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Honoring Our Heroes



SPECIAL EDITION

Governor Ivey signs bill to establish the Alabama Veterans Resource Center

By Brandon Moseley



February 27 Alabama Governor Kay Ivey signed Senate Bill 70 to establish a veterans resource center where Alabama veterans will be able to go to access all of their benefits in one location.

"Alabama's more than 400,000 veterans deserve our very best, and I look forward to the Alabama Veterans Resource Center being one more tool for those

who have served," said Governor Ivey. "This legislation, along with Senate Bill 67 to restructure the Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, will help Alabama be the number one state for veterans. As I said during my state of the state address, our veterans have taken care of us, so now, we must take care of them."

Senate Bill 70 is sponsored by state Senator Andrew Jones (R-Centre). It was carried in the Alabama House of Representatives by Rep. Ed Oliver (R-Dadeville). Jones said that he hopes the Veterans Resource Center will help veterans readjust to civilian life.

At a press conference also attended by Speaker of the House Nathaniel Ledbetter (R-Rainsville), Senate Pro Tem. Garlan Gudger (R-Cullman), Oliver, Jones, and members of the Legislature who are veterans, Alabama Power CEO Jeff Peoples vowed to raise money from the private sector to help make the Veterans Service Center a reality.

The Veterans Service Center will be centrally located – likely in Montgomery.

National WW2 Museum at New Orleans

The National WW2 Museum offers a compelling blend of sweeping narrative and poignant personal detail. It features immersive exhibits, multimedia experiences and an expansive collection of artifacts and first-person oral histories taking visitors inside the story of the war that changed the world. Beyond the galleries, the Museum's online collections, virtual field trips, webinars, educational travel programs and renowned International Conference on World War II offer patrons new ways to connect to history and honor the generation that sacrificed so much to secure our freedom.



The Museum Exhibits and Museum Store are open daily, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. It is closed Mardi Gras Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. The address for the Museum is 945 Magazine Street, New Orleans, 70130. The parking area is located at 1024 Magazine Street. Call 504-528-1944 for information on ticket prices or visit the web site at: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org>.



Sonarman Second Class Harry Ural Jackson

Recently the AL WWII veteran, Sonarman Second Class Harry Ural Jackson, a WWII hero, who served in the U.S. Navy on a submarine chaser three weeks off the coast of Normandy during and after the D-Day landing was invited to visit the museum where his interview was video taped.

His feature article was published in the November 2019 issue of the Alabama Gazette.

Aviation Issues
SEE PAGE 6
ROB TATE

The Status of Tic Tok
SEE PAGE 7
RONALD HOLTSFORD

Vietnam After 50 Years
SEE PAGE 2
COL JOHN EIDSMOE



ST. PATRICK'S DAY March 17th 2025

SPRING IS HERE! MARCH 20
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Who was St. Patrick? WHY THE SHAMROCK?
SEE PAGE 12
BY PEGGY GIVHAN



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Col. John Eidsmoe

VIETNAM AFTER 50 YEARS: AMERICA'S SHAME, BUT AN ALABAMA HERO

The spring of 2025 marks the 50th anniversary of a sad event in American history: The fall of Saigon, and the failure of the United States to honor its commitment to save South Vietnam from Communist aggression.

Not that our military failed. At a colloquium years later between American and North Vietnamese to discuss the war, an American officer said, "You never defeated us on the battlefield. A North Vietnamese officer replied, "That is true. It is also irrelevant."

He meant that the Communists won the war, not by defeating America and South Vietnam militarily, but by demoralizing the American people. With the aid of a leftist media, anti-American university faculty, and subversives in government, the Communists convinced a substantial portion of the American public that we had no right to protect the South Vietnamese from aggression, that Ho Chi Minh and his followers were not really Communists but "agrarian reformers," and that South Vietnam wasn't worth defending. Anti-war demonstrators burned the American flag, and soldiers returning from Vietnam were spat upon and ridiculed.

President Lyndon Johnson followed a disastrous policy of "gradual escalation" that enabled the Communists to escalate as well, and the war wore on with no end in sight. President Nixon was elected in 1968 and began "Operation Thunder," bombing North Vietnamese targets, thus bringing the Communists to the bargaining table.

But the Paris Peace Accord of 1973 was a recipe for defeat. It even allowed the North Vietnamese to keep their troops in South Vietnam; what could go wrong with a peace agreement like that? And sure enough, with Nixon out of office in 1975, the North Vietnamese with aid from the Soviet Union and China began a massive offensive. The American people and the Congress lacked the stomach for further resistance and opted not to defend South Vietnam, leaving our erstwhile ally with American weapons but no ammunition. The fall was inevitable.

But while America's betrayal of its ally was shameful, one man stood showed remarkable courage: Admiral Jeremiah Denton, an American hero and an Alabama hero as well.

Born 15 July 1925 in Mobile into a staunch Roman Catholic family, Denton attended McGill-Toolen Catholic High School and Spring Hill College, then attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating with Jimmy Carter in 1947 with Jimmy Carter. He entered the Navy as a test pilot and commander of an attack squadron, and on 18 July 1965 his plane crash-landed over North Vietnam. Thus began nearly eight years as a prisoner of war, much of it in a 6' x 9' cell. Denton and his fellow POWs were regularly subjected to brutal interrogations, beatings, attempts at brainwashing, and torture techniques that included shock treatment and hoisting a person from the ground with his hands tied behind his back in a way that sometimes broke the arms and often resulted in permanent shoulder damage.

American POWs showed remarkable resilience. During much of his captivity, Denton was the senior officer, and the other POWs looked to him for leadership. They developed a system of communication by tapping on the walls in code, and sometimes by coughing and sneezing.

And they called upon God for help. Some of them managed to put together a partial Bible by contributing Scripture verses each of the remembered. They prayed for each other, for their families back home, and for America.

One day in 1966, Denton's captors led him to a press conference, where they expected him to tell the world he and his fellow POWs were well-treated. He pretended that the lights were bothering his eyes, and he seemingly blinked erratically. But American officials recognized that he was blinking in Morse Code the letters T-O-R-R-T-U-R-E. Asked about the war, he said,

"I don't know what is happening, but whatever the position of my government is, I support it fully. Whatever the position of my government, I believe in it, yes, sir. I am a member of that government, and it is my job to support it, and I will as long as I live."

For this he received a severe beating back in his cell.

After nearly eight years in captivity, he was finally released. During his captivity he was promoted to Captain and later to Rear Admiral, and was awarded the Navy Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star, and the Bronze Star. Shortly before his plane landed, he was told that as senior officer he would be expected to make a statement to the press. He stepped to the microphone and stated on behalf of his fellow POWs,

"We are honored to have had the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our nation for this day. God bless America."

But in some ways his joyful return was a rude shock. Like many POWs, he noted how much America had changed during his years of captivity: manners, dress, and language had coarsened, morals had sunk to record lows, and patriotism seemed an anachronism. He went to work for Pat Robertson at Christian Broadcasting Network, formed the Coalition for Decency to boycott sponsors of promiscuous television programs, supported the Anti-Communist Contras in Nicaragua, and detailed his POW experiences in his book *When Hell Was in Session*.

In 1980 he became the first Republican United States Senator from Alabama since Reconstruction. In Washington he gave strong support for national security, saying America's security was weaker than when General Washington's troops walked barefoot in the winter at Valley Forge. He obtained passage of the Adolescent Family Life Act to promote teen chastity and compiled a strongly conservative voting record.

After leaving the Senate, he continued to work for God, country, and family, stressing the strong Catholic faith that had been his source of strength during captivity. At age 89 he died of a heart ailment 28 March 2014 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery, a hero at home among heroes.

The Vietnam War was a conflict many Americans would like to forget, because they don't understand its purpose. Even the Vietnam Wall, a privately-funded monument that contains the names of 58,318 soldiers who died in Vietnam, fails to explain why they fought and why they died. As a result, the general public today believes the war was a pointless waste of lives and resources, and many Vietnam veterans have sadly concluded that their sacrifices were in vain.

I assure my fellow Vietnam-era veterans that their sacrifices were of infinite value. The civilian leadership did not allow us to win the war, but we held back the Communist advance for nearly ten years. By answering our country's call, we bought America and the Free World a decade of time, during which America won the Cold War. I believe there is a direct link between the stand we took in Vietnam and the collapse of the Soviet Union 15 years later.

In Vietnam Veterans of America, we open our meetings with a moment of silence for our fallen companions, and we close that moment with "Welcome home!" For most of us, our service was neither as heroic nor as painful as that of Admiral Denton. But for all, our service was no less honorable and no less necessary.

**To all who served in and during the Vietnam War:
"Welcome home!"**

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

Central AL Veterans Health Care System Celebrated 85th Anniversary

On February 10, 2024, the Central AL Veterans Health Care System celebrated the 85th anniversary of the establishment of the medical center at 216 Perry Hill Road in Montgomery. An outdoor flag raising ceremony was held on the campus. Stephen Sheets, the Associate Director of the medical center, served as the emcee of the program. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wille J. Rogers, Sr. Vice Commander of the AL American Legion, and the invocation was given by the VA Chaplain Tony Brown. Amir Farroqi, Director of the Central AL Veterans Health Care System, spoke to the attendees.

The Veterans Administration purchased the 138-acre tract in the Dalraida section of Montgomery to construct the hospital, approximately four miles from downtown. The Montgomery VA Hospital is considered a second-generation veterans' hospital. The first generation was domiciliary in nature. The original complex was comprised of nine buildings with one connecting corridor and was partially air conditioned. Operating rooms were located on the top floor to keep noise to a minimum. The Veterans

Administration awarded the sole bidder, Montgomery-based builder Algernon Blair, the million-dollar contract to build the 250-bed facility, and construction was completed in sixteen months. Materials used in the building's construction included Alabama limestone and local colonial bricks, and the building combines Colonial Revival and Classical Revival architectural styles. The Montgomery VA Hospital opened its doors on November 1st, 1940. Robert P. Shields served as the first director.

In September 1988, the VA announced a \$20 million expansion project for the hospital adding approximately 145,000 square feet of space to the facility. Some 100,000 square feet of existing space was renovated to include a new surgical suite, intensive care unit, patient wards, and an outpatient clinic. Montgomery-based Caddell Construction Company received the contract with the low bid of \$23.7 million. The Montgomery VA Hospital has served hundreds of thousands of Veterans since its opening.



Community Lifestyles

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Honoring Our Heroes



VETERAN NEWS

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

God Bless the USA!

VETERANS MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Norma Lynn Lundy	March 4th
Eddie Frank Harris	March 5th
James E. Pierson	March 10th
Patricia Thomas	March 14th
Larry P. Cornwell.....	March 17th
Tamara McClendon.....	March 18th
John M. Jefferies	March 20th
Margaret L. Compton	March 29th
Gerald May	March 29th
Jack Hawkins Jr.	March 30th

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

National Vietnam Veterans Day at Greenwood Cemetery Montgomery, AL - March 29, 2025

March 29th is a fitting choice for a day honoring Vietnam veterans. It was chosen to be observed in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam was disestablished and also the day the last U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam. In addition, on and around this same day Hanoi released the last of its acknowledged prisoners of war.

Townsend Detachment #920 United States Marine Corps League Elects New Officers

The Townsend Detachment #920 United States Marine Corps League met at the Perryhill Methodist Church on February 15, 2025 where members installed new officers who will serve a one year term.

