

12 Pages - 1 Section ©2025

334-356-6700

**THE GAZETTE IS "THE VOICE OF REASON"!**

*He is Risen*

DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM.  
Rejoice in the resurrection of  
*Jesus Christ.*

WISHING YOU A BLESSED AND JOY FILLED EASTER!

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**Honoring Our Heroes**



**Vietnam War Veterans Day: March 29, 2025**



Members of Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 607 commemorated the end of the Vietnam War at the site of the Vietnam War Veterans Memorial in Greenwood Cemetery in Montgomery, AL., on March 29, 2025.

Col John Eidsmoe served as emcee of the ceremony. A color guard posted the colors including the American flag and the Vietnam War Veterans flag, and this was followed by the singing of the National Anthem and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag. The names of service members from Montgomery, Autauga and Elmore Counties, AL, who lost their lives serving in Vietnam were read. The traditional ceremony of folding the American flag 13 times with each fold symbolizing a different aspect of American history and values was presented. The Missing Man Table, sometimes referred to as the "Fallen Comrade Table," was described and reminded viewers of those fallen, missing, or imprisoned U.S. Military Service Members. Each item on the Missing Man Table represented the emotions and feelings reserved for those who did not come home. The Three Volley Salute was given as a poignant ceremony that conveys deep respect and honor for the deceased, and it symbolizes the ultimate sacrifices made by the individual and is rooted in historical military traditions.

The ceremony concluded with the playing of Taps by the bugler, Babs Count, and a benediction given by the emcee. **The Vietnam War took the lives of 58,220 U.S. service personnel.**



**Bryan Jewelry**

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

**(334) 365-6552** 1778 E. Main Street  
M-F: 9-5 Sat: 9-5 Prattville, AL 36067  
Sunday: Closed



# Community Lifestyles

## NOTICE!

PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE AND VIEW THIS ISSUE AND UPCOMING ISSUES ALONG WITH CURRENT NEWS!  
[www.alabamagazette.com](http://www.alabamagazette.com)

# Honoring Our Heroes



## VETERAN NEWS

We hope all our readers and especially our VETERANS ENJOY reading the Alabama Gazette!



Col Jerry Lamar Sailors



Petty Officer First Class Jerry Wayne Moreland

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.



Dr. Martha P. Simmons

### God Bless the USA!



Col Richard Giurdano



First Sergeant Robert Frederick Goorley



Sonarman Second Class Harry Ural Jackson

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

Support our local Verterans organizations!

### VETERANS APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Lee J. Stuckey ..... April 1<sup>st</sup>
- Frank Stovall ..... April 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Trent H. Edwards ..... April 4<sup>th</sup>
- John G. Hamilton ..... April 4<sup>th</sup>
- Antonio R. Whetstone ..... April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Harold Woodman ..... April 9<sup>th</sup>
- John L. Cannady ..... April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Charles B. Stults ..... April 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Samuel Brown ..... April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- Wanda Sue Mehlhoff ..... April 25<sup>th</sup>
- Larry H. Stevenson ..... April 29<sup>th</sup>



### Loveless Academic Magnet Program (LAMP) High School Baseball Team Honors Veterans

On March 27, 2025, at a baseball game on the campus of LAMP, members of Chapter 607 Vietnam Veterans of America were honored. Each year Coach Frank Parsons, the Lamp baseball head coach, invites all military personnel whether retired or on active duty to enjoy a Lamp baseball game. Coach Parsons and Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 607 have enjoyed a special relationship for several years. Prior to the game, all servicemen and service-women are recognized by their branch of service. Chapter 607 is also recognized because of the long-standing relationship with Coach Parsons. The Color Guard of veterans, Hillard Means, Geoff Colt and Jim levy led by James Jackson presented the American and the Vietnam Veterans of America flags during the National Anthem.

## In Memory



**Sergent First Class Patrick Louis Campbell**  
passed away March 8, 2025 at the age of 87. He served 21 years in the U.S. Army including a tour in Vietnam.

*His article was published in the March 2022 issue of the Alabama Gazette.*



**Harold Lamar Smith**  
passed away March 27, 2025 at the age of 101. He served in the U.S. Army in the Battle of Italy.

*His article was published in the December 2018 issue of the Alabama Gazette.*

### Trump Announces 6th-Generation Fighter Jet Named F-47; Air Force Contract Awarded to Boeing



US Air Force Graphic

Help the Alabama Gazette continue to Honor Our Heros. We are proud to support our men and women who serve! Connect your business to approximately 155,000 views and/or readers per month. Our website will link your businss directly to your website or Facebook. Contact us at [alabamagazette@gmail.com](mailto:alabamagazette@gmail.com) for more informaiton.





### Chief Warrant Officer Robert Allen Morris: Age 93



Chief Warrant Officer (CWO4) Robert Allen Morris served 25 years in the U.S. Navy. His Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) included Seaman, Boilerman, Ship Construction and Repair Superintendent and Auxiliary Machinery Officer (9302). His Naval service on five Naval ships included one tour off the coast of Korea and three tours off the coast of Vietnam as well as European service in the Mediterranean Sea. His medals and ribbons included: Combat Action ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation, Republic Vietnam Campaign, Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Ribbon (Korea), United Nations Service Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, Navy Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), Navy Occupation Service Medal and European Clasp.

CWO4 Morris was born October 2, 1931 to his parents, Elmer and Clara Morris, at Dayton, Ohio, where he graduated from Oakwood High School in June 1950. CWO4 Morris enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Cincinnati, Ohio. CWO4 Morris served twice including his first enlistment beginning January 8, 1951 until November 29, 1954 for three years and seven months. His second enlistment began May 18, 1957 until April 1, 1978 for 21 years.

CWO4 Morris volunteered and reported for Naval Boot Camp duty at the San Diego Naval Training Center and served there until April 1951. He began serving on Naval ships with duty on the U.S. Belle Grove (LSD-2) an Ashland-class dock landing ship, during April to July 1951. He then attended the Class A Boilerman School at Philadelphia, PA during July through October 1952. On May 16, 1953, he was promoted to Boiler Technician 3. He was then assigned for service on the USS Magoffin (APA-199), a Haskell-class attack transport, at San Diego. From there, he sailed to the coast of Korea where the Korean War was in its final stages, and from there U.S. Marines were transported to San Francisco. CWO4 Morris was then honorably discharged November 29, 1954 at Treasure Island Naval Station at San Francisco after serving three years, 10 months and 22 days.

Between the end of this period of military service and the beginning of his second period of military service, he worked assembling computers for the Sperry-Rand Corporation at Norwalk, CT, during December 1954 until he worked for Darien Sunoco at Darien, CT, and until he re-enlisted in the U.S. Navy May 1957 at New York City, NY. He was transferred to the Naval Station Norfolk, VA, to serve on the US Ft Mandan (LSD-21), a Casa Grande-class dock landing

ship, often sailing to the Mediterranean Sea until May 1958 and was promoted to Boilerman 1/C. Next, he was transferred during May to December 1959 to the Navy Nuclear Power Training Unit, (NPTU) a training center at Mare Island, CA, that prepares sailors and officers to operate and maintain nuclear power on board the Navy's aircraft carriers and submarines so they may deter enemies and win wars. Then he was assigned to the NPTU at Idaho Falls, ID, that had an exact replica of the USS Enterprise during December to August 1960. After completing his training to operate a nuclear power plant, he was assigned to serve on the USS Enterprise (CVA (N)-65, a nuclear aircraft carrier, for six years, and during this time, he was promoted to Boilerman Chief and then to Warrant Officer W-2 March 1, 1966. His service on the Enterprise encompassed sailing to Australia and then to Vietnam during 1966-1967, 1969-1970 and 1972-1975 and back to CA. He was then transferred to the Navy's Warrant Officers Command School for four weeks of training until May 1966. Next, he was transferred to the USS Oklahoma City (CLG-5), a Cleveland-class light cruiser, June 1966 until March 1970 with trips to Yokosuka, Japan. He was appointed Warrant Officer W-2 March 1, 1968. Next, he transferred to the ResSupships at the Long Beach office at San Diego, CA, in March 1970. He was then transferred back to the USS Oklahoma (CLG-5) from February 1972 until April 1975. He was appointed Warrant Officer W-3 March 1, 1972, followed by being transferred to Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard at Pearl Harbor, HI, working as Maintenance Supervisor in April 1975. He was appointed Warrant Officer W-4 March 1, 1976. CWO4 Morris retired from all military service at Pearl Harbor March 31, 1978.

After his military retirement, CWO4 Morris worked for Bechtel Power Corporation building nuclear power plants during March 1, 1978-1986. Then he worked as Maintenance Supervisor at the Scottsdale Hotel in Scottsdale, Arizona, for 18 months. Since all retirement, he has raised racking horses, a horse breed derived from the Tennessee Walking Horse known for its distinctive single foot gait, and he has grown timber on his property.

He and his wife, Elizabeth, have been married 38 years, and he has three stepchildren, four step-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. They are members of the Woodland Methodist Church in Pike Road, AL

CWO4 Morris' conclusions about what his military service means to him are: "I enjoyed serving in the Navy. I thought that I would go back to farming after I got out the first time, but because of high medical bills for my children, I decided to go back to the Navy." He would like people to remember him as a friend.



### Major William Stephen Gunter: Age 67



Major William Stephen Gunter served 23 years and six months in the U.S. military including three years and nine months in the Naval Reserve and 19 years and six months in the Air Force. His Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) was Corpman Medic, and his Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) included RN, Counter Intelligence Agent and Trainer, Foreign Military Specialist, Contingency War Planner, operations Manager, Political Military Affairs Strategist, Academic Program Manager and Special Investigator.

Major Gunter's medals, decorations, badges, citations and campaign ribbons included: Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with two oak leaf clusters, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal with one service star, National Defense Service Medal with one service star, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two service stars, Iraq Campaign Medal with one service star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border, Air Force Longevity Service with four oak leaf clusters, Navy Pistol Shot Medal, Navy Expert Rifle Medal, Air Force Training Ribbon, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation Medal, Government of Kuwait.

Major Gunter was born April 12, 1957 to his parents, Horace and Doris Gunter, at Syracuse, NY where then he was reared and graduated from Most Holy Rosary High School in 1975. He then graduated from Lemoyne College with a BS Degree in Multiple Science, attended and received a certificate from the two year Onondaga Community College. In 1989, Major Gunter began service in the Naval Reserve while he was at Syracuse University, and during one summer, he served in East Algiers at New Orleans on a replica of a ship. During 1990-1992, he attended and graduated with a BS Degree in Nursing from Syracuse University in December 1992, studied and passed his New York Nursing Boards receiving his nursing license.

During another summer while in college, he was called to active duty for five months during Desert Storm traveling to Kuwait with the 4th Marine Division, 2nd Battalion. Next, he worked at a VA Hospital in New York City. He did a lateral transfer to active duty in the U.S. Air Force in February 1993 and was promoted from Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class (E5) to 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. His first assignment was to Wilford Hall, the hospital at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, beginning work as a nurse first with medical surgery, transplant medicine and then with flight medicine becoming a flight nurse. He next worked

for five months during Operation Sea Signal when Cuban, Haitian and Jamaican migrants were attempting to reach the U.S.A. and were taken to the U.S. Naval Hospital at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Then he returned to Wilford Hall Hospital at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX. Next, he was recruited to serve with Air Force Office Special Investigations beginning with training at Andrew Air Force Base, MD, for three months followed by service at Pope Air Force Base, N.C. for one year. Then he was deployed to Saudia Arabia as a counter-intelligence agent for one year. He returned to Lackland A.F.B. working with an anti-terrorism team for two years. Major Gunter was transferred to Maxwell A.F.B., AL, to teach at the Officers Training School for four years. Remaining at Maxwell A.F.B, he transferred to serve at R.O.T.C. Headquarters for five years. He then spent two weeks at Wright Patterson A.F.B., OH, for a training course, Defense Institute of Security Assistance Management (D.I.S.A.M.), on how to use paperwork seeking money and weapons with the U.S. State Department. He was then deployed to Iraq for assignment during Enduring Freedom where he worked as a training and rebuilding facilitator. In 2013, he returned to serve three months at Maxwell A.F.B. This was followed by 12 months of work with the Defense Intelligence Agency (D.I.A.) at Crystal City, VA, with WikiLeaks, a nonprofit media organization and publisher of leaked documents. Then he served for 13 months at the Office of Defense Corporation at the U.S. Embassy at Lebanon assisting Lebanese armed forces in how to obtain weapons and equipment and arranging trainers. Major Gunter retired at Maxwell A.F.B. April 1, 2013. He then returned to Lebanon working as a civilian contractor for almost two years until February 2015.

