

**RUSTY WALLACE**

865-688-8886

**KIA KNOXVILLE**  
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE



**Go Big Orange!!!  
Enjoy BIG savings  
on a NEW Kia now!**



# Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3

www.mocotoday.com

Volume 11 Number 39

Tuesday, September 23, 2025

Your Community. Your News.

**75¢**



**UAB 24 - UT 56**



### Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

**PUBLISHER:**

TOMMY LEE FRANCIS  
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

**EDITOR:**

HEATHER FRANCIS  
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

**ADVERTISING:**

ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

**MAIL DELIVERY  
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CALL 423-346-2329

POSTMASTER:

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO

P.O. BOX 451,

WARTBURG, TN 37887

**IN-COUNTY RATES**

\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS & VETERANS

**OUT OF COUNTY RATES**

\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR  
CITIZENS & VETERANS

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID

AT WARTBURG, TN

USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER

(15400)



WEEKLY WEATHER



**CITIZENS  
GAS  
UTILITY DISTRICT**

MORGAN of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 23	80°/65°	
Wed 24	75°/65°	
Thu 25	75°/61°	
Fri 26	74°/59°	
Sat 27	74°/57°	
Sun 28	75°/56°	
Mon 29	77°/56°	



**Tennessee 811**

Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

## — In Loving Memory —

### Bobby Ray Weiford United States Navy Veteran



would come and help you and stay with you until it was fixed. Bobby was a humble man who loved hunting and fishing, just not killing things. In fact, he loved animals, especially his dogs. He had many skills and talents but one of his most surprising was that he was a blue-ribbon winning artist.

Bobby Ray Weiford was born in West Virginia to Bessie (Armes) and John Weiford, but he spent the majority of his life in the town that he loved, Petros. He met his wife of 62 years there Euphema (Liles) Weiford and they had a wonderful life there together. Bobby was a deeply religious man who loved God and tried to live his life according to what the Bible said and anyone who knew him would say that he was a good man full of the Holy Spirit. He was never blessed with children, but he was a second Dad and a great example of what a man should be to all his nieces and nephews. He was also a wonderful grandparent to all of their kids.

He was known to all of his kids as Uncle Bobby, Big Bobby, or "Wooford". He rarely said a crossword to anyone unless you were bothering one of his kids. Some other things Bobby was proud of was his country and the time he spent in United States Navy.

One thing that was always a certainty with Bobby, was that he loved everyone and would do anything to help his family or anyone else, especially the kids of Petros. No matter what, he was always there for you. He might not know how to solve your problem, but he

Bobby is survived by his brother Eddie (Tommy) and his wife Sheila. Two Sister-in-laws Carolyn Liles and Judy Layne. One brother-in-law Jerry Long and a whole passel of nieces and nephews, great nieces and nephews, and even great-great-nieces and nephews and his adopted family from Quality Healthcare and Hospice who took great care of him over the last few years of his life.

Nothing can come close to expressing how much he will be missed by everyone who knew him. Simply put Bobby was not just a good man, but a very good man. He was a kind, gentle, intelligent, and generous man with a wonderful smile, who loved almost everyone and everything and our lives are greatly diminished by his passing.

The family will have a Grave-side service with Military Honors on Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the New Petros Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Petros, TN.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Ray Weiford.*

### Psalm 123:1

Unto thee lift I up mine eyes,  
O thou that dwellest in the heavens.

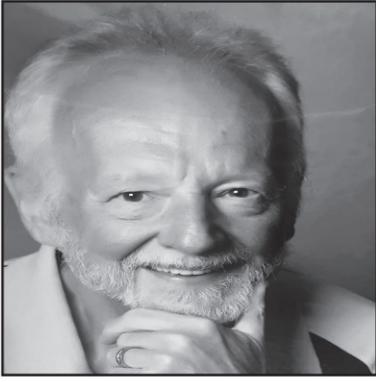


Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.



— In Loving Memory —

### William Richard (Dickey) Hood, 69



cial friend Debbi Hood; brother-in-law Jimmy Christofalos.

He is survived by his wife of 12 years Felicia Hood; children Heather (Richard) Jackson; Jennifer (Travis) Griffin, Bradley (Victoria) Hood, Travis Wheaton, Madison Wheaton, and Timothy Hood; grandchildren Micah (Savannah) Jackson, Jenises Hoap, Destanie Phillips, Dalton Phillips, Levi Hood, Maverick Jackson, Mariah Jackson, Kolton Cogswell, Kayden Hood,; great grandchildren Paislee Jackson, Keelynn Hooper, Emory Jackson; brother Randy (Mary Ann) Hood; sister Michelle Christofalos and a host of nieces, nephews, and extended family and friends.

