

25th

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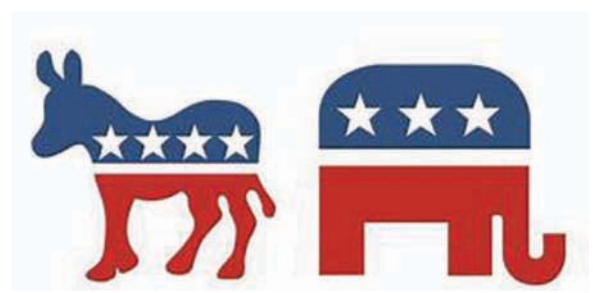
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Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony
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Robservations



**SPECIAL
Feature
Articles by
ROB TATE**

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25th Anniversary



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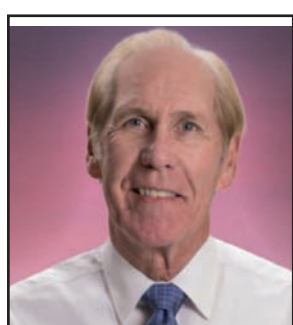
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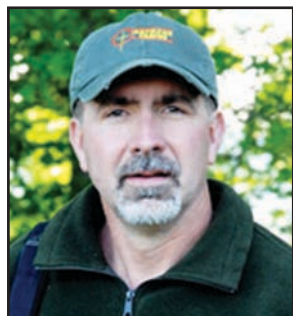
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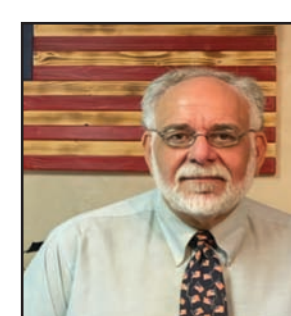
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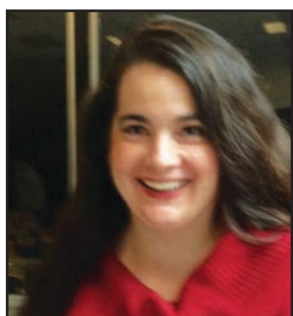
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Rob Tate

something spoke to me and said I should share this as a Robservation.

You have always been told that there are two sides to a story. I often say that actually there are three: Yours, mine and the truth. The Bible often warns us against presenting your side of the story too quickly and also urges us to use discernment anytime we are confronted with information. Stories get embellished, half-truths are told, information is hidden and way too often, outright lies are told. Be careful what you listen to.

When I was flying, I flew with some very interesting men and women. Strangely enough, because of my company's hiring practices, we generally got along with each other. Military, civilian, men, women. It really did not matter. Of course, out of the hundreds of people I flew with there were those (3 of them) that I would never fly with again under any circumstance but it was a great experience flying with such diverse people. Sitting in the cockpit with another person for hours and hours, generally 3-5 days at a time, you get to learn some interesting things about them.

For example, there was one captain, a wonderful man, who shared his cancer story with me and his absolute, 100% healing miracle. In the cockpit, we had guys with kids and grandkids as well as those still flying combat missions overseas. You name it. But some of the more difficult stories to hear were pilots who were going through divorce. It is a wonder after listening to some stories how they could function in the cockpit. Yet they did. Another testament to how my company hires pilots.

But there is one story I need to share. I have no idea of the pilot's name since that has long been forgotten. But his story began as many that I heard. He and his wife got divorced. To say it was contentious is an understatement. But as it often happens, after the wife got custody of the three kids, one of her goals was to destroy her ex-husband in the eyes of children. This unfortunately happens every day. Both men and women can be guilty of this. All three of this pilot's children were under the age of 5 when his divorce occurred so the mother had over a decade and a half to poison their minds against the father. She was successful.

Let's fast forward about 20 years. At this point, the father wanted desperately to reach out to his children. He had heard through the grapevine that his oldest daughter was engaged to get married and he wanted to be a part of that moment. So, he got her email and sent her a letter. Unbeknownst to him, after she got the letter, she was at the house of her future in-laws and her fiancé. As his daughter related to him, she was bashing him quite badly in front of her future father-in-law. After a while, the man spoke up and told her that although he loved her, he did not want to hear anything more of this coming out of her mouth. He told her that for the last 20 years, she had heard nothing but bad things about her father from her. He told her that she needed to grow up and reach back out to her father and hear his side of the story. He got up and stormed out.

Hurt by her future father-in-law, she eventually relented and reached out to her father. He told her that the following week he had a layover in her city and asked if they could meet for dinner. She reluctantly agreed. When he showed up at the restaurant, he had a large package with him but he did not say anything about it. They sat down to an uncomfortable silence and it was clear the daughter did not want to be there. Although the conversation was strained,

Robservations... #2...

Yes, I find it funny how one side of the political world enjoys claiming the other side is spewing hate and dissention around the country. And we all know what I am talking about. The left is forever saying that the unrestrained MAGA right cannot control their hatred and violent talk but as I sit here with an open mind, it is painfully obvious what side is the real political threat to peace in this country. Although every day you hear the left claiming vitriolic blather coming from the right, I simply do not see it. I am not talking about a one-off white supremacist spewing stupidity, but hate and basically a call to violence coming from some of the highest offices in our country.

The other day, Fox News rolled the following quotes from some Democrats in leadership in our country. It is telling.

- President Biden – *"It's time to put Trump in a bullseye."*
- President Biden – *"Trump and MAGA Republicans are a threat to the very soul of this country."*
- VP Harris – *"Trump is a threat to our democracy and fundamental freedoms."*
- Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): *"Trump is a threat to our democracy and the kind that we have not seen."*
- Rep. Jasmine Crockett (D-TX): *"MAGA in general – they are a threat to us domestically."*
- Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN): *"Trump is an enemy of the United States."*
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA): *"Trump is the 'gravest threat to our democracy."*
- Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY): *"Trump cannot be president again. He's an existential threat to democracy."*
- Rep. Dan Goldman (D-NY): *"Trump remains the greatest threat to our democracy."*
- Rep. Becca Balint (D-VT): *"We cannot underestimate the threat (Trump) poses to American democracy."*
- Rep. Jason Crow (D-CO): *"Trump is an extreme danger to our democracy."*
- Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA): *"Donald Trump is a threat to our nation, our freedom, and our democracy."*
- Rep. Pat Ryan (D-NY): *"Trump is an existential threat to American democracy."*
- Former Harris-Biden staffer Kate Bedingfield: *Democrats should "turn their fire on Donald Trump."*

I guess two assassination attempts on Trump is not enough. Violence is in vogue now with their side. Many simply laugh it off or do not even consider what is actually being done. What is funny, however, is that when I ask people to share similar quotes coming from the right, they never give an exact quote (because they can't) and if they do it is never from a person holding office in the government. Why is that? Hmmm. The press is continually hellbent on painting a violent rightwing narrative but the hate continually comes from the left. And let's all be honest with one another here, ANTIFA, BLM, NFAC are all about as left as you can get. Two assassination attempts on former President Trump; left. Cities burning; left. City autonomous zones; left. I love the hypocrisy in that the "Anti-Fascists" are totally fascist in their ideology and actions.

DO AS I SAY, NOT AS I DO!

Under the leadership of Josef Goebbels, Nazi propaganda was masterful. They were great at blaming others for actions that their own people were in fact doing. In 1933 when he took over the Ministry for Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, he eventually fully controlled all radio, press, publishing, cinema and other arts. In effect, if you were German, for the most part you heard what

Robservations... #1

ALWAYS ANOTHER SIDE

she finally, asked what was in the package. He told her to open it up and see. When she did, as I remember him telling me, it was some sort of Barbie's Fun House. His daughter looked at it and asked what the he\$@ that was for?

This is where the story turns on a dime. He told her that was her Christmas present the year he and her mother got divorced. "What?" He told her that every year for the past 20 years, every Christmas, every birthday, every Valentine's Day, proms and other special event, he bought each of them a present. She refused to believe it. That is when she noticed the large binder he had with him. He opened it and showed her pictures. One picture was a room in his house, filled with hundreds of presents. He told her, those were the things he bought for the three of them through the years. She sat stunned. Speechless.

Then she spoke up. "But mom told us you didn't care. You left us. You never even paid any child support." He told her first of all that divorce was her choice. Then he opened up the binder and slide it over to her. Page after page of bank documents, receipts, and proof of electronic transfers. As she sifted through page after page, he told his daughter there was the proof that he never once missed a child support or alimony payment; no matter what she claimed. At close to eighteen years, we are talking hundreds of thousands of dollars. "But mom said..." He told her that if she did not have something she needed, it was not because he didn't provide. What the mother did with the money was out of his control. (An issue for another day).

He told her his side of the 20-year story; from divorce up until that night. Yes, her life, along with the lives of her other sister and baby brother, was a lie. It was not just her father's word but he had photographs, bank receipts and statements to verify his story. He told me they both cried a lot that night and when they left, she hugged him for the first time since she was five years old. Can you imagine how that must have felt for both of them? She went home and told her brother and sister what had happened. The sister was curious and wanted to meet him too. The three of them did one of those cool cross country train trips just getting to know each other. The son, at the time, quite the mama's boy, still did not want to have anything to do with him.

In the end, the oldest daughter most certainly did get married. And guess who gave her away? Yes, the father. He was in the wedding. The mother? She was relegated to the last row in the church with absolutely nothing to do with the wedding and as far as I know, the daughter has nothing to do with her mother to this day. This Captain told me that his daughter did not even want her mother there but he insisted. Through it all, he felt it was the right thing to do.

In the beginning of this Robservation, I warned about three sides of the story. But a man like this pilot, doesn't come unarmed to conversations like this. Pictures (lots of them) and other things verified his side of the story. The mother, because of her lies and deceit, at the time, lost two of the three kids she had. I have no idea what the brother thinks today.

So again, I have no idea who this is for. Someone reading this is going through something similar. All I can say is be honest, keep accurate records, do not try to destroy your ex-spouse to your children, hold to the truth and in the end, the truth will come out. This pilot played the "long game." He could have huff and puffed and piss and moaned, but he didn't. He knew that if he did his part in maintaining the truth, it would eventually come out. His wife, playing the short game may have won those short years with her children, but come time for grandchildren and other amazing events in their lives for the next 30 to 40 years or more, she will have lost. Do I feel sorry for her. Nope. Not in the least. She did everything she could to destroy the relationship between children and their father and in the end failed. He realized that he had to be his biggest advocate and wait for his day of judgment. Like him, you will be vindicated and that which you thought was lost forever will come back to you. Prayers for whoever needed this today.

HAIL THE VITRIOL!!

he wanted you to hear. That is why Goebbels instituted a mass production of radios so every home in Germany could listen to "their truth." Sound familiar? Today, from the left we continually hear calls for censoring free speech. Do you remember President Biden's failed Disinformation Governance Board back in 2022 that was to be run by a Nina Jankowicz? Their plan was to weaponize the Department of Homeland Security to combat "misinformation" or rather information they did not agree with. Straight from the Nazi Playbook. In effect, in an eerily Orwellian way, they wanted to create their own Ministry of Truth. While Trump is continually blasted as a threat democracy, what would you call censoring the First Amendment? On MSNBC Tim Walz said he supported censoring disinformation and declared, "There's no guarantee to free speech on misinformation or hate speech, and especially around our democracy." So who gets to say what is misinformation, the Ministry of Truth?

THE CORONATION

So, tell me. What does 30 January 1933 and 5 August 2024 have in common? On the first date, Adolf Hitler was installed as Chancellor of Germany by Paul von Hindenburg. He was not voted in by the people at that time. He was placed there by others in charge and as we say, the rest is history. On 5 August 2024, we saw Kamala Harris installed as the Democrat nominee for President. She was not voted on. Except for the electors, no Democrats actually placed a vote for her. That entire system was bypassed. Yet, once again they want to insist others are existential threats to democracy. Nothing cries democracy like completely bypassing the democratic system and disenfranchising the Democratic voters in this country. Remember, when Harris ran for President in 2020, the people's opinion of her was quite clear and she withdrew early in the process.

I have heard the argument that there were extenuating circumstances such as President Biden's health. No, I do not accept that. Until the disastrous debate with Trump when the entire world had to finally confront what we had all been seeing for the past four years, the Democrats were content to hide him and to let him run again. How easy is it to manipulate someone in his apparent mental state? Do not for one second believe any Democrats who have said they sat in the room with him on a daily basis and never noticed any mental decline. That is absolutely a preposterous lie. Like I wrote in a Robservation two months ago, me sitting here in Alabama first wrote about his mental decline back in February 2021. If I saw his decline from here four years ago, you know they all witnessed it every day. This Harris coronation could have easily been avoided and the democratic process could have taken place. They instead chose deception and we have what we have. How are people okay with that?

BY THE NUMBERS

In a recent "data dump," according to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), 425,431 migrants with criminal convictions have been released into the United States. If you consider every illegal alien is a criminal, that number is obviously much higher but that is an argument for another day. Of these criminals who are just "wanting a better life," some 13,099 people were convicted of homicide, 14,301 of burglary, and 15,811 of sexual assault. They were detained before being set free while their cases are pending. A further 62,631 had convictions of assault, 10,031 for robbery, and 56,553 for an unspecified dangerous drugs offense, according to data up to July 21 2024. In all, the most common crime was traffic offenses of which 77,074 people had been convicted.

Continued on next page

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CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

HAIL THE VITRIOL!!

This tells us that there are (at least) 172,426 non-American murderers, rapists, burglars, violent offenders, and drug offenders roaming our country. I am not surprised I am not hearing a lot of this story on the news. Nobody wants to address this 800-pound gorilla in the room. And unfortunately, too many in our government do not seem to care about the invading hordes and their potential impact on our country. Perhaps all of our politicians need to revisit their oath of office. We need to start holding them criminally accountable for violating their oath. When they start placing the needs of these people over our own citizens, they need to rethink why they are in office or rather, the voters need to rethink why we continually reelect them.

The oath of office for “An individual, except the President, elected or appointed to an office of honor or profit in the civil service or uniformed services.

Robservations... #2... HERE WE GO AGAIN...

After I wrote my latest Robservation, almost as soon as I sent it in, Iran started launching missiles at Israel -- again!! According to the news, the Iranians launched almost two-hundred missiles, drones and rockets into Israel. Thank God, our God, almost all of those projectiles were defeated and sent down without causing too much damage or casualties. But watching the attack on the television this morning was something that angered me.