After his military retirement, Major Gunter returned to living in Deatsville, AL, where he owns and operates WSG ARMS Inc. where he designs and repairs weapon systems. In 2014, he was elected as a Councilman for the city of Deatsville, AL.

Major Gunter and his wife, Shawna, have been married 32 years. They belong to St. Peter's Catholic Church in Montgomery, AL, where he serves as a member of the Building Committee and as an usher. He has held membership in the Disabled Veterans Association, the American Legion in Fulton, NY, the Masonic Lodge, the Shriners and the Royal Order of 88ucontrol for scale model tanks, airplanes and submarines.

Major Gunter's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Military means to him are: "It meant giving back to my country that gave me ample opportunities to grow as a person and as a citizen. Five members of my father's family and three members of my mother's family served in the U.S. Military. Joining the military meant that I was willing to lay down my life for the protection of others here that can't defend themselves." He would like people to remember him as a man with a smile and as a person who was willing to never say "No" and was always willing to help.



**Veterans Crisis Line**  
**DIAL 988 then PRESS 1**  
[www.veteranscrisisline.net](http://www.veteranscrisisline.net)

**YOU ARE NEVER ALONE...**

Always Remember the Men and Women who have served our great nation and the sacrifices they made.



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>.







## Brigadier General (Ret) Jeffrey L. Newton: Age 64



Brigadier General (Ret) Jeffrey L. Newton served 41 years with the U.S. Air Force and the AL Air National Guard. His Air Force Specialty Code included: A. 1. Operations Support Officer, 117<sup>th</sup> Resource Management Squadron, August 1989-September 1993, 2. Management and Systems Officer, 117<sup>th</sup> Readiness Squadron, September 1993-January 2000, 3. Chief of Supply, 117<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness Squadron, January 2000-September 2000, 4. Aircraft Maintenance Officer, 117<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, September 2000-April 2004, 5. Commander, 117<sup>th</sup> Aircraft Generation Squadron, April 2004-August 2006, 6. Commander, 117<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Squadron, August 2006-December 2010, 7. Commander, 117<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Group, January 2011-March

2012, 8. Vice Wing Commander, 117<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing, March 2012-May 2013, Management and Systems Officer, 117<sup>th</sup> Logistics Readiness all in Birmingham, AL. B. 1. Director of Staff JFHQ-Air Component, May 2013-August 2017, 2. Assistant Adjutant General, JFHQ-Air Component, December 2017-January 2018, 3. Director, Joint Staff (AL), Joint Headquarters (JFHQ), January 2018-February 2028, all in Montgomery, AL.

Brig Gen Newton's major military decorations include the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Alabama Distinguished Service Medal.

Brig Gen Newton's distinguished military career included numerous overseas deployments with the 117<sup>th</sup> Air Refueling Wing located in Birmingham, AL, supporting Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom and Operation Noble Eagle. His extended deployment locations included Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudia Arabia, Pisa, Italy, RAF Mildenhall, England, Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, Istres, France, and Ramstein Air Base, Germany. In November 2021, he was inducted into the U.S. Air Force's Enlisted Heritage Hall of Fame Wall of Achievers at Maxwell AFB, Gunter Annex.

Brig Gen Newton retired from military service February 28, 2021, and he began working as the Assistant Commissioner of the AL Department of Veterans Affairs on March 1, 2021. He became Interim Commissioner of the AL

Department of Veterans Affairs October 22, 2024 where he leads in assisting the nearly 400,000 AL veterans, families and survivors to make the transition from the military to civilian life and to receive benefits from the state and the federal government to which they may be entitled to under current laws.

Brig Gen Newton was born February 16, 1961 to his parents, Nevin and Eileen Newton in Corning, N.Y. His father served in the U.S. Air Force in the Korean War. He was reared for seven years in Corning, and he graduated from E.B. Erwin High School in Birmingham, AL, in 1979. He was mentored by his high school algebra teacher who had served in the Air Force, and he volunteered for service in the AL Air National Guard in February 1980. He completed Air Force Basic Training at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, and received three months of technical training for supply operations at Lowry A.F.B, CO. When he returned to Birmingham, AL, for service in the AL Air National Guard, he worked as a computer key punch operator. He began active guard/reserve duty in AL Air National Guard in June, 1981.

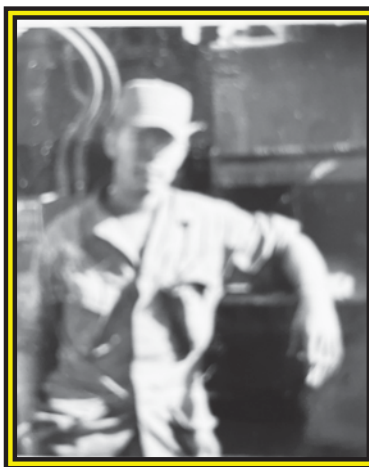
He used the G.I. Bill and received an Associate Degree in Contracts Management from the Community College of the Air Force in 1989, a B.S. Degree in Business Administration from Samford University in 1993 and a Master of Business Administration Degree from Auburn University in 2015.

Brig Gen Newton and his wife, Lisa, have been married 39 years, and they are members of the St. Mark Evangelist Catholic Church in Birmingham. He is a life member of the American Legion, the VFW, Disabled American Veterans, Military Officers Association of America and AMVETS. His hobbies include playing Taps as a "live bugler" at internments and at select national veterans events. He enjoys playing golf and exercising.

Brig Gen Newton's conclusion about what serving in the U.S. military means to him are: "It was a great opportunity to serve and to give back. My father and a lot of my high school friends served. It changed my life and gave me the discipline that I needed to be successful in my career." He would like people to remember him as someone who takes pride in taking care of others. He thinks that he was placed on this earth to do that and to be a servant leader.



## Specialist Richard Howard Phelps: Age 80



Specialist (SPC E-5) Richard Howard Phelps served two years in the U.S. Army. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Heavy Equipment Operator 62-E20. He received the following medals, citations, awards and decorations: National Defense Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, Private Badge, Sharpshooter (Rifle M-4) Badge, Expert Pistol Badge and Army Commendation Medal.

SPC Phelps was born November 25, 1944 to his parents, Howard and Frances Phelps in Montgomery, AL, and he was reared at Pike Road, AL. He graduated from Sidney Lanier High School in Montgomery in 1964. He

worked with his father for one year at a travel fuel truck stop on Highway 231 at Pike Road where he learned how to drive and fuel heavy equipment.

SPC Phelps was drafted and entered military service August 10, 1965 at Montgomery, AL. He was sent to Ft. Polk, LA, for Basic Training, and then he was sent to Ft. Lewis, WA, for one year. Next, he traveled 28 days on the USS Pope (DD-225) troop transport ship and was deployed to Vietnam. He landed at Quy Nhon, Vietnam, a coastal city in central Vietnam. After unloading all of their equipment, his unit convoyed to Pleiku in the Central Highlands occupied primarily by the ethnic group, the Montagnards. While there, he and two others used bulldozers to clear off a place so that a helicopter could land and unload a baby elephant to give to the Montagnards. After remaining at Pleiku for three days, he worked throughout the area building landing zones and also destroying

underground bunkers that had been built by the French during its occupation of Vietnam. He drove heavy equipment such as bulldozers. He suffered an injury when his bulldozer hit a mine. He also worked in areas where chemicals for defoliating the area was done.

SPC Phelps was discharged from military service August 13, 1967, and he returned to Pike Road, AL. He used the G.I. Bill and attended the John Patterson Trade School in Montgomery, AL, for eight months training to be a mechanic. Then he worked as a mailman for six months with the U.S. Postal Service in Pike Road, AL. Next, he started his own trucking business, Hope and Pray (H.&P.) in 1969 operating 28 trucks all over AL and continued that until 2005 when he retired from all employment. He now owns 600 acres of property at Matthews where he raises timber.

SPC Phelps and his wife, Peggy, were married almost 50 years before she passed away, and they had one daughter and one grandson. He is a member of the Pike Road Church and the Sons of the Confederate Veterans.

SPC Phelps' conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Army means to him are: "I enjoyed serving. Nobody bothered me because I had something that they wanted, my skills in operating heavy equipment. I was a country boy having fun. If you say that you are not scared, you haven't been there." He would like people to remember as just Richard.



## COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR FOR ALABAMA



### Tuberville to Lead First Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee Hearing with Service Academy Superintendents

*Tuberville to focus on making sure our service academies are educating and training future military leaders, not indoctrinating them*

As Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, U.S. Senator Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) will lead a hearing tomorrow, Wednesday, March 26, with the superintendents of the U.S. military academies. This is the first time in over 30 years that the service academy superintendents have testified before Congress. In his role as Personnel Chairman, Senator Tuberville is laser-focused on ensuring that military academies are aligned with President Trump and Secretary Hegseth's vision of focusing on lethality, not woke politics.

Last week, President Trump announced he was appointing Senator Tuberville to serve on the Board of Visitors for the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Senator Tuberville released the following statement ahead of the hearing:

*"Our Service Academies are responsible for educating and training the next generation of military leaders who will protect our interests at home and abroad. Unfortunately, under the Biden administration, woke propaganda made its way into our military, including our service academies. The American people overwhelmingly rejected Democrats' divisive DEI ideology on November 5th. Now with President Trump and Secretary Hegseth at the helm, our military is shifting its focus back to lethality and merit, not woke politics."*

Tomorrow's hearing is an opportunity for superintendents to show American taxpayers what they are doing to implement President Trump and Secretary Hegseth's plan for our service academies. At the end of the day, these institutions are taxpayer-funded and should be 100% focused on educating and training war fighters, not pushing a political agenda. I look forward to tomorrow's hearing."

Witnesses include:

- Lieutenant General Steven Gilland, Superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy
- Vice Admiral Yvette Davids, Superintendent of the U.S. Naval Academy
- Lieutenant General Tony Bauernfeind, Superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy

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

## Tuberville Celebrates President Trump's "Liberation Day" on Senate Floor

*"The media, for some reason, is in full meltdown mode after President Trump declared today 'Liberation Day.' Only my Democratic colleagues and the media, globalist media would find a reason to be mad about that. I'm highly convinced that my colleagues in the woke media would rather President Trump fail than achieve a goal to help the United States of America and the taxpayers. President Trump's views on tariffs – they aren't complicated. He believes, as I do, that America has been ripped off by unfair trade deals for decades and simply wants a level playing field.*

*As a result, American jobs have been sent overseas. [...] We have to get manufacturing back in this country. [...] President Trump is 100% committed folks – 100%. He's gonna do whatever it takes to usher in a Golden Age for the American economy. And by the way, just the threat of President Trump's tariffs has already led India, Vietnam, and Israel to proactively drop significantly and lower tariffs against the United States, before it's really even started. And it doesn't matter if you're a Republican or Democrat, we should all be united in wanting economic policies that put American farmers, producers, businesses, and manufacturers first."*





Rob Tate

## Robservations...

### WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS

**In War: Resolution  
In Defeat: Defiance  
In Victory: Magnanimity  
In Peace: Good Will**

The time is quickly approaching in the war on terror where the stakes, by the very nature of this type of war, must increase. There are dozens of rogue nations and terrorist entities that are trying their best to acquire nuclear weapons as a way of gaining political legitimacy or as a method to push their political agendas throughout the world. Iran, with their never-ending desire to become nuclear relevant in today's world, is leading the pack. It seems that every recent American administration has to deal with this reality. The current Trump administration is not immune.

In October of last year, according to the Israeli Defense Force, Iran fired approximately 200 missiles into Israel. These missiles included the hypersonic Fattah weapons system. Is there anyone with a functioning brain out there who would argue that if Iran had the capability to send nuclear missiles into Israel that they would not do it? To me, their doctrine and stated objectives tell me they would annihilate Israel if they had the chance.

For example, the head of the Iranian army, Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi recently claimed that on "Iranian forces were working to 'annihilate' Israel and predicted they would achieve success within 25 years. (Yes, doctrinally speaking, this is a stated objective: Answers the questions of who, what, where and when although ignores the question of why). He further boasted, "*When the arrogant powers create a sanctuary for the Zionist regime to continue survival, we shouldn't allow one day to be added to the ominous and illegitimate life of this regime.*" (Yes, this is part of their stated doctrine) Illegitimate life?? "*The Army will move hand in hand with the IRGC (Revolutionary Guards) so that the arrogant system will collapse and the Zionist regime will be annihilated.*" (Yet another objective). Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah warned that the Lebanese terror group's rockets could hit all of Israel.