The family will receive friends Sunday, September 21, 2025 at Walnut Hill Church from 2:00-4:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Bro Doug Johnson officiating. Interment will follow in the Davis Cemetery in Coalfield.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of William Richard (Dickey) Hood.*

William Richard (Dickey) Hood, age 69, of Coalfield passed away on September 16, 2025. Dickey was born on February 22, 1956 to Curtis and Jean Hood.

He was a loving husband, father, and pappy. Dickey was a proud member of Walnut Hill Baptist Church. He enjoyed helping others and spending time with family and friends. He worked several years for Coca-Cola Bottling Co., in MS before moving back home to Coalfield. He was a truck driver and visited 48 states. He was a black belt in Taekwondo. He worked as a certified plumber and electrician. He enjoyed listening to gospel music. He was loved by so many.

He is preceded in death by his mom Jean Hood; dad Curtis Hood; sister Cindy Bingamon; sister Pam Harmon and spe-

### Wanda Lee Diden (Granny)



She is preceded in death by her parents Clyde Willard and Minnie Patience Scott, her sister Georgia Wilson, and brother Clyde Scott. Best friend Deola Shannon

She leaves behind her Son John Aaron Diden, Daughter Stephanie Diden

Wanda Lee Diden (Granny) went to be with the Lord in Heaven September 13, 2025 surrounded by her loved ones.

Wanda lived most of her life on Mill Creek. She worked as a cafeteria manager at Sunbright School for over 30 years. She loved every minute of it. She would keep extra money in her pockets to take care of the children that didn't have money and she always made sure to give heaping spoonfuls of food. It was her goal to feed the children and feed them well. If you went to Sunbright back when she was there, school lunch was something you actually looked forward to. Wanda had a great trait about her, she always saw the good in everyone. She loved to quilt and crochet, beauty pageants, and participate in church activities at the Sunbright Church of God. She also loved her pink lipstick!

Grandchildren: Erin (Jason) Wilson, Zachary (Selena) Price, And Jessie (Phillip) Richardson

Great Grandchildren: Halle, Bo, and Jase Wilson, Gabriel Price, Gage, Bryce, Rhett, and Charlie Richardson

A host of nieces and nephews that she loved dearly

Special friends: Lisa & Pete Nafziger and family, David Hennessee, Mike & Liz Cannon and family.

The family will have a graveside service Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at the Diden Cemetery in Sunbright at 12:00 p.m. with Bro. Terry Potter officiating.

*Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Wanda Lee Diden.*

**Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.**



# 0% Financing on ALL NEW 2025 Santa Fe's



2025 - Santa Fe

**FREE MAINTENANCE ON ALL NEW VEHICLES INCLUDES OIL CHANGES & TIRE ROTATIONS.**



2026 - Palisade

**HOME OF THE 200,000-MILE WARRANTY**

\*see dealer for details

**RUSTY WALLACE**  **HYUNDAI**

**RustyWallaceHyundai.com - 865-963-3400**

**505 Callahan Drive, Knoxville - Exit 110 - 75 North**

RustyWallaceHonda.com

# CHAD CAMPBELL AND THE STAFF OF RUSTY WALLACE HONDA

CONGRATULATES **BRADLEE SEXTON** RANKED 13TH FOR SPORTS ILLUSTRATED ATHLETE OF THE YEAR .



**LOW PRICES, GREAT SELECTION, PROVEN REPUTATION**

# RUSTY WALLACE



RustyWallaceHonda.com

## KNOXVILLE

I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE



**HONDA**

# 865-938-4222

\*see dealer for details

# We love what we do because of YOU.

See how much we love our Members!

Follow Us On Social Media!      (865) 544-5400  tvacreditunion.com

Federally Insured by NCUA.



## Caring for our community



### Wartburg

 1236 Knoxville Hwy  
Wartburg, TN  
37887

 423.346.6337

### Rockwood

 600 N Gateway Ave  
Rockwood, TN  
37854

 865.590.6339

### Harriman

 1701 Roane State Hwy  
Harriman, TN  
37748

 865.590.6337

 griffithfamilypharmacy.com



This pharmacy is independently owned and operated under a license from Health Mart Systems, Inc.