The entire world, with some notable exceptions, seem to be standing against Israel. The worthless U.N. is arguably the worst. Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said it best when he said that nobody was crying for a cease-fire until Israel started fighting back. This is true. Yet our Vice-President, just today could not say that Netanyahu is an ally of the United States. The people of Israel, yes. Netanyahu? Crickets – pathetic. So now Israel, out-manned but certainly not out “Godded,” will be forced to stand against forces wanting nothing less than their total extinction.

I stand with Israel. Deal with it. I read that Iran state media said Israel will face “crushing attacks” if they respond to the Iranian strikes. Can you believe that. One country launches hundreds of projectiles in an attempt to kill your people and destroy your cities and they have the gumption to say, “Yeah, we attacked you. But you had better not hit us back.” I am not sure but I am willing to bet that there are a couple of million middle fingers in Israel tonight getting ready for a busy day tomorrow.

Since this is just unfolding, there will be more of this to come later.

IT IS A PRINCIPLE

*Know well the condition of your flocks, And pay attention to your herds;
For riches are not forever, Nor does a crown endure to all generations.
When the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,
The lambs will be for your clothing, And the goats will bring the price of a field,
And there will be goats' milk enough for your food, For the food of your household, And sustenance for your maidens.*
Proverbs 27:23-27

Hurricane Helene did a number on the United States and the death toll continues to climb. I love the book of Proverbs. Included in my daily quiet time, I always read the corresponding Proverb with the date. For example, today, the 7th of October, I read Proverbs 7. I have been doing this for years. What I love about the book of Proverbs is that it is full of principles for life. There are so many facets of our lives that are covered that it seems that no matter how many times I read this book, I am gaining insight to something I did not see before. That is why the Word of God is “living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword. . .” But principles, just like the principles of war I often talk about are just that; principles.

The verse at the beginning of this section is no different. No matter how much we try to dilute the truth, it is a Biblical principle that are leaders are to take care of their people first. This of course deals with home life as well in this context. But leaders are to “know well the condition of their flock.” So many

THE PRESIDENT’S. OATH OF OFFICE

A. “I, ___, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.””

B. “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.”

1. www.spectator.co.uk/article/the-truth-about-biden-s-new-disinformation-tsar/
2. thehill.com/opinion/civil-rights/4820490-harris-walz-administration-free-speech/
3. msn.com/en-us/news/politics/revealed-the-number-of-criminal-migrants-released-into-the-us/ar-AAIrlGqi#:~:text=In%20all%2C%20425%2C431%20migrants%20with%20criminal%2C%20A0convictions%20have%20been,traffic%20offences%20of%20which%2077%2C074%20had%20been%20convicted.

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times, I hear people, usually non-Christians, spout words that are contrary to the Word and I just shake my head. They say it is the Christian thing to do to take care of all the people who come to this country. Even those who come here illegally. I wholly disagree. The Christian thing is to take care of your people first. Then, if there is money and resources left over, absolutely, 100%, you help others. But if giving billions of dollars to other countries while your own people are suffering from a natural disaster and you can only give a little money to help them, you have lost your focus. Unless that is in fact your focus to begin with. Free housing, free education, and medical at the expense of your own people is criminal in my mind. Why on earth would you want to help others before you help Americans? Homeless vets, the victims of Helene, etc. The Left’s solution? Let’s give more money to the Ukraine and to the people of Lebanon first. Let’s dole out millions of dollars, raiding the FEMA coffers, in order to help illegal aliens while saying there is almost no money left to help Americans. This administration: shame on all of you and many others.

SHE SAID THE QUIET THING OUT LOUD

www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/hillary-clinton-declares-we-lose-total-control-if-we-don-t-moderate-and-monitor-social-media-content-more/ar-AAIrkMJS

They are not even hiding it anymore. The Leftist are proudly proclaiming what they want to accomplish. It should not be any surprise because the Left has done anything but pull back on the rhetoric after two assassination attempts on Donald Trump. They almost seem proud to be a part of a movement that wants to kill any opposition to their warped vision of America. But the other day, Hillary Clinton actually said that “quiet thing out loud.” Talking about free speech, one of the primary targets of the Left, totally in line with all of their fascist and socialist doctrine, actually admitted that we need to limit free speech. In the link above, you can find the video of her making this claim. Although the quote is too long to publish here, she in part said concerning social media that “We need national action . . . This should be at the top of every legislative, political agenda . . . whether it’s Facebook or Twitter or X or Instagram or TikTok, whatever they are, if they don’t moderate and monitor the content we lose total control.” She said we need more “guardrails” and “regulations.”

Although this is cleverly crafted in terms of trying to protect children, we can and should all be able to “zwischen den Zahlen lesen” -- read between the lines. The true purpose, in addition to perhaps protecting children (I am not convinced they truly care about this), is to limit what these platforms can say. The left wants to determine that which can and cannot be published. Who gives them the right to determine what is truth? Oh, they do. Remember Nina Jankowicz. Just like Josef Goebbels. Right now, he is looking up from Hell admiring the principles that he put into place taking hold in the United States. But like I said, perhaps most troubling is that the Left is not even trying to hide their goals. It is out in the open and unfortunately there are millions of lemmings and lambs out there numbly nodding their heads in agreement.

The founding fathers had it right. Communists, socialists, progressives, and fascists all stand in opposition to this basic fundamental right. Where do you stand?

Share these thoughts with others!

Rob Tate



Trump-Vance’s Vision is America’s Path to Recovery and Prosperity

The contrast between the Trump-Vance ticket and the absolutely disastrous Harris-Walz team couldn’t be clearer. On one side, you’ve got a proven leader in President Donald J. Trump, a man who brought us economic prosperity, secured our borders, and ensured peace through strength without dragging us into a single new war. On the other side, you’ve got Kamala Harris and Tim Walz—an uninspiring, inept duo who represent more of the same weak, failed policies of the Biden administration.



As Joe Biden recently stated “She was a major player in everything we’ve done” and he added “her staff is interlocked with mine in terms of all things we are doing”.

First, the economy. Under President Trump, we had record job growth, American manufacturing was brought back from the brink, and wages were rising across the board. Compare that to the economic carnage we’ve seen under Biden and Harris—skyrocketing inflation, crumbling small businesses, and families struggling to make ends meet. Harris has been in office for close to four years now, and what has she accomplished? Not a thing! Now she’s out there talking about all the things she wants to do. She had her chance, and she blew it.

And don’t get me started on border security. Under Trump, the southern border was the most secure it had been in decades. Illegal crossings were way down, and we were building the wall. Harris? She was appointed the so-called “Border Czar,” and yet our southern border has turned into a complete disaster. We have a never ending flood of illegal immigrants, human trafficking is rampant, and deadly drugs like fentanyl are pouring into our communities. She’s been completely AWOL on these issues, failing miserably at the most critical jobs she was given.

Then there’s the matter of war and peace. Trump’s “peace through strength” approach kept America safe and respected on the global stage. He rebuilt our military, stood strong against our enemies, and didn’t involve us in endless wars. What’s Kamala’s track record here? Well, she’s got none.



Perry O. Hooper Jr.

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

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Donald J. Trump has a record he can proudly run on. He’s done it before, and he’ll do it again. Meanwhile, Kamala Harris is trying to run as fast as she can from the disastrous policies of the Biden-Harris administration. They refused to be interviewed about the Biden Harris policies, all failures. But we will remember.

And then there’s the Vice Presidential Candidates, who are a heartbeat away from the Oval Office, Trump’s pick J.D. Vance a proud Marine is a man cut from the same cloth as

Ronald Reagan. His story is the embodiment of the American Dream, Born into abject poverty he became a Harvard educated attorney, a successful entrepreneur, and author. He’s got the vision, the integrity, and the backbone this country needs. He entered politics not for personal glory but to ensure the future of the country for his children and our grandchildren.

Meanwhile, Walz defining feature as a vice president candidate - Not telling the truth. Tim Walz’s credibility was destroyed when he was caught fabricating stories about his military service, claiming to have carried “weapon of war” in a combat zone, a blatant case of stolen valor. This isn’t just a harmless exaggeration—this is dishonesty that disrespects the brave men and women who have actually served honorably. He also shamelessly claimed to have stood in Tiananmen Square, positioning himself as some kind of seasoned veteran of international affairs, when in reality it was a complete lie. And speaking of foreign policy let’s not overlook his cozy admiration for the Chinese Communist Party where he states “he learned governance”. Walz has shown more interest in learning about leadership from authoritarian regimes than defending the freedoms that make America great. He seems to have taken more notes from the CCP’s playbook on control and propaganda than from our founding fathers, and that’s a dangerous mindset for anyone seeking a position of power.

America deserves real leadership. The Trump-Vance ticket is about putting America first, restoring our economy, securing our borders, and protecting our freedoms. The Harris-Walz ticket? More of the same weak, dishonest, and failed leadership. The choice couldn’t be clearer.

Make America Great Again, Vote Donald Trump and J D Vance!



Ronald A. Holtsford

I See That Some Musicians Object to Donald Trump Using Their Music In His Rallies; Especially The Song "Hold On, I'm Coming", Written By Two Men Including The Late Isaac Hayes Whose Estate Is Now Suing Trump. What Are The Rules?

Yes, there have been multiple musicians who like most arts employed individuals tend to identify as politically and culturally liberal. Trump tends to stir the emotions of those that love him or hate him. That includes opposing politicians such as former Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi who demonstrated her vile contempt that extended not just against the person but against the office when she tore up her copy of Trump's, State of the Union Address during his Presidency.

A song that the Trump campaign has used at rallies is the 1966 Dave Parker and Isaac Hayes song, "Hold On I'm Coming" that they co-wrote. The song was written for the use of Sam and Dave who released it in 1967. Isaac Hayes died at the age of 65 in 2008. Prior to that time Mr. Hayes had several issues during his life including a bankruptcy in which he lost all rights to the music he had written or performed. The Trump campaign assert that they had obtained and paid for the appropriate licensing. Isaac Hayes, III as an heir to Isaac Hayes and a party with Isaac Hayes Enterprises (collectively Hayes) asserts that the Trump campaign does not have current licensing rights. The Hayes parties claim that the Trump campaign had licensing between 30 November 2022 and 5 June 2024. Further, Hayes claims that they were able to re obtain 50% of the ownership and that the Trump campaign had its licensing use terminated.

Sam Moore, of Sam and Dave has sung at times for the Trump campaign and disagrees with the Hayes narrative. While he does not know how Isaac Hayes would feel about the lawsuit, he feels it is politically motivated on the part of Hayes. I would also think it is as much financially motivated.

An Atlanta judge has granted to Hayes injunctive relief so for now I assume the Trump campaign is not using the song, "Hold On I'm Coming".

I have no idea whether the whole song is used at his rallies or possibly just the phrase "Hold On I'm Coming". Within the law, there is the Fair Use Doctrine which is laid out in 1976 copyright law. Something similar to Fair Use first arose

in Great Britain in 1710. Some of the areas that Fair Use might be utilized is in parody, news reporting, scholarship, commentary, search engines, criticism, and research. The use considers what is "based on a flexible proportionality test that examines the purpose of the use, the amount used, and the impact on the market of the original work", "Copyright and Fair Use". ogc.harvard.edu. Harvard Office of the General Counsel. One would hardly think that the Trump campaign would profit from playing the song nor take away from the sale of the song by the public. Surely it may energize the supporters and who knows whether the Trump campaign profits from more donations by playing that particular song. I guess from what I learned in law school, I had the impression that snippets were generally included as Fair Use save for frequent repetition. To me it would seem that the balance of public use and exposure versus the rights of the artist, author, etc. would come within the doctrine of Fair Use. I often see on news shows the use of a popular song snippet as the news goes to commercial break. These snippets are never the same. I would interpret that as falling under the Fair Use Doctrine, even though a liberal leaning artist may object to their snippet being used by a conservative organization; so like Trump there may also be a problem with the use by Fox News. Then again, I don't work in copyright law so my understanding may not be correct.

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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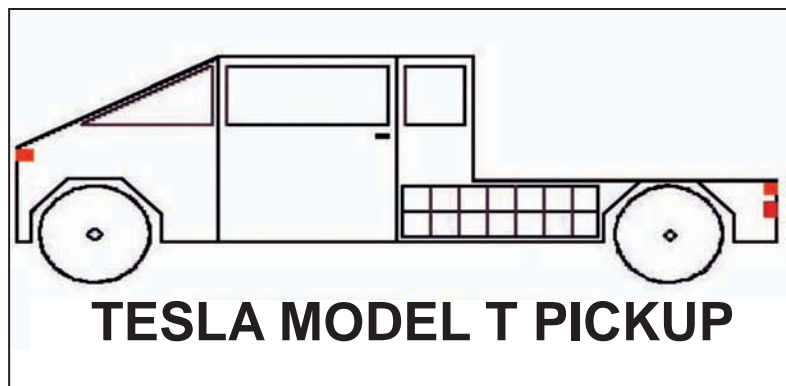


Know the issues! – Know the Candidates! – Know Where Your Voting Precinct is before November 5th!

Take pride in being an **American Citizen**. It is a privilege and responsibility to **VOTE!**



John Martin



TESLA MODEL T PICKUP

Although it still remains the electric car superpower, Tesla is beginning to slip behind its Chinese competitors in the production of really affordable vehicles for lower income people. With its launch of the Model 2 Redwood, beginning as low as \$19,500, it has taken a step in the right direction. But Tesla is still far behind BYD, which builds several really inexpensive cars, like the Seagull with a sticker price of only \$10,000.

Throughout history, while most makers were targeting middle and upper level buyers, only two have focused onto the lower level clients—the ones who would be buying their products in huge numbers.

One of these, of course, is Ford. Beginning in 1908, its simplistic Model T sold rapidly across the nation with prices starting at \$950. As production developed and efficiency improved, prices quickly plummeted all the way down to \$360 by 1916. Altogether, up until 1931, Ford built and sold 15 million Model T's.

Later, in December, 1927, in response to the demand for sturdier vehicles, Ford introduced the Model A, which featured "a standard set of driver controls, including a clutch, brake pedals, throttle and gearshift," along with "a triplex shatterproof safety windshield" and hydraulic shocks—features we see on modern cars today.

By 1931, Ford had sold over five million Model A's.

Even after providing generous pay raises for its workers, Ford's assembly line efficiency and huge production made it America's most profitable auto manufacturer.