Hossein Salami, vice commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, warned "*Israel: Don't trust in your airbases; they're within reach.*" He then stated that Israel existed within, "the dragon's mouth." This why I do not rely upon what I think you may do but rather I trust you will do what you say you will do. Or at least try to do. (<https://cufti.org/issue/iran-threatens-to-annihilate-israel-as-hezbollah-boasts-of-reach-of-rockets/>)

When I read the powerful words of Winston Churchill, as I have stated many times in the past, I truly feel my inadequacy as a writer. He had a way of purporting the truth that could bring a chill down the spine of even the most hardened of his opponents. Sir Isaiah Berlin wrote, "*So hypnotic was the force of his word, so strong his faith, that by the sheer intensity of his eloquence he bound his spell upon [the British people] until it seemed to them that he was indeed speaking what was in their hearts and minds. Doubtless it was there, but largely dormant until he had awakened it within them. . They went forward into battle transformed by his words.*" Only if we had a statesman anywhere in the western world today who could match Churchill's powerful orations.

In an attempt to describe my feelings about the increasing saber rattling against Iran and their stance on nuclear weapons coupled with their commitment to destroy our Jewish brothers in Israel, I took the liberty of quoting some of Churchill's most powerful speeches. Each quote, written over three-quarters of a century ago, still rings true today. In the following paragraphs, the substitution of the words "communist," "neo-Fascist" and "Russian friends" with "Islamic fundamentalist" or "Iran" and Churchill's words could have indeed been written specifically for crises now before all of us.

His words stand as unwavering principles that cannot be delegated or ignored. Once engaged in conflict, our aim must be to win. Next, a dedicated enemy, one (Iran) that has continued to rant about the demise of an entire people (Israel), must not obtain an arsenal of weapons that can directly challenge either

our sovereignty or the survival of millions. Lastly, if force is what the enemy best understands, and in turn we are driven in that direction, we must apply overwhelming force against him. That application of force needs to be well beyond the enemy's expectations and he must believe that more horrific and unimaginable destruction and suffering will come should he continue to resist. Read Churchill's words carefully, digest them conscientiously and meditate on them soulfully.

**[Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat: 13 May, 1940]** "You ask, what is our policy? I can say: *It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy.* You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: It is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival. . . Come then, let us go forward together with our united strength."

**[Iron Curtain: 5 March 1946]** "It would nevertheless be wrong and imprudent to entrust the secret knowledge or experience of the atomic bomb, which the United States, Great Britain, and Canada now share, to the world organization, while it is still in its infancy. It would be criminal madness to cast it adrift in this still agitated and un-united world. (Author: SEE THE NOTE AT THE END OF THIS ROBSEVATION) No one in any county has slept less well in their beds because this knowledge and the method and the raw materials to apply it, are at present largely retained in American hands. I do not believe we should all have slept so soundly had the positions been reversed and if some Communist or neo-Fascist State monopolized for the time being these dread agencies. The fear of them alone might easily have been used to enforce totalitarian systems upon the free democratic world, with consequences appalling to human imagination. God has willed that this shall not be and we have at least a breathing space to set our house in order before this peril has to be encountered: and even then, if no effort is spared, we should still possess so formidable a superiority as to impose effective deterrents upon its employment, or threat of employment, by others. . .

"From what I have seen of our Russian friends and Allies during the war, I am convinced that there is nothing they admire so much as strength, and there is nothing for which they have less respect than for weakness, especially military weakness. For that reason, the old doctrine of a balance of power is unsound. We cannot afford, if we can help it, to work on narrow margins, offering temptations to a trial of strength. If the Western Democracies stand together in strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter, their influence for furthering those principles will be immense and no one is likely to molest them. If, however, they [the UN] become divided or falter in their duty (italics added) and if these all-important years are allowed to slip away then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us."

Hear, hear!

**Author's Note:** There are now, in 2025, nine countries with nuclear weapons – Russia (5,889), the United States (5,224), China (410), France (290), U.K. (225), Pakistan (170), India (164), Israel (90), North Korea (30). Countries "hosting" nuclear weapons are: Italy (35), Turkiye (20), Belgium (15), Germany (15), the Netherlands (15) and Belarus with an unknown number. These numbers are from the Federation of American Scientists SIPRI Yearbook of 2023 and are a rough number that has likely changed since then. ([https://www.icanw.org/nuclear\\_arsenals](https://www.icanw.org/nuclear_arsenals)) For example, as of mid-2024, China had increased their inventory to over 600 and is expected to have more than 1,000 by 2030.

There is no doubt that Iran will try to do what it says it will do. Why would you not believe it. Hitler called his shots long before the war started and the entire world ignored them until it was too late. There is no way that can be allowed to happen. One thing for sure is that the feckless, anti-Israel U.N. will certainly not do anything to help deter rogue nuclear ambitions especially when the target is the Jewish state of Israel. At some point in the future, with Israel's existence in the balance, the questions will become, "If not us, who? If not now, when?"

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



Ronald A. Holtsford

## After A Recent Doctor Visit, Surgery And Hospital Stay, How Do I Know That All Of My Private Information Is Kept Confidential?

In August 1996, Congress passed laws collectively called **HIPAA or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act**. But after a long period of public comments and final rule the privacy rule did not become effective until April 2003. The security rule that followed did not become effective until April 2005. The initial aim of HIPAA was to allow those employed with health care plans to move between jobs with continual health insurance even with pre existing health issues. Because the changes were going to significantly increase the cost for health insurers, **Congress created rules that would effectively combat waste, fraud and abuse**. Creating a significant increase in electronic health insurance transactions, also required strengthened security rules.

Small health plans were given an extension in time of an extra year to implement the privacy rules and an extra year in implementing the security rules. In 2009 the breach notification rules came out with no distinction between small or large institutions. The privacy and security rules were further strengthened in **2013 by the HITECH Act**. Time has marched on and smaller rules have been added.

I follow the HIPAA blog by Jeff Drummond, an attorney in Texas. Jeff does an excellent job with keeping health law attorneys up to date on the latest laws and HIPAA violations. I have been able to add to his posts a couple of times. One of his most recent posts has to do with Warby Parker who provides eyeglasses. Jeff posed the question of whether Warby Parker is a covered entity in that is it a health care provider or health plan/ insurance or health care clearing house? Like Jeff, I'm not familiar whether they do eye exams and would thus retain more extensive electronic **Protected Health Information (PHI or ePHI)**. Even if they don't provide eye exams and instead only manufacture glasses for providers then they are considered a business associate since they would by necessity hold PHI for clients. Regardless, the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) of Health and Human Services (HHS) imposed a \$1.5 million dollar fine on Warby Parker. Fines for various reasons usually start in the thousands, but as you can see can be quite large. The largest that I am aware of was a \$16 million fine against Anthem Health had PHI stolen from 78.8 million patients. The year of violation was 2015.

Many of the newer violations have to do with covered entities not lawfully handing over requested patient data in a timely fashion. Some of these entities I'm guessing get hesitant if they think their liability is on the line and they want to get a legal review of what the patient is receiving. Or possibly they hope by delaying maybe the patient will out of frustration drop their request.

The Office of Civil Rights via Health and Human Services has now issued a call for public comment. The public comment period will end about the time this edition goes to distribution. Mostly the new laws have to do with security and it's the most significant update since 2013.

Some of the items that the new laws look at are:

- (1) Penetration testing once yearly. Penetration testing requires ethical hackers who will try to get into your network whether you be a covered entity or business associate. Obviously they will not cause any disruption (on purpose) if successful but each entity will see their weakness,
- (2) Vulnerability scanning of networks every six months,
- (3) An attempt to more closely align with HIPAA the Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records and an update on when and if reproductive healthcare can be disclosed,
- (4) Changing the time frame to provide patient data from thirty days to fifteen days,
- (5) Creating a more shareable pathway among covered entities,
- (6) More specificity in risk assessments which are already required but some requirements are broadly seen as not necessarily needing to be done,
- (7) Reviewing network assets and network mapping,
- (8) Multi factor authentication,
- (9) Encryption of all PHI at rest or in transit, and
- (10) Many, many other things!

As good as these things are they will be costly to all and impact small covered entities in a manner that will be a very real burden. Protected health information is much more valuable than a credit card number to the bad guy or the nation sponsoring the bad guy because there are things that belong to your health information that you can't change like your birthdate.

I have heard of practices still using paper charts but for the most part it's electronic and the bad guys are always out to steal regardless of whether someone suffers financial loss or even physical harm because needed health information is being held for ransom and was not properly backed up for after the fact access.

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

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

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

Mailing Address: Ronald A. Holtsford, Esq.  
7956 Vaughn Road, Box #124, Montgomery, AL 36116

(334)220-3700  
raholtsford@aol.com

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







## 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/>

### Alabama has a Host of Prominent Political Leaders Under 45

For the casual observer, taking a cursory look at our political leaders reveals that may we have some pretty old folks in positions of power.

Our new President, Donald Trump, is not a spring chicken at 78. Our own Alabama Governor Kay Ivey is 80 and goes by the monicker "Mee Maw." However, a new generation of Alabama leaders are taking center stage in our state. Most of these leaders are already making their mark. Allow me to share with you a host of Alabama's most prominent leaders who are 45 or younger. You will be surprised how many of our state's most prominent leaders fit into this under 45 age group.

The most prominent and promising young leader in our state is our sensational superstar, **United States Senator Katie Boyd Britt**. As was expected, she hit the ground running when she was elected two years ago. At 43 years old, she is probably Alabama's most popular political figure. Katie has set the woods on fire in Washington. Her committee assignments reveal that she is considered part of the GOP Senate majority leadership. As a freshman, she serves on the four most prestigious committees – Appropriations, Rules, Banking and Judiciary. She has begun to bring home the bacon through her seat on Appropriations. She learned from the best, her mentor, Senator Richard Shelby. Katie has the making of another Shelby.

**Lt. Governor Will Ainsworth** is only 44. He is beginning his seventh year in his job. The primary function of the Lt. Governor is to preside over the state senate. He has done an excellent job in this capacity. He won the veteran senators over early with his diligence in learning the intricate rules of the senate and presiding fairly and judiciously. The Republican senators really like him and have delegated some power to him. Ainsworth is currently the favorite to win the upcoming 2026 Governor's race.

**Shomari Figures** just became our second Democratic Congressman. Figures, a Mobile native and resident, is only 39. He is the son of legendary Mobile state senators, the late Senator Michael Figures and current veteran, revered Senator Vivian Figures.

Our State Auditor, **Andrew Sorrell**, is only 39. He is doing a good job in his first term as auditor. He is efficient in a non-flamboyant way. He has a good future in Alabama politics.

There are two state senators that shine as under 45 leaders. **Senator Andrew Jones** of Cherokee and Etowah Counties is one of the best. He works hard in Montgomery and back home in his district. He just turned 40. Another rising star

is **Senator Wes Kitchens** of Marshall County. He just moved from the House to the Senate. Wes is only 35.

Speaking of the House of Representatives, there are four stars on the rise that deserve mention. Representative **Anthony Daniels** is one of the most prominent leaders in the House. He effectively works across the aisle. Anthony is only 42 and is the Democratic Leader of the House. Republican **James Lomax** hails from the Huntsville/Madison area like Anthony Daniels. Lomax was first elected in 2022 and is stellar. Republican **Matt Simpson**, a Baldwin County Attorney, has already become a go-to leader in the House. Young Sand Mountain Republican **Brock Colvin** is the new Majority Whip and is only 28 years old.

**Paul Shashy** has become the most prominent campaign manager guru in the state. He has a brilliant track record. He has managed both of our U.S. Senators Tommy Tuberville's and Katie Britt's campaigns. His door is being banged on a lot right now as folks are trying to line him up for their 2026 campaigns. Shashy is only 33.

**Derek Chen**, a young Jefferson County lawyer and businessman, has become the go-to guy for Republican political players throughout the state. I have never seen a 27-year-old be as connected as Derek Chen.

**Caroleene Dobson**, who is only 37, ran a brilliant campaign for Congress last year. She has a bright future in politics, if she wants it.

**Brandon Shoupe** is doing an outstanding job as Chairman of the Houston County Commission. He has a bright future in Wiregrass politics.