The new officers are: Commandant and Toys for Tots Coordinator: Nancy Burtron, Robert Fell, Judge Advocate and Junior Past Commandant: Mike Jefferies, Pay Master: Chuck Moore, Adjutant: Pat Jefferies, Sergeant at Arms: Mark Kuehndorf, Chaplain: Charles Harris, Web Sergeant: Eric Neese, News Letter Editor: Mark Barnhardt and VA Liaison: Sandra Robinson.

Members of the Marine Corps League join together in camaraderie and fellowship for the purpose of preserving the traditions and promoting the interests of the U.S. Marine Corps. Members of the Townsend Detachment #920 meet at Sinclairs East at 7847 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36116 at 5:00-7:00 on the 3rd Monday of each month.



River Region Veterans Coalition

The first meeting of the River Region Veterans Coalition (RRVC) was held February 18, 2025 at the Feast Buffet in Montgomery, AL. The purpose of the meeting was to provide information to veterans' service organizations and to others about fellow government agencies. Hopefully, this will lead to a permanent RRVC in the Montgomery area similar to such groups in Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville resulting in uniting veterans and finding out what veterans' needs are.

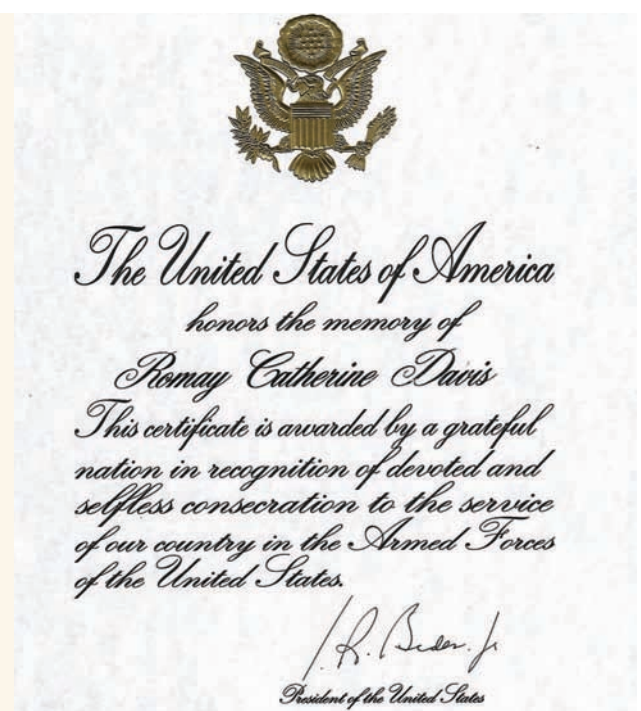
Chuck Cochran, Commander of the American Legion Post 2 in Montgomery, presided and welcomed everyone. After the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Keith Rudolph and a meal was served, each person did a self-introduction with data on the organization that he represented. Using a Power Point format, Rear Admiral Kent Davis described the South AL Veterans Council (SAVC) in Mobile, AL, the Central Alabama Veterans Collaborative (CAVC) in Birmingham, AL, the North Alabama Veterans and Fraternal Organizations Coalition (NAVFOC) in Huntsville, AL, the need for a similar organization in Montgomery, AL, and an overview of Veterans Affairs. Chuck Cochran led a discussion of the future of the River Region Veterans Coalition including the possibility of monthly meetings, the date and time of day for such meetings, the location of future meetings and the election of RRVC officers.

WWII Veteran Romay Catherine Davis Honored Posthumously



The WWII veteran, Catherine Romay Catherine Davis was honored posthumously by former President Joseph Biden with his issuing a certificate honoring the memory of her service in the Women's Army Corps (WACS).

A biographical article of her was published in the January 2020 issue of the Alabama Gazette.



COACH TOMMY TUBERVILLE

U.S. SENATOR  FOR ALABAMA



Tuberville Honors Wayne Everett of Fultondale as March "Veteran of the Month"

"Challenges are a part of life that show us what we're really made of. Corporal Wayne Everett of Fultondale reminds us that while we can't control what challenges life throws our way, we can control how we respond.

He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965, leaving his small town of East Lake for the jungles of Vietnam. After discharging from the military, Wayne took his young family back home to the Birmingham area to work with his father as a painter for the next decade. His years in active duty taught him lessons he carried with him in raising his family and in his career.

Wayne took on the role of caregiver when his wife was diagnosed with cancer, and they were raising young children. Even in the face of tragedy, Wayne's loyalty never wavered. And despite his wife's passing, Wayne continued to devote himself to his church and his family. Some years after, he remarried to an old friend where they joined their lives as a blended family.

He is admired by all who know him, including his stepdaughter Reata, who nominated him for this recognition.

While Wayne is a man of few words, his character and actions speak volumes.

Senator Tuberville recognizes a different Alabama veteran each month for their service and contribution to their community. Constituents can nominate an Alabama veteran and submit their information to Senator Tuberville's office for consideration by emailing press_office@tuberville.senate.gov.

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.



Col Richard Giordano: Age 92



Col Richard Giordano served 32 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) included (1.) Director of Logistics, (2.) Wing Commander, (3.) Aerospace Maintenance Director and (4.) Director of Operations. He received the following medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons; Legion of Merit with two Devices, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal with three Devices, Air Force Commendation Medal with one Device, Air Force Longevity Service Award with six Devices, Service Medal with four Devices, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three devices and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Giordano was born August 2, 1932 to his parents, Vito and Helen Giordano. He graduated from Beacon High School in 1950, and while he was there, he lettered in basketball and golf.

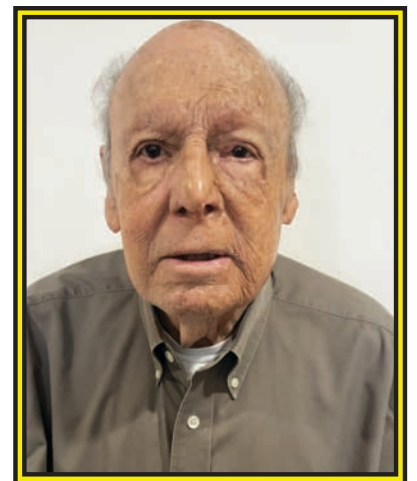
Col Giordano volunteered for military service and entered the U.S. Air Force in May, 1952. After Basic Training, he was assigned to Craig Air Force Base, AL, where he worked as a crew chief. He was accepted in the Cadet program and completed 15 months at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, followed by training at Goodfellow Air Force Base, TX, and to Greenville Air Force Base, MS, where he completed training and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and received his wings graduating in April 1954. His first assignment was at Turner Air Force Base, GA, for 2.5 years where he flew the single jet fighter, the Republic F-84 Thunderjet, an American turbojet fighter-bomber aircraft. He was then selected for the U-2 Spy plane program. The U-2 was a special high-altitude plane that flew at a ceiling of 70,000 feet. Because the plane flew at such heights, it was thought it would be possible for the planes to pass over the Soviet Union undetected by radar on the ground. He knew and often flew with Francis Gary Powers who was later shot down over Russia. While at Turner AFB, he was also acquainted with other U-2 pilots. Rudolph Anderson who was later shot down over Cuba during the Cuban crisis and Steve Hyser who personally briefed President Kennedy on the fact that the Cubans did in fact have ICBM missiles. However, he had an accident in a T-33 plane suffering severe burns, and he spent 15 months in military hospitals at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, and at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base where he had plastic surgery. He recovered enough to return to active duty and served as the Executive Officer for the U-2 Squadron Commander at Laughlin Air Force Base, where he got his flying status back on the Lockheed T-33 Shooting Star (or T-Bird) which was an American subsonic jet trainer and a T3A military aircraft that was used by the U.S. Air Force as a light utility transport and liaison plane. Next, he served at Ben Guirir, Morocco, first as the Squadron Commander and then as the Assistant Director of Administrative Services. This base existed to support B-47 bombers

as a forward operating base during the Cold War which was a period of global geopolitical rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union between 1947-1991. He then returned to the U.S.A. and served at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., for four years as a command pilot of the K-C135 Stratotanker, an American military aviation tanker aircraft. Next, he served at Glasgow Air Force Base, MT, as a command pilot of the K-C135 with many TDY flights to U.S. military bases in the Pacific Ocean during the time of the Viet Nam War. He was then deployed to serve at U-Tapao Royal Thai Air Base where he continued flying the K-C135. He flew 100 combat missions in southeast Asia during December 1966 and May 1968. He returned to the U.S.A. and served at Offutt Air Force Base, NB, as the Strategic Air Command Operations Controller for three years. While there, he received a B.A. Degree in Economics from the University of Nebraska in 1972. He then deployed to serve three years at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe at Casteau, Belgium, where his assignment for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was to develop a program for an airborne command post. He returned to serve as the Senior Command Operations Controller at Offutt Air Force Base, NB, for two years. He also served as the Director of Maintenance for three kinds of aircraft, the KC-135, RC-135 and C-135. He then served as the Wing Commander for three years at Royal Air Force Mildenhall, England, for three years. His final assignment was at Lackland Air Force Base, TX, as the Chief of Staff for Logistics for Electronic Security Command. Col Giordano retired there May 31, 1984.

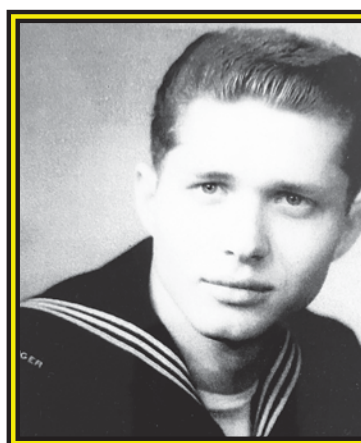
After his military retirement, Col Giordano first worked as the operations officer for East Carolina Trucking at Montgomery, AL, for 3.5 years. Then he worked with the AL Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) for 10 years. He retired from all employment in 2000 after completing 4,430 flying hours and 538 combat hours.

Col Giordano and his wife, Anita, were married 67 years before she passed away, and they had three children, eight grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She accompanied him on overseas tours to Morocco, England and Belgium. He belongs to the Daedalians, an organization for military aviators, the Military Officers Association and the Church of the Holy Spirit where he has served as a reader.

Col Giordano's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Air Force means to him are, "Serving in the military was the best thing that ever happened to me except getting married. If I had to do it all over again, I would do it except for the accident." He would like to be remembered as someone who was a nice guy who loved people and always put his family first.



Petty Officer First Class Jerry Wayne Moreland: Age 83



Petty Officer First Class (PO1) Jerry Wayne Moreland served in the United States Navy for 20 years and nine months. His Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) was communications as a radio man. He received the following medals, awards, decorations, citations and ribbons: Good Conduct Medal (five), Meritorious Unit Commendation and Golden Wreath Award (seven) for excellent performance meeting criteria set by the Commanding Officer Navy Recruiting Command. PO1 Moreland was born June 28, 1941 to his parents, Colis and Mildred Moreland in Columbus, GA. He was reared in Montgomery, AL. While in high school, he

was athletic and participated in football, basketball and track. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1959. He attended Huntingdon College for a while, and then he volunteered to serve in the U.S. Navy. He selected the Navy because his father and uncle had served in the Navy.