The other legendary company that followed Ford's example was Volkswagen, with a name that literally means "People's Car." Volkswagen beetles have been sold all over the globe from the mid-1940's through the 1970's in the US and well into the 21st century in Mexico and other places. Volkswagen made and sold more than 23 million beetles worldwide.

All of these cars have one common denominator—simplicity, durability, ease of maintenance and repair, and low cost. Because they were inexpensive, they were within reach of nearly everybody's budget.

So what should Tesla do? Build a \$10,000 car? Elon might want to build some one day. But that might not be his best next move.

What should he build? He could even get a jump on BYD and the other Chinese makers.

In the world of ICE cars, Toyota is introducing its IMV Zero, a bare bones small pickup truck that costs only \$8000. It has only two doors, a single seat (for 2 or 3 people), and a single flat six foot bed where the customer can install whatever he wants. Mass production hasn't even begun, but consumers all over the world are already drooling to get their hands on them.

Why the excitement? In parts of the world, and especially in America, **WE HAVE A CHRONIC SHORTAGE OF SMALL PICKUP TRUCKS**. Because of excessive CAFE requirements and other government oppressions, U. S. automakers are unable to profitably build them,

and the so-called "Chicken Tax" hamstringing their importation. Whether the IMV Zero can even be built or sold here is still debatable.

But what about an electric IMV Zero? No CAFE restrictions. No worries about emissions. No chicken tax. Just build and sell them. And so far, even BYD and others are not building any. Here is Tesla's golden opportunity.

What would a Tesla IMV Zero look like? Like military vehicles, it would be built for simplicity and efficiency—for function rather than appearance. Screws, bolts, and other essential fasteners would never be concealed, but instead be exposed and readily accessed. Its practical, angular body, from the front, could resemble a small Cybertruck, but without all of its bells and whistles—no glass roof, only two doors, only one seat (up to 3 people), rear wheel drive, and one motor. It would be about 15 feet long, 5.5 feet wide, and 5 feet tall—the same size as the small pickups that Toyota built and sold in the U. S in the 1970's and 1980's—four feet shorter, 1.5 feet narrower, 1.25 feet lower, and about 50% lighter than the hulking Cybertruck. Most basic functions like steering, lights, wipers, locks etc. could be mechanical, like standard ICE trucks—simple and easy to fix. The body would consist of flat panels of stainless steel, like the Cybertruck (or ordinary steel if the stainless is too costly). The back would be a flat 6 X 5.5 foot stainless steel bed with threaded mounting holes for whatever attachments the customer wants. We could name it the Tesla Model T—which would reflect on the world's first affordable car as well as T for truck and also for Tesla.

The new truck would have regenerative braking (at least on the rear wheels), back up and blind spot cameras, and also crash avoidance software, eliminating any need for expensive, bulky and messy air bags. Just fasten your seat belts and go. The flat front and back end panels would be solid tempered steel about 3 mm thick to resist crashes from other vehicles—in case they ignore the radar-powered loud warning horn. And of course, like the legendary Toyota Hilux, the Tesla Model T must be **TOUGH**—able to "take a licking and keep on ticking."

It would also feature a towing capacity—something simple that every Tesla should have—like manual Warn locking hubs that could be set to free spin while being towed. On the new Model T, they would be needed only on the two rear wheels; the front wheels would free spin like any other rear wheel drive vehicle.

It would have one major feature no other Tesla has, but should—interchangeable batteries. With battery technology and capacities growing by leaps and bounds, buyers would no longer worry about their new Teslas becoming obsolete when longer range batteries are later developed, which is a near certainty in just a few years. If ordinary flashlights can have this fundamental capacity, why not Teslas?

The Tesla IMV Zero would feature slide-in pockets on each side where battery modules are slid in, connected, and sealed by watertight doors. Replacing a module (perhaps no more than 100 pounds—about 8 to 10 inches square and 32 inches long) would be as simple as replacing a standard 12 volt car battery.

The truck can be made in Tesla's existing gigafactories, perhaps alongside the Cybertrucks, which are also composed of flat panels. To save time making small parts, many common non-proprietary items (lights, switches, locks, mechanical parts, etc.) might be shopped out to failing ICE makers or other independents, who would love the extra business and would be willing to make good deals to remain solvent.

The Tesla IMV Zero will be an overwhelming best seller. Everybody needs a small, inexpensive, dependable work truck. It doesn't matter if it's ugly. It's purpose is to get jobs done. That's the objective that really matters. As soon as they become available, millions of people will rush to buy and use them.

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STEVE FLOWERS

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/>



67 Counties, One Voice

dealership. He has quickly turned around Fayette County financial condition and is now actively involved in economic development in the area.

Colin Daley is doing an excellent job as chairman of the fast-growing Limestone County. His father served as chairman. Colin, now in his second term, is becoming a major leader in economic development in that area.

Desirae Lewis Jackson from Elmore County is a star on the rise in the Association. She is a young Republican lawyer to keep your eye on.

A superstar is set to arise on the scene of the ACCA in January from Lee County. Jere Colley, Jr. will become Probate Judge of Lee County, who will also serve as Chairman of the County Commission. He will do a great job of leading this important and booming county.

Sonny Brasfield is the Executive Director of the ACCA. He is a mainstay of the organization. Sonny is a Tuscaloosa native and graduate of the University of Alabama. He has been with the Association since 1988 (36 years) and Executive Director since the retirement of Buddy Sharpless in 2009 (15 years). His long tenure reflects his dedication and significant contributions to county governance in Alabama.

The Association of County Commissioners has long been a power on Goat Hill. Sonny Brasfield has sustained and advanced that power immensely. Governor Ivey's 2019 Rebuild Alabama Road Program was fostered by Brasfield and the ACCA. The Act allotted almost 25% of the proceeds of the 10-cent increase in gas tax going to counties for road and bridge improvements.

Brasfield and the ACCA played a significant role in the development of Alabama's internet sales tax (SSUT), that produces almost a billion dollars a year.

When the ACCA talks, legislators listen. The ACCA, established in 1929, concluded their 96th annual convention on August 22. It was a success with Senator Tommy Tuberville giving the keynote address.

An interesting note, Mac McCutcheon, the current Chairman of Madison County Commission, is a former Speaker of the Alabama House. His predecessor, Dale Strong, was elected to the Tennessee Valley Congressional District, and current Jefferson County Commissioner Mike Bolin is a former Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

The Alabama Association of County Commissions has been a powerful organization in politics for almost a century. County Commissioners are an integral part of governing in our state. Over the years they have been thought of as simply road commissioners. They are that, they do oversee all of the county/rural roads in the state. You might say they are where the rubber meets the road. However, they are much more than that.

County governments are big business. In many of our 67 counties the county government operation is one of the largest employers in the county. Therefore, the chairman and other county commissioners have to be good business managers and stewards of very large county budgets. In the past three or four decades, Alabama has been transcending from a rural to a more urban state. Our larger counties, especially the big three of Jefferson, Madison and Mobile are really big businesses.

Randall Dueitt is doing a good job as Chairman of the Mobile County government. The Chairman of the Madison County government, Mac McCutcheon is working closely with Huntsville Mayor, Tommy Battle, to oversee the amazing growth of the Madison/Limestone/Morgan area of our state. The Jefferson County government led by Joe Knight and Jimmie Stephens is a tremendous and integral ingredient of the state's largest county. Jefferson County government is one of the largest employers in Birmingham.

The aforementioned Joe Knight has served as President of the Alabama Association of County Commissions (ACCA) for the past year. The Association held their annual meeting in late August. Commissioner Knight handed over the gavel to Calhoun County Commissioner Lee Patterson. He plans to focus on rural health care. Lee hails from the Jacksonville/Piedmont area of Calhoun County. Patterson is smart, personable, and politically savvy. He will have a good year as President of ACCA. He has a bright future in Alabama Politics.

Other rising stars in the ACCA are Houston County Commission Chairman Brandon Shoupe, Baldwin County Commission Chairman Billie Jo Underwood, Justin Sawyer a Monroe County Commissioner, and Fayette County Probate Judge Mike Freeman, who is the former owner of an automobile



Col John Eidsmoe

MOSES: CENTER OR SIDELINE?

The east pediment of the U.S. Supreme Court building features Solon of Athens as a western lawgiver and Confucius of China as an eastern lawgiver. But in the center between them, taller seated than Solon and Confucius standing, is Moses holding the Ten Commandments – a recognition that the Decalogue is the moral foundation of law.

The basic principles of our legal system are found in the Ten Commandments:

- **Respect for life**, found in the commandment “Thou shalt not kill” and in our homicide and wrongful death laws.
- **Respect for property**, found in the commandment “Thou shalt not steal” and in our property and theft laws.
- **Respect for family**, found in the commandments “Honor thy father and thy mother” and “Thou shalt not commit adultery” and in our laws and court decisions protecting the family as the basic unit of society.
- **Respect for truth**, found in the commandments “Thou shalt not bear false witness” and “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain” and in our perjury laws.
- **Respect for God**, found in the commandment “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” and in the Declaration's reference to “the laws of nature and of nature's God” and the “unalienable rights” endowed by the Creator.

But how did these fundamental principles of law make their way from Mt. Sinai to the courtrooms and legislative chambers of today? Let us trace the connection.

As St. Patrick (5th century AD) evangelized Ireland, he carried with him copies of a Celtic law book *Liber ex Lege Moisi* (*The Book of the Law of Moses*) and gave them to the Brehon (Druid) judges.

When Alfred the Great drafted his Book of Dooms in AD 890, the first written law code to govern all England, he began it with the Ten Commandments and interspersed Bible reference throughout the code.

In medieval Europe, Rabbi Moses Bn Maimon (Maimonides, AD 1135-1204) took the Old Testament monetary laws and drafted them into a code that became the commercial code for much of Europe.

During and after the Renaissance, many European kings revived the old Roman concept of *imperium* and claimed for themselves absolute power. “L'Etat, c'est moi” (“I am the state”) is attributed to Louis XIV of France, supported by Thomas Hobbes's support of the absolute state in his *Leviathan*.

But others feared absolute power and favored republican government – and they looked to the Bible, especially the Old Testament, for a defense of republicanism. One of these was John Selden (1584-1654), a member of the English Parliament and drafter of the Petition of Right. Selden was above all a Hebrew scholar whose writings included *De Successionibus in Bona Secundum Leges Ebraeorum* (1631), *De Jure Naturali et Gentium Juxta Disciplinam Ebraeorum* (1640) and others. These works on Hebrew Law, coupled with his studies of English legal history and English constitutionalism, set forth a Biblical basis for republican thought.

The Dutch scholar Patrus Cunaeus (1586-1638) penned *The Hebrew Republic*, not to be confused with another work by the same title by the Italian scholar Carlos Sigonius (1523-1594). Cunaeus declared in his preface,

“I ask you, illustrious Members of States, to study over and again the Hebrew Republic -- the holiest and best of all -- which

Foundation for Moral Law

One Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104.
(334) 262-1245.

I have described in this book. It contains ideas that kings, leaders, and the administrations of republics may adopt for their own use.”

The Calvinist law professor Johannes Althusius (c. 1557-1638) wrote the classic *Politica*, legal and theological justification for the Dutch secession from Spain and a grand design for federalism based on Scripture and natural law. His 1614 Preface stated,

“The precepts of the Decalogue are included to the extent that they infuse a vital spirit into the association and symbiotic life that we seek, and that they provide and constitute a way, rule, guiding star, and boundary for human society.”

Hugo Grotius (1583-1645) is often called the “father of international law.” Along with his classic *The Rights [Law] of War and Peace*, he published an early Protestant work of Christian apologetics, *The Truth of the Christian Religion*. In *War and Peace* he argued that international law could be binding on both Christian and non-Christian nations because of their common understanding of natural law, but the Mosaic Law can be useful in understanding natural law because ..

what it [the Law of Moses] enjoins is not contrary to the law of nature. For since the law of nature is perpetual and unchangeable, nothing contrary to it could be commanded by God, who is never unjust. Besides, the Law of Moses is called in the xix Psalm an undefiled and right law, and St. Paul, Romans VII. 12, describes it to be holy, just, and good.

Sir William Blackstone (1723-1780), whose *Commentaries on the Laws of England* sold almost as many copies in America as in England, said all human law must be based upon the Law of Nature and the Revealed Law, which he said is found only in the Holy Scriptures. “Upon these two foundations,” he wrote, “the law of nature and the law of revelation depend all human laws, that is to say, no human law should be suffered to contradict these.”



So when we place the Ten Commandments in schools and courthouses, we are not inserting religion into government. We are simply restoring the Decalogue to its rightful place as the moral foundation of law.

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy (obcl.edu) and as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law (morallaw.org). He may be reached for speaking engagements at eidsmoeja@juno.com.

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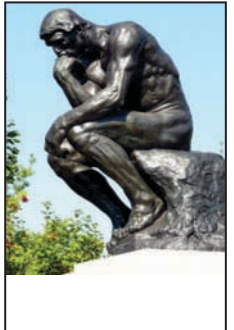


John Sophocleus

Couch voters UNITE against Prostitucians

Haunted by those anticipating another October surprise, I'm told, 'Tis the Season for predictions... Kamalalala or Donald Chump.' As one known to retort Bah, Humbug! at ghosts of elections past evoking the 'visions of sugar pork dance in my head'-- election ghosts of prostitucians present (in full-throated Kabuki Theatre shriek) were also eerily painful to witness; duopoly party candidates babbling about FEDERAL price controls on food at my local grocery store or eating cats and dogs in Springfield. Who could script such hobgoblin nonsense?

"I feel a strong desire to tell you - and I expect you feel a strong desire to tell me - which of these two errors is the worse. That is the devil getting at us. He always sends errors into the world in pairs - pairs of opposites. And he always encourages us to spend a lot of time thinking which is the worse. You see why, of course? He relies on your extra dislike of one error to draw you gradually into the opposite one. But do not let us be fooled. We have to keep our eyes on the goal and go straight through between both errors. We have no other concern than that with either of them."



THINK

In the Spirit of Jacob Marley, I'm empathetic - much to ask dumb masses cognizant of federal, State and local government roles driven by prostitucians - i.e., political prostitutes. Imagine our federal government competently accomplished the few things actually authorized (stable coin based money, uniform tax structure and rational, Constitutional immigration policy seem the 'big three' at this moment) instead of all the soviet policies/programs implemented these past several score. Then perhaps, more may see pet thieves or dictating prices at your local grocery NOT something any intelligent person would want their central government addressing with hundreds of millions in population. Sad how many are snake-fascinated by reality TV shows, 'pro-wrestling matches,' etc. today believing it is genuine.