Pell City native **Emory Cox**, who is only 29, has just been commissioned as Special Assistant to President Trump for International Economic Relations at the White House. He was previously Senator Tommy Tuberville's Senior Economic Advisor.

Two veteran prominent lobbyists, **Taylor Williams** of Power South and **Houston Smith** of Alabama Power, are both under 45.

**Hollis and Erin Marshall** have quietly become political favorites among Jefferson/Shelby County Republicans. Grayson Everett is an outstanding Editor-in-Chief of the popular leading conservative online Yellowhammer News. He is very young. Tuscaloosa high schooler Brilyn Hollyhand has an online conservative political podcast that has gone nationwide. Alabama has a host of political leaders under 45.

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



Col John Eidsmoe

## FEDERAL SUPREMACY: A SECOND LOOK

The meaning of the term "federal" has changed over the years.

When the Framers of our Constitution spoke of "federalism," they meant a government in which powers are divided between the national (federal) government and the state governments. And at that time practically everyone in America was a federalist by that definition.

After the Constitution was drafted and signed by the delegates in 1787 and sent to the states for ratification, those who supported it called themselves federalists, leaving their opponents to call themselves antifederalists. Federalist then came to mean a person who believed the Constitution's division of power between the national and state governments was correct, while the antifederalists believed the Constitution delegated too much power to the national government.

And then, after the Constitution was ratified and went into effect in 1789, the nation divided into two factions or political parties. One party, led by men such as John Adams and Alexander Hamilton, called itself the Federalists because they believed the powers delegated to the national government in the Constitution should be interpreted broadly. The other party, led by Thomas Jefferson, called itself the Democratic Republicans (later shortened to Democrats) and believed the powers of the national government should be interpreted narrowly.

Today, the national government is called the federal government, and its officers are called the "feds." The federal government is assumed to be supreme, and federal judges are not to be questioned. If anyone challenges that assumption, they are likely to be asked, "Haven't you ever heard of the Supremacy Clause?"

I typically respond, "Yes, I have heard of the Supremacy Clause. And having taught Constitutional Law for over forty years, I teach my students not only what it means but also what it does *not* mean."

Let's look at the Supremacy Clause, Article VI Sec. 2 of the Constitution:

This Constitution, and the Laws of the United States which shall be made in Pursuance thereof, and all Treaties made, or which shall be made, under the Authority of the United States, shall be the supreme Law of the Land; and the Judges in every State shall be bound thereby, any Thing in the Constitution or Laws of any State to the Contrary notwithstanding.

Some read the Supremacy Clause to say federal power is everywhere supreme, but upon closer analysis we will see that that is not its meaning at all.

It says the Constitution is the supreme law of the land. But what part of the Constitution is the "supreme law of the land"? Obviously, all of it.

Does that include the amendments? Clearly it does, because according to Article V, amendments when ratified are "valid to all Intents and Purposes, as Part of this Constitution."

If so, then the Tenth Amendment, as part of the Constitution, is part of the supreme law of the land. The Tenth Amendment explains the limitation of federal power:

The powers not delegated to the United States [federal government] by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Fearing excessive federal power, the Framers established a government of limited, delegated powers. The federal government has only those powers which the people through their Constitution delegate to it. All other powers, unless prohibited to the States, are reserved to the States or to the people.

Wherever the Constitution delegates a power to the federal government, according to the Tenth Amendment that is the supreme law of the land.

Wherever the Constitution reserves a power to the States, according to the Tenth Amendment that is equally the supreme law of the land.

Consider the abortion issue. Does any provision of the Constitution delegate power over abortion to the federal government? The answer, especially after

*Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization (2022)* overruled *Roe v. Wade (1973)*, is "no."

Does any provision of the Constitution prohibit the States from regulating or prohibiting abortion? Again, the answer is "no."

Then, according to the Tenth Amendment, the power over abortion is reserved to the States, and that, according to the Supremacy Clause, is the supreme law of the land.

James Iredell, a delegate to the North Carolina Ratifying Convention and later a U.S. Supreme Court Justice, explained that the Supremacy Clause "appears to me merely a general clause, the amount of which is that, when they pass an act, if be in the execution of a power given by the Constitution, it shall be binding on the people; otherwise not."<sup>1</sup>

William Richardson Davie, a delegate to the 1787 Philadelphia Convention and to the North Carolina Ratifying Convention, explained further that

This Constitution, as to the powers therein granted, is constantly to be the supreme law of the land. ... It is not the supreme law in the exercise of powers not granted. It can be supreme only in cases consistent with the powers specially granted, and not in usurpations.<sup>2</sup>

Alexander Hamilton, a leading Federalist of his day and an advocate of expanded federal power, echoed the same theme:

The word *supreme* imports no more than this – that the Constitution, and laws made in pursuance thereof, cannot be controlled or defeated by any other law. The acts of the United States, therefore, will be absolutely obligatory as to all the proper objects and powers of the general government. The states, as well as individuals, are bound by these laws; but the laws of Congress are restricted to a certain sphere, and when they depart from this sphere, they are no longer supreme or abiding. In the same manner the states have certain independent powers, in which their laws are supreme; for example, in making and executing laws concerning the punishment of certain crimes, such as murder, theft, etc., the states cannot be controlled. With respect to certain other objects, the powers of the two governments are concurrent, and yet supreme. I instanced yesterday a tax on a specific article. Both might lay the tax; both might collect it without clashing or interference. If the individual should be unable to pay both, the first seizure would hold the property. Here the laws are not in the way of each other; they are independent and supreme.<sup>3</sup>

The final form of the Supremacy Clause was offered on the Convention floor by Luther Martin, the anti-federalist delegate from Maryland who was a strong opponent of federal power.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of the clause was not to expand federal power but rather to delineate the proper roles of the federal and state governments in our constitutional system. And it means simply this: The federal government is supreme over all powers delegated to it by the Constitution. In all other areas, the federal government must defer to the states.

The Framers did not create a national government with thirteen (now fifty) administrative subdivisions. As representatives of the states, they created a confederate republic in which each state remains a vital entity. State governments are not only laboratories for experimentation; they are an important check on federal power.

May we never forget that federalism properly understood was and is the Framers' formula for freedom!

Colonel Eidsmoe serves as Professor of Constitutional Law for the Oak Brook College of Law & Government Policy ([obcl.edu](http://obcl.edu)), as Senior Counsel for the Foundation for Moral Law ([morallaw.org](http://morallaw.org)), and a Pastor of Woodland Presbyterian Church of Notasulga ([woodlandpca.org](http://woodlandpca.org)).

<sup>1</sup> James Iredell, in Jonathan Elliot, *The Debates in the Several State Conventions on the Adoption of the Federal Constitution* 4:178-79).

<sup>2</sup> William Richardson Davie, Elliot 4:182

<sup>3</sup> Alexander Hamilton, Elliot 2:362

<sup>4</sup> Meese, Edwin, ed. *The Heritage Guide to the Constitution* (Regnery 2005) 291.

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



## HISTORY BITS AND PIECES

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

### America's Greatest Tyrant



John Martin

*This Month—April, 2025—marks the 160th anniversary of Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox, which officially ended the bloodiest and most brutal war ever fought on American soil. It also left the Southern states at a great loss in their quest for independence.*

The number of deaths is only approximately known. Many history books list the **total death toll from 640,000 to 700,000**, including the murder of **50,000 innocent Southern civilians**, which seems

low when we consider an unknown number of additional civilian deaths from injuries, disease, and starvation, which may have even doubled those two estimates. In addition, the South suffered horrendous property damage—the loss of its roads, bridges, railroads, riverboats, and other infrastructure, including thousands of priceless antebellum homes and buildings.

After the war, the survivors faced 12 years of painful reconstruction. Federal troops remained to harass them until 1877.

Historians call it “**The American Civil War.**” But historian Jay Higginbotham had this to say, “*There was nothing civil about this war.*”

The war was totally inexcusable. It was NOT a war to free the slaves. It was an **INVASION** of the North against the South to subjugate and claim it. For the South, it was a war for independence—the same kind of war we fought against the British Empire for our independence.

The Southern states had lower import duties and therefore enjoyed a trade advantage. This spurred the Northern states into imposing economic sanctions against the South, all the way down to blockading their ports. Having a larger population, they were able to out-vote and strangle the South. The Southern states decided they had suffered enough and rallied to declare their independence—just like we did against King George III over a half century earlier; we fought two bitter wars against him to retain it.

The Northern states refused to peacefully vacate the Southern forts and other facilities. Finally, on April 12, 1861, after unsuccessful negotiations, Southern soldiers fired upon Fort Sumter. The North and Lincoln cried, “Foul,” and thus the war began.

But after the North refused to leave peacefully, what other options did the South have? Suppose the British had occupied Fort McHenry after we had declared our independence and they had refused to leave peacefully. Would we have been “foul” if we had fired upon it?

As soon as he declared war, Lincoln silenced hundreds of Northern newspapers that spoke against him. He imposed America's first income tax. He suspended the Writ of Habeas Corpus against all Americans. In Maryland, without warrants, he ordered Union soldiers, to confiscate weapons from law-abiding citizens and also allowed them to steal their property without compensation. He then arrested hundreds of Maryland citizens for supporting the South, along with most of Maryland's state legislators, the Baltimore city council, the Baltimore police commissioner, mayor, thousands of others, and even members of the Supreme Court—sending them to military prisons for years. This greatly upset John Wilkes Booth into later ending his tyrannical rule.

Most current American history books refuse to admit it. They argue that the South had rebelled and that Lincoln was justified in what he did. They don't admit that the South was being invaded by the North and that it was fighting for its independence.

Lincoln went on a rampage of conscription (a form of slavery) without the consent of Congress. He ordered his Generals to attack cities and burn them to the ground. The invasion was as brutal as anyone could imagine. Along with Southern soldiers, totally innocent farmers and other citizens were slaughtered and had their homes and property burned and stolen. Thousands of innocent women and children in them perished.

Lincoln's most brutal general was William Tecumseh Sherman, possibly the most wicked man in American history. He literally burned entire cities to the ground, including those with only civilians inside. He arrested civilian hostages to trade for federal war prisoners, and when he had more than he needed, he executed them. He burned and then sacked undefended Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi.

Sherman's “March to the Sea” was “a marauding rampage filled with robbery,

rape, and murder.” He had a “professed hatred of self-government” along with a particular hatred of South Carolina. He raped, pillaged, plundered and burned with a scorched earth policy, and continued even when a decisive Northern victory was impending. Survivors were relegated to generations of poverty.

Historian Mark Grimsley argues that “*Sherman was just the most zealous of all federal commanders in targeting Southern civilians, which is apparently why he became one of Lincoln's favorite generals.... Such practices were an essential part of Lincoln's entire war plan and were routinely practiced by all federal commanders.*”

Lincoln frankly admitted the war was not for freeing the slaves. It was to conquer and subjugate the South. In a well-known letter, he explicitly stated that his invasion was to “save the Union,”—just like King George III had invaded us to save his “Union.” Lincoln stated he didn't care whatsoever about helping the slaves.

Lincoln wrote the following in his letter to Horace Greeley, editor of the New York Tribune, dated August 22, 1862:

*“As to the policy I ‘seem to be pursuing’ as you say, I have not meant to leave any one in doubt. I would save the Union. I would save it the shortest way under the Constitution. The sooner the national authority can be restored; the nearer the Union will be ‘the Union as it was.’ If there be those who would not save the Union, unless they could at the same time save slavery, I do not agree with them. If there be those who would not save the Union unless they could at the same time destroy slavery, I do not agree with them. My paramount object in this struggle is to save the Union, and is not either to save or to destroy slavery. If I could save the Union without freeing any slave I would do it, and if I could save it by freeing all the slaves I would do it; and if I could save it by freeing some and leaving others alone I would also do that.”*

The term “**Great Emancipator**” is an oxymoron. Lincoln wrote the Emancipation Proclamation to incite the Southern slaves into rebellion. And it applied only to the South, where he had no authority. It did not include slaves in the North, where he did. In the South, it only took effect after the war had ended.

If Lincoln had really cared about ending slavery, he could have done it with a buyback program—to purchase slaves from their owners for fair prices and then either teach them to earn their livings by working for wages or send them back to their homelands in Africa. The cost would have been far less than waging the war.

Another option would have been just to sit and wait for two more decades. By the 1880's, slavery was being ended, with a few third world exceptions, all over the world.