PO1 Moreland enlisted in the U.S. Navy January 29, 1960. He completed Boot Camp at the Navy Training Center (NTC) at San Diego, CA, during January to March 1960. His first Navy ship on which he served was the USS Ranger (CVA-61) a Forrestal-class supercarrier, working as a Boatsman during May 1960 through November 1962. He then volunteered to work as a radioman and trained at the "A" School in San Diego, CA, during May through November 1962. Next, he trained at the Submarine School at the Naval Submarine Base, New London, CT, during November 1962 through January 1963. His fifth assignment was serving near Key West for three years during February 1962 to February 1965 on the USS Chopper, a Balao-class submarine which was the only ship named for the chopper, a common name for an aggressive game fish. Next, he was stationed at the Naval Communication Station at Norfolk, VA, during March 1965 through February 1967. While there, he met his future wife who was serving as a WAVE in the Navy. He then served on the Lafayette-class ballistic missile nuclear submarine, the USS John Adams, during March 1967 through January 1971. The crew would be under water continuously for two months. His crew was the Gold Crew, and they would be gone for three months, and another crew, the Blue Crew, would serve while his crew remained on shore. He then attended the Instructor School at Norfolk, VA, during February 1971 through March 1971 where he

learned how to use teletype which is similar to typewriters and uses electrical pulses to transmit messages. They are also known as a teleprinter or TTY, a device that sends and receives typed messages using various communication channels. He completed this training so that he could learn how to teach others to use teletype. Next, he served at Charleston, S.C., at the Fleet Ballistic Submarine Center where he taught others how to repair teletype machines during April 1971 to February 1974. He then served on the Frances Scott Key, a Benjamin Franklin-class ballistic missile submarine during March 1974 to May 1977 near Rota, Spain. He and the crew were on the Gold Crew and served three months on the submarine and then three months in port while the Blue Crew served on the submarine. During his crew's time of service, they would submerge for two months. He then completed training during June 1977 to July 1977 at the ENRO School in Orlando, FL, to learn how to become a Navy recruiter. His final assignment was serving as a Navy recruiter at NAVCRUIT DIST Montgomery, AL, during October 1977 to October 1980 where he then retired from military service October 31, 1980 concluding his service at 12 Naval bases.

Since his military retirement, he worked for two years for Rheem Manufacturing Company in Montgomery, AL, a company that makes hot water heaters, heating and cooling systems, pool and spa heaters, etc. Then he worked for 22 years with Steris Corporation, a company that manufactures parts and products for patient care in hospital. He retired from all employment in 2002.

He and his wife, Linda Jean, were married 51 years until she passed away, and they had three children, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. They were members of the Dalraida Baptist Church in Montgomery. They enjoyed working in their flower garden and feeding humming birds.

PO1 Moreland's conclusions about what serving in U.S. Navy means to him are: "I was glad to do it. You had to be when you when you were under the water for two months at a time. I enjoyed the Navy even though I was gone from home." He would like people to remember him as being a good person and helping people any time that they needed help.





Col Jerry Lamar Sailors: Age 84



Col Jerry Lamar Sailors served 30 years in the U.S. Air Force. His Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) was Pilot with time in various aircraft, but predominantly in the C-141A and the C-130E. The C-141 was used in various mission profiles during the conflict in Southeast Asia, including aeromedical evacuation missions. The C-130E, an American four engine turboprop military transport aircraft for troops, medevac and cargo, was capable of using unprepared runways for takeoffs and landings. In addition, he served in positions of leadership as the Organizational Commander, Academic Program Manager, Air Commander, Director of Operations, Planning and Programming Officer and the Air

Operations Officer, Transport/ Airlift and Strategic Airlift. He served in Vietnam flying 353 combat missions in the A-37.

Col Sailors received the following medals, decorations, awards and citations: Legion of Merit with one oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross with two oak leaf clusters, Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters, Air Medal with nineteen oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Organizational Excellence Award, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam), Vietnam Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with seven oak leaf clusters, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Air Force Training Ribbon, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Device and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

Col Sailors was born July 8, 1940, to his parents, Roy and Desser Mae Sailors, workers in a cotton mill in Gainesville, GA. He graduated from Gainesville High School in 1958. He graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy June 5, 1963, as a 2nd Lieutenant beginning his military service career. After completing pilot training at Craig Air Force Base (AFB), AL in August 1964, his first assignment was at Travis AFB, CA, during 1964-1967 flying airlift missions with the 86 Military Airlift Squadron first in C-130E aircraft and then transitioning to the C-141A. He was deployed to Vietnam for one year during 1967-1968 serving with the 604 Air Commando Squadron at Bien Hoa Air Base flying the light attack aircraft, the A-37A, with combat missions providing close air support of allied ground troops from the DMZ to the Delta region. He served two months in the Direct Air Support Center Victor, Hue-Phu Bai, RVN coordinating close air support with U.S. Marines.

Col Sailors returned to Travis AFB during 1968-1971 where he flew the C-141A and attained crew qualifications as flight examiner. During 1971-1973, he served as staff officer in Current Operations at HQ Military Airlift Command and then attended the Air Command and Staff College at Maxwell AFB, AL, during 1973-1974, and while there, he graduated from Troy State University with a Master's Degree in Counseling and Guidance in 1974. Next, he served at Scott AFB, IL, during 1974-1977 as the Executive Officer, AC/DO and MAC/XP. After a PCS to Charleston AFB, SC in 1977, he served as the Chief of 437th Military Airlift Wing Command Post, Operations Officer 76 MAS, and Commander 20 MAS. then returned to Maxwell AFB, AL, and attended the Air War College during 1981-1982. His next assignment was serving as Deputy Chief, Doctrine & Concepts Division and Chief War and Mobilization Planning Division at the Pentagon during 1982-1984. He returned to Charleston AFB, S.C., and served as the Deputy Commander for Operations during 1984-1985. He was stationed at Ramstein AB, Germany and served as the 322 ALD Deputy Commander for Operations and then Vice Commander during 1985-1988. Next, he returned to Maxwell AFB, AL, and served as the Vice Commandant of Air Command and Staff College during 1988-1991. His final assignment was as Commander, Extension Course Institute, Maxwell AFB Gunter Annex during 1991-1993. Col Sailors retired from military service May 31, 1993.

After his military retirement, Col Sailors worked as the President of the Coosa-Alabama River Improvement Association in Montgomery, AL, during 1995-2018. He is a member of the Daedalians, the premier fellowship organization for military aviators, and he is the immediate past president of the Montgomery Area Chapter Military Officers Association of America. As a member of the Providence Presbyterian Church at Montgomery, AL, he has served as treasurer and elder. His first wife, Doreen, and he were married 44 years before she passed away in 2010. His wife, Dale, and he have been married 10 years. He has four children, two step-children, nine grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Col Sailors' conclusions about what his military service means to him are: "When I made decisions about my future life, I knew that I did not want to work in a cotton mill. The military stabilized my life. It gave me the opportunity to serve my country, to travel to see nice places and to make life-long friends." He would like those people with whom he served on active duty to remember him as a good officer and for his friends in retirement as a good man and to his family as a good father, good grandad and good great-grandpa.



First Sergeant Robert Frederick Goorley: Age 79



Frist Sergeant (1SG) Robert Frederick Goorley served 32.5 years in the U.S. Military including one year of duty in the Navy Reserve, two years of active duty in the Navy and 26.5 years in the Army National Guard Special Forces (18Z) which are elite units that perform dangerous missions around the world. Members of Special Forces are experts in guerilla warfare and training foreign resistance forces. His Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was Special Forces (1800). 1SG Goorley is a highly decorated soldier. He received the following medals, awards and

citations: Army Achievement Medal (3rd award), Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (5th award), Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal (3rd award), Vietnam Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal (2nd award), Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device, Noncommissioned Officer's Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral 3, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Bar, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon (5th award), Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge and Special Forces Tab.

First SG Goorley was born December 23, 1945 to his parents, Dr John T. Goorley and Ethel Goorley in Columbus, Ohio. His father had a Ph.D. in Pharmacy. First SG Goorley was reared for 10 years in Argentina where his father worked in pharmacy research with Johnson and Johnson, an American multinational pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technologies corporation. There he began to learn the Spanish language which he would later use in his military service in the Special Forces. The family moved to Ada, Ohio, for two years. His father then taught at Northeast LA College in Monroe, LA., where he graduated from Neville High School in 1963.

Because of many generations of his family's extensive service in the U.S. military going back to the Revolutionary War including his father who served as a research Ph.D. at Walter Reed Hospital during WWII where he created a medication for use in treating wounds infected by bacteria, First SG Goorley early on had a strong desire to join America's military. First SF Goorley voluntarily enlisted in the U.S. Navy Reserve 30, 1963 at Monroe, LA, completed Boot Camp at the Naval Base San Diego, CA, and completed the one year of Navy Reserve at his home in LA. He then completed two years of active Navy service with six months of training as a fire control technician followed by 1.5 years working as an optical rangefinder on the main battery fire control on the USS Brush DD-745 destroyer whose home port was Long Beach, CA. This Vietnam service resulted in serious health issues years later. He then returned home to LA, used the G.I. Bill and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Oriental History from LA Tech.

After his military service in the Navy Reserve, First SG Goorley worked for Olin Kraf Paper Company in West Monroe, LA, in sales for five years. Afterwards, he worked for other paper companies including Crown Zellerbach Paper Company for four years working in sales and traveling throughout the southeast U.S.A. He then worked full time for an automobile painting company, Ultracolor in Birmingham, AL, for 10 years.

In October 1980, First SG Goorley resumed his military service by going into the Army National Guard training with Special Forces. He also worked between the assignments with the military. He worked with UltraColor 11 years helping the company set up businesses throughout AL. He was attached to Special Forces Regional Commands, the European Theater for Special Operations Commands and Special Operations South working in Central and South America. He also served in the Middle East for four years, and he went to serve with the Special Operations Detachment South headquartered in Jackson, MS. This Special Unit served in South and Central America and the Middle East. He deployed to Djibouti, a country in the Horn of Africa bordered by Somalia where his job was building the base structures for the base for six months. He returned to the U.S.A. serving at the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) at Mac Dill Air Force Base, Tampa, FL. From there, he served at CENTCOM (FWD) in the Middle East during the Global War on Terror. He then worked six months as a liaison with Joint Operational Command, Special Operations LNO at Doha, Qatar, on the Persian Gulf. He retired from all military service in 2006, and he returned to the U.S.A. to Montgomery first as a program manager with Torres, AES, a security, program and language services company with military contracts supplying interpreters in Afghanistan and Iraq for five years and setting up guards at the Embassy and at apartments for Embassy personnel in Brundi, Africa. He then became project manager serving 12 Army bases in Iraq and again to Afghanistan working with interpreters. He also served as the project manager setting up and training local guards of the embassies at Amman, Jordan, and at Buenos Aires, Argentina. First SG Goorley retired from all full time employment in 2014.

Since his retirement, First SG Goorley has been involved with a hurricane relief company supplying food and water. He his wife, Laurice, have been married 29 years. He belongs to the Disabled American Veterans.

First SG Goorley's conclusions about what serving in the U.S. Military means to him are: "It was a family tradition, and it was important to keep that. I was just a simple soldier."



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INSIDE THE STATEHOUSE With Steve Flowers

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

Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March



This Sunday leaders from throughout Alabama and the entire country will commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March and the infamous Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge. It was a momentous occasion and needs memorializing.