Moderates 'getting things done' are the most deleterious and oft highest paid prostitucians brokering 'worst of both world' compromises proffering even greater evil as dumb masses who show at the polls keep wasting their votes on 'the lesser of two evils.' Observations in my lifetime place the Comrade Harris/Trump duopoly choice the worst since the McGovern/Nixon disaster of 1972. Sad how many think they can communicate via this broken unrepresentative election mechanism, then get angry as the rigged outcomes keep harming them.

My prediction: couch voters will once again carry this election yet another cycle toward our collapse - i.e., just over 50% of eligible voters will not participate or fail to cast a vote in the presidential race. Turnout will be even worse in low-turnout 'deserts' like Lee County (The Sodom and Gomorrah of East Alabama) where the two major soviet parties' pimping their local prostitucians is omnipresent. Duopoly control over ACCA, BCA, et al political theft is 'AUsome' to behold, from unbridled corruption by AU administrators to soviet-style waste pick-up at one's curbside. No shortage of 'deserters' from the duty to vote by those too lazy to stand against our duopoly soviet parties.

Jan. 6th would've been a noble event if protested the unconstitutional Electoral College due to the 435 limit, uncompetitive ballot access laws, hyper-gerrymandering, etc. Instead it was poop show for a deeply flawed duopoly candidate. Prostitucians and their minions shilling for the Blue or Red soviet are easy to understand. Their specific, usually corporate or social welfare wealth transfers (more important to them than the general welfare) are disproportionately impacted by who's installed by the rigged results. To the generic, productive citizen hosting our prostitucians, the harm is the same independent of the recipient(s) of their hard/honestly earned wealth.

Alabama's 9 electoral votes will reliably go to the Red soviet candidate (currently wearing the Republican jersey although a long time modern Democrat who donated to Kamala Harris) just as Alabama reliably voted for the Blue soviets as the duopoly cemented their anti-competitive stranglehold on the State since the Dixiecrats. Enough 2002 Alabamians showed to vote for a non-duopoly candidate (record turnout rate due to their participation) greatly exceeding the margin of victory between the soviet parties; unknown for weeks which duopoly prostitucian would be installed. The politburo members' response on GOAT (Gorging On Alabama Treasure) Hill? - impose some of the most anti-competitive ballot access laws in our forced coalition of 50 states.

Prior to Chase Oliver's placement on the ballot, I planned to write-in Asa Hutchinson reaffirming I could vote for a duopoly party candidate. Obviously a small govt. candidate of this sort will never get the nomination (illustrated even more so by Ron Paul campaigns for president) in the traditional/big government conservative Republican Party. Thankfully Trump didn't pick Hutchinson for VP to tempt supporting a Red Party candidate, forecasting an aging big government/modern Democrat like Trump days are numbered as the oldest person to hold the presidency hoping to shepherd a good man into the White House. Still, the most compelling write-in I've been told shall be penned on an Alabama ballot is Ken Jennings... hard to name a better illustration of a brilliant person of good Spirit in our White House.

When couch voters participate enough to beat the margin victory, the duopoly has reason to pay attention to Alabama... may even get some ad revenue as well as attention on important State issues concerning soviet programs destroying our quality of life. Political competition to our east has driven much activity and attention to Peach State issues. Only a few have reported the Gary Johnson impact on Trump's 2016 win, Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver may have similar impact in so-called 'Battleground States' again.

Identified as an 'independent' or uncommitted voter, I was sent a question on what's the main reason I'm not voting Harris. I replied, "I can not vote for any candidate Donald Trump found worthy of donating to... especially for AG." If similarly asked for a reason I'm not voting Trump - I can not vote for Trump who's shown to be such a poor judge of character, intelligence and integrity who's donated to such a flawed fellow prostitucian as Harris.

A 9/16/24 Libertarian Party of Alabama [LPA] Press Release announced securing ballot access for their 2024 presidential candidate (submitting over 10,000 signatures) certified by the Alabama Secretary of State August 28th. Doubtful many other news outlets will be reporting this to inform voters and likely increase participation on November 5th if couch-voters were informed of alternatives. This impressive accomplishment was directed by ballot access Coordinator Laura Lane, who almost tallied enough 2022 votes in her PSC race to retain statewide LPA ballot access for this 2024 election cycle in our highly uncompetitive State - i.e., the reason Candidate Chase Oliver will be shown as an independent instead of Libertarian.

In the world of political 'bedfellows' it is worthy to note the Blue to Red/Red to Blue 'bed-hoppers' before closing. Much reporting on long standing Blue soviet demographics bed-hopping to prostitucian Trump; less reporting on specific Cheney, Flake, et al bed-hoppers to prostitucian Harris. Nonetheless this illustrates how little our soviet party monikers matter as long as the wealth transfer system remains in duopoly control.

Upon asking LPA Chair Sam Boulter for a quote on this under-reported fact he replied, "We're thrilled to provide Alabamians with a true alternative in the upcoming election. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, donors, and everyone who believes in expanding voter choice." The full text of this PR may be found at: <https://lpalabama.org/2024/09/libertarian-party-of-alabama-secures-ballot-access-for-2024-presidential-election/>

So couch voters UNITE against the Prostitucians! Years from now with an adoring child on your knee asking, "What did you do in the great election of 2024," you won't have to say, "I shoveled dip... washed down with a six-pack on my couch, just as the soviets hoped I would."

Postscript: A hopeful closing in celebrating the Alabama Gazette's 25th Anniversary! This independent press outlet (not dependent upon revenue from governments) continues to make a difference. Hard to imagine any other press in Alabama having the courage to print a column like what this lowly citizen has penned above as well as on elections past. Indeed an honour to be an input most of those years. Many thanks to all the wonderful souls who shepherded the Gazette toward what it has matured into these past 25 years... especially all the readers and those who purchased ads. Even more exciting to see the additions and changes this past year come to fruition. As the Greeks say, "Chronia Pola!" - i.e., may God grant the Gazette many more years filled with blessings!

In Mere Christianity penned by C.S. Lewis [1952] one may glean compelling analysis of our evolving soviet duopoly choices, successfully empowering so many US prostitucians:

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HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY



Justice Will Sellers

As each country developed, the need to communicate increased exponentially. Private couriers worked great for the well healed, but as more and more people learned to read and write, the sending and receiving of information became routine. With better roads, quicker methods of travel and the gasoline engine, sending letters gave way to sending books and small commodities across the country.

In large countries like the United States, the development of a mail service was a challenge and given the national need for communications, the government undertook to create a nation-wide postal system. Some old timers from the original small government caucus, listed only 2 roles for a federal government: deliver the mail and defend the country. Most people know the story of Benjamin Franklin becoming the first postmaster and creating the foundation for an organized, national postal service.

Like America, other countries too developed a variety of systems, some public, some private for delivering mail and other items. But in Europe where sovereign countries abound, sending mail to residents in another country was difficult. Adjacent countries developed bi-lateral protocols with reciprocal agreements for sending and receiving mail.

But, as countries grew and international communications became important, the only way to send mail between countries was by mutual agreement. Lacking any international clearinghouse required more postal agreements that were as numerous as they were unwieldy. It was not just establishing a bi-lateral treaty to send and receive mail, but each treaty contained different provisions about cost sharing, pricing of mail based on weight and any number of permutations that differed from country to country and treaty to treaty.

Into this environment, 150 years ago this month, the truly first international agreement was signed to create uniform protocols for accepting and delivering mail in another country. Called the Treaty of Bern, or "the Treaty concerning the formation of a General Postal Union", it was signed by 20 European countries along with Egypt and the United States. Within 10 years another 33 countries would join this organization.

The treaty was not very complicated but established a uniform system to price international mail using weight and distance as a determinative of cost. The accounting was very simple, the originating country was able to keep the entire fee. Previously, bi-lateral protocols required accountings to share fees based on any number of metrics that wasted time and produced little for the effort. The Treaty of Bern also established a permanent commission to issue rules and regulations with binding arbitration to settle any disputes between members. This international framework would set the stage for additional transactions between citizens and commercial interests in various countries.

Once a system was established to deliver letters, it was easily expanded to include printed materials and then small parcels. A financing feature was also added so

Celebrating International Communications

Communication has always been critical to international growth, development and understanding. But we take the ability of people to communicate for granted as everyone has at his disposal immediate communications: phone, email or text messaging. But instant communication is new, and it wasn't that long ago that the main source of communication was the written word, transmitted primarily by letters.

that money could be sent using a form of money order and to allow goods to be sent COD. The service of sending and receiving mail expanded to create a simplistic means for regular citizens to communicate, send books and printed matters and to transmit money at favorable rates.

By creating this simple system, the Bern Treaty fostered the exchange of ideas making the world a bit smaller by allowing simple citizens to freely communicate with others around the globe. The cost to send correspondence internationally became insignificant and was yet another of the expanding freedoms benefiting the developed world at the end of the 19th century.

Mail was not subject to censorship, but was to be delivered as addressed, unopened. But the busy bodies in countries delivering mail from international sources realized some communications could be dangerous. Using threats to internal security as an excuse, some mail was opened to make sure outside agitators weren't conspiring with internal provocateurs.

Some countries would try to limit international communications to avoid any sign of bad influence. But by retarding the free flow of information, most countries hurt themselves by limiting good ideas that created economic progress. Believing they might be censored, people become more cautious and limited their communications. These forms of self-censorship served only to restrict positive discussions for new and better ways to succeed.

The General Postal Union was a great step toward international cooperation, a simple step for a very basic service. But this simple step would grow, and countries would use this agreement to consider other areas of international cooperation. Sending letters and delivering the mail are benign activities. But because they are practical, these areas were easy to find common ground even among warring countries. As Bern was in neutral Switzerland, keeping people connected could occur regardless of disputes between countries during times of conflict.

While we do take the ease of communication for granted, 150 years ago simple, practical statemen realized that developing a workable protocol to deliver mail between countries was needed. What they couldn't have realized is that fostering communications created stability among nations because citizens could communicate general information that created a dialogue between people when governments were unable to seek stability.

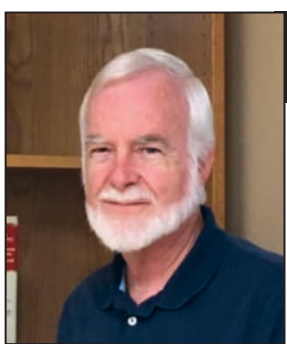
We may communicate differently, but allowing the free flow of information between people prevents governments from shading events and distributing propaganda to create misinformation to confuse citizens into accepting and acting on untruths.

The delivery of the mail seems simple enough for communicating diverse and divergent information. Creating easy communications allowed citizens to be informed to make wise choices, not only as it relates to their government, but for commercial relationships too.

October 1874, seems like a short time ago, but simple steps made to reduce the barriers to international communications contributed to the growth of a stable world order.

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



John Taylor

The Devil's Punchbowl in Natchez, Mississippi

In 2012, while living part-time in Natchez, Mississippi, I discovered some remarkable facts about the area. Natchez, like many port and trade towns, was populated by a wide array of people, including many transients. Sometimes compared to the "Wild West," area residents ranged from devout Christians to hardened criminals and all points in-between. Natchez' government was controlled by the French, Spanish, English, and eventually Americans.

It was a short walk from the room I rented in Weymouth Hall to the City Cemetery where individuals from virtually all imaginable backgrounds are buried. There are sections for Whites, Blacks, Jews, Catholics, Confederate, Union, etc. This cemetery was described as "Turner South's Most Interesting Cemetery in the South." From Weymouth Hall's front lawn, you could see the general area, now known as Giles Island, the site of Jim Bowie's 1827 "Sandbar Fight" or "Vidalia Sandbar Fight." (Vidalia, Louisiana was across the Mississippi River from Natchez.)

A couple of locals, Allen Terrell and Don Estes (former Director of Natchez City Cemetery), updated me on the area's history, with special emphasis on the War Between the States era. I discovered that Natchez was spared Lincoln's "total war" treatment. As a vibrant trade town, Natchez was not particularly dependent on the State or Federal government. Also, many area slaveowners echoed Alexander Stephens' belief that slavery was more protected in the Union than out of it, thus there was generally tepid support for secession. Finally, one major reason Union ships did not destroy the town was because many of the large slaveowners in the area were Northerners. This included Brandon Hall, owned by New Yorker William Bolling; Homewood Plantation, owned by Pennsylvanian John Hardeman; and Glenfield Plantation, owned by New Yorker William S. Balfour. There were also slave-owners of all stripes in the area. For example, William Johnson, a Mulatto who was known as "The Barber of Natchez," had at least fifteen slaves and his contributions are still promoted as a tourist attraction.

After the war, thousands of Blacks fled the various farms and plantations as they attempted to start new lives and literally try to survive. Many of these "refugees" gravitated to Natchez with hopes the Union occupiers would provide a degree of security. Some have estimated that the local population grew from 10,000 to 120,000, taxing available resources and making survival difficult for everyone in the area. The situation was even more bleak for those who fled their previous lives as slaves and their fate turned from bad to worse.

Labeled as "contrabands" (illegally possessed goods) by the Union Army, Blacks were herded into an area known as The Devil's Punchbowl. The name was derived from the shape of the area. According to Estes, "The camp was at the bottom of a hollow pit with trees on the bluffs above. The women and children were locked behind the concrete walls of the camp and left to die from starvation. Many also died from the smallpox disease. Over 20,000 freed slaves were killed in one year in this American concentration camp. Black men were recaptured by the Union troops and forced back into hard labor." There are some who dispute the number of Blacks who actually perished, claiming it was closer to 1,000.

These "contrabands" labored within the enclosure. Certainly, some of the Union occupying force had concern for the welfare of the individuals herded into the Punch Bowl while others clearly did not care and felt little to no remorse as the bodies piled up. Within the "walled-off" area, which some have called a refugee camp (and disputed the idea of a concentration camp), there was virtually no means of escape. Black men endured the intense heat and humidity as they cleared thickets of brush while women and children, not considered viable workers, remained in the camps with little to no food or water. These already harsh conditions were amplified by disease, tainted water, and general filth which led to an inordinate amount of carnage. Noting the large number of deaths, researcher Paula Westbrook said, "The Union Army did not allow them to remove the bodies from the camp. They just gave 'em shovels and said bury 'em where they drop." Validation of some of the most extreme claims stemmed from the discovery of three mass grave sites that held hundreds, if not thousands, of "buried" corpses.