In conclusion, considering the carnage and destruction wrought by his war, Lincoln must be rated as America's most terrible president, our most ruthless violator of our Constitution, our greatest warmonger, our greatest TRAITOR, and our greatest TYRANT and MASS MURDERER.

WHY do the American people worship Lincoln as if he were a God? Why do we honor him and erect monuments for him? In essence, it is tantamount to modern-day Germany doing likewise for Adolf Hitler.

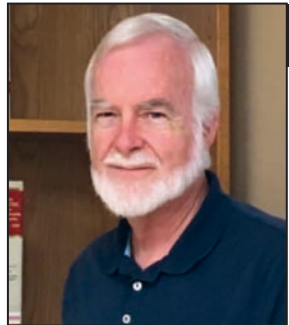
And at the same time, WHY are we striving to eradicate and dishonor the struggles of our Southern heroes who fought for independence? Look at Richmond's Monument Avenue. Look at Montgomery—the Cradle of the Confederacy. Confederate landmarks, monuments, and names are in danger of becoming obliterated.

#### SOURCES

1. Dean, Henry Clay, Crimes of the Civil War and Curse of the Funding System, 1868. <https://archive.org/details/crimesofcivilwar00dean/page/n3/mode/2up>
2. Rockwell, Llewellyn H. Jr., The Great Tom DiLorenzo (Lincoln's Lies), November 6, 2023. <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2023/11/lew-rockwell/the-great-tom-dilorenzo/>
3. Brandell, Renley, What were some bad decisions made by Abraham Lincoln? Quora.com, 2017. <https://www.quora.com/What-were-some-bad-decisions-made-by-Abraham-Lincoln>
4. DiLorenzo, Thomas, Why They Raped, Pillaged, and Plundered: General Sherman's Professed Hatred of Self Government, LewRockwell.com, December 4, 2014 <https://www.lewrockwell.com/2014/12/thomas-dilorenzo/us-soldiers-raped-pillaged-and-plundered/>
5. DiLorenzo, Thomas, Lincoln was a War Criminal: it's a FACT!, Southern Sentinel. <https://southern sentinel.wordpress.com/lincolnwas-a-war-criminal/>

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

### Lincoln's Role in the Firing on Fort Sumter



John Taylor

April is a pivotal month in America's past and Ft. Sumter holds an important place in that history. Named after General Thomas Sumter, a hero of the American Revolution, the fort is located just off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. It was built for coastal defense and as a tax collection point.

South Carolina left the Union on December 20, 1860. Less than a week later, U.S. Army Major Robert Anderson moved his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter. Before leaving, he spiked the guns at Moultrie to temporarily render them useless. Over the next few months the South Carolina government made multiple futile pleas for Fort Sumter to be abandoned. In January 1861, during James Buchanan's Administration, an attempt was made to reinforce Fort Sumter when the Star of the West was sent, carrying troops below the deck. A shot across the bow from the defending South Carolinians turned the ship back north.

The citizens of Charleston provided food for the troops at Fort Sumter but that was a finite arrangement. Lincoln preferred capitulation, not negotiation; however, he sought the advice of Winfield Scott, a respected veteran with over fifty years of military service. Lincoln read Scott's opinion to his cabinet on March 11, 1861. Scott recommended conciliation and removal of troops from Forts Sumter and Pickens, feeling that Anderson (Fort Sumter) could survive for a short time but any lengthy holdout would require 25,000 troops and a fleet of warships. Lincoln disagreed.

Postmaster General Montgomery Blair was optimistic the fort could be held, based on a plan devised by his brother-in-law, Gustavus V. Fox, an eighteen-year navy veteran. This stratagem (rejected by President Buchanan) would make the South appear as the aggressor and save face for the Union. Fox' plan was to send a naval expedition consisting of a fleet of ships with an announced intention of taking only food and supplies to Anderson and his men. Sailing under a “humanitarian” pretense lessened the chance of an attack on the fort. The ruse was that the ships would secretly carry armed soldiers and sailors.

Lincoln met with Fox on March 14, 1861, and presented the plan to his cabinet the next day. He asked each cabinet member to provide a written response stating whether or not they thought resupplying Fort Sumter was the right course. Since Lincoln preferred reinforcement, the decision had essentially been made.

Lincoln sent Ward Hill Lamon and S.A. Hurlbut, an Illinois politician and diplomat, to Charleston to monitor Union support—it was virtually nonexistent. Lamon met with South Carolina Governor Pickens, who explained an attempt to resupply the fort would be considered an act of war that would evoke a military response. Upon their return, Hurlbut and Lamon reported their findings.

On March 29, Lincoln interviewed army engineer Montgomery Meigs about the possibility of reinforcing both Fort Sumter and Fort Pickens. Meigs told Lincoln enough volunteers could be found to accomplish reinforcement, but higher-ranking officers should make the final decision. Navy Secretary Gideon Welles

agreed with Lincoln and the decision was made to reinforce.

One factor either overlooked or ignored was the December 6, 1860, armistice between the U.S. government and the State of South Carolina. There was also a January 29, 1861, armistice between the U.S. government and authorities from the State of Florida. Under these armistices (from Buchanan's presidency), reinforcement of Sumter or Pickens was considered an act of war. These agreements did not go unnoticed in the South. Confederate General Braxton Bragg commented: “*They have placed an engineer officer at Fort Pickens to violate, as I consider, our agreement not to reinforce. I do not believe that we are entirely absolved from all agreement of January 29.*” Lincoln had no intention of honoring any armistice. The decision was made, the plan was executed, and things unfolded as Lincoln had suspected.

Lincoln, the embodiment of crony capitalism, was determined to protect the interests of those who had gotten him elected—corporate interests in New England and the Upper Midwest (steel manufacturers, railroads, etc.) and the banking institutions that financed their operations. A free trade South would not be allowed.

By creating the illusion that the South started the war, Lincoln claimed a propaganda victory. Although the South reacted to an act of war “court historians” accuse the South of starting it. That is one reason “educators” in the North felt it imperative to seize the narrative and “re-educate” Southerners. This effort and the slavery myth were so successful that many Southerners have belittled their own flesh and blood ancestors for daring to seek independence, believing the dubious “saving the Union” narrative. The real question is—how can you save a Union by completely destroying the voluntary basis of it?

**Sources:** Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; “Fort Sumter - April 12-14, 1861,” US CivilWar.com, <http://www.us-civilwar.com/sumter.htm>; War Between The States—Why?, by Charles T. Pace, (Published by C. T. Pace); Lincoln Provoked the War, Reflections (referencing Davis, Stephens, and Ramsdell) at: <http://www.tulane.edu/~sumter/Reflections/LinWar.html>; Truths of History (Harrisonburg, Virginia: Old South Institute Press, 2009), by Mildred Lewis Rutherford, Original source: O.R.I., 457; Southern By The Grace Of God (Gretna, Louisiana: Pelican Publishing Company, 1990), by Michael Andrew Grissom; The Lincoln No One Knows (Nashville, Tennessee: Rutledge Hill Press, 1993), by Webb Garrison; and Truth of the War Conspiracy of 1861 (Wake Forest, North Carolina: The Scuppernon Press, 2012), by H.W. Johnstone. Note: Modern court historians, e.g., McPherson, Brinkley, Richardson, Levin, Guelzo, etc., have done their jobs by keeping the “Righteous Cause Myth” alive. Also, guns can be “de-spiked” but it is typically a laborious and time-consuming task.

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







Justice Will Sellers

## Remembering Lafayette

Two hundred years ago, the Marquis de Lafayette spent nine days in Alabama traveling across the midwestern portion of the state from Georgia to Montgomery and then to Selma, the Capitol at Cahawba, and downriver to Mobile.

Alabamians came out of the woodwork to see him; Lafayette drew crowds that any politician or public figure would envy.

But what prompted his visit and why is it being commemorated with such veneration today?

At age 19, Lafayette came to America to join the colonies in fighting for their independence from Britain. He came of age when the intellectual machinations of the French philosophes' ideas and first principles about the nature of man, government and liberating freedom were all the rage.

Much like others who have been inspired by revolutionary movements through the ages, he viewed the American Revolution as the manifestation of all that was good — a revolt against tyranny, a fight for independence, and the creation of a representative republic based upon the fundamental tenets of freedom and democracy.

Lafayette would experience the highs of the successful American Revolution and the lows of the anarchy of the French Revolution. He would sideline himself from politics, only to get sucked back in as France went through the Napoleonic Era, Bourbon restoration, and other upheavals.

By 1823, he had lost his seat in France's Chamber of Deputies, was despised by the King, and lamented what seemed like a lost cause of bringing France to a constitutional monarchy.

Completely out of sorts and isolated, he wrote to his friend, James Monroe, the sitting president of the United States. The two had first met during the revolution and continued their friendship when Monroe was envoy to France.

Lafayette's letter outlined his desire to return to America and acquaint himself with his youthful exploits.

Monroe jumped at the idea and viewed the return of Lafayette as a much-needed moral boost from the sectionalism that was dividing America. His friend's return would remind the nation why it was founded, why the revolution was fought and succeeded, and why a sense of patriotism and unity should prevail over the division and discord that were plainly on the horizon.

Lafayette's celebrity status and the confidence he still commanded among Americans made him the ideal returning hero. He could tell of the glories of the American Revolution, recount the part he played, and detail his acquaintance with leading revolutionary figures; but he could also share his less than successful experience in his home country of France.

By highlighting how the United States had prospered and grown over 50 years while other revolutionary countries had not, Lafayette could help Americans appreciate what their revolution had achieved — and what it had avoided.

Inasmuch as the celebrations did create a distraction from contemporary politics and engendered a social movement of sorts to honor Lafayette, he was not able to provide a patriotic pivot to the unified feeling of revolutionary days. In fact, it was during his visit that one of the most bitter national contests surfaced with the

presidential election of 1824, which was decided by the House of Representatives when no candidate received a majority of the electoral votes.

The national acrimony occasioned when John Quincy Adams was selected over the popular vote-getter, Andrew Jackson, bubbled beneath the surface. Lafayette's presence would temporarily mask this event and unify communities in celebration, but once he departed, any feelings of mutual forbearance and goodwill vanished with him.

But even so, his historic visit mattered, and it still matters today.

By celebrating his visit, we are transported back to an earlier age and are forced to consider the ideals that undergirded the revolution and the events surrounding it. Lafayette's memory prods us to recall the person and character of George Washington and doing so brings us face-to-face with the reality that the success of the revolution was not a foregone conclusion, but a hard-fought marathon requiring sacrifice, suffering and deprivations.

Lafayette matters today, because in considering the wild enthusiastic crowds we know that there was something unique in his person that attracted people to see him. In Lafayette, we see a war hero who fought in two revolutions, one successful and the other less so. Lafayette causes us to ask why the American Revolution succeed and the French Revolution deteriorated into chaos.

He was an eyewitness and an active participant in both. He knew the key players, Washington and Robespierre, personally. He saw the words of revolution and the zeal of patriots turned to a noble cause in America and manipulated to create a reign of terror in France.

Lafayette causes us to square two competing claims of human nature and government because in his person and experience, he saw what worked and achieved stability and prosperity. He was a testament to the civility and practicality of George Washington, and he was a reminder that greatness and power are sometimes expressed in restraint and resignation.

In celebrating Lafayette, we are celebrating that exuberant spirit of youth that compelled a nobleman to come to America and fight for an ideal. We see Lafayette's enthusiasm tempered by war and the practical realities of fighting. We learn from Lafayette that reason and philosophy work well in a vacuum but fail miserably when confronted by human nature. By commemorating Lafayette, we come to terms with our history but see our state and nation in the context of others and realize the genius of our founders, their sacrifice, and the constitutional legacy that still gives us freedom and liberty that remain the envy of the world.

The person of Lafayette and even his myth calls us to consider the foundations of the country and why we have succeeded as a nation while others have failed.

Lafayette's visit asks us to explore our nation's deepest roots to better understand the experiment that continues to be the United States of America.

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



## Character Building in Tennis Shoes: The Bruce Pearl Blueprint

Bruce Pearl is more than just a great basketball coach—he's a mensch in the truest sense of the word, a man who doesn't just win games but elevates the entire arena around him. As head coach of Auburn's men's basketball team, Pearl has turned the Tigers into a bonafide powerhouse, guiding them

to another regular-season SEC conference title and the coveted No. 1 overall seed in the 2025 NCAA Tournament. You can admire the X's and O's, the relentless full-court pressure, the deft rotations, but with Bruce Pearl, it's what happens beyond the court that makes him stand out.