Make no mistake about it, this event led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which gave the vote to Black Americans throughout the country and primarily in the South. It is probably the most important event in the Civil Rights movement. The march on Washington was big and led to the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, but the Bloody Sunday Selma massacre that was seen on television throughout the country was the impetus for the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

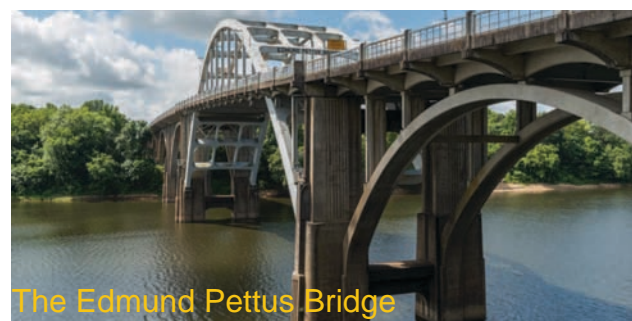
The 1964 Civil Rights Bill had just been signed into law. It was a major historic Act. It had been decades in the making. There had been hundreds of marches and murders, with the most horrific being the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing, where four little innocent girls were murdered. However, it took the quiet but persistent demands of Dr. Martin Luther King, the hero of the Civil Rights movement, cajoling President Lyndon Johnson to use his legendary legislative prowess and power to pass this monumental 1964 Civil Rights Act. Johnson used all his powers of persuasiveness and political capital to pass the Act.

Johnson felt like the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was his mountain on a hill, his coup de gras. He had no appetite for another battle a year later. However, Dr. Martin Luther King was not through. He knew that the Right to Vote was the brass ring. He was persistent with Johnson. LBJ would tell him yes, but he really did not intend to fight another fight. Johnson was foremost a pragmatist and political animal. Johnson was only advocating for Civil Rights for political reasons. Dr. King's heart and soul were in the battle.

As 1965 dawned, the king of the Civil Rights movement was Dr. Martin Luther King. Alabama's pugnacious governor, George Wallace, had become the titular symbolic leader of the segregationist white south. They were both astute adversaries. King won in the end.

King and Wallace both knew that if violence occurred on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma that people throughout the country would lean in favor of giving Black people in the south the right to vote. Wallace had given his Public Safety Director, Al Lingo, direct orders to not allow violence to occur. However, King and his people knew that they had an ace in the hole in the racist vile Dallas County Sheriff Jim Clark. They knew that Clark would ignore Wallace and Lingo. King knew that his people would be beaten. King had already fled to the sanctuary of his Atlanta church out of fear for his safety and life.

The scene that unfolded that day was beyond barbaric. As the Civil Rights leaders advanced peacefully, Clark and his posse of hundreds attacked them, viciously, with billy clubs, guns, and tear gas. They beat everyone, including women, savagely. The first to be attacked was a young leader, John Lewis, who was immediately knocked unconscious by a brutal blow to the head, which most people viewing thought had killed him. He later survived with only a concussion. Clark and his posse continued to beat and maul innocent people in their homes. It was truly a brutal massacre of peaceful Civil Rights marchers. The Wallace-Clark segregationist team may have won the battle by beating innocent people, but they lost the war that day. King and Wallace, both knew it. The entire nation was watching this horrific event on television, including one Lyndon B. Johnson in the White House. The Voting Rights Act passed later that year.



The Edmund Pettus Bridge

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Bloody Sunday was properly named. It was truly that, a Bloody Sunday. Selma was the impetus for passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Law. Bloody Sunday deserves commemorating.

Robservations...

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED: THIRTY DAYS IN



Rob Tate

With the inauguration of every new president, there is always the discussion surrounding the first 100 days of their administration. There can be absolutely no doubt that the current administration is doing things never seen before. A president who is actually fulfilling campaign promises and leaving opposition forces crying and moaning with their heads exploding. There is so much to discuss already but for now, want to focus only on two areas: DOGE and the rash of airplane crashes.

1. Department of Government Efficiency. (DOGE)



Elon Musk and his crew are kicking butt and taking names. It should come as no surprise that the liberal left is in a panic. They are basing their anger on alleged government overreach but in reality, are running scared because they know that many of them and their less than "above board" activities are about to be found out. I saw this particularly good meme that said, "A store is robbed and all of it is caught of film.

Elon Musk reviews the film and determines who the criminals are. Now you are interested only in arresting Elon Musk." How true.

We see so many left-wing loons in the streets yelling and screaming. "Nobody voted for Elon." "Billionaires don't belong in government." They seem to forget many things. One. Nobody ever voted for George Soros yet his money has been firmly grafted into left-wing causes for years. Like Kelly LaBrock in the old Panteen commercials, "Don't hate me because I am beautiful," today's saying is, "Don't hate me because my billionaire is smarter than your billionaire." And it is Musk who is wanting to find corruption in our government instead of ignoring the rampant corruption we are seeing.

Today, we are seeing so much of what the DOGE team has uncovered already. And yes, some people should start running scared. US tax payer money given to illegal immigrants for cars, homes, education, small business loans up to \$15,000 and to help them repair their credit scores. As part of the Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) provides cash and medical assistance as well as other services to help "refugees," illegal or not, in their resettlement in the US. Grants awarded by the ORR have amounted to \$22.4 billion for the five-year period starting in 2020. But to be honest, not all of this money has been allocated to illegal aliens. As reported, DOGE also says it has found an untraceable budget line responsible for almost \$4.7 trillion in payments. And you can look up all the insane social projects we have spent millions of dollars on around the world through USAID. Yes, USAID has a good purpose but their waste has to stop.

As for Social Security, the numbers are truly staggering and sad. They uncovered 1 person over 240 years-old and another over 360 years old on the registers. In all, they uncovered 16,055,117 people on the registers between 110 and 369 years old. This is not to say money is still being paid out to these people (descendants or other scammers) but then again, that is what DOGE is trying to find out. Why would anybody not want this fraud, waste and abuse to be located and stopped. I watched a series of videos last night with Clinton, Gore and eventually Obama talking about this waste and promising to do something about it. They never did. It is sort of like so many presidents saying they were going to move our embassy in Israel to Jerusalem but only one man actually did it.

There is certainly much more DOGE information headed our way. It seems that everyday something new is uncovered. I for one do not want to see my tax money wasted anymore than it already has.

2. Aviation Issues:

Although people like former secretary of transportation Pete Buttigieg wants to blame Donald Trump for these incidents, Trump has nothing to do with any of it. In one week, we had an F-35 crash in Alaska, the crash in DC between the

airliner and Blackhawk helicopter and then the medi-flight crash in Philadelphia. Just yesterday, we had the Delta connection flight crash in Toronto. First, let me get this out. The crash in Toronto yesterday WAS NOT DELTA AIRLINES. There, I said it. "But Rob, the plane had Delta painted on it." Yes, it did. But underneath Delta it said "Connection." It was a partner airline, Endeavor, but it was not Delta. I tell people all the time. If the pilots were not wearing Delta pilot wings and were not on the Delta payroll, no matter what you want to think or say, it was not Delta mainline. Done.

Now to the crashes. I find it humorous how people want to say that there were no crashes while Biden was in office but now that Trump is in office, Helter Skelter, the sky is falling. I do not believe it is his fault any more than I can blame Biden. Looking at the crash in Toronto, to me, as a commercial pilot, I clearly see what happened. Plain as day. I won't say right now but to my friends and family, I have thrown my hat in the ring for what I think happened and no the FAA (first of all this was in Canada so FAA is not an issue) had nothing to do with this.

As for Philadelphia, I have nothing. No idea. I came down like a bullet on fire after only 30 seconds in the air. I have no idea other than it was something catastrophic; guesses only. It was no simple engine failure for sure. To me, the most puzzling is the DC accident. It was a windy night for sure and the airplane was going to land on runway 01. But with the winds, that would have given them a dicey crosswind landing. The controller offered them runway 33 which gave them almost no crosswind. All things being equal such as runway length, distance to taxi to the gate, etc., many pilots will willingly forego a strong crosswind landing for winds straight down the runway. (We always try to land into the wind; headwind).

When offered runway 33, the pilots basically said, "Heck yeah, my brother. I'll take it." I know there has been talk of the helicopter being "way too high," and that is apparently not true. The final radar track had them at 200 feet, exactly where they should have been. But there is some conflicting data. To me, again as a military and commercial pilot and former flight safety officer in the Air Force, I really have to ask just one question. When you look at the location of the runways in Regan airport, then the river to the east and the prohibited areas further east I have to ask, "Why in the hell would you, as a controller, clear a civilian airliner to switch runways requiring it to descend right in front of an army helicopter that you were also talking to?" **Why?**

At a best-case scenario, even if the helicopter was at exactly 200 feet. It was reported that the accident happened 2,400 feet from the runway. On a normal 3.0 degree glideslope, which is what we try to fly even on visual approaches, for every mile from the runway you should be at 300 feet above the ground. At two miles, 600 feet. 3 miles, 900 feet. 4 miles, 1200 feet and so on. If the crash occurred at 2,400 feet short of the runway (as some reports state), let's just round that off to 2500. A statute mile is 5,280 feet. This means the accident occurred at just about 1/2 mile from the runway. On a normal 3.0 degree glideslope, this would put the airliner at approximately 150-200' above the river. Keep in mind, there can be a little slop involved here but the runway approach lights should keep the pilots on the correct glidepath.

If these numbers are correct, as reported, and the helicopter was "way too high," (well above 200') he would have sailed above the airliner. Obviously, this didn't happen. "Well, Rob, the helicopter said he had the aircraft in sight." Have you ever flown at night in similar conditions? You have city lights, harbor lights, boats possibly, streets, highways, car lights, trucks, other airplanes, etc. The light pollution is a real thing making it difficult to sometimes even on a clear night. It is very likely what they saw was not the traffic descending right in front of them. Tragic all the way around. Avoidable? Yes. Even if the two did not hit, would any of you consider 100-200' separation at night safe? I would hope not. To me, again the question comes down to why did the controller offer runway 33 when he knew a helicopter was transiting the corridor at 200 feet and would cross directly in front of the flight path to runway 33? I for one am not wanting the blame to be placed solely on the Army pilots. There is certainly zero blame on the airliner but that clarity by tower is certainly a head shaker. Hopefully, a lot of good will come out of this accident.

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Ronald A. Holtsford

What is the status of the recent Tik Tok issue?

The Tik Tok issue, just recently decided by the United States Supreme Court is found in *Tik Tok, Inc., et al v Merrick Garland, Attorney General and the case of Brian Firebaugh, et al. v Merrick Garland, Attorney General*. The parties as petitioners to the cases include both the company Tik Tok and a group of users in the United States of Tik Tok. The only issue before the Court is whether the First Amendment rights of free speech are violated in regard to both the company and users.

I have never used Tik Tok and therefore fairly unfamiliar with the social media platform. Reading about it one can see that it is well considered by the developers in that it allows random individuals to upload short videos and text so that they can show off whatever their talent, their view or whatever on their mind they can make into a visual reality.

