping others almost his whole life.

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FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDING FATHERS!

Of the founding fathers who became president, only George Washington did not go to college.

John Adams graduated from Harvard.
James Madison graduated from Princeton.

Thomas Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary

James Madison helped draft Virginia's state constitution when he was 25. Virginia's constitution later became the model for the U.S. Constitution. He served as Jefferson's Secretary of State.



Judge Peggy Givhan

SOUTHERN GARDENING

Potpourri for July

With the Fourth of July approaching, everyone is thinking red, white and blue. If you have a pot garden, you can switch out some of the pots with **RED, WHITE AND BLUE** at the speed of a blink of an eye. Buy white vinca, red begonias, and blue salvia (or whatever you can find in this color scheme) and plunge them into some

existing or new pots to highlight the patriotic season. Every year I bake a sheet cake and ice it with white icing. Then with red strawberries for the stripes, and blueberries for the stars, I fashion a United States flag. This is even more fun if you involve your children or grandchildren, And do not forget to display flags and bunting out of doors and have red, white and blue balloons in clusters around the house. You may even want to go to the History channel and watch some movies about the Revolutionary War.

This time of the year since it gets so hot, I go outside early in the morning to pull weeds, water, fertilize and encourage the flowers to grow. July is the month to trim back dragon wing begonias, geraniums and impatiens probably by one third. If you get cold feet and do not trim back, within one month these flowers and plants will flop over and not be beautiful in the fall. It is so hard to do, but they come back with new growth and flowers shortly. When you fertilize after the " haircut", be sure to water really well, avoiding getting the fertilizer on the leaves of the plants. Begonias are especially sensitive to regular fertilizers on their leaves that in the summer I use Osmocote. Liquid fertilizers will also suffice.

It appears that the plants and herbs for sale in the big box stores are very expensive. I see 4" pots of just one flower or one herb for \$4.68 before taxes. So I bought dill, basil, mint and oregano seed for about \$1.00 per package, and got the plants up from seed. I had many seedlings which I added to my herb bed here in Montgomery and took some of the others to the farm. The leftovers I shared with neighbors. Although time was spent in germinating the seed, I had saved a lot of money.

PLANT OF THE MONTH--AGAPANTHUS africanus

Also known as lilies- of- the- Nile, these are absolutely the grande dames, stars or main attractions to any garden setting. Tall, stately with dramatic blue or white blooms, they bloom in the early to late summer, stand 2-4 feet in height, and if in the ground, will stand a freeze with heavy mulching. They do require more potash than normal plants, and need to be repotted every 2 years if they are growing in pots. Their thick leathery leaves are also dramatic when they are not blooming. One thing about this plant is that if planted out of doors, it does not like other plants too close. A tell-tale sign of this problem is no blooms. If you have been to the Grand Hotel and walked down the boardwalk, the homes along the bay have long thick stands of Agapanthus in front of white picket or black iron fencing. Really an eye-catching sight. I am now trying to figure out how I can use Agapanthus in my yard in Montgomery.



HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY AND HAPPY GARDENING!



A Float Down the River

Right now, I'm craving a quiet float down the river. It's not the fishing that I'm drawn to. It's the simplicity of a kayak, the solitude of the surroundings, and the song of the river.



Gary Miller

An added draw this time of year is that at any moment I can decide to pull the boat to the bank, wade to a spot, and fish for an extended period. Then maybe jump in and take a swim. The lakes are full of fishermen and recreation boaters. The river is full of life of another kind. So full that it infuses it into those who float against its breeze.

The early mornings are my favorite. The fog that lifts from its waters is nothing less than God slowly unveiling His latest unique masterpiece. To expose it too quickly would overwhelm us and cause us to miss the beauty of each distinctive curve and line. The water that passes will never be here again.

Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed times of competition on the lake. There's nothing I know of that encapsulates everything a man loves more than a fishing tournament. There's the outdoors, the fishing, the competition, and the prize for success. It really is a fun way to spend a Saturday morning.

Competition, however, is a word that is left in the truck at the river ramp. Words like rewind and reflect are river words. Even repentance is welcome on the river. Because it's there one changes his mind about lots of things. I've just noticed this whole article is sounding probably a little too abstract and philosophical. More evidence I just need to gather my gear, head to the river, and go fishing. And while I'll enjoy all the introspection when I get there, I'll be a little disappointed if I don't catch any fish. See you soon.

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

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Home Town Community News

Nita Tidwell Celebrating 101 Great years! June 22nd



Betty Maddox presented Nita with fresh sunflowers at the Montgomery Curb Market on her birthday outing. Her family honored her with a special celebration in the afternoon. Nita is still a delight for all who know her.