Here's a guy who took his team to Israel last summer—not for a vacation or a photo op, but for an experience. A journey. A lesson. In a time when most preseason trips are about getting an edge on conditioning or scrimmaging some second-tier clubs, Pearl took his players to the Holy Land. They visited historical sites, met with Israeli leaders, and yes, played basketball, but the real purpose was something deeper: to expose these young men to the weight of history, to resilience, to faith. One player later said, "It changed the way I see the world—and my place in it." That's not a team-building exercise. That's soul-building. It's vintage Pearl—coaching beyond the box score. Not surprisingly all the starters on this record breaking team made the trip.

And when Auburn made the Sweet 16 this year, Pearl used the moment to do what he always does, shine a light where most would look away. He invited the family of Edan Alexander, an American-Israeli hostage being held in Gaza, to join the team at their matchup against Michigan. This wasn't a PR stunt. This was Bruce Pearl being Bruce Pearl: emotionally invested, personally involved. He even arranged for the family to meet Danny Wolf, their favorite player on the opposing team. You can't make this up. That's compassion with a competitive streak, humanity with a whistle around its neck.

Pearl's voice has been loud and clear since the Hamas terror attacks on October 7, 2023. His statements, while bold and unflinching, drew widespread support from Auburn fans and alumni, many of whom praised him for taking a stand when others stayed silent. Players stood behind him, too, appreciating his courage and transparency. Even national media outlets took notice, lauding Pearl as a rare example of moral leadership in college athletics. While others mumbled vague platitudes or hid behind apolitical press releases, Pearl posted blunt truths. "This isn't war, it's genocide," he wrote. He called out Hamas for what they are. And he called on the rest of us to speak up, echoing Dr. King's timeless warning: "Silence is complicity." In an era where college coaches are more likely to opine on NIL collectives than international affairs, Pearl's moral clarity is unmistakable and frankly, refreshing.



### Perry O. Hooper Jr.

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



He's Jewish, yes, but his outspokenness isn't about identity politics. It's about justice. About right and wrong. And in case you think he's out there freelancing on his own think again. Before he brought up Edan Alexander in a press conference, he checked with his guys. Their response? "Coach, he's an American. Absolutely." That's the culture Pearl has built—where patriotism, compassion, and conscience are part of the playbook.

He teaches them to respect the flag, not as a symbol of blind nationalism, but of gratitude. Gratitude for a country that gave his family refuge. Gratitude for freedom that so many have made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve. Gratitude for the chance to grow up and coach the game he loves. He prays with his team. He thanks God, win or lose. And he leads with his heart in a sport that too often rewards only leading for results at all costs.

Bruce Pearl is a phenomenal coach. But he's also something rarer: a principled man in an often-unprincipled time. He believes in something. He stands for something. And if you ask me, that's worth more than any Final Four banner. That's a real legacy.

As a coach of young men, he's not just drawing up plays, he's drawing up character. And that, my friends, is a heck of a lot harder to teach than basketball.



Auburn Basketball Coach Bruce Pearl

## Fayette receives \$733,700 SEEDS grant for industrial site project...

March 28, 2025 – FAYETTE, AL - The Alabama Department of Commerce announced that the City of Fayette has received a \$733,700 grant through the SEEDS program to allow local officials to purchase property for a prime industrial site. The hope is that this effort will accelerate economic growth in this rural West Alabama region.

The Industrial Development Board of the City of Fayette (Fayette IDB) plans to purchase land to establish the North Fayette Industrial Site. The 76-acre site, with frontage on Highway 43 (the future West Central Alabama Highway), is near Beville State Community College Fayette campus, Walmart and other key assets.

Economic developer Dr. Nicole J. Wadsworth told the Alabama Gazette, "Congratulations to Fayette on receiving a \$733,700 SEEDS grant for the North Fayette Industrial Site. Site Evaluation and Economic Development Strategy (SEEDS) grants help Alabama communities attract new businesses and facilitate job creation by funding site assessments, infrastructure improvements, and strategic planning."

Brandon Moseley



## 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



**BRANDON MOSELEY**

current education funding model.

"The way the state funds education is a result of a lawsuit that was passed that happened 30 - more than 30 years ago - and has to do with equity funding. It requires every local to get state funding. You have to contribute at least 10 mills of income - of your taxes," said Chairman Garrett. "We determine in Montgomery basically, I'm way oversimplifying this, but we determine in Montgomery how many teachers every school needs. You need so many teachers per pupil. You need so much money for transportation. You need a number of dollars for this, X for that, and we calculate all that, give that to each local system and based upon a headcount that was set 20 days after Labor Day a year ago. And so what happens is a system will get, the amount of money they get is from the state is determined by their by their local contribution."

Garrett said that there are some problems with the current funding model. "We have schools that don't have the resources but have the tremendous costs and even the more affluent systems that have a lot of cost for special needs or ELL (English Language Learner) that we're not funding."

"We do an archaic funding formula based on a resource model that everybody's moved away from," explained Garrett. "And because of that we don't contribute at the state level to the cost of educating children that have higher costs associated with it, special needs, ELL, poverty, or gifted. We also provide limited state funding for charter schools."

"We in Alabama are different from some states in that we allow city school systems," said Garrett. "You know, Florida, for example, doesn't have city school systems. They have one school district per county. And that, you know, we're not that way. Jefferson County, where I live, we have the Jefferson County school

Legislature to consider new funding model for schools March 29, 2025 – State Representative Danny Garrett (R-Trussville) spoke on the Heart of Dixie Podcast with the Alabama Gazette's Brandon Moseley and Baldwin County Attorney Harry Still about proposed changes to the way Alabama funds education.

Representative Garrett chairs the House Ways and Means Education Committee that prepares the \$9.9 billion education trust fund (ETF) budget every year. Garrett explained the state's

system. We have Mountain Brook, Vestavia, Homewood, Hoover, Trussville - multiple things like that. So we're different from that aspect of it."

Garrett and Senator Arthur Orr (R-Decatur), who chairs the Senate Finance & Taxation Committee are introducing legislation to change the funding model.

"We have this hybrid model that we will be discussing," said Garrett. "It should move with the budgets and that will help address some of the funding concerns." "You will see Chairman or and I both introducing bills this session that will address how we fund education. We're one of six states that don't fund education based on student needs."

Different systems have different levels of local funding. Garrett and Orr's changes to the funding model won't change that.

"Some locals have local funding that allows them to supplement what the state gives," said Garrett. "We don't want to touch that local money at the state level. In other words, the local entity has raised their taxes for their schools. We want them to keep that."

Garrett said that he supports President Donald J. Trump's efforts to end the U.S. Department of Education and their imposing of regulations on local school systems.

"I've talked to a lot of people in both in higher ed, the state department of education, other people who are involved in this and most of the states are happy - would be happy, would welcome more control over what we do because a lot of the issues we have in the state have to do with unfunded federal mandates or strings attached to federal dollars. And that sometimes creates a lot of inefficiencies, waste of money. It also creates just that we can't solve some of the problems we can solve and creates problems with some of the things they've done."

Garrett acknowledged that there are concerns that some federal funding could be going away.

"I don't think there's a resistance at least among the people I've talked with and certainly myself about us basically taking more responsibility for this," said Garrett. "The question is: we rely on a lot of federal funding. I don't think that funding goes away. How we get it may be different."

The Alabama Legislature meets a maximum of 30 legislative days a year in a regular session. Thursday will be Day 18 of the 2025 Legislative Session.

### ALABAMA LEGISLATURE CONSIDERS REGULATIONS ON HEMP DERIVED SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS

The Alabama House Health Committee held a public hearing on controversial legislation that would strictly regulate psychoactive cannabinoid products synthesized from lawfully grown hemp.

House Bill 445 (HB445) is sponsored by state Representative Andy Whitt (R-Harvest).

Whitt said that psychoactive cannabinoids, like Delta 8 or Delta 10, "Has plagued our state" since the federal government created "a loophole" in the Farm Bill. His legislation "Places guardrails" on these products.

Whitt said that unscrupulous store operators are selling Delta 8 and Delta 9 infused drinks, gummies, candies, brownies, and other confections for profits and that this industry is completely unregulated.

"These products are being marketed across our state," said Whitt. "And even on tap in restaurants and bars. They are preying on our youth." "This is the wild

wild west."

Whitt said that his legislation would "Prohibit the sale to anyone under age 21." It would also prohibit "on premises sales, limit the amount of THC to five milligrams per serving, forbid the sale of vapes, flowers, or the buds that we often see in convenience stores - it all looked like dope to me."

Whitt added that his bill "Requires all manufacturers to get a contents analysis, ABC must approve all labeling, ban products disguised as Doritos, brownies, and muffins. There must be guardrails."

"It is only growing in size," warned Whitt. "You can go to any convenience store within walking distance of the statehouse and find products in these stores. These are products that are undoubtedly being sold to our children."

The Health Committee will vote on this bill when they meet next on April 9. Similar legislation has been passed out of committee in the Alabama Senate.

### 6 Bills that Governor Kay Ivey has already signed into law:

**SB199**, the Alabama Public Employee Paid Parental Leave Act of 2025 Sponsored by state Sen. Vivian Figures and Rep. Ginny Shaver, this law will provide paid parental leave for eligible public employees, including teachers and state workers.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SB 79**, sponsored by Sen. April Weaver and Rep. Susan DuBose, the What is a Woman bill, defines genders as biological sexes.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SB116**, sponsored by Sen. Will Barfoot and Rep. Phillip Ensler, "the Glock Switch ban bill" imposes a state ban on illegal machine gun conversion devices in the state.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SB70**, sponsored by Sen. Andrew Jones and Rep. Ed Oliver, officially establishing the Alabama Veterans Resource Center. This initiative

aims to provide comprehensive support services to Alabama's more than 400,000 veterans and their families helping them to transition to civilian life.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SB67**, sponsored by Sen. Andrew Jones and Rep. Ed Oliver, making the Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs a cabinet position and taking power away from the Veterans Commission.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SB115**, the Officer Impersonation Prevention Act, sponsored by Sen. Clyde Chambliss and Rep. Ron Bolton. This bill enhances the current law regarding the offense of impersonating a police officer. **SB115** also eliminates a loophole allowing non-APOST trained individuals to serve as law enforcement officers.



**John Sophocleus**

### DOGE and PHONEY Show

The Department Of Government Efficiency [DOGE] and Presidential Histrionics Offering No Effective Yield [PHONEY] show has dominated DC Kabuki Theatre these past weeks. Long on screeching and yowling; short on establishing **durable** reductions of the DC politburo and bureaucratic industrial complex. Difficult not to be 'snake fascinated' when the show includes a bejeweled oversized chainsaw for the Red soviet Kool-Aid drinkers delighting in the despair and lamentations of Blue soviet Kool-Aid drinkers now thirsting.

Bezos, Musk, Zuckerberg, *et al* are NOT rulers, they purchase high-end political prostitutes in DC. Shame on those who support and vote for oligarchs who are clearly 'prostiticians.' Sycophants heralding the parasites who pay corrupt oligarchs to broker their desired political theft are similarly shameful... a cancer on the marrow of our economy. Why now cheer Musk sucking up to Trump when Elon was similarly despicable as an Obama/Biden suck-up?

Enough with the 'great reality TV show' goal and start working toward accomplishing long-run reductions of the DC leviathan harming the general well-being of our republic instead of squandering the first 100 days without a mandate. It would have been truly remarkable to see Trump exhibit some acumen to get Congress to abolish some unconstitutional agencies while the Blue soviets were still 'shell shocked' from the failed Kamala *switch-a-roo* duopoly result.

Departments of Education and Energy, FEMA, *etc.* were not properly ended (in their corrupt inception) by Reagan who **actually** had a mandate - again, another big government modern Democrat wearing the Red Jersey -- reading whatever 'actor script' the big government conservatives (GE, *et al* corporate welfare queens) paid him to espouse. No surprise to anyone familiar with Reagan actions, *esp.* to those easily taken in by the Kabuki words they want to hear. David Stockman promised 2,500 reductions under Reagan (another big govt. Democrat wearing the Red jersey... from CA instead of NY) administrative actions - which also did not yield any long-term reductions.