As Tik Tok has developed they have included variations to meet various needs of its worldwide users. For various reasons not all variations or iterations are available in all countries. Tik Tok like other social media platforms have developed various algorithms that identify the interests of users. Based on the identified interests various videos, etc. will become available to the users. Tik Tok opens to a sort of home page called "For You" that is exactly what it implies. I sometimes enjoy videos on You Tube of American military veterans that are willing to discuss combat experiences from WW II, Korea and Vietnam. It is no slight to veterans from the Gulf War, Iraq or Afghanistan. It just seems that those videos don't seem to pop up. You Tube uses similar algorithms to identify the interests of users. Tik Tok has also developed parental controls that allow parents to control what their kids are able to see. Theoretically, these controls override the interests of young users; I don't recall the minimum age allowed for one to use Tik Tok. Tik Tok uses both automated and human input to remove content that violates its rules in as much as it is able. In addition to supporting the interests of the user, the platform like other social media platforms can become somewhat addictive.

Tik Tok is owned by ByteDance, LTD which owns the algorithms and source code used by Tik Tok. The Chinese government requires by law that Chinese companies cooperate or assist the Chinese government with its work in intelligence gathering and that "the Chinese Government has 'the power to access and control private data'" (604 U.S. ___ (2025, *Tik Tok, Inc., et al v Merrick Garland, Attorney General and the case of Brian Firebaugh, et al. v Merrick Garland, Attorney General*.)

Months before the end of President Trump's first term he issued two executive orders regarding ByteDance and its subsidiaries (Tik Tok); one to prohibit certain transactions in the U.S. by ByteDance which was challenged in Court and ultimately the Executive Order struck down. The second Executive Order, "ordered ByteDance Ltd. to divest all interests and rights in any property 'used to enable or support ByteDance's operation of the TikTok application in the United States,' along with 'any data obtained or derived from' U. S. TikTok users.85_Fed._ Reg._ 51297. Though negotiations were sought, they stalled. Congress then passed the "Protecting Americans From Foreign Adversary Controlled Applications Act". ByteDance and Tik Tok met all definitions as being adverse to the Act. It was to take place two hundred seventy (270) days after the enactment of the Act which was to be 19 January 2025. However, the foreign

controlled application(s) can be exempt if the company undergoes a "qualified divestiture" which shall be determined by the President in that the company(s) in question are no longer controlled by a foreign adversary. There are other requirements of the President's understanding and the President may invoke a one time ninety(90) day extension.

During the past few years, thirty-nine (39) states including Alabama have banned Tik Tok from state owned devices, so one can see how most of the states see the danger in the data available to the Chinese government. Tik Tok had argued the case to be about the freedom of speech. The Supreme Court found that the Act was content neutral in that it neither supported the content on Tik Tok nor opposed it. Mainly for that reason there was no Freedom of Speech or First Amendment issue. That finding applied both to the application Tik Tok and to its users. The Government also supported the fact that the sensitive data of 170 million Americans was available to the Chinese government. The Supreme Court therefore held and issued its opinion on 17 January 2025 that the Act was not unconstitutional as passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden. Tik Tok went dark the next day. On his first day in office, President Trump signed an extension order for seventy-five (75) days (less than the 90 days allowed). There is talk of a 50/50 Chinese and maybe private American partnership in ownership. Because of the extension, I understand that Tik Tok is again available for now. Sometimes government must make laws to protect the security and protection of it's people. Take for instance the false yelling of "fire" in a crowded location such as a theatre where many could be trampled while running or consider the Schenck v United States case from 1919 where Schenck, the Secretary of The Socialist Party sent notices to potential United States draftees encouraging them to resist the draft. It was considered by the United States Supreme Court and it was Justice Oliver Wendell Holes that first penned the words "clear and present danger" in regards to the national security issues that such resistance could have created. Some men have always resisted the draft but for the first time it became more vocal during WW I and there was difficulty handling it. In Holmes opinion it was his feeling that in war time it may be necessary to back off some First Amendment rights when it creates issues with national security. While we are fortunately not at war with China, there is a lot of instability with China who manufactures and trades with us in an unbalanced manner, much of the money going to build their military, where China does not recognize the sovereignty of Taiwan with concerns of a war there, when China expands their territory by building islands out into the ocean closer to American allies and of course has the capability and has I am sure nefariously captured private data of probably a majority of Americans. Tik Tok is not a First Amendment issue, it is an issue

President Trump, regardless of your feelings for him as President is strong and I am sure will do what is best for America.

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."



John Sophocleus

A Farewell to Joe...

After 50 years of public 'service' Mr. Biden's farewell address reaffirmed Joe's ineptitude and lack of integrity to the very end. Once the coalition's youngest US senator (elected 1972 at age 30) from Delaware I observed more of him than most as an impressionable youth in neighboring Maryland. Joking Joe was just another '17th Amendment Senator' who would've never been sent to



Congress by the Delaware legislature... we dubbed him, the 'Dullard from Delaware.' Biden illustrated why increasingly more money was dumped into US Senate races as this new unearned and poorly educated cohort of senators were installed under this deleterious amendment.

Perhaps the most ironic historical fact of Joe's 'service' is failing to declare war/define an objective in Afghanistan as a senator to execute another Vietnam style exit as president following the poor stewardship of the predecessor he served as VP and the president he defeated who'd be reinstalled to a second, non-consecutive term via the vulgar Harris 'switch-a-roo' debacle. Biden is a 'poster child' for our uncompetitive/duopoly party elections. During the 2020 Iowa caucus (some claim staged) chaos, Klobuchar redirected enough of her caucusers for a 'Biden bailout' where Joe would've 'crashed and burned' at the start. This set the Kabuki stage for Clyburn's save in SC. Some say Klobuchar's pay-off was controlling all the wealth transfers associated with Biden's inauguration day events.

Carter blocking Anderson from debates [the first election I was eligible to vote] compelled refusal to vote for either of the Democrats; one from GA, one from CA - yes, I know Reagan was wearing the Red jersey after all his decades as a modern Democrat. Similarly, I couldn't in good conscious vote for either Democrat from DE or NY - yes I know Trump has also been wearing the Red jersey as a big government modern Democrat these past years. Alas, the same corrupt players (Clyburn, Klobuchar, Pelosi, Schumer, et al) who easily manipulate/overtake elections to install a candidate like Biden in our uncompetitive, duopoly system can also remove and install another politburo member like Harris. Unclear if modern Democrats can see themselves every bit as corrupt as Republicans they rebuke as threats to 'democracy.' Flabbergasting it took Joe doing the "Tim Conway Shuffle" for folks to acknowledge Biden's lack of substance - the 2024 Dullard from Delaware was nothing new except for the blank stare and drabble step.

Nothing could illustrate how completely 'out of touch' to the bitter end Dullard Joe has been this past half century than listening to this oligarch complain about 'oligarchs.' The 1/15/25 Washington AP report by Megerian, Miller and Long included:

"President Joe Biden used his farewell address to the nation to deliver stark warnings about an 'oligarchy' of the ultra-wealthy taking root in the country and a 'tech-industrial complex' that is infringing on Americans' rights and the future of democracy.

Speaking from the Oval Office as he prepares to hand over power to President-elect Donald Trump, Biden seized what is likely to be his final opportunity to address the country before he departs the White House to spotlight the accumulation of power and wealth in the U.S. among just a small few.

"Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms, and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead," Biden said, drawing attention to "a dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a few ultra-wealthy people and the dangerous consequences if their abuse of power is left unchecked."

Invoking President Dwight Eisenhower's warnings about the rise of a military-industrial complex when he left office in 1961, Biden added, "I'm

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equally concerned about the potential rise of a tech-industrial complex that could pose real dangers to our country as well."

Biden sounded the alarm about oligarchy as some of the world's richest individuals and titans of its technology industry have flocked to Trump's side in recent months, particularly after his November victory. Billionaire Elon Musk spent more than \$100 million helping Trump get elected, and executives like Meta's Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon's Jeff Bezos have donated to Trump's inaugural committee and made pilgrimages to Trump's private club in Florida for audiences with the president-elect as they seek to ingratiate themselves with his administration and shape its policies.

Biden offered his own set of solutions for the problems that he laid out: change the tax code to ensure billionaires "pay their fair share," eliminate the flow of hidden sources of money into political campaigns, establish 18-year term limits for members of the Supreme Court and ban members of Congress from trading stocks. His policy prescriptions come as his political capital is at its nadir as Biden prepares to exit the national stage, and after he has done little to advance those causes during his four years in power at the White House.

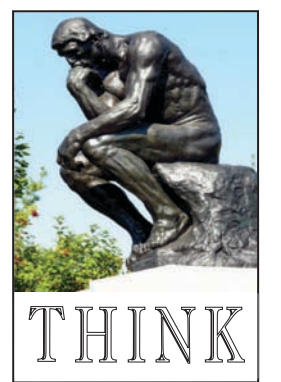
Biden spoke from the Resolute desk, photos of his family visible behind him in the Oval Office. First lady Jill Biden, his son Hunter, some of his grandchildren, Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, sat watching."

Much to unpack here. Biden excoriating Trump's abuse of power while orchestrating family pardons with Joe's photos in the 'Kabuki Theatre' backdrop was a bit much. Of course, those who've read and understood the Constitution would stand on the no corruption of blood clause, but that would have the issues litigated in courts to determine if politics are driving prosecutions. Furthermore, this 17th Amendment Senator won't acknowledge the biggest purveyor of oligarchy, the unconstitutional 435 limit on the HoR where tax bills must originate. Last I checked and made abundantly clear working with Rep. Dick Armey on income tax reform (Hall/Rabushka Plan) the number one issue lobbied on Capitol Hill was the tax code. The appropriations side didn't come close - i.e., those lobbying the oligarchs didn't care how federal monies are spent... just make it someone ELSE'S money.

As more power concentrated to DC with increased population and a static HoR, the oligarchy grew more comfortable broking political theft for Bezos, Musk, Zuckerberg, et al parasites. Sad so many consider corporate welfare queens of this sort 'good businessmen' instead of 'Johns' paying political prostitutes [oligarchs] for desired wealth transfers from productive taxpayers. Don't expect a movement to disempower DC oligarchs by making the House Representative again: <https://www.alabamagazette.com/story/2022/03/01/opinion/discrimination-via-poor-representation/2319.html>. Long time column readers have suffered my lone voice in the wilderness these past 15 years w.r.t. our Constitutional [Art. 1, Sec. 2] design for the HoR. Disheartening to observe how far we've 'progressed' since the 435 limit was imposed (1929) by DC oligarchs from the one representative for every 30,000 (round-up) rule well argued in the Constitutional Convention. As population increased this past century, we now have one representative for about 800,000. Well over a 25 fold reduction in real representation. A very effective way to block 'undesirables' from Congress, enhancing gains from hyper-gerrymandering, restrictive ballot access laws and reducing the number of representatives further concentrating DC oligarchs' power. Little wonder a 17th Amendment senate and a 435 limited house of representatives proffer such horrific approval ratings in our so-called 'democracy.'

Concentration of wealth and other ills Biden's farewell address denounced are a result of the DC oligarchy [rule by a corrupt few] Joe has aided, abetted and been an integral part of these past five decades. Bezos, et al are NOT rulers, they purchase these high-end political prostitutes in DC. Shame on those who support and vote for oligarchs of this sort. Shame also on sycophants heralding the parasites who pay corrupt oligarchs to broker their desired political theft... 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?