Within the Devil's Punchbowl, it is said some of the finest looking peaches can be found. However, to this day, locals refuse to partake in their consumption based on the sordid history of the area and recognition that the original "fertilizer" was from the deterioration of human flesh.

Since this information does not fit the "Righteous Cause Myth" do not expect it to appear in any "government-approved" history book.

Sources:

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**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

Helpful SSI Changes Reducing Customer Burden Take Effect

Social Security Administration policy updates that expand access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) in line with the law went into effect on September 30, 2024. The agency no longer includes food in In-Kind Support and Maintenance (ISM) calculations, has expanded its rental subsidy policy exception, and has expanded the definition of a public assistance household.

"These changes will help more people access crucial SSI benefits," said Martin O'Malley, Commissioner of Social Security. "By simplifying and expanding our policies, we are making SSI smarter, removing barriers to accessing payments, and reducing the burden on the public and agency staff."

The agency no longer includes food in ISM calculations. The new policy removes a critical barrier to SSI eligibility that an applicant or recipient might encounter if they get informal food assistance from friends, family, and community networks. The agency estimates this change could increase monthly SSI payments by about \$131 per month for over 90,000 people and allow more people to qualify for benefits.

(Refer to Press Release | Press Office | SSA)

Also, the agency is expanding a rental subsidy exception to all SSI applicants and recipients nationwide that previously applied in only seven states. This uniform nationwide policy will ensure that people paying at least a certain amount toward rent are not subject to ISM in the form of rental assistance. It is estimated this change could increase monthly SSI payments by about \$132 per month for about 41,000 people and allow more people to qualify for SSI.

(Refer to Press Release | Press Office | SSA)

Also, the agency is expanding the definition of a public assistance household in two important ways. First, the agency will add Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to the types of public assistance listed in the policy. Second, the agency will no longer require that all household members receive public assistance to be considered a public assistance household. The expanded definition allows more people to qualify for SSI, increases some SSI recipients' monthly payment amounts, and reduces reporting burdens for individuals living in public assistance households. These two changes could decrease the amount of ISM charged to applicants and recipients, resulting in increased SSI payments to about 277,000 people and making more people eligible for SSI in the coming years.

(Refer to Press Release | Press Office | SSA)

SSI provides monthly payments to adults and children with a disability or blindness, and to adults aged 65 and older, who have limited income and resources. SSI benefits help pay for basic needs like rent, food, clothing, and medicine. People applying for and receiving SSI must meet eligibility requirements, including income and resource limits.

For more information on the SSI program, including who is eligible and how to apply, visit [Supplemental Security Income \(SSI\) / SSA](#)

SOCIAL SECURITY CAN HELP YOU START OR RETURN TO WORK

If you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefits and want to start or return to work, we can help.

Ticket to Work (Ticket) is a program that supports career development for SSDI beneficiaries and SSI recipients who want to work and achieve financial independence. The Ticket program is free and voluntary. Learn more about the Ticket program at www.ssa.gov/work or call the **Ticket to Work Help Line at 1-866-968-7842 or 1-866-833-2967 (TTY) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. ET.** Our blog article [Celebrate the ADA and Ticket to Work During Disability Pride Month](#) at blog.ssa.gov/celebrate-the-ada-and-ticket-to-work-during-disability-pride-month, also provides additional information on the Ticket program.

The Plan for Achieving Self-Support (PASS) program also helps people with disabilities start or return to work. A PASS allows you to set aside resources and income other than your SSI for a specified period. With a PASS you can pursue a work goal that will reduce or eliminate your need for SSI or SSDI benefits. We can refer you to a vocational rehabilitation counselor who can help you figure out your work goal. You can also set up a plan to cover the costs of vocational services (including testing and business planning).

The PASS must be in writing, and we must approve the plan. You can access the application at www.ssa.gov/forms/ssa-545.html. Or contact your local **PASS Cadre** or local **Social Security office** for the Form SSA-545-BK. You can get help writing your plan from Ticket service providers, vocational counselors, relatives, and representatives.

For more information about the PASS program, read *Working While Disabled—A Guide to Plan to Achieve Self-Support* at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-11017.pdf or the *Red Book—A Guide to Work Incentives* at www.ssa.gov/redbook.

A job isn't just a source of income — it can be a vehicle to independence or a step to fulfilling your dreams. Let our Ticket to Work or PASS programs help you achieve your goals.



Veterans are entitled to a patriotic ceremony at their funerals. Raymond Keel will provide this service for free!

Call him at 334-233-8736

or visit:

<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org>

Why It's Important To Check Your Earnings History

It may have been years or even decades since you thought about how much you earned at your first job. Did you know that you can find out how much you made that first year? Or any year you worked and paid Social Security taxes? Your earnings history is a record of your progress toward your future Social Security benefits. We track your earnings so we can pay you the benefits you've earned over your lifetime. That is why it's so important for you to review your earnings record.

Even though it's your employer's responsibility to provide accurate earnings information, you should review your earnings history and let us know if there are any errors or omissions. Otherwise, your future Social Security benefits could be lower than you should receive. It's important to identify and report errors as soon as possible. If too much time passes, it could be hard for you to get older tax documents. Also, some employers may no longer exist or be able to provide past payroll information.

The best way to verify your earnings record is to visit www.ssa.gov/myaccount and create or sign in to your personal **my Social Security** account. You should review your earnings carefully every year and confirm them using your own records, such as W-2 forms and tax returns. Keep in mind that earnings from this year and last year may not be listed yet. When you have a personal **my Social Security** account, we send you an email once a year, 3 months before your birthday, to remind you to check your earnings and to get future benefit estimates.

If your Social Security earnings record is incorrect and does not match your personal records, you may be able to submit a correction request online using your personal **my Social Security** at www.ssa.gov/myaccount. If that feature is available in your personal **my Social Security** account, you can use the online process to correct missing earnings, inaccurate earnings from a valid employer, or earnings from an employer you did not work for. You'll need to provide:

- Your address if we need to contact you about your request.
- Details about your correct earnings and employer.
- Evidence or proof of correct earnings, if available.

You can electronically upload your proof (W-2, W-2C, tax return, wage stub, pay slip, etc.) in a JPG or PDF format. After you successfully submit your evidence, you can print or save a receipt.

Earnings corrections cannot be processed online if they are for:

- The current or prior year, which may not be recorded yet.
- Self-employment.
- Railroad Board.
- Certain years before 1978.

Also, you cannot submit an earnings correction online if you:

- Receive Social Security benefits, Supplemental Security
- Income (SSI), or Medicare.
- Have applied for Social Security benefits or SSI.

If you cannot correct your earnings online, call us at **1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.** to request a correction.

Start a conversation today. Ask a family member or friend about their first job and let them know they can find out what they earned that year!

WILL REMARRYING AFFECT MY SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

Are you getting remarried? If so, we can help you with Social Security related questions regarding your remarriage.

You may be wondering how your new marriage affects your Social Security benefits now or in the future. Remarrying may affect your benefits if you receive (or expect to receive) any of the following:

1. **Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments** – Your SSI eligibility and payment amount may change (or stop) due to your new spouse's income and resources.
2. **Surviving spouse or divorced surviving spouse benefits** –
 - **If you remarry before age 50** – You won't be eligible for survivors or disability benefits as a surviving spouse unless your later marriage ends by divorce or annulment.
 - **If you remarry between the ages of 50 and 59** – You may be able to get benefits as a disabled surviving spouse (or disabled surviving divorced spouse) if you were disabled and unable to work when you remarried and your remarriage occurred after age 50.
 - **If you remarry before you reach age 60 and that marriage ends**, you may be able to get benefits on your previous deceased spouse's record.
 - **If you remarry after age 60** – You may be eligible for survivors benefits on your deceased spouse's record or benefits on your new spouse's record.

Divorced spouse's benefits – Generally, if you remarry, benefits paid to you on your former spouse's record stop. You should report your new marriage to us to avoid being overpaid.

Children's benefits (under age 18 or full-time student ages 18 or 19) – Under certain circumstances, we may be able to make payments to stepchildren of a worker who receives retirement or disability benefits.

To learn more about how your new marriage will affect your Social Security benefits now or in the future, read our blog post [Will Remarrying Affect My Social Security Benefits](#) at blog.ssa.gov/will-remarrying-affect-my-social-security-benefits.

Please share this with family and friends – and post it on social media.

Community Lifestyles

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

Honoring Our Heroes



Martha P. Simmons



VETERAN NEWS

The Alabama Gazette wants to honor Martha for the many years of service to our veterans.

She has spent countless hours interviewing, showing special attention, writing stories of the many great Veterans in our area that has served in so many of our American conflicts and wars.



Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Recognition Day Ceremony

The Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Ceremony was held September 21, 2024 on the south lawn of the AL State Capitol. Linda Ruloff served as Master of Ceremonies. Veteran motorcyclists escorted the POW/MIA flag from the Central AL Veterans Health Care Center. The 151st AL National Guard Band played patriotic music including the National Anthem. Lela Brown, a vocalist sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic and God Bless America. Mrs. Sandra Lucas, Assistant Commissioner of Outreach and Engagement for the AL Department of Veteran Affairs, presented a letter from AL Governor Kay Ivey, and State Representative Kenneth Paschal of AL District 73 read a proclamation from the Governor.



The U.S. Marine veteran, Nancy Burtron, represented all of the branches of the Military Services. The keynote speaker was Brigadier General Jeffrey L. Newton, U.S. Air Force (Retired). Wreaths were presented by two Gold Star Wives, the American Legion Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary. The program concluded with the playing of Taps.

We hope all our veterans and readers enjoy the Alabama Gazette!



Master Sergeant James L. Berdeaux



Sergeant Robert Clifton Fell



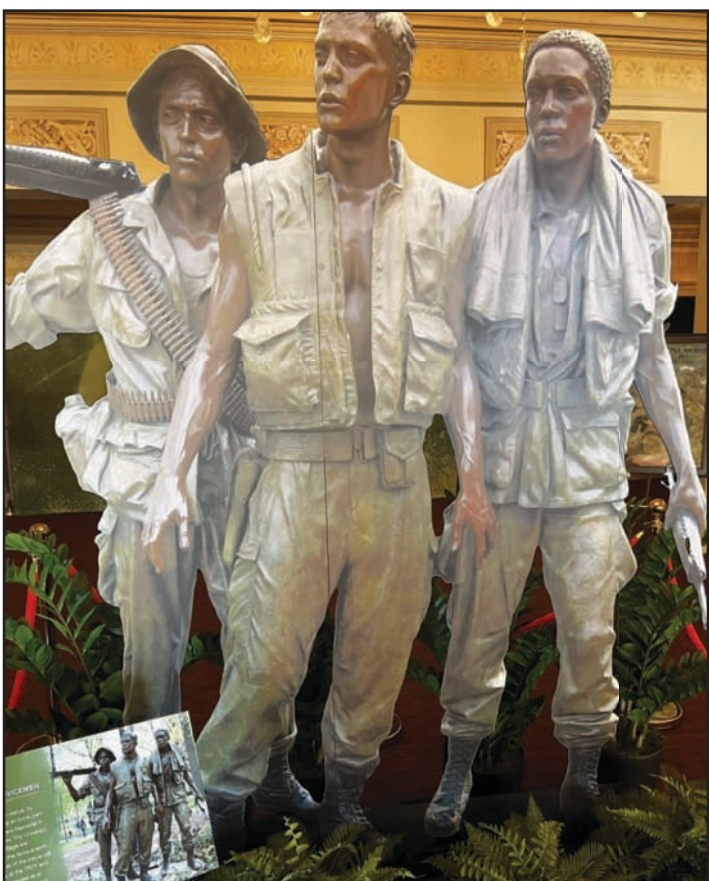
Sergeant Seth Edward Maggard

Beyond a War

On September 29, 2024, a capacity crowd in the Davis Theater in Montgomery attended the showing of Beyond a War, a documentary film about the personal stories of Dr. Jack Hawkins, Chancellor of Troy University, and Dr. Le Cong Co, President of Duy Tan University in Vietnam.



Captain Gary M. Rose



Captain Gary M. Rose

More than 50 years ago, Dr. Hawkins and Dr. Le Cong Co were on opposite sides of the Vietnam War. Dr. Hawkins served as a platoon leader in the U.S. Marine Corps, and Dr. Le Cong Co fought against American forces as a member of the Viet Cong. Captain Gary Mitchell Rose, a U.S. Medal of Honor recipient, described his combat experiences as a U.S. Army Special Forces Medic who distinguished himself treating wounded soldiers despite being wounded himself multiple times.

A picture of the Three Service Men statue was on display in the lobby of the Davis Theater. It was designed by Frederick Hart and is an iconic part of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Now Troy University and the American Village are partnering to bring the famous work to Alabama. Replicas of the statue will be on display at the Troy and American Village campuses as an enduring tribute to the service and

Veterans OCTOBER Birthdays

Lawrence Allen	October 3rd
Robert Neely Scruggs	October 3rd
George Brenton Smith	October 5th
David George Simonton	October 6th
Preston Frazier	October 8th
Jeff Holland	October 12th
Carten Dean Papke	October 12th
Robert E. Parker	October 14th
Raymond Russell Martin	October 15th
Nancy Burtron	October 18th

John A. Eidsmoe	October 18th
Sophie Ryan	October 18th
Ronald Lewis	October 19th
Edgar Leslie Smith III	October 19th
Thomas Charles Ford	October 21st
George White Jr.	October 25th
Gary Dean Mehlhoff	October 26th
Judson L. Huett	October 26th
Mark Dierlam	October 26th
Dale Gamble	October 27th
Hugh David McCracken Jr.	October 27th
Deborah Marine Chambers	October 31st



LTC Eddie Compton: A Life of Service, From Battlefield to City Hall



Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Eddie Digby Compton III, a man whose life has been defined by service, has dedicated an impressive 37 years to the U.S. military. His journey began with 10 years in the Alabama National Guard where he served as an enlisted soldier and NCO starting as a Medical Specialist and later transitioning to a Medical Laboratory Specialist. Driven by his desire to further serve his country, he attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as an Officer in the Alabama National Guard. During his 9.6 years as an officer, he held various leadership roles: Protocol Officer, Detachment Commander, Ammunition Officer, Battery Operations Officer, Battery Commander, Assistant G-4 and Battalion S1. His commitment to duty also led him to serve a year and four months on active duty as an Embedded Team Chief in Afghanistan. Finally, LTC Compton dedicated an additional 16 years to the Army Reserve fulfilling diverse responsibilities such as Observer Controller/Trainer, Simulations Operations Officer, Operations Officer, OC/T Branch Chief, Exercise Planning Officer and Deputy Detachment Commander.