One way an effective executive order would yield long-term reductions at the Dept. of Education, pause student loans and get the federal government **out** of the student loan business. Ask forgiveness from those who mal-invested from this unconstitutional distortion and even greater forgiveness from those (like me) who spent more because of so many subsidized recipients driving up Higher-Ed prices. Make it clear if the federal government **EVER** gets back into this loan business, their loan repayments **immediately** resume. This creates a strong base wanting the federal government permanently **OUT** of the stuent loan business. Don't expect this well reasoned leverage from 'Art of the Steal' devotees (you know, the book with several 'Chapter 11s' to promote eminent domain abuse,

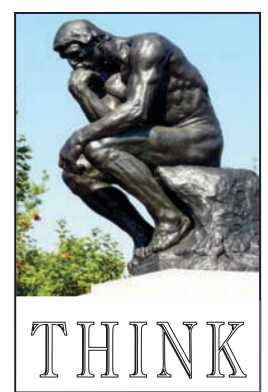
special tax breaks, etc.) The US Senate candidate who championed this, did not get votes from those who prefer mediocre football coaches who can't enumerate/understand the 3 branches of government or those preferring a high end BCA political prostitute funded by a soviet like Sen. Shelby - another big government Democrat 'donning' the Red jersey.

A recent talking point from Red soviets touts 'Common sense.' Doubt many have even heard of Thomas Paine or his 1776 writing. As one well aware of my limited intelligence, I look to those 7,500 words in the Constitution for common sense instead of failed businesspeople who are accomplished parasites. Abolish DNI and the 17 KGB [Dept. of Homeland Security] style agencies full of redundancy and poor communication between these bloated bureaucracies making us vulnerable. Upgrade and bring efficiency to agencies (**e.g.**, USPS) actually authorized to federal government to provide, to name a few.

In closing, another greatly (re)espoused piece of Red soviet rhetoric (in keeping with the spirit of 'hammer & sickle' tyranny) is the 'fair trade' talking point. Highly degreed, poorly educated like Lutnick, Miller, Navarro, *et al* do not **know**, much less **understand** the tariff history of the US. Few soviet trained economists have been taught this integral part of our economic history. There was a reason Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 put uniformity (not fair) in the Constitution to impede uneducated and/or corrupt politicians from picking winners and losers. Long time column readers know I've written on this many times these past decades. Presidential histrionics offering no effective (long-run) yields to limit federal distortions and cancerous growth to make America competitive again will be looked upon as one of the last gasps of our failed republic where many were willing to sacrifice; squandered by corporate welfare queens/parasites like Musk.

**Postscript:** thanks for all efforts on Goat Hill to curb PBM 'Pretty Bad Medicine' abuse in Alabama - good to see more following Sebelius in Kansas (like TN to our North) finally making a stand against ACCA, BCA, et al harm to our quality of life. Some joke it would be easiest for Alabama to acquire BCBS via eminent domain abuse for the public good of ending all the lives they destroy then allow competition to discipline this monopoly. After studying the ALCOA Case, I'm not sure it will work... but would send a message. As for Lee County, kudos to Commissioner Jeff Drury bringing Town Hall meetings to his district. Jeff is righteous man trying to undo great harm metastasizing these past decades in 'Felon Hubbard-land'... one of the most vulgar, a corrupt public servant who was protected by a malicious probate judge just aged-out of office this election cycle. One who does flawed traffic studies, fails to follow rules for RR Crossings and access management policies is dangerous. A probate judge using willing county employees of this sort to harass and destroy those he doesn't like, are suffering cancer treatments, etc. is diabolical.

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



THINK





Kyle' McKinney



Alabama Public Affairs Specialist  
Social Security Administration  
4344 Carmichael Road, Suite 100  
Montgomery, Alabama 36116



Email: [KYLLE.MCKINNEY@SSA.GOV](mailto:KYLLE.MCKINNEY@SSA.GOV)

Cell: (334) 479-1242

Fax: (334) 272-7630

**SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS  
ARE SAFER AT HOME**

## GENERAL ENROLLMENT PERIOD FOR MEDICARE PART B

If you did not apply for Medicare Part B (medical insurance) within 3 months before or after turning age 65, you have another chance each year during the General Enrollment Period. The period runs from January 1 to March 31 every year.

If you didn't enroll in Part B when you're first eligible, you may have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B coverage. Your monthly premium will increase 10% for each 12-month period that you were eligible for Part B but did not sign up for it. Your coverage starts the first day of the month after you sign up.

To learn more about Medicare, please visit our Medicare Benefits page at [www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits/medicare).

You may also read our Medicare publication at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf).

Please share this information with your friends and loved ones who may need it.

## SSA TALKS

Listen to our new episode:  
Benefits for Children



monthly benefit payment on your behalf and must use the money to pay for your current needs, including:

- Food
- Clothing
- Personal care items.
- Housing and utilities.
- Medical and dental expenses.
- Rehabilitation expenses (if you have a disability).

If you need help managing your benefits, tell a Social Security representative that there is someone you want to be your representative payee. Your representative payee should be someone you trust and interact with often, and who clearly understands your needs. Social service agencies, nursing homes, or other organizations are also qualified to be a representative payee. Ask them to contact us.

You can write to us within 60 days of being assigned a representative payee if you don't agree that you need one or if you want a different representative payee.

We also offer Advance Designation, which allows you to name up to three people who could serve as a representative payee for you if the need ever arises. There may come a time when you can no longer make your own financial decisions. You and your family will have peace of mind knowing that someone you trust may be appointed to manage your benefits for you.

You can submit your Advance Designation request when you apply for benefits or after you are already receiving benefits. You may also do so through your personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) or by calling and speaking to a Social Security representative.

You can find more information at [www.ssa.gov/payee](http://www.ssa.gov/payee).

## SSA TALKS

Some people who receive monthly Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments may need help managing their money. When we receive information that indicates you need help, we'll work with you to find the most suitable representative payee to manage your benefits. A representative payee is someone who receives your

## PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE DURING FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Every April we celebrate Financial Literacy Month to promote financial education and well-being in the United States. Financial Literacy Month also serves as a reminder that Social Security is a vital part of any financial plan. Our online tools are here to help you understand your potential Social Security benefits and how they fit into your financial future.

You should periodically review your *Social Security Statement (Statement)* using your personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount). Your Statement is an easy-to-read summary of the estimated benefits you and your family could receive, including potential retirement, disability, and survivor benefits.

If you're planning to retire, you can read our publication *When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits* at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf). This publication provides resources to help you prepare for retirement.

Please tell your friends and family about the steps they can take to improve their financial knowledge by exploring their personal my Social Security account. If they don't have an account, they can easily create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount).

## YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR SSI AND SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS

You may be able to get Supplemental Security Income (SSI) even if you already receive Social Security benefits. About 2.5 million adults and children get SSI and Social Security at the same time.

We pay Social Security benefits to workers and their eligible family members based on the worker's earnings. SSI is a needs-based program that provides payments to people with little or no income and few resources.

People younger than 65 must be blind or have a disability and meet SSI income and resource limits, while people 65 and older do not have to have a disability. About 1.4 million people 65 and older receive both SSI and Social Security.

### What do we mean by "little or no income"?

In 2025, you may be eligible for SSI if your total income – including your Social Security benefit – is less than \$987 per month (the 2025 SSI monthly federal benefit rate plus \$20).

We consider income from all non-work sources, including pensions, veterans' benefits, unemployment, and Social Security disability, retirement, and survivor benefits. We also count some – but not all – earnings from work, including self-employment.

### What do we mean by "few resources"?

Resources are things that you own that you could change to cash and use to support yourself. They include vehicles (if you own more than one) and money in bank accounts, stocks, and bonds. We do not count your home and the land it's on, as long as you live there. To be eligible for SSI, your resources cannot be worth more than:

- \$2,000 for a single person.
- \$3,000 for a married couple living together.

For more information visit our blog article, *You May Be Eligible for SSI and Social Security Benefits* at [blog.ssa.gov/you-may-be-eligible-for-ssi-and-social-security-benefits](http://blog.ssa.gov/you-may-be-eligible-for-ssi-and-social-security-benefits).

Please share this information with others who may benefit – and post it on social media.

## HOW BUSINESS OWNERS CAN MAKE SOCIAL SECURITY PART OF THEIR RETIREMENT PLANNING

Most business owners are focused on growing their business and legacy. But at some point, they must consider a plan for retirement. That's why it's important for business owners to begin thinking about how Social Security fits into their retirement planning. Social Security benefits are part of the retirement plan of almost every American worker – including business owners.

Since there are specific rules for business owners, they should speak with a financial advisor or accountant before applying for benefits. One of the biggest mistakes some business owners make – aside from starting retirement planning too late – is not having a plan at all. This is where a financial expert can give advice on how to prepare for retirement.

Business owners can use their personal my Social Security account at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to determine eligibility for retirement benefits as well as get a benefit estimate. Our publication, *If You Are Self-Employed*, at [www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10022.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10022.pdf), provides important information about Social Security taxes for business owners as well as how to report earnings. Don't delay, start your retirement planning today! For more information visit our Plan for Retirement webpage at [www.ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement](http://www.ssa.gov/prepare/plan-retirement). Please share this information with your loved ones.

## CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS CLAIM ONLINE

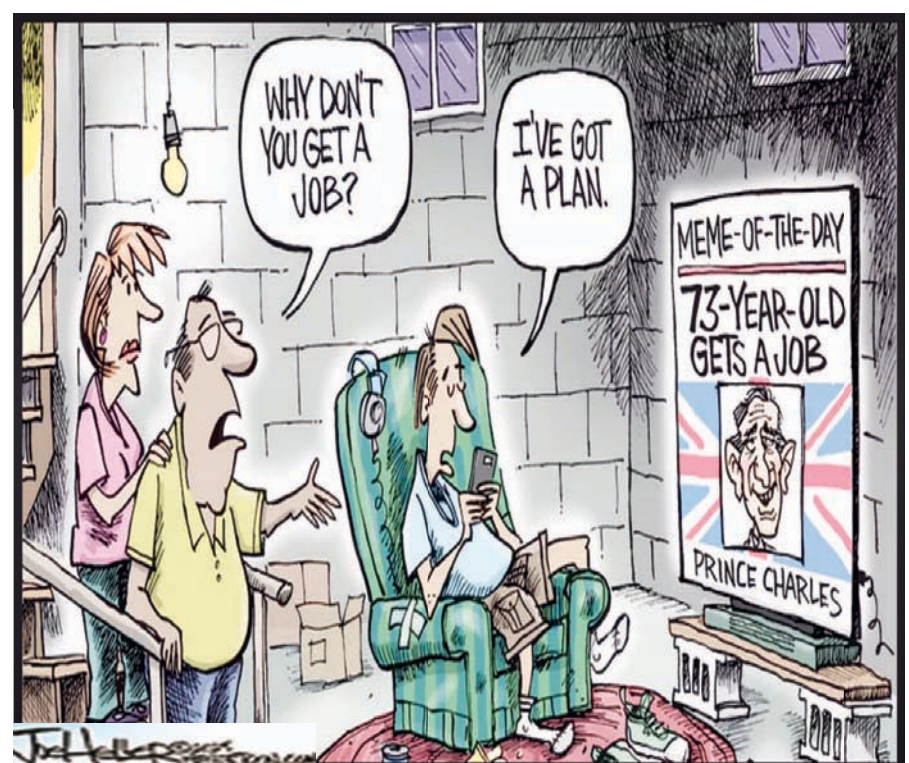
If you applied for Social Security benefits, or have a pending reconsideration or hearing request, you can check the status online using your free personal my Social Security account. If you don't have an account, you can create one at [www.ssa.gov/myaccount](http://www.ssa.gov/myaccount) to review the following information about your appeal:

- Date of filing.
- Current claim location.
- Scheduled hearing date and time.
- Incomplete applications.
- Servicing office location.
- Publications of interest, depending on the claim and current step in the process.

If you have questions about retirement, disability, Medicare, or survivor benefits, or about Supplemental Security Income, visit our webpage at [www.ssa.gov/benefits](http://www.ssa.gov/benefits).

Please share this information with your loved ones.

## SOCIAL SECURITY HONORS OUR MILITARY HEROES







Judge Peggy Givhan

# Southern Gardening Potpourri for April



April showers bring May flowers. April, what a glorious spring month; blue skies, lots of sunshine which adds to one's optimism and hope for the future. Besides the fun some have with April's Fool Day on the first day of April, there is also Easter Sunday on April 21st, which memorializes the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, the central figure for the Christian faith. I always decorate for Easter including large and small white ceramic bunnies, Easter baskets, large and small, Easter eggs, colorful Easter straw, etc. Also I have used Easter Lilies, kalanchoes, pots of dianthus, daffodils, tulips, potted hydrangeas, pots of petunias and whatever I can purchase from the nurseries and big box stores. For many years I have used a large easter basket in the center of my dining room table, filled with straw to the top of the edge of the basket, and filled with colorful plastic Easter eggs and jelly beans piled in the straw which I have placed on the table under the basket. And perhaps, you could get together with your neighbors and put on an Easter Egg Hunt. Remember to hide a golden egg with some money inside. It is so much fun to hear the squeals of the children as they retrieve the eggs.