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





Trump's Outsider Army has it's First Meeting - The Deep State's Worst Nightmare Begins

President Donald Trump's first Cabinet meeting of his second term was a resounding success, setting the tone for an administration focused on results, efficiency, and accountability. "We have a Cabinet full of great Americans who are dedicated to serving our country and the American people, ensuring safety, security, freedom, and prosperity," National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard stated, emphasizing the inspiration that Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has already sparked in President Trump's second administration. As Tulsi Gabbard stated and echoed by Pam Bondi, part of what makes the Trump 47 Cabinet so special is that "most of us have known each other for a long time. We've worked together. We're actually friends." "What I got was a high level of energy and really just a positive outlook, we are all in sprint mode," she said, setting the tone for an administration focused on results, efficiency, and accountability. The meeting showcased a unified front, with every Cabinet member committed to making the federal government work for the American people. Elon Musk played a significant role in outlining a bold vision for eliminating federal fraud and waste, and his impact was undeniable. With clear directives and unwavering support from President Trump, the message was clear: business as usual in Washington is over.

This "Dream Team" isn't just about policy. They're about action. Efficiency. Accountability. Transparency. They are driven by a single mission: To make the U.S. federal government the gold standard for getting things done. Imagine America where agencies actually serve the people, where your hard-earned tax dollars aren't wasted on endless red tape and bureaucratic nonsense. Where Washington elites can no longer bury bad decisions under mountains of paperwork and phony investigations. That's what President Trump's team is building. A government that works at the speed of business, not the speed of bureaucracy.

The media and their deep-state allies are already in a full-blown panic. Why? Because this administration is not just talking about draining the swamp—it is ripping out the corruption by its roots. Every unelected bureaucrat who has spent their career protecting the failed status quo, every unaccountable agency that operates in secrecy, every corrupt institution that thrives on your silence, they are all in the crosshairs now.

Trump's team is made up of winners. Titans of industry, military leaders, top-tier legal minds, financial wizards—people who have built billion-dollar businesses, taken on the toughest fights in court, and come out on top. They know how to execute, how to hold people accountable, and how to ensure results. And let's be



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 Founder Patriots First
 Former Alabama State Representative
 Alabama State Republican Executive Committee



clear: These aren't people who need this job. They don't need a title, a fancy office in Washington, or an invitation to the cocktail parties of the D.C. elite. They are here for one reason only—to serve the American people and to destroy the waste, corruption, and incompetence that has ruled Washington for too long.

For years, the deep state has operated in the shadows, crushing anyone who dares to expose their racket. Now their days are numbered. The American people didn't vote for more of the same. They voted for warriors. And those warriors are now in charge. Expect massive transparency initiatives. Expect real investigations into government corruption. Expect a White House that works for you; not against you. The American dream is back. The swamp's nightmare has just begun.

In a bold move to overhaul the U.S. immigration landscape, President Donald Trump has unveiled the "Gold Card" visa program, set to replace the beleaguered EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program. The EB-5 program, established in 1990, has faced criticism over the years for fraud and inefficiencies. The new Gold Card initiative aims to attract affluent investors by offering a pathway to U.S. citizenship for a \$5 million investment, significantly higher than the EB-5's previous requirements. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick emphasized that this program would eliminate the "nonsense, make believe, and fraud" associated with its predecessor, focusing on bringing in "wealthy and successful" individuals who will contribute substantially to the U.S. economy.

The night before the House passed President Trump's big, beautiful budget bill advancing his agenda, with GOP leaders crediting his direct involvement in securing votes. President Trump announced plans to sign new executive orders and highlighted an upcoming agreement with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on resource-sharing and post-war reconstruction. Nominees have been swiftly confirmed, outpacing Biden's 2021 pace. Trump 47 is moving at light speed and is not slowing down.

President Trump has built the most formidable, results-driven administration in modern history. It's a team that will restore government accountability, eliminate the inefficiencies of the bloated federal machine, and return power to the American people. The deep state spent decades building a system to protect itself—but they never planned for the Donald J Trump comeback. Now the nightmare will continue for Washington's corrupt elite for four more years of uprooting the rot. As President Trump simply put it, "We are not stopping. We will not back down. We will not rest until the government works for the American people again." The deep state has nowhere left to hide. The reckoning has arrived, and the best is yet to come.



John Martin

Lampes, and the United States' General Electric. Together, they founded the Phoebus cartel, a global supervisory body created to monitor the world's light bulb markets and assign regional zones and production quotas for the manufacturers.

The cartel's legacy was to develop shorter life spans for household incandescent bulbs—from the current 1500-2000 hours down to 1000. In addition, the new bulbs were priced higher and claimed to be of better quality.

The light bulb companies often cheated to inflate their profits with longer lasting bulbs and exceeding their sales quotas. They also suffered losses once the public observed their plan. In the 1940's, the U. S. government investigated GE and its partners for anticompetitive practices. Since then, new technologies have made incandescent bulbs mostly obsolete.

Today, planned Obsolescence has become high tech with software to do the dirty work. Look out when anybody attempts to sell you the latest upgrade on any electronic device—especially computers, phones, and automobiles.

The use of software to monopolize the installation of new parts for repairs is a program called PARTS PAIRING, invented by Apple, who has been described as "a real leader in the anti-repair space." Apple has previously been noted for devious practices like gluing in batteries so they are difficult for owners to replace and using proprietary screws to foil opening their phones. Obviously, Apple has been accused of using planned obsolescence to force users to buy new iPhones. As it develops new models, it keeps "updating" the older ones to slow them down. At first, the updates were optional, but after users wised up to them, they became automatic, and usually at night unless the owners turned their phones off. The practice has been called "Batterygate."

Apple has also attempted to make it difficult for third party shops to repair its phones and to limit generic parts for them. This has been called "serialization."

Apple has also created incompatibility between their newer and older products. This might prod some users to buy new Apple phones, but it upsets others into buying Samsung or another brand. Once the new Tesla Pi Phone reaches the market, Apple will soon be crying crocodile tears, and its stock is expected to plummet.

Microsoft is also guilty. Bill Gates began monopolistic schemes as soon as he purchased the fundamental MS-DOS operating system for a "song" and then copyrighted it to prevent competitors from using it as a basis to develop their own systems. He also rigged up schemes to prevent, or at least restrict people from using competing software. In barely a few years, nearly every home computer required MS-DOS just to operate.

In the late 1990's, gates began Windows, and as soon as large numbers of people fell for his siren song of "Anybody can open our Windows," Gates began a series of "upgrades." In 2001, he released Windows XP, which was one of the best versions made—according to some users—THE best version. It was very simple to use, and its size was also small and loaded quickly. Windows XP worked fine up until 2009 without any problems.

On October 22, 2009, Gates launched Windows 7. Like XP, it also worked well. From there, things went downhill.

At that point, Gates should have retained these two versions and supported them. But instead, he continued his greedy practice of new "upgrades" to sell more software and also more computers. Windows 8 was a flop. Windows 9, not much better. Windows 10 is marginally satisfactory, and that is what most people use today. But some people have continued using windows 7 for years and were happy with it, until it was no longer supported. About the middle of January, 2025, e-mails (Google, Yahoo, etc.) stopped working with it. Users were all obligated to get Windows 10 or higher just to read and send their e-mails.

Planned Obsolescence

For many years, the John Deere company was ranked as one of the top manufacturers of sturdy and dependable tractors and other farm equipment. Even today, we can see still-working examples up to 80 years old and beyond.

But in recent years its management has become very greedy and has constructed high-tech software to monopolize its service and repairs.



Walter Schweitzer, a third generation farmer, has had a bellyful of the restrictions and mandates imposed upon his new John Deere tractor—problems the company itself had contrived to generate more profit at the expense of the farmers. On random occasions, it would suddenly shut down in the middle of a job. After performing the logical fixes, like changing the fuel filter, and finding them all in vain, he called the John Deere mechanic. He said, "Really, the only way we can figure this out is to hook up a computer and download the error codes."

Right there, Walter saw a serious red flag—why would such a simple problem require a computer? He then said, "All right, can I come in and borrow it?"

"Oh no, we don't do that."
 "Okay, could I rent it?"
 "No, we don't do that either"

The John Deere mechanic told Walter he couldn't fix his tractor until a week later. Walter had hay ready to bale, and at a critical time. If he was delayed for as little as a day, and it rained a little bit, his hay would be spoiled and therefore lost.

For simple problems like this, John Deere has cost its customers billions of dollars in lost income. It does not approve of its customers fixing their own tractors and equipment. They have to get approval from the company. Only the company's representatives are allowed to do repairs—ANY repairs—even an oil change. Only the company has the computers and software required to program and de-program a tractor's internal computers. Only the company's official parts are allowed. The equipment's own software shuts it down if any "unauthorized" mechanic or farmer attempts even a simple maintenance procedure. Today, John Deere argues that the farmers don't even own the tractors that they had bought and paid for.

In addition to a week's delay and the risk of spoiling his crop, Walter had to shell out \$160 for the needed part (a faulty sensor) and \$300 for the two man-hours to install it. But the total bill was almost \$5000. For WHAT? Corporate greed vs the American farmers?

John Deere's profits have increased by 61% over the past few years, and its CEO's salary increased by 160%—to \$26.8 MILLION.

Violating the American farmers in this manner is a crime of unprecedented proportions. Our farmers are among the most vital workers we have to keep our economy afloat. If they are unable to survive abuse like this and are bankrupted out of business, we would be unable to produce food and fiber to the point of collapsing into a third world nation. Without our farmers, we could end up a vassal state under the thumbs of China and others for support. In essence, John Deere's actions are an act of TREASON.

Today, farmers have passed multiple class action lawsuits against John Deere, claiming their repair monopoly violates the Sherman Antitrust Act. The Freedom to Repair Act would permanently amend the Digital Millennium Copyright Act and protect everybody's right to repair. We are also working to pass and support right to repair laws in every state. Right now, 30 states, including Alabama, are already busy with it.

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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



Justice Will Sellers

The Biblical Legacy of King James I of England

King James of England was rather unremarkable, so at his death 400 years ago, only his retainers and courtesans grieved his loss, and most assumed his historical legacy was limited.

His memory today would likely be little more than a footnote except for the one thing that would make any marketing director green with envy for product placement—the King James Bible: the Royally authorized translation of the Holy Scriptures.

In James’s case, this contribution was substantial, and he deserves credit for creating and promoting a version of the Bible translated into the King’s English. Unlike other books or notable achievements that are named after a monarch to curry favor, King James was active in forming a committee of scholars to work on a new translation, and he was relentless in encouraging its timely completion.

Initially he was only King James IV of Scotland, but upon Queen Elizabeth I’s death, he inherited her throne to become King James I of England. When it was obvious that the Queen was ill and that her heir would not be English, several members of Elizabeth’s court reached out to James to begin an unofficial transition.

The issue of religion was the hot topic of the day and animated almost all political considerations. The Protestant Reformation had impacted England quite differently than other countries because as an island, its boundaries limited outside influence and constrained zealots by denying them easy access.

England had an established church but had nothing resembling a state religion. In fact, under the umbrella of the Church of England, any number of religious practices were allowed, and worship services differed from parish to parish. Stability and preventing religious fervor from being weaponized for political purposes was the main limiting factor in the Elizabethan Church.

In short, you could believe whatever you wanted and worship as you saw fit, but proselytizing and using religion to enflame the body politic was forbidden, even punishable by death.

When James became King, various factions petitioned him and attempted to gain influence for support of their particular reforms so that the religion of the established church was uniform in practice and belief. Having been educated in Scotland under the tutelage of various protestant regents, James was reared as a Calvinist but came to reject the elimination of bishops and church hierarchy as a threat to his view of the divine right of kings.