LTC Compton's distinguished career has been recognized with numerous military honors reflecting his valor, dedication, and leadership. His decorations include: the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Army Commendation Medal (five awards, including one for Combat Service, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (three awards), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (four awards), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (with two campaign stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal (two awards), Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (four awards), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device (three awards), NATO Medal; Combat Action Badge and Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon.

LTC Eddie Digby Compton III, age 57, represents a legacy of military service with three generations of his family answering the call to duty. He followed in the footsteps of his father, a U.S. Air Force Military Policeman, and his grandfather, a U.S. Army veteran of WWII. He was born September 12, 1967, at Moody Air Force Base, GA, to Eddie D. Compton Jr. and Felicia Delores Compton.

After graduating from Five Points High School in Five Points, AL, in 1985, LTC Compton voluntarily joined the Alabama National Guard on August 20, 1986. His military service included deployments to Afghanistan, Germany, South Korea, Panama and the Dominican Republic showcasing his commitment to serving his country on a global scale. He demonstrated exceptional leadership during natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina and Rita, providing aid and support to those in need.

Throughout his military career, LTC Compton prioritized professional development completing a variety of courses to enhance his leadership and expertise. These include the MC 101 Observer Controller Trainer Course, ILF-Common Core, Simulation Operations Course, Commander's Safety Course, Quartermaster Officer Advanced Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Field Artillery Captains Career Course, Field Artillery Officer Basic Course and Officer Candidate School. This commitment to continuous learning has undoubtedly contributed to his success as both a military officer and a civilian leader.

LTC Compton's careers have gone from soldier to civic leader. LTC Compton's dedication to education led him to use the G.I. Bill to earn an Associate Degree in Science from Southern Union Community College. He continued his studies at Auburn University and graduated from Troy University Montgomery in 2005 with a B.S. Degree in Resource Management. His civilian career is as diverse as his military service. He owned and operated Bay Cleaners and a laundromat in Montgomery, AL, from 1999 to 2007 when he was called to deploy to Afghanistan.

Upon his return from Afghanistan, LTC Compton faced the harsh reality of reintegration into civilian life. In a candid speech at a veterans' Stand Down event, he shared a personal experience that shed light on the hidden struggles many veterans face saying, "I have not shared this story publicly," he confessed, "but I remember when I returned from Afghanistan. I had a house, but it was rented out. With no civilian job lined up and the Army Reserves not providing full-time income, I found myself living in an extended-stay hotel for eight long months. It wasn't a cardboard box on the street, but it was far from stable or secure. It was a constant reminder of the challenges of transitioning back to civilian life." He continued, "My story is not unique. Homelessness isn't always about sleeping on the streets. It can also mean living in temporary accommodations, couch-surfing, or struggling to maintain stable housing due to financial instability or other challenges. Many veterans like me face these hidden forms of homelessness often going unnoticed and unsupported." Following this challenging period, LTC Compton spent 1.5 years assisting job seekers at the Career Center as an Employee Security Representative with the Alabama Department of Industrial Relations. He then utilized his military experience and technical skills to serve as a Project Manager, a software package called HCS Connect, SharePoint System Administrator and Quality Assurance Coordinator and IT Helpdesk Analyst at Health Care System, a pharmacy software company, from 2008 to 2010.

Since 2022, LTC Compton has been the Senior Policy Advisor to Montgomery Mayor Steven Reed where his military background in leadership and strategic planning has proven invaluable. He researches, develops and implements evidence-based policies on critical issues like education, public safety, economic development and infrastructure. He also collaborates with diverse stakeholders, securing grants, engaging national experts and fostering community partnerships to advance the Mayor's vision for the city. Compton's role extends to strategic planning, data analysis and communication ensuring the Mayor's office is well-informed and responsive to the city's needs. His leadership is further demonstrated through his active facilitation of various initiatives, including the Task Force on Addressing Homelessness, Montgomery Military and Veterans Commission and the Community Violence Intervention Initiatives: Faith, Community, and Legacy.



LTC Compton's reflections on his military service highlight its profound impact on his life: "It meant different things at different times. Initially it was a way for me to afford college. After I became an E-5, it started teaching me about leadership and how to take care of other people. As an officer, it taught me about leadership and planning and how to lead and help younger officers to learn how to stay in the military and progress. I want to be sure that they are taken care of after I leave so that they don't make the same mistakes that I did. The military is the best thing that I have ever done. It helped me to grow up, and it took me to other places, countries and cities. It exposed me to quite a bit and made me the person that I am today." He hopes to be remembered as someone who worked tirelessly and was dedicated to accomplishing the mission or task at hand.

LTC Compton and his wife, Joanne, have been married for 13 years. He is an active member of the First Baptist Church of Greater Washington Park in Montgomery serving on the Executive Committee, leading the social justice ministry as a Deacon and singing in the choir. His deep faith guides him in both his personal and professional life. He is deeply committed to unity and service dedicated to collective action and building a stronger more united community.

LTC Eddie Compton's life is a testament to the power of faith, service, and leadership. From his distinguished military career to his impactful civilian roles and his unwavering dedication to his community and church, he embodies the values that make our nation strong. His story is an inspiration to all who strive to make a positive difference in the world.



LtCol Donald Dean Lehman: Age 77



LtCol Donald Lehman served 23 years in the U.S. Marine Corps with three years on active duty and 20 years on duty. His military occupational specialties (MOS) were: 1302, Combat Engineer Officer, 0802, Artillery Officer and 0202, Intelligence. He received the following medals, decorations, awards, and citations: Navy Achievement medal with combat "V", Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Selected Marine Corps Reserve Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

LtCol Lehman was born July 10, 1947, in Washington, Iowa, to his parents, James and Cecelia Lehman. He was reared in Iowa City, IA, where he graduated from the University High School in 1965. He attended the University of Iowa, participated in the Marine Corps PLC (Platoon Leaders Class) commissioning program and was appointed a Marine 2ndLt upon graduation with a BS Degree in geology in 1969.

Having completed Officer Candidate School (OCS) in 1968 and graduating from college, LtCol Lehman completed six months at the Marine Officers' Basic School, class of 3-70 at Quantico, VA, in February 1970. Next, he served at Camp LeJeune, N.C. completing the Combat Engineer Officer's course in May, 1970. He then received orders to serve in Vietnam where he served as a Combat Engineer Platoon Commander and Battalion staff officer with the 1st Combat Engineer Bn, 1st Marine Division at Da Nang and An Hoa Combat Base. He returned to the US with the 1st Combat Engineers when they and the 1st Division were withdrawn from Vietnam in April 1971 and returned to Camp Pendleton, CA. He continued to serve on the battalion staff with the 1st Engineers until his release from active duty in August, 1972.

LtCol Lehman's 20-year service career in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve included two weeks or longer active-duty stints with the following:

1. US Army Artillery School, Ft. Still, OK,
2. Marine Corps/Navy Training Ctr, Roosevelt Roads/Vieques, PR,
3. Navy Pacific Fleet Intelligence Center, Pearl Harbor, HI,
4. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. (multiple tours)
5. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA,
6. Marine Corps Base, Twentynine Palms, CA,
7. Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, CA,
8. Marine Corps Air Station, Cherry Point, NC
9. Coronado Navy Training Base, CA, Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School,
10. Navy Base, San Diego, CA,
11. Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, Marine Reserve Command and Staff College (multiple tours) and
12. Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C., Reserve Armed Forces Security Seminar.

He retired from the Marine Reserves as a LtCol in November 1992 at Kalamazoo, MI.

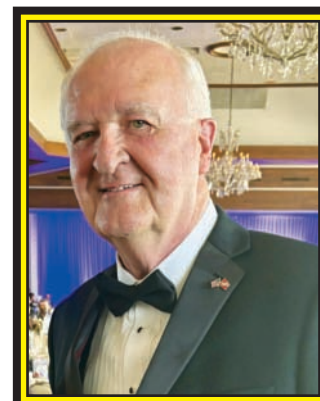
Having used the G.I. Bill for 30 months to earn his MS Degree in Geology from the University of Iowa in 1975 after his active duty service, he went to work as an oil and gas exploration geologist and manager for both large and small companies around the country for 41 years. He began working as an exploration geologist with Mobil Oil in Denver, CO, for 1.5 years during 1975-1976. He then worked as an exploration geologist with various smaller oil companies in the Denver, CO, area exploring for oil and gas in the Rocky Mountain states for 11 years during 1976-1986. He moved his family to Pittsburgh, PA and worked as an exploration geologist for Consolidated Natural Gas Development Co. (now Dominion Energy) for four years during 1987-1990. He once again uprooted his family and moved to Kalamazoo, MI in 1990, to work as the exploration manager for Miller Energy, Inc. for nine years during 1990-1999. He also spent six years as an IT manager from 2000-2007, before making his final move to Alabama. His last employment was as the San Juan Basin asset manager for Energen Resources in Birmingham (now Diamondback Energy, Midland, TX) for eight and one-half years during 2007-2016. He retired from all employment in 2016.

LtCol Lehman and his first wife, Bonnie, were married for 32 years and she passed away in 2001; they had four children and 10 grandchildren. Being remarried in 2011, he now has in addition, two step children and five step grandchildren with his wife, Patricia.

LtCol Lehman is a member and volunteer for numerous veterans' service organizations in the Birmingham area. His service and leadership include: (1) Current president and life-member of Greater Birmingham Chapter MOAA (Military Officers Association of America) which is an advocate for local, state and national legislative issues for all veterans; (2) Board and life member, Krulak Marine Alliance of Alabama (KMAA), a local 501c(3), that supports the needs of veterans; (3) Home Depot Foundation support liaison, helping coordinate projects for the Foundation to assist in home improvements and repairs for disabled veterans and (4) life member of Vietnam Veterans of America, the Marine Corps League Krulak Detachment, Birmingham, AL and Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

LtCol Lehman's conclusions about what his military service means to him are: "I did what my country called me to do and was proud of it. My Marine Corps experience provided me with invaluable leadership training, skills and relationships that I would never have had otherwise. Having the title of Marine means a lot and has helped me succeed in all aspects of my life."

LtCol Lehman would like future generations to remember him as being a caring person, good father, grandfather, and husband who always tried to help others less fortunate than himself.





Korean War Veteran: Sergeant John Robert Miller: Age 91



Sergeant John Robert Miller served three years in the U.S. Army including combat in the Korean War. His Military Occupational Specialty was Supply Sergeant. He received the following medals, awards, citations and badges: Korean Service Medal with three Battle Stars, U.N. Badge and Army Infantry Badge. He was recommended for the Bronze Star for Valor.

Sergeant Miller was born December 18, 1932 to his parents, at Waynesboro, PA, where he lived for 17 years until he graduated from Quincy High School in 1950. He then volunteered and enlisted in the U.S. Army beginning military service June 6, 1950. He completed 16 weeks of Basic Training

at Ft. Knox, KY, and then he volunteered to serve in combat in Korea. He traveled via train from Chicago to Oakland, CA, to Camp Stoneman, a United States Army facility located in Pittsburg, California. It served as a major troop staging area for and under the command of the San Francisco Port of Embarkation. The Camp operated during World War II and the Korean War near Travis Air Force Base, CA. From there, he flew to Tokyo, Japan, and then to Camp Chickamauga, Japan, spending a few weeks in the mountains. He then sailed to Wonsan, a port city and naval base, located in the Kangwon Province, North Korea, along the eastern side of the Korean Peninsula on the Sea of Japan. He landed onshore there in the Landing Ship Tanks (LST.) He then served as a guard on a trailer carrying his commander traveling to Hamhung, the 2nd most populous city, the commercial and local administrative center of northeastern Korea.

His unit participated in assisting and driving via trucks the Marines at the Battle of the Chosin Reservoir, a campaign early in the Korean War, part of the Chinese Second Offensive (November–December 1950) to drive the United Nations out of North Korea. The Chosin Reservoir campaign was directed mainly against the 1st Marine Division of the U.S. X Corps which had disembarked in eastern North Korea and moved inland in severe winter weather to a mountainous area near the reservoir. The campaign succeeded in forcing the entire X Corps to evacuate to South Korea, but the Chinese did not achieve their particular objective of isolating and destroying the 1st Marine Division. Instead, in a deliberate retrograde movement that has become one of the most storied exploits in Marine Corps lore, the Marines turned and fought their way down a narrow vulnerable road through several mountain passes and a bridged chasm until they

reached transport ships waiting at the coast. His Army unit and the Marines fought their way back to the sea. They were loaded onto ships departing Korea. Sergeant Miller suffered an injury to his arm while throwing grenades and was hospitalized in Osaka, Japan. After serving in Korea during November 1950 through July 1951, he then returned to the U.S.A. where he served as a Supply Sergeant at Ft. Jackson, S.C., for 1.5 months and at Ft. Rucker, AL, where he was then discharged June 5, 1953.

After his military service, Sergeant Miller's civilian employment included working for two years at Fairchild Aircraft Company, MD, as a flight test engineer technician reading instruments to plot graphs after flights. He then worked with a section gang with the Atlantic Railroad for 10 months in AL. He returned to employment with Fairchild for four years working with quality control testing equipment. He returned to AL and worked with Southern Railway in Montgomery with a track team and switching cars for five years. His final employment was with the U.S. Postal Service first as a letter carrier during 1966-1978 for 19 years and then as a supervisor and manager during 1978-1992. He became the temporary area manager retiring in 1992 at age 59. He then returned to employment with the Postal Service working until 1998.

Sergeant Miller and his wife, Dorothy Jean, were married 68 years until she passed away, and they had two children. He is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Montgomery, AL, and has served as a Past Master. He is a member of the Redland Baptist Church in Elmore County, AL, and the Korean War Veterans Association and is past Commander of Chapter 263. He designed a Korean War marker which was placed on the grounds of the Elmore County Courthouse in Wetumpka, AL. He has written 115 types of poetry on patriotic, Christian and humorous, themes etc.