April is the month I call the gardener's paradise. Many of the boring tasks should have been accomplished from February and through March. This would have included weeding both the spring annuals and perennials which are the easiest weeds to get rid of, cleaning out any debris or dead plant material, taking out any mulch, turning over the soil, adding new sterile soil, and applying fertilizer. There may have been a few flowers you have planted in mid-late March, which of course would remain, according to your garden plan. We note that we should only trim or prune flowering shrubs up to 6 weeks after they bloom. This would include camelias, sasanquas, forsythia, crab apple, azaleas, and others since

after this window of time, these shrubs are setting the flower buds for the next blooming cycle.

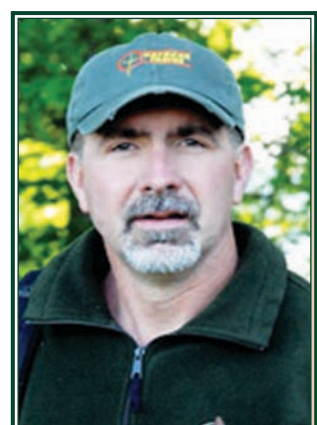
**PLANT OF THE MONTH:**

**Lenten Rose (Helleborus)**



What an appropriate plant for this time of year. These are many times called the aristocrats of late winter and early spring gardens. Other common names are Christmas rose and hellebore but all in this family require light to full shade. Please note that all parts of these plants are poisonous. Hellebores are long lived perennial plants, easy to care for and need well drained, rich soil. These plants can thrive in alkaline or slightly acid soil. Depending on the variety, they can bloom throughout winter and spring. Just the other day, I saw several Lenten Roses in a big box store nursery. Remember, if this is what you want, buy them while available as these stores will most likely not be getting anymore in. My favorite thing to do is not buy any that day thinking of returning to buy later, only to find they have been sold out.

**Happy Easter and  
GOOD GARDENING**



Gary Miller  
gary@outdoortruths.org

In my home state of Tennessee, **turkey season starts on April 12th.** For years the opening dates were always the last Saturday in March. But as the number of birds started to decline, the game commission changed the dates. While there were probably several reasons, I think one of the main ones was to let the hens get bred before hunting season. While I hate waiting the two extra weeks, I think the commission's plan worked. During the last couple of years, I have seen more turkeys than I have in several years prior. That gets me excited for this upcoming season. Another change, however, has been the limit of birds a hunter can harvest. While it used to be as many as four, we are only allowed two now. So, my season is shorter, and my opportunities are fewer. And to add to all of that, hunters are entering the field when the gobblers are acting differently than they were two weeks earlier. It seems everything has changed – except for the target. If you've lived long enough, this is nothing new – in every area of life.

whole host of bad things come to mind. I think of things like forgetting that my parents said the same thing about my generation. It also gives me the vibes that I am becoming unwilling to grow and learn, and that I'm becoming a cranky old man. And maybe more than anything, those thoughts give me the feeling that I should just give up on people and on even trying – that I should just mind my own business and become a hermit because this new generation is forever unredeemable. I mean why couldn't they just leave the turkey season like it was! What do all these things have in common? My constant contentless complaints. What do my constant contentless complaints say about me? That the Spirit of God has not done His real work in my life. Don't take my word for it. The Apostle Paul explained succinctly what God is trying to bring about in my life. He said, *"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.* There is no law against these things! (Gal 5:22-23 NLT) And what one should notice about these are how none of them can be done while complaining. So, when change comes, thank God that He thought you were the perfect person to be alive at this time, to show not only how to change gracefully, but how to love those whose season is different than yours.



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

One of the things I'm thankful for is that as I have grown older, I have never been the person who has "longed for the good ole days" or who has bemoaned the seemingly moral and ethical decline of the present generation. That's not to say that some things are not worse now than before, but that it's just not been something that I have embraced. To me, when I say those things, a



**SKYLAR REESE - 2 BEARDED TURKEY**

**Double Bearded Gobbler**  
Beard 1: 10 1/4 inches  
Beard 2: 8 3/8 inches  
Spurs: 7/8 inches - Weight: 20.5lbs

An already beautiful morning in the turkey woods of south Montgomery turned even better when the thundering sound of a gobble rang through timber. A little bit of calling and luck brought this Tom right into range for me to take a shot with an old H&R single shot 12ga passed down from my great-grandfather. As I ran up and put my hands on my first solo bird, to my surprise I found it to be a "double-bearded" gobbler. It truly was a morning blessed by the good Lord above, and knowing my late grandfather was watching down from above makes it even better.

- 3/29/2025

*"I will be strong and courageous I will not be terrified, or discouraged; for The Lord my God is with me wherever I go." - Joshua 1:9*

**Lassiter's Hardware**  
**FEED - SEED - HARDWARE - LUMBER & MORE**

**334-288-4133 15721 US Hwy 31, Hope Hull, AL 36043**  
**If you need it, WE PROBABLY GOT IT!!**  
Look for us on FACEBOOK  
**Spring is here! New plants arriving WEEKLY!**  
**Come see us and discover what's new!**

**The way banking should be.**

**BRANTLEY BANK & TRUST CO.**  
BRANTLEY : (334) 527-3206 9402 North Main Street  
RAMER : (334) 562-3257 105 Main Street  
www.brantleybank.com

**ARROW PEST CONTROL SUPPORTS OUR VETERANS!**

Termite Control Professional Pest Control

**SERVING THE PUBLIC FOR OVER 50 YEARS!**

740 MEMORIAL DRIVE PRATTVILLE, AL 36067  
GREG BOWEN 334-365-4610

**Thank you for your support over the years!**





**Dr. Lester Spencer**  
 President Pro Tem  
 Alabama Emerald Coast Conference  
 9001 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, Alabama, 36117  
 Email: [Lester@aecgmc.org](mailto:Lester@aecgmc.org)  
 Tel: (334) 245-0260 - Web: [www.aecgmc.org](http://www.aecgmc.org)



**The Best Offer You Will Ever Get**

It was "Good Friday", the day that Jesus the Christ was crucified just outside the city of Jerusalem on a hill called Golgotha, "The Place of the Skull". Jesus was nailed to one cross and two criminals were crucified on either side of him. This whole story is found in **Luke 23:32-43**.

In **Luke 23:39-43**, we can read about and visualize the dramatic scene as it unfolds as the three of them are dying on their crosses next to each other: One of the criminals beside Jesus scoffed at him and said, "So you're the Messiah are you? Prove it by saving yourself - and us, too, while you're at it." But the other condemned criminal protested, "Don't you fear God even when you have been sentenced to die? We deserve to die for our crimes, but this man has done nothing wrong." The he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom." And Jesus replied, "I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Why were these two criminals even mentioned in the Easter story? They appear out of nowhere. We don't know their names or even what crimes they committed. We only know they were dying next to Jesus for six long hours on that Friday.

Why would the Gospel writers even bother to mention these two guys? Two reasons I believe they were pointed out in this dramatic part of the Easter story.

**One.** It was true. They were really there. It's part of the accurate telling of the history of the crucifixion.

**Two.** The two criminals represent us. They represent the two kinds of people. And I believe all of us, at the end of the day, are one of these two kinds of people.

One of the criminals was humble, repentant and had an open heart and mind to what Jesus had to offer. And this criminal accepted Jesus' offer. The other criminal was arrogant, rebellious and had a closed mind and heart to what Jesus had to offer. Sadly, he rejected Jesus and his offer.

What was it that got the attention of this convicted offender on the cross who accepted the offer of Christ? As he hung there next to Jesus, what was it that made him want to be with Jesus in eternity and accept his proposal? Maybe it was Jesus' presence. His charisma. The power of his personality. Maybe it was his reputation as a prophet and Rabbi. After all, Jesus was the most famous person in the region at the time. Maybe it was the look in Jesus' eyes. Maybe he saw the unconditional love of God for himself in the eyes of Christ as they looked upon each other as they hung there. Maybe it was Jesus' gracious words from the cross as he prayed for those Roman soldiers and the self righteous religious leaders who were killing him, "Father forgive them, they know not what they are doing."

We don't know what got his attention and changed his outlook toward Jesus. But we do know that Jesus communicated to him that he would be with him that day in paradise. That criminals' eternity was changed in a moment as he took Jesus up on his offer. He accepted it.

So, what is it that Jesus is actually offering?

**1-** He is offering a changed life. A new beginning. Second chances. In **John 3:3**, Jesus tells Nicodemus he can be born again. Born afresh and anew.

**2-** He is offering an abundant life. A life full of adventure with your creator. Jesus explains in **John 10:10**, I have come that you may have abundant life. A rich life. A full life.



**3-** He is also offering eternal life. To live with him forever in paradise. In **John 3:16**, Jesus claims, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whosoever believes in him shall have eternal life."

So, I would ask you. Who can beat that offer? What greater offer could Jesus extend to us?

Therefore, as we move toward Easter Day and the celebration of our Resurrected Lord, which one of these two types of people are you? Have you humbled yourself and opened your heart and mind to Jesus? Have you accepted his offer? Are you open to accepting his offer?

Or

Would you have to be honest and say you really haven't been very open in your heart or your mind to what Jesus has to offer? In fact, you may have been arrogant or rebellious and declared, "I don't need God. I can do this on my own."

Or

Maybe you have never really considered Jesus' offer. Are you ready to consider it now that you know what it is he is actually offering?

**Good Friday is the remembered the Friday before Easter Sunday.** It is a sober reminder that, at the end of the day, and it was literally the end of the day for these two criminals, we all have to make a choice. We will either accept Jesus' offer or reject it?

This incredible story of the thief on the cross who accepted Jesus' offer reminds us that the Lord extends this gracious offer to all of us. No matter the sins of our past, the problems of the present or the worries about the future, the Easter story shouts out to all of us that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we can experience a changed life .... a new life...an abundant life...and eternal life!

The Offer. Accept it. It is the greatest offer you will ever receive! And, once you accept it, remember Paul's words, the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead is available for your life everyday! (**Ephesians 1:19-20**)

**Remember, Jesus' offer is the best offer you will ever get!**

**There is no Happy Easter without a Good Friday!**

**Today's Woman**  
**Trisston's Tidbits:**

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*

Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

[site.trisstonwrightburrows.com](http://site.trisstonwrightburrows.com)

**"Reason to Celebrate"**



I recently heard a story about a preschool teacher who overheard an animated conversation among her students. Little Maria threw out the question: "Who loves God?" All of them responded, "I do! I do! I do!" Billy said, "I love Jesus." Kelly protested, "But He died." Billy said, "Yeah, but every Easter He rises from the dead!"

Obviously, young Billy's understanding of the meaning of Easter is still developing. We know that Jesus died once for all and, of course, rose from the dead once. Three days after paying the penalty of our sins on the cross, the sinless Jesus conquered death by rising from the grave and breaking the power of sin. It was this final sacrifice of blood that opened the only way for us to have a relationship with God now and a home with Him forevermore.

"Christ died for our sins, . . . He was buried, and . . . He rose again the third day" **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**

He has promised that He is preparing a place for us and He will someday return. One day we will be with our risen Savior. My friend, that's why every year at Eastertime...in fact, every day of the year...we have reason to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

**Happy Easter & Many Blessings!**



We are serving women in Montgomery, Elmore, and Autauga counties five days a week!

Check our schedule tab to see our location or call us on the mobile unit at 334-202-4994.

[www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com/](http://www.lifeonwheelsalabama.com/)

**Shaklee**  
 Independent Distributor

Healthy Living starts here!

**Alice Cole (334) 467-0867**  
<https://us.shaklee.com/site/acole/storefront>



Website: [firstchoicemontgomery.com](http://firstchoicemontgomery.com)

Phone: (334) 260-8010

Mon. - Thurs. 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Fri. - 8:30 - Noon

380 Mendel Pkwy E Montgomery, AL 36117



104 Company St., Wetumpka, Alabama  
 @elmorecountypregnancycenter

Call (334) 567-1955

Worried about privacy?  
**CONFIDENTIALITY IS OUR PRIORITY.**