Patricia Boyd Killough

If you have a birthday or anniversary, please email us and we will include your family and friends! God Bless!

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

Robinson, Jerry Wayne (77)	June 3
Clark, Lawrence M. (79)	June 4
Crane, Mary Ellen (81)	June 4
Elijah, Jr., George Herbert (50)	June 4
Kindig, Voncile "Bonnie" (99)	June 4
Dunlap, Sandra Hammon (73)	June 5
Matisak, Kurt Joseph (60)	June 5
Montz, Deborah Marie (60)	June 5
Menefee, Larry Earl (92)	June 6
Causey, Barbara B. (82)	June 7
Botterbusch, Ronald Paul (74)	June 8
Day, Shirley Diane (70)	June 8
Jarvis, Brenda Ann (71)	June 8
Jordan, Ann Payne (90)	June 8
Odom, Deborah Lynn Dorman (71)	June 9
Webb, James "Jim" McElvy (78)	June 9
Alford, Charles Edward (83)	June 11
McGee, Suk Un (70)	June 11
Batts, Barbara June (88)	June 12
Hill, III, Robert "Bob" Sommerville (81)	June 12
Thorn, Martha Baugher (67)	June 13
Goocher, Jr., Orin Lemuel (88)	June 14
Cook, William Patrick "Pat" (94)	June 15
Fuller, Jr., Cary Winston (93)	June 15
Gilliam, Jamie Allyn (61)	June 15
Lane, Jr., James "Jim" Lee (85)	June 15
Royal, Philip Emmett (76)	June 15
Butts, Edvina Jolene (42)	June 16
Rowe, Angela Hope Moody (67)	June 16
Spear, Jr., Cecil (89)	June 17
Jones, Albert Curtis (80)	June 17
Kirkland, Katie Sue (111)	June 18
Mitchell, Ann Roberts (80)	June 18
Brunson, Marianne Beam (93)	June 19
Dailey, Robert "Bob" (71)	June 19
Guier, Donna Duncan (72)	June 19
Freeman, Coach Roger Dale (73)	June 21
Hitson, Sr., Larry E. (84)	June 21
Ward, Elvia Flores (89)	June 21
Hobbie, Stewart Ray (54)	June 22
Noland, Jr., Thomas Fredd "Bubber" (90)	June 22
Nielsen, Dolores Marie (95)	June 23
Graves, Azariah Steven (82)	June 24
White, Richard Keith (77)	June 24



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! JULY

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Butch (Mary) Moseley
Linda Foxworth | 13 Jeremy Dickinson
Stacey Nestor |
| 2 Ralph Davis
Lexie Turnipseed
George Pugh
Voncille Talley | 14 Annie Bouchard
Lansdon O'Mailia |
| 4 Audrey Grant
David Johnson
Lynn McKinley
Cindy Smith | 15 Joan Collier
Summer Rice
Paige Stringer |
| 5 Ann Emory Harris
Kathy Ingram
Joyce Todd | 16 Sherry Tucker |
| 6 Skip Mainor
Jimmy Messick, Sr. (80)
Glenn Stringer
Amber Wooten | 18 Linda Carleton
Ann Marie Dean |
| 7 Knox Crowe
Denise Hankin
Carolyn Grant
Taylor Mills
Brian Mosley | 20 Tony Mitchell |
| 8 Mickie Ann Boyd
Helen Dibole | 22 Freddie Strength (75)
Vangie Walmsley |
| 9 Joe Douglas
Katherine Kirk
Kathryn Ann Sikes (11) | 23 Alana Jones Breedlove
Zachery Dibole
Matthew Grant
Rusty Moseley
Jim Scott |
| 10 Jeffery Horton
Pam Stewart | 24 Barbara Garrett
Eli Browning (21) |
| 11 Abby Boyd
Luke Frady | 25 Brantley Woodall
Ty Woodall |
| 12 Cary Dean
Bonnie Williams | 26 Jason Adams
Stacy Dickinson |
| | 27 Jimmy Norman (66) |
| | 28 Arnold Fuller
Melanie Higgins |
| | 30 Shawn O'Mailia
Ronnie Wallace |
| | 31 Meloney Gwin
Caroline Vocino |



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Bob & Liz Morris | 16 Laird & Sarah Bone |
| 3 Dennis & Karen Weber | 20 Spears & Carrie Rhodes |
| 7 April & Hugh Smith, III (16th) | 21 Justin & Bethany Mims |
| 8 Bill & Charlotte Gaston | 26 Blake & Amanda Wise |

IN MEMORY

The 104 year-old WWII veteran, Romay Catherine Davis, passed away June 21, 2024. She served two years and four months in the Women's Army Corps (WACS). On the 74th Anniversary of the desegregation of the Armed Forces, she received the 6888th Central Postal Battalion Congressional Gold Medal. Her article was published in the January 2020 issue of the AL Gazette.