Sergeant Miller's conclusions about his military service are: "It was an honor to serve the whole time. I was not a hero. I just did my job the best that I could. I think that I did it well."

Sergeant Miller would like to be remembered as a good husband and father. He says, "I was 17 when I entered military service and went to Korea, and I turned 18 while I was there."



Sergeant Major J. R. Jimenez: Age 63



Sergeant Major (Sgt Maj) J. R. Jimenez served 22 years in the U. S. Marine Corps. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Field Artillery. Marines in this field have different areas of responsibility and expertise. Field Artillery includes the following duties: firing battery, weapons systems, field artillery operations which involves moving, operating, and maintaining equipment that requires checking and analyzing combat plans, communicating advice, and operating information.

He earned six of his promotions meritoriously. He received the following medals, awards, decorations, and ribbons: Navy and Marine Corp Commendation Medal with five stars, Secretary of Transportation commendation for Achievement which he earned this twice, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three stars, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with six stars, Sea Service Deployment Medal with three stars, Recruiting Ribbon, the National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Mast four times, Certificate of Appreciation twice and Letter of appreciation nine times.

Sgt Maj Jimenez was born July 18, 1961 to his parents, Ralph and Helen Jimenez, at Los Angeles, CA, where he was reared. Having participated in basketball and football while in high school, he graduated from Valley Christian Heritage High School at El Centro, CA, in 1979. He then worked as a teacher's aide there for one year until he volunteered for military service in the U.S. Marine Corps in June 1980.

Sgt Maj Jimenez completed 13 weeks of Basic Training at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot MCRD in San Diego, CA. His first MOS was Field Artillery, and his first duty station was Twentynine Palms, CA, for 2.5 years. While stationed in Twentynine Palms, he was promoted through the ranks to Sergeant, E-5. Next, he served as a drill instructor at the MCRD at San Diego, CA, for 2.5 years, and he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. Sgt Major Jimenez then went to Camp LeJeune, NC, where he was assigned to an artillery unit. While stationed there, the unit was deployed for six months to Okinawa. While in Okinawa, the unit was deployed to Korea for a few months.

Sgt Maj Jimenez then reported to AOCS, Aviation Officer Candidate School at Naval Air Station, Pensacola, FL, where he would now be the drill instructor for the Naval Cadets. If the Naval Cadets completed AOCS, they then moved on to their Pilot training. After two years on the drill field, the Gulf war broke out, and Sgt Major Jimenez was needed back in his primary MOS, Artillery.

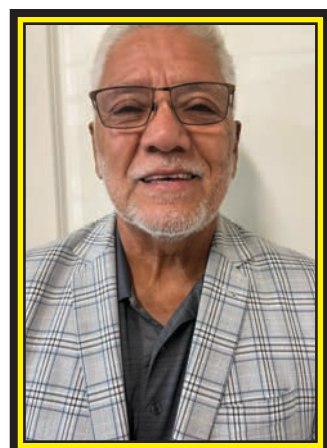
Sgt Major Jimenez reported to Camp Pendleton, CA, serving in Artillery for five years. Within the month of his reporting to Camp Pendleton, his unit was deployed for a six-month cruise to the Somalia region. They helped to evacuate the last U.S. citizens in Somalia. During his time at Camp Pendleton, he was

promoted to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) meritoriously and later was promoted to rank of First Sergeant, E-8.

His next duty station brought him to Montgomery, AL, to serve at the Naval Reserve Center training reservists for the Marine Corps. While stationed here, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major. After this, his duty station was Recruiting Station, Springfield, MA, as the Recruiting Sgt Major. After a year in Springfield, he returned to Montgomery, AL, as the recruiting Sgt Major. He supervised 65 Marine Corps recruiters in AL, FL, MS and GA. Sgt Major Jimenez retired from military service June 30, 2002.

After his military retirement, Sgt Maj Jimenez worked with CINTAS Corporation, an American corporation, headquartered at Mason, Ohio, which provides a range of products and services to businesses including uniforms, mats, mops, cleaning supplies, restroom supplies, first aid and safety products, fire extinguisher testing and safety courses. He first worked for three months as a route driver, and then he worked as a service manager for nineteen trucks for five months. JR was then promoted to Plant Manager and managed CINTAS plants at Tuscaloosa, AL, and Mobile, AL. He worked seven years with this company. Next, he worked with Med Line Industries, a medical supply company, in Prattville, AL as a supervisor for one year. Then JR and his wife worked together and became a management team for Holiday Retirement where they managed Senior Living Communities in Chattanooga, TN, Jackson, MS, Montgomery, AL and Macon, GA.

The opportunity came for JR and his wife to open new communities for a company called Resort Lifestyle Communities. Their first community was Cahaba Ridge in Vestavia Hills, AL. Once the community was 100 percent occupied, they moved on to open Red Hills Village in Tallahassee, FL. The next community to open was Okatie Pines, in Okatie, S.C. and their final community was Greenway Square in Indian Land, S.C. Currently J.R. is Director of Sales and Marketing at The Crossings at Eastchase which is a full-service senior living community in Montgomery, AL.



Sgt Maj Jimenez and his wife, Tammie, have been married 44 years, and they have three sons and ten grandchildren. Two of their three sons served in the U.S. Marine Corps. They attend church and are members of Coosada Baptist Church in Coosada, AL. He enjoys playing golf, cruising with his wife, wood working and housing reconstruction.

Sgt Maj Jimenez's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Marine Corps means to him are: "It taught me a lot. It taught me camaraderie, teamwork and leadership and not just in the military. It also taught me how to collaborate with people and how to get things done." J.R. would like people to remember him as a commonsense individual who enjoyed life and most importantly as a Christian man. Because of his religious beliefs, he strives to be humble.

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Three Kinds of People: The Wise, the Foolish and the Evil

"The wise can see where they are going, but fools walk in the dark."
Ecclesiastes 2:14

"Hear this, you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes to see but do not see, who have ears to hear but do not hear."
Jeremiah 5:21

"For the evil person has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out."
Proverbs 24:20

In his best selling book, *Necessary Endings*, Dr Henry Cloud explains to us that there are three kinds of people: the wise, the foolish and the evil. One of the most memorable talks I have ever heard and actually remembered was Dr Clouds talk on this same subject. I have found this to be some of the most helpful advice I have ever received, and I hope it may help you to be more discerning in all your relationships and business dealings.

Let's take a look at these three types of people remembering that sometimes there may also be some overlap and that all of us may have at some time exhibited some of these traits, because we are all fallible and often self-centered human beings who make mistakes. But I do believe that people generally (and sometimes very specifically) fall into one of these categories which should remind us that you cannot deal with everyone the same way.

The Wise

Wise people listen when they receive feedback. You can talk to them and reason with them. They take it in, and they adjust their behavior accordingly. A wise person encounters truth and changes as a result. For example, after getting a speeding ticket, a wise person learns and slows down. After being told their words hurt someone, a wise person will try to understand why and make changes. They are open, not defensive, they learn and grow and tend to not make the same mistakes over and over again.

The Foolish

Foolish people encounter truth and don't change. Instead, they try to adjust the truth so they don't have to adjust to it. Confronted with a problem, a

foolish person will deny, blame, minimize, generate excuses and do anything in his or her power to avoid dealing with reality. They don't learn and rarely grow. Foolish people have a flat learning curve. As a result, they tend to wreak a lot of havoc and cause damage in their own lives and the lives of others.

The Evil

It is hard to admit it, but some people really are evil. They intend to harm you. They want to take you down. And as hard as it is for you to believe, they don't have your best interests at heart and want to see you fail. When I was younger, I used to find this hard to believe, but, over the years, I have seen it often enough and can no longer dismiss it. In fact, if you chose not to believe these evil people exist, you do so at your own risk and to your own detriment. You must learn how to spot them and how to deal with them if you want to minimize the harm and anxiety they can cause.

So, how do you address these three kinds of people in your life?

1. With wise people, talk to them, give them resources, and you will get a return. There is always hope with a wise person.

2. With foolish people, stop talking to them about problems; they are not listening. And stop supplying resources; they squander them. Instead, give them limits and consequences. The strategy for foolish people is simple: Quit talking about the problem and talk about the new problem. And the new problem is that talking doesn't help.

3. With evil people, to quote a Jimmy Buffett song, the strategy is "Lawyers, Guns and Money". The reason? You have to go into protection mode, not helping mode, when dealing with evil people. Lawyers, guns and money usually get their attention. This is not stated just for effect. The truth is that Dr Cloud is not kidding.

I promise you that you will encounter these three kinds of people in your life. The Bible clearly tells us we will. Seeing the difference between wise, foolish and evil people will, I pray, give you a powerful and useful tool in making some of the difficult decisions we face in life when dealing with these three kinds of people.



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HALLOWEEN AND CHRISTIANS! WHAT THE WORD OF GOD SAYS!

by Russell Ki Tara (excerpts)



The question is, should Christians adopt the pagan customs and superstitions of ancient peoples and "Christianize" them?

The Bible is not silent on the subject:

"Learn not the way of the heathen....for the customs of the people are vain."
(Jeremiah 10: 2-3), and,

"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations" (Deut. 18:9).

Ephesians 5:11 declares, "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL.

The Bible says, *"Abstain from all appearance of evil."* (1 Thess. 5:22).

Who can deny that virtually all of the symbols of Halloween are evil? Witches, monsters, ogres, vampires, ghosts, ghouls, goblins, devils and demons all portray evil! On the other hand, Christians are called to be "followers of God" (Eph.5:1), and "lights" to a sin darkened world. How can we justify our masquerading as creatures of darkness in the light of the Scriptures? And if our houses and churches are dedicated to God and are to glorify Christ, how do we justify decorating them with demonic and occult symbols?

Virtually all of the common Halloween decorations represent something Demonic or Occult. For instance:

The "Jack-o-lantern" is the ancient symbol of a damned soul.

The "black cat" has long been associated with Witchcraft and numerous superstitions are still connected to it.

Witches and Witchcraft are a dominant theme of the holiday, but are an abomination to God (Exodus 22:18; Deuteronomy 18: 8-14;

Leviticus 18: 24-30).

Even the "trick-or-treat" is a threat! It's nothing less than extortion! "You either give me a treat or I'll play a trick on you."

A careful examination of these Scriptures reveals God's unreserved condemnation of all who participate in any occult activity.

What's wrong with Halloween? Everything about it is wrong! It does not have even one single redeeming virtue. It is a demon inspired, devil glorifying occult festival! Those who love the Lord Jesus Christ should have nothing to do with it!

"Let us cast out the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light."
(Rom. 13:12)

"Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness." (1 Thess.5:5)

"For what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing..." (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

The Christian should not fear any of the powers of darkness, for we have authority over them (Mk. 16:15; Lu. 10:19), and "God has not given us the spirit of fear..." (2 Tim. 1:7). But at the same time, "We are not ignorant of Satan's devices" (2 Cor.2:11)

Some may call me "legalistic" for doing so, but I have forsaken this pagan celebration altogether. Perhaps its time you considered doing the same.

"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light." (Eph. 5:8).

IT IS DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD!

God repeatedly forbids his Children's participation in such demonic activities, as the following passages attest: Deut. 18:14; Ex. 7:11-12, 22:18; Lev. 19:26, 31; 20: 6, 27; 1 Chron. 10:13-14; 2 Ki. 21:5-6; Isa. 2:6; Jer. 27: 9-10; Zech. 10:2; Mal. 3:5; Acts 8:9, 16:16; 19:19; Gal. 5:16-21; 2 Tim. 3:8; Rev. 21:8, 22:15.

**JUST GO TO THE BIBLE AND
READ FOR YOURSELF! YOU DECIDE!**

Home Town Community News



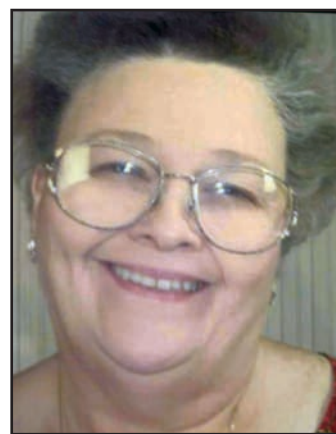
October... HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 David Hite (82nd) | Ryan Sellars |
| Wallis Litchfield | 19 Joann Hassey |
| 2 Allie Dibole | 21 Pam Anderson |
| Janice Vaughn Majors (75th) | Ken Guthrie |
| Bob Morris | Paula Huett |
| 3 Ladon Boyd (64th) | Spears Rhodes |
| Monica Mills | 22 Alicia Smith |
| 5 Nikki Smith Womack | 23 Mike Kirk |
| 6 Jimmy Pugh | Betty Jo Richie |
| 7 Ashley James | Mitzi Woodall |
| David Price (75th) | 24 Thomas Norman |
| 8 Jim Fleming | Connie Thompson |
| 9 Vance Cordle | 25 Glenn Chesnutt |
| Linda Stringer | David Alexander Dean |
| 10 Sherry McCulley | Hannah Grace Johnson |
| Mason Williams (14th) | 26 Alice Cole (74th) |
| 11 Bonnie Ashcraft | Carol Fowler |
| Susan Guevara | Judd Huett (86th) |
| Debbie Moore | Mike Horsley |
| Christie Vazquez | 27 BoBo Boyd |
| 12 Kirstin Boyd | Terry Boyd (64th) |
| 13 Loretta Grant | Amy Moone (50th) |
| Danny Ott (62nd)) | Glen Raley (68th) |
| Jettie Rawls (94th)) | Stephanie Selvage (50th) |
| Mary Wimpee | 28 Patti Moseley Higgins |
| 14 Elizabeth Miller | Parker Lynch |
| Sarah Margaret Poundstone | 30 Nellie Cole (100th) |
| 15 Bob Crowe | Lee Sellars |
| Ray Martin (85th) | Josie Stanton |
| Linda Stenbridge Chandler | 31 Carey Cauthen (68th) |
| Gaston Wallace | Ron Johnson |
| 17 Jane Braswell | Elizabeth Kirk |
| 18 Marcia Chambliss | |



Patricia Boyd Killough

Women of Grace!
They will be missed!



Barbara Dick Mitchell
Sept 26,1950-Sept. 16, 2024
Loved as "Gramio"
Barbara not only served her community and church, but was a devoted wife, Christian, mother and loving grandmother.
She will be greatly missed.