## GET YOUR BEACH BODY BACK !!!

### NEW FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus Injections

#### Now At

### Dr's Weight Loss Clinic!

*"Walk-ins" Welcome*

*Call to schedule your FREE Consultation*

Physician Supervised  
Prescription Diet Pills  
Lipo Myoden  
B12 Injections  
Health and Wellness Supplements

**DR'S WEIGHT LOSS CLINIC**

19102 Alberta Street, Oneida, TN  
**423-286-7546**

1035 Old Hwy 127 S, Jamestown, TN  
**931-879-8444**



### Randy McFarland

105 S Kingston Street  
PO Box 690  
Wartburg, TN 37887-0690  
**(423) 346-7670**

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



### Real Estate Agent Glenda Johnson

Direct: (865) 591-6900  
Office: (865) 376-2121 x102  
License: 251289 TN

[glenda6900@bellsouth.net](mailto:glenda6900@bellsouth.net)  
With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.

## Historically Speaking

### Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: Job Well Done, Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Barbara Scollin, grandniece of Major General Kenneth D. Nichols, continues her series on his life.

\*\*\*

Ample reasons, most notably leadership skills, personality traits, and qualifications, led to choosing General (then Colonel) Kenneth D. Nichols as Deputy District Engineer and subsequently as District Engineer of the Manhattan Engineer District (MED). In this capacity, he had supervision of the research and development connected with, and the design, construction, and operation of all plants required for the production of plutonium and uranium-235, including the construction of the towns of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Richland, Washington. The responsibility of his position was massive as he oversaw a workforce of both military and civilian personnel of approximately 125,000; his Oak Ridge office became the center of the wartime atomic energy activities. He was also responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

In this twenty-first installment of several articles covering the life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of his efforts to honor civilians and industries who made the Manhattan Project a success, while Oak Ridge begins its transition to peacetime.

The men and women working throughout the United States in the MED responsible for the success of the Manhattan Project reached a peak of 125,000 under Colonel Kenneth Nichols.

The MED was staffed with:

- Army "regular" officers,
- Army medical officers,
- Army reserve officers,
- Civilians given direct commissions,
- Naval officers,
- Civil Service employees,
- Women's Army Corps personnel, and,
- Special Engineer Detachment (SED) consisting of technically trained enlisted men.

The civilian workforce included:

- Construction workers,
- Production Facility Operations personnel,
- City Government officials for Oak Ridge & Richland Village,
- Oak Ridge's day-to-day operations handled by Roane-Anderson as well as Richland Village operations that included Schools, Hospitals, Transportation, Garbage collection, Management of housing, Hotel, Fire department, Central eating facilities, and Coal delivery,
- Personnel to handle water purification and sewage treatment plants, electric distribution system, telephone service, jail operation, and,
- Newspaper and communications.

All of them deserved special recognition for their service during the war. Awards, citations and presentations took place during 1945, (especially after the war) at all Manhattan Project sites including Oak Ridge, Knoxville, Los Alamos, Washington D.C. and around the nation. Over 85,000 U.S. companies were recognized for their war production efforts with the Excellence in War Production Award ("E-Award").

Oak Ridge hosted the Army & Navy "E" awards late September 1945, to recognize the men and women from local industry. 70,000+ invitations were sent for the occasion and Oak Ridgers were asked to walk or ride buses, not drive, to the high school field. In the Oak Ridge Award Cer-



**Col Kenneth D. Nichols awards George C. Aug a citation from the War Department, Army Service Forces, for 10 years of service. Aug, first arrival among the U.S.E.D. employees on the project, was in charge of much of the construction in the early days of Oak Ridge.**

(Courtesy of The Oak Ridge Journal, Jan 4, 1945. Photo by Ed Westcott.

Provided by Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt)

emony photo, you can see signs above the stage identifying several of the companies representing their massive workforce: Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Corporation; Clinton Laboratories of the Monsanto Chemical Company; H.K. Ferguson Company; the Fercleve Corporation; Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc.; J.A. Jones Construction Company, Inc.; and the Kellex Corporation. Not shown in the photo were signs & representatives standing for Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation and Tennessee Eastman Corporation.

Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson honored all in attendance by giving the key address; Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols served as Master of Ceremonies; Maj General Groves made special presentations. Many other dignitaries including the TN Governor Jim Nance McCord, US senators, and Commodore W.S. Parsons attended. Excerpts from General Groves message include, "The lights have come on again earlier all over the world because of what you did here. . . Your government is giving public recognition to your performance of a war task without parallel in the engineering and production annals of the world."

And from Colonel Nichols, "You remember the long hours of work for months on end. . . You remember the impossible construction and production schedules which the Army set and you met. You remember the necessity for continuing your efforts month after month without full knowledge of our objectives and with little hope of official or public recognition, due to the secrecy requirement which surrounded the project."