Today's Woman

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

By: Amanda Walker

TEARS & LAUGHTER

The Power of a Pound Cake!

Southern women especially, I think, know how to talk cookery.

TAKE THE POUND CAKE. Three times in the past week I have been involved in conversations about pound cakes. And that's not to ignore the chats about tomatoes fresh from the vine, or about new potatoes, or about running beans in early summer.

There is hardly a shortage of recipes for pound cake. Church cookbooks and community cookbooks always offer several. The variety stemming perhaps from women using ingredients they had on hand.

The real mystery – if not the magic – of pound cake is that all the recipes are somewhat different, yet the cakes turn out almost the same.

Plus, they are always well received. There is no occasion where a pound cake is not appropriate. No date they won't mark.

They celebrate. – They express sympathy.

They have been a staple under the dome of the cake plate for generations and church dinners still can't happen without them.

Neither can family reunions, retirement parties, or Thanksgiving.

The dessert table at Christmas may as well stay empty without at least one pound cake to balance out the host of meringue pies, layered coconut cake, divinity, peanut butter balls, and fudge.

Pound cakes are why people enter cake walks.

They travel well. – You can mail them.

Just the mention of their crust and velvety texture rouse memories. Which could be why we make them still – letting our hands go through the same motions as our grandmothers – creaming sugar with butter, adding eggs...lots of eggs, one by one, allowing time between each for their yellows to disappear.

"You have to add the flour and milk alternately," one conversation went. "Do you prefer using cream cheese?" "Have you ever made lemon?" "Chocolate is divine." "Do you use sweet milk or buttermilk?" "Should you start with a cold oven...or preheat?"

We all shared our thoughts and quizzed one another, though bound all the while in the ways of those who taught us.

In the right hand of the Southern cook there may indeed be a cast iron skillet. But in the crook of her left arm, held tight against her heart is an aluminum pound cake pan, passed down and forever treasured.

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

Trisston's Tidbits:

By: Trisston Wright Burrows

Ms. Wheelchair
America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com



THE DEVIL'S GOAL

What if I told you the devil's goal wasn't for you to follow him? It's a crazy thought, right? I had this realization the other day when I was asking how anyone could follow the devil versus follow God.

It seems like such an easy decision, but I realized that devil's goal isn't for you to follow him. The devil's goal is for you to follow yourself. It's for you to truly believe in yourself so much that you will follow your own way and your own desires. And even say that you do not need God and you don't need Him as your Lord and Savior.... "Don't worry, I got this."

In the Book of Revelation, there are times when God comes back and He shows Himself to people. It's crazy because they still do not follow Him. I wondered how is that anyone would continue to follow Satan? But it's not following the devil, it's following themselves. That being said, is there anything wrong with having belief in yourself and confidence. Self-confidence is an amazing thing. However, it's better to have that confidence with God, not without Him.

In the book of Proverbs 3:5-6 it says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. Acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight."

Trust in God to lead you and He will provide.

Many Blessings!

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Life Is A Story

*"I wonder what sort of tale
we've fallen into?"*

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

John Eldredge, in his book, *Epic*, tells us that life is a story. God is telling a story and you have a crucial role to play. Do you know what kind of tale you were born into? Do you know the story? Do you understand your role in the story? Life will never make sense until you do!

In *Epic*, Eldredge writes:

"Notice that all great stories pretty much follow the same story line. Things were once good, then something awful happened, and now a great battle must be fought or a journey taken. At just the right moment (which feels like the last possible moment), a hero comes and sets things right, and life is found again.

It's true of every fairy tale, every myth, every Western, every epic—just about every story you can think of, one way or another. *Braveheart*, *Titanic*, the *Star Wars* series, *Gladiator*, *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy. They pretty much all follow the same story line.

Have you ever wondered why?

Every story, great and small, shares the same essential structure because every story we tell borrows its power from a Larger Story, a Story woven into the fabric of our being—what pioneer psychologist Carl Jung tried to explain as archetype, or what his more recent popularizer Joseph Campbell called myth.

Soul Searching...



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All of these stories borrow from the Story. From Reality. We hear echoes of it through our lives. Some secret written on our hearts. A great battle to fight, and someone to fight for us. An adventure, something that requires everything we have, something to be shared with those we love and need."

There is a Story we just can't seem to escape. There is a Story written on the human heart. As Ecclesiastes has it,
"He has planted eternity in the human heart." Ecclesiastes 3:11 (NLT)

I would invite you to begin an adventure by seeking to know and understand the Story that we are in. The Story is found in the Bible. It is the Story God is telling. And until you grasp that there is a larger Story and that you were born into this Story with a purpose, you will never be clear on why you are here.