So, when he came to England, he had some appreciation of the religious diversity that existed in the church, but he viewed these disputes as more political than religious. Plus, he wanted to unite England and Scotland to achieve the designation: King of Great Britain.

Pulled in many directions by well-meaning church leaders, James thought that one way to solidify his reign and impose a true state religion was to create a new translation of the Bible which he, as head of the church, would authorize. To a real extent, the impetus for the organization of a new translation was tinged with politics. James thought that if all his subjects read the same version of the Bible in church and as part of their daily appointed readings, it could help unite his people to stabilize his reign.

Working on a new translation of the Bible would also allow him to avoid more significant issues that were sources of conflict between the extremes of Puritans and Anglo-Catholics.



James was very careful to select not only scholars of renown, but also to make sure that various religious factions were represented. He was forming a committee with representatives from all walks of ecclesiastical scholarship and belief. His hope was that the finished product could reduce or perhaps even eliminate dissension and provide his subjects with an expression of their faith in a language they understood.

The mechanics of the committee were excellent, and James was very active in its division of labor. Each book of the Bible was assigned to a sub-committee, and each member of the subcommittee was to work to produce their translation of each chapter without the insight or collaboration of other committee members.

James imposed strict deadlines for translations to be completed, and when members finished their individual translation, they would meet collectively to pick and choose the best version of each verse for inclusion in the finished product.

For seven years the committee toiled and finally produced 80 books of the King James Bible, including the 39 books of the Old Testament, the 27 books of the New Testament, and 14 books of the Apocrypha. No doubt a boon to the printing industry, this Bible would replace other versions throughout the churches and estates in England.

The Authorized King James Version missed its intended goal of unifying the church, but it did unify the language such that its words, syntax, grammar, and lyrical structure became the basis for English as we know it today.

This Bible also increased literacy among James’s subjects because its reading was a high tenet of Protestant theology. If God had revealed Himself in Holy Writ, then reading His Word opened the door to faith and an explanation of belief.

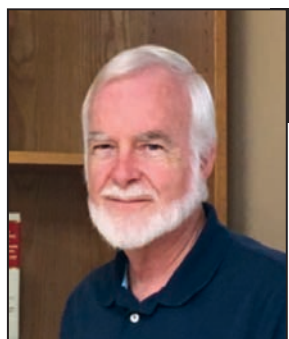
But as fallible humans read the Bible and had preconceived notions of their individual criteria for faith, new “denominations” arose, each arguing their interpretations of the same verses from the same Bible; unity within the Church of England further dissolved.

When the government attempted to enforce a uniform interpretation, many fled to found colonies in the New World, and in almost each colony, religion was a motivating factor for migration.

As the King James Version spread to the New World without a structured ecclesiastical hierarchy to contain errant beliefs, even more new faiths popped up and simply moved further inland to practice their beliefs without fear of persecution.

King James’ legacy is preserved in a Bible that provided uniformity for the English Language and undergirded the faith that propelled American exceptionalism.

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John Taylor

The Unjust Demonization of Robert E. Lee

It is common for Baby Boomers to “thank God they grew up when they did.” Those born between 1946–1964 will likely understand that commentary. Indeed, freedom of expression was greater then than now as was appreciation and understanding of the past. Perhaps the modern reality of virtually instantaneous communications is partially at fault since erroneous information often spreads immediately and the retractions and corrections do not always see the light of day. The subject of history has been one of the victims of this phenomenon. Some have claimed the Department of Education (DOE) has done what it was designed to do – centralized education and dumbed the population down to the lowest common denominator. One has to wonder if the late Jimmy Carter might have taken a different approach had he foreseen the damage done. Since the DOE was established, the U.S. has gone from having a world-class education system to mediocrity. Education is a State function—not a federal responsibility. It is not a delegated power enumerated in Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

One victim of the modern ahistorical “Cancel Culture/Cultural Marxist” agenda is Robert E. Lee. Although highly respected by Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Ford, Teddy and Franklin Roosevelt, and a seemingly endless line of individuals of some renown, over the last generation or so Lee was selected as an individual to be demonized. Lee checks all of the boxes that the Cultural Marxists hate, i.e., he was a devout Christian, he loved his family, and he fought for his native State of Virginia during the War for Southern Independence. Being descended from a long line of honorable men and women, Lee understood the voluntary nature of the federal republic and the fact that his first allegiance was to Virginia (which he considered his country). He also understood the constitution does not authorize for a State or States to be invaded or to be coerced back into the Union if the citizens and/or representatives voted to leave. Indeed, invasion of a sovereign State was considered treasonous.

Echoing old Soviet tactics, the extreme left in America set out on a demonization and renaming program. Much of this agenda intensified after the senseless murders in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. The likely deranged perpetrator had absolutely nothing to do with Southern history or the Jeffersonian tradition. The pictures floated around by the media showed this individual with a Confederate Battle Flag that some skeptics alleged was photo-shopped into the image. Regardless of the dubious circumstances, the corporate media took the story and ran with it. Of course, “Neon Nikki” Haley succumbed to the woke

mob during the turmoil. We like to think forces in America would not stoop to such a level but history proves otherwise. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn astutely predicted it was only a matter of time before these tactics reached America’s shores.

In the history of these United States there is likely no “prominent family” that surpasses the Lees of Virginia. Both sides of Robert E. Lee’s family were filled with accomplished individuals. Although Lee opposed secession, he fully understood that he was duty-bound to follow his State once it left the Union. Lee stated: “With all my devotion for the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, and my home.” In his 1825 text, *A View of the Constitution of the United States of America*, William Rawles explained: “To deny the right (secession from the Union) would be inconsistent with the principle on which all our political systems were founded, which is, that the people have in all cases, a right to determine how they will be governed.” Rawles’ text was briefly used at West Point.



Echoing the comments of both Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, Lee understood the war was not fought over slavery. He did, however, understand the slave labor system was detrimental to the South, stating: “The best men of the South have long been anxious to do away with this institution and were quite willing to see it abolished.” He also said, “So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery, I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished. I believe it will be greatly for the interest of the South. So fully am I satisfied with this...that I would cheerfully have lost all I have lost by the war and suffered all I have suffered, to have this object attained.”

Robert E. Lee was an unapologetic Christian who possessed great character, morality, and devotion to duty. Thus, as the antithesis of the vast majority of his modern critics, Lee has been selected as a prime target for unjust demonization.

Sources: Union At All Costs: From Confederation to Consolidation, by John M. Taylor; A View of the Constitution of the United States of America, by William Rawle [Note: Rawle was a Quaker and an abolitionist.]; and May I Quote You, General Lee, by Randall J. Bedwell.



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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.

You may also read our Medicare publication at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10043.pdf.

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

SSA TALKS

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You can find a full list of our social media channels at: www.ssa.gov/social-media. Connect with us on social media to learn helpful information and ask general questions. But remember, you should never post personal information on social media. Follow along and share our pages with friends, neighbors, or loved ones today.

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We strive to provide the public with accurate and helpful information. In addition to the resources available on our website at www.ssa.gov, we post useful information on our social media channels. We invite you to learn about our programs and services on our social media pages:

- Our Social Security Blog –

SOCIAL SECURITY AND SCAM AWARENESS

Social Security imposter scams continue to be widespread across the United States. Scammers use tactics to deceive you into providing sensitive information or money. If you receive a suspicious letter, text, email, or call, do not respond.

We will NEVER:

- Text or email images of an employee's official government identification.
- Suspend your Social Security number.
- Threaten you with arrest or other legal action unless you immediately pay a fine or fee.
- Require payment by retail gift card, wire transfer, internet currency, or cash by mail.
- Promise a benefit increase or other assistance in exchange for payment.
- Mail or email "official" letters or reports containing your personal information.

We only send text messages in limited situations, including:

- When you have subscribed to receive updates and notifications by text.
- As part of our enhanced security when accessing your personal my Social Security account.

If you owe money to us, we will mail you a letter with payment options and appeal rights. Social Security employees do not contact the public by telephone for business purposes. Ordinarily, the agency calls people who have recently applied for a Social Security benefit, are already receiving payments and require an update to their record or have requested a phone call from the agency. If there is a problem with a person's Social Security number or record, Social Security will typically mail a letter.

We encourage you to report suspected Social Security imposter scams — and other Social Security fraud — to the OIG's website at oig.ssa.gov/report. You can find more information about scams at www.ssa.gov/scam. Please share this information with your friends, family, and colleagues to help spread awareness about Social Security imposter scams.

SOCIAL SECURITY'S SCHOOL EMPLOYEES AND SURVIVORS BENEFITS TOOLKITS

We've released new resources to help you better understand Social Security benefits. We've designed easy-to-use toolkits to provide education about our programs for children and our benefits for families after the death of a loved one. Our toolkits (School Professional and Survivor Benefits) are downloadable PDFs that include ready-to-go communications, such as sample email blasts, newsletter articles, handouts, and social media posts.

The School Professional Toolkit at www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/toolkit-ss-benefits-and-ssi-payments-for-children.pdf is for **teachers, school counselors, and other educators**. The purpose of this toolkit is to educate parents and guardians about the financial help we provide. We make payments to students with disabilities and to those who have experienced the loss of a parent or have a parent who is receiving retirement or disability benefits.

The toolkit discusses:

- Eligibility requirements.
- How to apply.
- How to respond to requests for school records and forms.
- Evidence we need from school professionals to determine whether a child with a disability may be eligible for SSI.

The Survivors Benefits Toolkit at www.ssa.gov/marketing/assets/materials/toolkit-ss-survivors-benefit.pdf is for **funeral homes, care facilities, and other organizations working with people who have lost a loved one**. This toolkit increases awareness about survivors benefits for eligible family members. We make monthly payments to surviving spouses, minor children, adult children with disabilities, and dependent parents of workers who paid Social Security taxes before they died.

The toolkit discusses:

- Eligibility requirements.
- How to apply.
- Evidence we need to process applications.

For more information about our toolkits, visit the blog post titled **New Resources for School Employees and Survivors** at: blog.ssa.gov/new-resources-to-educate-school-employees-and-survivors.

Please help us spread the word about our toolkits with your colleagues and others who may find them helpful.

**SOCIAL SECURITY
HONORS OUR MILITARY HEROES**

SOCIAL SECURITY ANNOUNCES NEW RESOURCES FOR SICKLE CELL WARRIORS

Are you a sickle cell warrior or do you know someone with sickle cell disease? At Social Security, we're committed to supporting sickle cell warriors and the people who care for them. An adult or child with sickle cell disease may be eligible for benefits through **Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI)**.

SSDI benefits are based on earnings and are not subject to income and resource limits. SSI is a needs-based program that provides payments to people who are age 65 or older, blind, or have a disability and have limited income and resources.

Our publications provide information, examples, and tips to help you understand the disability application and evaluation process. You can learn more by reading:

- Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Adults at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-003.pdf.
- Sickle Cell Disease and the Social Security Disability Evaluation Process for Children at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-004.pdf.

Our publication, **Sickle Cell Disease: A Guide for Health Professionals on Providing Medical Evidence for Social Security Disability Claims** at www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-60-005.pdf, explains the medical evidence we need to make medical decisions for people with sickle cell disease. For more information about our disability programs and related topics, visit our blog article titled **Understanding Social Security Disability Benefits** at blog.ssa.gov/understanding-social-security-disability-benefits. These resources help ensure timely, equitable, and accurate disability evaluations for people with sickle cell disease. Please share this article with your loved ones.