Mary Dupree Raley
June 21, 1929 - October 1, 2024
She was known by those she loved as "Mimi". She unconditionally loved her family, her friends and her church family. Mimi loved and followed her Lord with how she lived.

Happy October Anniversary

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 Jack & Kim Golson | 12 Mike & Lynn Davis |
| Lance & Sylvia Smith (66th) | 12 James & Jean Hicks (66th) |
| 6 Jimmy & Donna Grant (45th) | Glenn & Susan Yost |
| 7 Jimmy & Judy Grubbs | 15 Lance & Amy Brown |
| 8 Eric & Casey Fleming (19th) | Travis & Nicole McGough (8th) |
| David & Xan Morrow | 20 Tim & Amanda Anderson (12th) |
| 9 Ian & Caty Jane Turnipseed (15th) | 22 Brad & Lee Ann Williams (18th) |

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

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Carolyn B. Carleton (80)..... | Aug. 20 |
| Carolyn Gilliland Newman (83)..... | Aug. 29 |
| Kim W. Jason (70)..... | Sept. 7 |
| David Scott Mertins (39)..... | Sept. 15 |
| Barbara Dick Mitchell (73)..... | Sept. 16 |
| Arthur Joe Grant , Jr. (90)..... | Sept. 19 |
| Katherine Trawick Thames (90)..... | Sept. 20 |
| Christopher Grady Beasley (60)..... | Sept. 29 |
| Carol Ann Nolen (80)..... | Sept. 25 |
| Gloria Richburg McLeod (77)..... | Oct. 1 |
| Flora Pettus Milton (96)..... | Oct. 1 |
| Mary Dupree Raley (95)..... | Oct. 1 |



Women of Hope (WOH) was founded in 2006.

The Women of Hope logo of two angels locking hands connected by the pink breast cancer ribbon is symbolic of strength, courage, friendship and the bond of HOPE for those coping with breast cancer.

<http://www.thewomenofhope.org/>

WOMEN OF HOPE is a non-profit Foundation for Breast Cancer Support and is classified by the U. S. Department of the Treasury as a 501 (c)(3) organization under the code of the Internal Revenue Service.

Today's Woman

Trisston's Tidbits:

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*


Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"Live Significantly Today"

Fall Spice Mix

Here's my guaranteed no-fail pumpkin cheesecake recipe:



- go to Costco
- buy a pumpkin cheesecake
- serve slathered in whipped cream to cover up the pumpkin taste

No, I'm not a fan of pumpkin. I like the seeds, but pie? No. Pumpkin pie spiced latte? Seriously? Do I look like a man bun-wearing hipster soy boy? I think not!

For some reason I can't begin to fathom, pumpkin pie spice has become the official flavor of fall. So, to help you celebrate, here's a recipe to make your own Fall Spoce Mix, and hopefully avoid the hipsters and suburbanites flocking to Barstucks for their latte fixes—until Christmas, when we can all bring out the peppermint.

Note: this is sometimes called "Pumpkin Pie" spice, because you can use it in pumpkin pies. Fortunately, it contains exactly ZERO actual pumpkin, which is why I like it.

Mix together:

- 3 Tbsp ground cinnamon
- 2 tsp ground ginger
- 1 ½ tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1 pinch ground pepper

Add all of the above to a jar with a lid that will seal tightly and shake well to thoroughly mix. Store sealed at room temp for up to a year.

When making this spice mix, be sure your spices are fresh. You can scale this recipe up and make it once a season so long as you use fresh spices. You can also vary the ratios a bit to taste. Freshly ground or cracked black or white pepper may seem like a weird ingredient, but a tiny bit will enhance the flavor of your spice mix.

This is a good all around "taste of fall" mix that is blessedly free of pumpkin. You can add it to many other recipes like sugar (or other) cookies, pastries, smoothies or whatever you like.

1-2 tsp of this mix, added to your morning latte, will save you \$6 and a trip to Barstucks. It also works well when added to cider as a mulling spice. Start with a tsp per cup and go up from there.

Don't be afraid to experiment with this spice mix all year round—on apples, peaches and even baked ham. I suppose you can even use it to make pumpkin pies, if you must. Regardless, have fun using this spice all holiday season.

Bill Chitwood

Have you ever said this to yourself? I feel like that what I do is insignificant and maybe even pointless. I'm not even sure anybody notices anymore or even cares about me.

My friend, may I encourage you? There's a story in the Bible in the book of John chapter 6 about Jesus feeding thousands of people, but there's a part nobody talks about.

The story goes that a boy brought 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread in his lunch. I like to think he was packing Star Wars lunchbox because a friend of mine in elementary school had one. He was the coolest guy at school! This boy had made the coolest guy there besides Jesus.

Disciple Andrew saw it and told Jesus there is a boy here with 2 fish and 5 loaves of bread. Maybe we could use it. Jesus took it and fed thousands of people. Amazing!

But what about that boy's Mama? What's his momma got to do with this? Well, it isn't in the Bible, I just like to think about these things. It is very likely she made that bread. It is very likely she packed that lunch. I wonder what she was like and I wonder what kind of struggle she had. Maybe she thought, "I get up every day. I make food. Clean the house and do all these things. I go to bed and I do them all over again. I don't even know if any of it really matters because it's just insignificant". And perhaps while she was struggling with that...the very thing she had given away that morning was about feeding thousands. She just didn't know it yet.

And Y'all, I wonder what it was like when that boy came home and told her. What she had seen is insignificant became extremely significant from that day forward. It had been all along, she just didn't know it yet.

You may think, what do I have to offer? My talent, my gift? It's insignificant. Oh dear one, nothing is insignificant in the hands of God. Every single talent, every single skill, every single gift that you have is significant. And don't act like you don't have them because you do! What you have is given to you by God himself, so let him have it.

Funny thought...I wonder if they had any mayonnaise to go with that?!?! Live significantly today, my friend!

Many Blessings!

*Thanks Trisston for all the years of faithful encouraging and inspiring words for our thousands of readers.
May God continue to bless you!
Staff of the Alabama Gazette*



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We hope we have published a "VOICE REASON" for us all to "THINK" FOR OURSELVES!



gary@outdoortruths.org
Gary Miller



I've often noticed how deer live mostly in quiet environments. This morning, I watched one city dwelling doe begin to get a bit nervous when the noise of traffic began to surround her. She quickly moved to a quieter place. Not only do they prefer soundless surroundings, but most of the time deer do very little vocal communication. It is easy to see how well this characteristic serves the deer. When it's quiet, any small or unfamiliar sound will cause them to be on alert. There is much to be said for a life full of quiet moments. Then there's the upcoming time of year – the pre-rut and rut. A time when communication is at its highest and every form of it is used, including sounds. Grunting, bleating, wheezing, and even the echo of fighting, send certain messages to all deer within earshot. It is not coincidence that during the most important time of the year for a deer, and during a time when relationships are paramount, communication is important. And much can be said about this as well.

If you think about it, while relationships may begin from a number of ways, they are only enhancing to our lives if they involve communication. For instance, you may have a sister which means your relationship was not instigated by you or her but by birth, but if you never talk to that sister or communicate in any way, your relationship with her will never be meaningful and in fact will dissolve back to the very basics of a simple bloodline. Every healthy and beneficial relationship will be made up of heartfelt, open, and transparent communication. And without it, we are only fooling ourselves into thinking everything is alright.

In our spiritual lives, communication is the test of whether our connection with God is staying on the fringe of a basic relationship or if our daily life is being constantly enhanced by this kinship. During the most important periods of our life this communication will be the difference between living abundantly and existing meagerly. Don't be too prideful to communicate with God. Tell him what's on your heart. He wants to hear and give you clear directions. Remember, sometimes being quiet may keep you safe but it may also keep you from the people and places God has in store just for you.

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



Judge Peggy Givhan

SOUTHERN GARDENING

Potpourri - OCTOBER



October, the month of falling leaves and cooler temperatures. Riding through the countryside, leaves are displaying beautiful colors ranging from reds, oranges, yellows, dark plum and gold. Many people take fall trips to different parts of the country to view the fall leaves. Some favorite tours include the states of Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut and Virginia. In the musical, The Sound Of Music, there is the song which mentions "the hills are alive with the sound of music", while our hills are alive with vibrant technicolor leaves. This month we celebrate Columbus Day on October 14th and Halloween on October 31st. I recently saw some statistics that in the United States, we spend more on Halloween than Christmas.

summer flowers that enjoy a second life. Petunias, geraniums, pansies, and dianthus come to mind. I usually take up the dianthus before the summer heat spells their demise, put them in pots keeping them in the shade to have a reincarnation in the fall. I call them my born again flowers. Geraniums go through a similar routine, but usually I keep them in their original locations, most probably large pots. One needs to cut them back by at least one third, keep fertilizing and watering, and voila, more blooms in the fall.

PLANT OF THE MONTH: Dahlia (scientific name and family " Asteraceae")



Dahlias are a genus of bushy, tuberous, herbaceous perennial plants known historically only to the Aztecs, thus native to Mexico and Central America. They were introduced into Europe after the Spanish conquest. This family includes sunflowers, daisies, chrysanthemums, and zinnias and are the national flower of Mexico. There are 49 species of dahlias in all heights and in almost every hue except blue. Today most Dahlias commonly grown as garden plants are hybrids. They are grown from tubers, and cuttings. Dahlias mostly thrive in areas of moderate temperatures, but there are plenty of hybrids that are heat tolerant. The plants which do well in the South include: semi-cactus 'Danum Meteor', 'Bishop of Llandaff', 'Bodacious', and 'April Dawn'.

And what flower do we equate October with? Mums, mums, and more mums. I used to grow mums in my garden and had 2 areas: one which I allowed the mums to bloom at their natural time in the spring and the other area, where I had fall blooming mums. This contrast gardening only lasted one year. Just too much work to ensure fall blooms which entails disbudding the mums from spring, throughout the summer, and then finally letting them bloom for September and October. The biggest downside of the bed had no color for several months. Well, so much for my experiment.

With cooler nights, there are many spring to early

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After living his first 12 years in Tacoma, Washington, Sheriff Derrick Cunningham's parents moved the family to Tuscaloosa, AL. At the age of 21, he saw a TV commercial about careers within the Montgomery Police Department. In the ad, longtime Mayor Emory Folmar said, "If you think you got what it takes, give us a call." Subsequently, a young Derrick Cunningham picked up the phone. After graduating from the police academy in 1989, he ended up 10 years later in the Detective Division investigating homicides where he later became a member of the International Homicide Investigators Association. In 1999, Sheriff D.T. Marshall appointed him as his chief deputy, where he served in that capacity for 15 years until he was sworn in January 2015 as the county's 39th sheriff and Montgomery's first African-American sheriff. In his capacity as Sheriff Cunningham heads an agency of over 300 employees and a \$27 million dollar budget that spans a 643 square mile jurisdiction. For several decades, he has been among the most visible supporters of community-based policing, youth mentoring programs and utilizing smartphone and other technology to better serve the community and reduce crime.

Sheriff Cunningham has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Troy University and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Phoenix. Since the start of his law enforcement career, he has attended numerous schools and seminars throughout the United States. Sheriff Cunningham is a graduate of the F.B.I. National Academy Class 231, he is retired from the Alabama National Guard with over twenty-four years of

service and serves as the point of contact for Homeland Security for Montgomery County, overseeing funding for the county. In September 2015, Sheriff Cunningham graduated from the 108th National Sheriff's Institute in Aurora, Colorado and two years later he was sworn in as Sergeant of Arms with the Alabama Sheriff's Association. In 2019 Sheriff Cunningham was sworn in as the Vice President of the Alabama Sheriff's Association. In January of 2020 he was sworn in as President where he served two consecutive terms until 2022.

If that isn't enough to fill a day, Sheriff Cunningham has been appointed to several state-wide committees by Governor Kay Ivey and he still finds time to serve on the Board of Directors of several non-profit agencies, among them are, Tri-County Alzheimer's Association, Victims of Crime and Leniency, YMCA, Kiwanis club and is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Memberships Held

- Alabama Sheriff's Association
- National Sheriff's Association
- United Way Community Council Board Member
- Say-No (Substance Abuse Youth Networking)
- Boy Scouts of America Tukabatchee Council
- D.H.R. Quality Assurance Committee
- Iron Men
- Exchange Club of Montgomery
- Kiwanis Club of Montgomery
- Narrow Lane McInnis Neighborhood Association
- Leadership Montgomery
- Omega PSI PHI Fraternity
- Sheriff Cunningham is a Certified Advanced Crime Prevention Specialist with the American Crime Prevention Institute

THE ALABAMA GAZETTE wishes to thank Sheriff Cunningham, his officers and his staff. They do an outstanding job enforcing the law and protecting the citizens of Montgomery county. We thought you needed to know more about the qualifications of the man who serves and protects in this county. THANKS SHERIFF CUNNINGHAM!

Sheriff's Office App

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

POLICE OFFICERS PRAYER

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

Dedication to my job to do it well.

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

AMEN

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



MYLES MELLOR CROSSWORD

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

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ACROSS

- 1 Certain Wednesday
- 4 Carried out
- 7 Hooter
- 10 Schuss, e.g.
- 11 ___ management
- 12 Pizza
- 13 Joke with
- 14 Clear to all
- 16 Move stealthily
- 18 Aroma
- 19 Set the level or character of
- 21 Methods
- 24 Fruit that provides milk
- 27 A drink with jam and bread
- 28 Hang on a clothesline
- 29 Most recondite
- 32 Story outline
- 34 Not filled with activity
- 35 A few
- 37 Video store category
- 41 Answer
- 44 Massage
- 45 Metal in rocks
- 46 Badge of battle
- 47 ...and justice for ___
- 48 Rancid
- 49 Make a seam
- 50 Class competition

Down

- 1 Sets a price
- 2 It softens, with care
- 3 Get behind something, say
- 4 Quick swim
- 5 Not domestic
- 6 Not working
- 7 Perform surgery
- 8 Victory
- 9 Give leave
- 11 Spoken for
- 15 Seating arrangement
- 17 Way back when
- 20 Spectators
- 22 "Absolutely!"
- 23 Convened
- 24 Beanie
- 25 Refined or crude
- 26 Got over
- 30 One sought for advice
- 31 The "p" of m.p.h.
- 33 Outdo
- 36 Model Kate
- 38 Kuwaiti or Qatari
- 39 Stubborn beast
- 40 Skillful
- 41 Filch from
- 42 Roaring Twenties, say
- 43 Cutting tool with teeth