Therefore, I strongly urge you to begin reading the Story revealed on the pages of the scriptures found in the Old and New Testaments. A really good place to start discovering the Story God is telling is in the Gospel According to John:
"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made: without him nothing was made that has been made." - John 1:1-3

Your homework: Read together the Gospel of John and the book, *Epic*, by John Eldredge. I am confident it will help you understand the tale you feel like you have fallen into and the Story that God is telling. I pray you will also discover your purpose in the Story and the vital role you have to play!

Blessings



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Reflections.....

By : Pastor Michael J. Brooks

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Sunday Morning
Bible Study - 9:15
Worship - 10:30
Wednesday Night
All ages 6:30
Come and visit!



I saw some ornate books lately at a used bookstore. They had gilt edges and beautifully decorated spines. It reminded me of the time an older minister who was a mentor gave me a beautiful book. And I remember what he said, "This book may not help you, but it will look good on your shelf!"

I think his comment, though spoken in jest, speaks in the same way to the heart of Christian commitment.

One occupational hazard in the Christian life is only looking good. We sit in the same class and on the same pew, we dress up and we say "amen" when appropriate. All of this is fine, but it's also true that most of our lives (six days out of seven) are lived outside the four walls of the church. It's to the outside world we're called not just to look good, but to do good, to help others and to honor the Lord.

The late Robert Schuller gave this as one reason he wished to build a glass church.

"We won't hide behind stained glass, but as we worship, we'll see a world outside in need," he said.

My wife and I visited the Crystal Cathedral many years ago when the Southern Baptist Convention met in Los Angeles, and I must say, it was breath-taking. But whether we're in a glass church or one built of brick and mortar, what Schuller said is true. We can never substitute the optics of looking good for the biblical command to share the love of Christ with those around us who need to hear.

As the Apostle Paul wrote, we're redeemed for a reason: **"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,"** (Ephesians 2:10).

"Reflections" is a weekly faith column written by Michael J. Brooks, pastor of the Siluria Baptist Church, Alabaster, Alabama. The church's website is siluriabaptist.com.

It Looks Good On The Shelf

One of the ministry traditions I grew up with is that older ministers would often give us younger ministers a treasured book—either one from their libraries or a copy of one they found encouraging.

I think this tradition is all but over now.

Many of us older pastors have tried to give away portions of our libraries we're not using now, only to find that the "young bucks" don't value books like we do. Research suggests the typical pastor in my day acquired a library worth \$50,000 or more. I think that's true since we bought commentaries and study materials a few at a time over 30 or 40 years of ministry.

But younger pastors have been raised in the Internet era. I must say, it's easier to find information online than digging through textbooks, but my generation loves to hold books in our hands and have even been known to use pen and paper as we study!

DAR Celebrate Flag Day

Captain William Bibb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution held its annual Flag Day celebration on June 15, 2024 in the fellowship hall of the Trinity Episcopal Church in Wetumpka, AL.

This year's event was paired with a commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day as Captain William Bibb and their guests enjoyed a commemorative coffee.

Daughters from River Region chapters including Prattville's Atagi, Peter Forney, Anne Phillips and daughters from the John Wade Keyes chapter in Athens, AL, joined with John Archer Elmore Sons of the American Revolution and the Isaac Ross Society Children of the American Revolution in this special commemoration. Special guests welcomed to the event were Alabama Society DAR State Recording Secretary Anne Parramore, State Librarian Nancy Williams, Alabama Society Children of the American Revolution, Sara Cagle, AL DAR President and AL Society SAR State Genealogist Earl Gillian Jr. In keeping with the commemorative theme of the day, First Vice Regent Elizabeth Speer

Gillian who served as the ASDAR State Commemorative Events Chair for the Donnelly Administration presented a program entitled "Reflections on Flag Day and Seven Flags Over Alabama". She wove Flag Day's historical facts and history into a cohesive story which also shed light on the seven flags flown over Alabama.

With June 6, 2024 being the 80th Anniversary of D Day and knowing that the flag of the United States was a welcoming symbol of America's national defense, Earl Gillian Jr, Sons of American Revolution State Genealogist and husband of DAR Daughter Elizabeth Speer Gillian, shared remembrances from the Son of a D-Day Survivor. He told of stories of the military service of his father, Earl Gillian Sr., who was one of two in his unit to survive the D-Day assault on Omaha Beach.

There was a display of memorabilia of seven WWII veterans, relatives of DAR members, including: (1.) Col Hugh D. Cargill, (2.) Warren Glasscock, (3) Ed Speer, (4) Earl Gillian Sr., (5) Ralph H. Mullins, (6) Kenneth Synder & (7) Carl Edwards.



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