Call for Volunteers:

Join Montgomery's Foster Grandparents Program Now – Be the Change in 2025

Spring brings renewal, and the City of Montgomery is calling on compassionate folks 55 and up to join the Foster Grandparents Program. This is a fun, intergenerational gig where you hang out with kids, offering them a boost of support, wisdom, and encouragement—without the heavy lifting of taking anyone home. This program lets you play a starring role as a mentor, tutor, or cheerleader. You'll help kids build confidence, sharpen skills, and dream big—all while making Montgomery stronger, one high-five at a time. It's less about clocking hours and more about sharing your spark.

Why jump in?

Build real connections with kids and a crew of like-minded volunteers. **No experience, not a problem, we'll train you.**

Oh, and there's a little extra cash for those who qualify. We're looking for anyone 55 or older with a passion for helping kids thrive—all you need is enthusiasm.

Don't wait—act today! Contact Rhonda Watson at **334.451.9788** or visit www.montgomeryal.gov to apply or learn more.

In 2025, make your mark. Become a Foster Grandparent and shape a future of hope for Montgomery's children.

About the City of Montgomery Foster Grandparent Program: Backed by AmeriCorps Seniors with \$127,775—90 percent of total funding—this federally supported program links senior volunteers with kids needing academic and emotional boosts. Run by the City of Montgomery, it strengthens our community, generation to generation.

Department of Communications, City of Montgomery,
103 North Perry Street, Montgomery, AL 36104,



Dr. Lester Spencer
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Summiting Mount Everest

It Takes A Team To Reach Your Goals!

At 29,035 feet, Mount Everest is one of the most inhospitable places on earth. Everest is very remote and the altitude incapacitates all but the hardest and most experienced climbers. On top of that the weather is ruthlessly unforgiving and extreme.

Because Everest is the highest mountain in the world many have tried to summit the great peak. Between 1920 and 1952, seven major expeditions tried to summit Mount Everest and all of them failed. In fact, the mountain is littered with at least 120 bodies of mountain climbers who attempted to summit this peak so they might literally stand on top of the world.

Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa born in the high altitudes of Nepal, had been drawn to the mountain since he was young. He joined his first expedition to Mount Everest in 1935. The first expedition that Tenzing was on only made it to North Col which was an altitude of 22,000 feet. On this flat area between two peaks, they made a gruesome discovery. It was a wind-shredded tent with a frozen body inside. All that was left were the bones of a former climber with one boot off and the laces of the remaining boot between its bony fingers.

Only someone who has climbed a great mountain knows what it takes to make it to the top. Of the seven major expeditions between 1920 and 1935, Tenzing was on six of those expeditions. His fellow climbers joked that he had a third lung because of his ability to endure while climbing with heavy loads. Everyone respected him for his experience and tireless energy.

In 1953, Tenzing joined his seventh expedition to Everest with a British group led by Colonel John Hunt. By then Tenzing was a respected climber and mountaineer who was a full fledged member of the team, an honor not normally given to a Sherpa. The year before he had climbed to a height of 28,250 feet with a Swiss climbing team. This was the closest anyone had ever been to the top of Everest.

For a climbing team with just 10 high altitude climbers attempting to summit Mount Everest, it would take 200 to 300 people hauling the supplies on their backs just to get the gear, equipment and food to the base camp. It would take another 40 Sherpas with extensive mountain climbing experience to get the needed supplies further up the mountain. Only Tenzing and three other Sherpas would have the strength and skill to go to the high camps near the summit.

The team of ten climbers were divided into pairs who would possibly have a chance to reach the summit. Tenzing was paired with a New Zealander named Edmund Hillary and they were in team 2. The first pair of climbers on team one



attempted the summit and failed to reach the peak. Tenzing described the first team as they returned from their failed attempt. "They were worn-out, sick with exhaustion and, of course, terribly disappointed that they had not reached the summit themselves. But still....they did everything they could to advise and help us."

Now, it was Tenzing and Edmund Hillary's turn to try to reach the summit. They made the best of their opportunity. On May 29, 1953, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary accomplished what no other human being ever had: they stood on the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak!

Could Tenzing and Edmund Hillary make it alone? The answer is no. Could they have made it without a great team? No. Could they have done it without each other? No.

To reach our greatest goals and to fulfill our purpose in life, we cannot do it alone. We need other people to help us and empower us along the way. That is why we need our families. That is why we need a church family. That is why we need friends and co-workers. That is why we need to be connected to a community.

There is one fact about this story that most people do not know. We do not know which one of them made it to the summit first. Was it Tenzing Norgay or Edmund Hillary? The answer is: we do not know. Why? Because they made a decision that they would never tell anyone who made it to the summit first. They did it together and that was all they would ever say. Now that is what being a team is really all about. It's not about who gets the credit, it is about accomplishing the mission together.

Today's Woman Trisston's Tidbits:

By: *Trisston Wright Burrows*

Ms. Wheelchair America/Alabama 2005

site.trisstonwrightburrows.com

"God is in Control"



I really like it when I feel like I am controlling things... I think we all feel this way to some degree. Knowing that I have all my ducks in a row so that no surprises come my way is where I am most in my comfort zone. But no matter how hard I try to control things, the bottom line is that's not how life works.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7

While reading this passage in Philippians, I found myself asking the question, "what if for once, we dealt with these anxieties the right way, rather than

bottling them up and giving into them?" This is obviously easier said than done, and the reason why is because it literally can't be done without God. Paul made himself clear, not only are we supposed to **be anxious for NOTHING**, but that the peace we so often seek to keep us from giving into our anxieties can only be found through Christ and cannot be gained apart from Him. This peace cannot be explained to a science. If it could, it wouldn't be worth obsessing over because it would leave as soon as it came. This peace can only come from God and God alone. The irony of this text is Paul is writing this in prison, to Christians who are heavily discouraged because they are being persecuted for their faith, and in return they are dealing with their anxiety by giving into conflict with each other. So the question becomes, where are we giving in and letting anxiety take control of our lives rather than taking those anxieties and giving them up to God?

Paul makes it clear in these verses, **we CAN find peace in Christ**, because where we have no control over what happens, God does...and He's proven that through the hope we have in Christ. The reality is, Jesus promises us, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, He will never leave us alone. If we are alone and beaten by our anxieties, it's because we are beating ourselves up, not because God wishes that burden upon us. This is why Paul says "Be anxious for nothing" but instead "through prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving" turn to Jesus. So remember my friend, not only do we have access to God through prayer, but He can and will grant us His peace if we just turn to Him, because He is always in control.

Many Blessings



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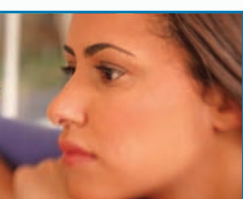
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Judge Peggy Givhan

Southern Gardening Potpourri for March



As we have always heard, March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb and it is also known as the windy month. This is also the month of St. Patrick's Day, celebrated on Monday March 17th.

Although it is native to Europe, it has been introduced to many areas of the world. Another interesting fact is that the Shamrock almost always has 3 leaves, as opposed to other clovers which can have 4 leaves.

Who was St. Patrick? He was a much loved fifth century Roman British Christian missionary and Bishop of Ireland who later became the Patron Saint of Ireland. He was supposedly the one who banished all snakes from Ireland, and even today, there are no snakes in Ireland. Later this holiday evolved into a celebration of Irish history with a culture of parades. Irish dancing, special food, music, drinking and lots of green. The shamrock later became associated with this day and is viewed as a symbol good luck.



Many times, we see fields of pink, purple, and red clover. This ground cover is a beautiful sight and is basically a legume. Legumes are planted to fix nitrogen in the soil. In other words, they collect nitrogen from the air, and make it available in the soil for plant growth.

Gardening chores for March.

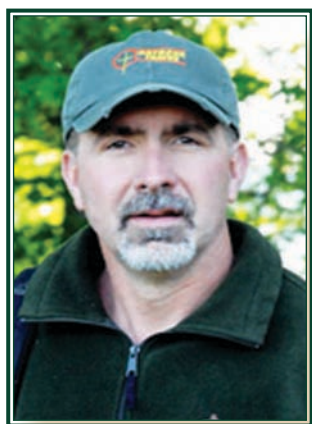
If the temperatures are still cold, and the plants, shrubs, and trees have not put out new growth, then you must spray with a winter dormant oil such as Volk Oil. This one task will rid your yard of white flies, which turn the leaves black with a film and depletes the leaf of chlorophyll. These pests are very difficult to banish once established.

PLANT OF THE MONTH - SHAMROCK

Trifolium dubium, Shamrock, is a short flowering plant in the pea family and clover family Favaceae. This species is generally accepted as the primary plant to represent the Irish Shamrock.



HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY AND GOOD GARDENING



Gary Miller
gary@outdoortruths.org

I love the warmer days of winter. It gives me a chance to walk my hunting areas. Because the leaves are off the trees and because there is no concern about spooking deer, I can gather all kinds of information from the last season. It is a great time to assess the good and bad of the previous year and plan some changes for the next. The woods will give a hunter plenty of information about the previous year and about the possibilities of the next season. One just has to do go out, walk around, be attentive, and let it all speak. This year, more than anything else, I'm just looking for signs of life. Mainly the life of bucks. I saw very few of them in one area. So, I want to find out why. Again, the woods will speak. Hopefully they will speak volumes and certainties. But regardless, they will speak.

to me, because it shows me His dogged and determined pursuit. That is, He is going to show Himself to us and there is absolutely nothing we can do about it. While a man may burn a Bible, he can never burn all of creation. And even in a fire, God will reveal His desire to purify and start something new. We just can't hide from God. And that's not a bad thing. It's a good one. It's good because not only does it show that we can't hide from God, but it shows that God will never give up until he finds us. And what will He do when He finds us? He won't condemn or even criticize. He will celebrate. The lost coin was celebrated when found. The lost sheep was celebrated when found. The lost son was celebrated when found. And God wants there to be about 7.9 billion celebrations, because His desire is that every single lost soul be found. What was the message as I perused my hunting area today? It was revealed in the trees. I saw every limb of every tree reach to the heavens in celebration. And the message for me was to live in celebration because this will be the posture of all those in heaven as we welcome all those, like us, who have been found



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

I know I talk and write about this a lot - the truth of how creation speaks, but it is never more illustrated for deer hunters than this time of year. Maybe a warm February day ought to cause us to be reminded of how creation also speaks to us about things more important than deer. After all, it is still the primary way God speaks to mankind. Yes, it is. While God wants to speak to his followers through the Scriptures, He still speaks to all people through creation. And this is so neat

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In recent years, **Hollie Kelly** joined the helpful and friendly staff at Lassiter's. She will greet you with a big smile and assist you with anything you need. She has extensive knowledge of hardware, farming and gardening products. In August 2024 **Hollie Kelly** purchased the hardware store and has taken it to the next level. Her plans are to expand the inventory to meet all the needs of the community. The motto at Lassiter's is "If you need it, we probably got it" And, if they don't have it, they can order it, and it will be in the next shipment to the store.

Go see **Hollie** at Lassiter's Hardware! You will be very happy you did!

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