Later that evening in Knoxville, a dinner was held for special guests and Nichols was surprised to be awarded a Distinguished Service Medal by the Secretary of War.

The DSM is the highest non-combat medal awarded by the U.S. Army. General Groves, who read the citation, described Colonel Nichols as "a key man for the entire project," which "inspired a tremendous ovation from the assembled guests".

The citation read: "Colonel Kenneth D. Nichols, Corps of Engineers, as District Engi-

neer, Manhattan Engineer District from August 1943 to August 1945, distinguished himself while performing duties of great responsibility in connection with the development of the greatest military weapon of all time, the Atomic Bomb. Overcoming many and varied difficulties, he perfected the organization of diverse elements and installations and by his outstanding knowledge determined procedures for the most effective utilization of all components, thus creating a secure and efficient team to carry out a work of unparalleled magnitude and complexity. His initiative and resourcefulness, sound judgment and executive ability, and indefatigable devotion to a major task contributed in great measure to the successful prosecution of the war. Colonel Nichols' accomplishments reflect great credit upon himself and the military service."

Col. Nichols turned to his fellow workers after the award was made, saying, "Your good judgment, intelligence and hard work have made our project a success. I never thought I could spend an entire war in U.S.A. and be proud of my work. But I am very, very proud tonight, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

In Los Alamos an Army & Navy "E" Awards ceremony was also held. Those in attendance included Dr. Oppenheimer receiving special recognition and awards, Groves making presentations, Nichols serving as Master of Ceremonies, Robert Gordon Sproul, President of the University of California, and Commodore W.S. Parsons. "Deak" Parsons worked with Dr. Oppenheimer at Los Alamos at the Project Y research laboratory and served as the weaponeer on the Enola Gay which dropped the bomb on Hiroshima. Nichols would soon see him again at the Operation Crossroads nuclear weapon tests at Bikini Atoll in 1946 and Nichols, as Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, would have Parsons as one of his deputies.

- Continued on Page 13

# Historically Speaking

## Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge: Job Well Done, Part 1

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The MED in Oak Ridge underwent partial demobilization while continuing essential operations: Y-12 alpha stages and the S-50 plant were immediately shut down at Nichols' recommendation and Groves' approval. Scientists, industrial contractors, reserve officers – all wanted to return to pre-war activities. Nichols recalls, "I was no longer coordinating an outstanding team of individuals and organizations. Instead, a real effort was necessary to keep everything from falling apart. To keep the Manhattan District functioning, Groves secured authority from the new Secretary of War, Robert P. Patterson, over objections ... to select by name about 50 young, outstanding regular officers, mostly West Point graduates to fill key positions in the MED vacated by the departure of reserve officers who wished to resume civilian status asap."

Groves and Nichols worked hand in hand with leaders in Washington D.C. on the steps needed to terminate war efforts. And they sent Dr. Stafford Warren, and his radiation survey teams to Japan. Dr. Warren's reports on radiation, blast damage, and medical effects are detailed in General Nichols' book, *The Road to Trinity, A Personal Account of How America's Nuclear Policies Were Made* at pages 217-223.

Dr. Warren also included an interesting comment in his report, "The ethics of the use of the atomic bomb had been raised by U.S. newspapermen in Tokyo, but many Japanese told the survey team they could not understand why the question should have been raised at all: Their own forces would have used it without the slightest qualm if they had had it themselves. It is realized that this information was not the concern of the survey team, but the discussion came up ....., and it is included for record."

Dr. Warren returned with a different type of an award for General Nichols – a Japanese saber. Nichols recalled, "When Warren returned to Oak Ridge, he presented me a very fine Japanese saber. He told me that when he first visited the Japanese hospital in Hiroshima, the commanding medical officer surrendered his saber to him. Warren was reluctant to accept it, but when the Japanese insisted he must surrender to someone and Warren was the first American officer to reach the hospital, Warren finally accepted the saber on behalf of his commanding officer and would present it to him at Oak Ridge, Tennessee. It was a fine saber, my only war trophy."

While everyone else was packing up and going home, Nichols was multi-tasking to keep CEW and Hanford Engineer Works running all the while traveling around the country to give well-deserved praise to others.

Next up: Job Well Done, Part 2

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bianka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt; Michael Stallo and the staff at the Oak Ridge Public Library; Diane Gulley; Gerald A. Potts; and Bruce W. Scollin for their assistance with this article.

\*\*\*

Thanks for this Historically Speaking column and series goes to Barbara Rogers Scollin, grandniece of General Kenneth D. Nichols.



Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson pins the Distinguished Service Medal on District Engineer Col. Kenneth D. Nichols after Maj. General Leslie Groves read the citation. Sept 29, 1945. Photo by Ed Westcott. (Courtesy of Oak Ridge Public Library)



"War Department Authorizes Pin" announced the Oak Ridge Journal, Front page, October 4, 1945. Awarded to MED employees with 6 months' service. Bronze for 6-18 or more months service; silver for more than 18 months. (Courtesy of K. David Nichols, Jr.)



Presentation of the Army & Navy "E" Awards at Fuller Lodge. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer at the podium; Colonel K.D. Nichols, District Manager of the MED and Brig. General Leslie Groves, Commander of the Manhattan Project, seated to the right. Los Alamos, NM. October 16, 1945. (Courtesy of Dr. Robert Serber)

# Acts Chapter 10:1-11:18



Melvin Howard

(Acts 10:1-8) **“Cornelius, the God-Fearer”** Cornelius was a Roman soldier commanding one hundred soldiers. He had come to believe in the one God, was devout in his life, generous with the poor, and a dedicated family man. He was the epitome of moral excellence. An angel appeared to him and informed him that God had recognized his prayers; he was instructed to send for Simon Peter in Joppa some thirty miles to the south, who was staying with a tanner (an occupation disdained by the Jews due to the ceremonial contamination caused by dead animals). The fact that Peter was staying with this man told something about him. He was putting some distance between himself and strict Judaism. He was the ideal one to work with Cornelius (the Gentile).

(Acts 10:10-16) **Peter’s vision:** the next day, the centurion dispatched three men to carry out the assignment. As they neared the city Joppa, Peter went up on the housetop to pray. While praying he had a divinely orchestrated vision involving various creatures that were “unclean” under the Mosaic law. The apostle was commanded to eat; he refused for conscience sake. He then was informed that these creatures had been made clean. This would suggest that the law of Moses, with its separatist principles, was obsolete now. The vision was repeated twice more. By then Peter was beginning to fathom the meaning, and the vision disappeared.

(Acts 10:17-23) **Peter meets the messengers:** as the apostle pondered the meaning, the men sent by Cornelius arrived at the gate below. The timing was perfect---divinely structured no doubt. They inquired about Peter. Simultaneously, the Holy Spirit spoke to the apostle, informing him that these men had been sent by the Lord on behalf of Cornelius, who was a righteous, God-fearing man, and who needed to hear the gospel. The expression, “God-fearer,” was a technical term for a Gentile who had renounced paganism but had not adopted circumcision and become a proselyte (into Judaism).

(Acts 10:23-34) **Peter at Caesarea:** the next day, Peter, in the company of six Jewish men who would serve as witnesses, returned to Caesarea with the messengers. They found Cornelius, his family, and near friends anxiously waiting. **The centurion bowed before Peter but was told to refrain from such since he was but a man also (25-26). The apostle stood in stark contrast to the modern papacy that falsely professes to wear his clerical mantle.**

(Acts 10:34-43) **Peter’s message:** Peter subsequently explained that God had shown him the meaning of the mysterious vision. The “unclean” creatures represented the Gentiles (viewed as unclean by Jews) and that, in God’s great plan of redemption, it was time for “every nation” to be incorporated into the one family of God (Eph. 4:4-6), Cornelius related his own experience with the angel. The combined divine experiences convinced both parties that this series of events was of God. Peter thus proclaimed the glad tidings that God was not a respecter of persons, but all nations were now to receive the saving message. Those who revered the Lord and worked righteousness (were obedient to the faith) would be accepted. He revealed to these God-fearing Gentiles the good news about Jesus, his miracle-working ministry, his redemptive death and resurrection, and his eventual role as judge of all. This implied accountability to him. The apostle emphasized that those who committed themselves to a life of “believing” (v. 43; the verb reflects an active, submissive way of life) would, consistent with Christ’s authorized way, receive “remission of sins.”

(Acts 10:44-48) **The Spirit Validates Gentile Acceptance:** But would the Jews elsewhere be convinced that this meeting had been orchestrated by God and that the Gentiles should receive immersion in water for remission of sins and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, (Acts 2:38, Peter’s first sermon), by which the Lord would add them to the church (Acts 2:47). As a sign of divine documentation, the power of the Holy Spirit fell upon these Gentiles, and they spoke foreign languages magnifying God. The Jewish

brothers who had accompanied Peter from Joppa were totally convinced. No one could deny water baptism to the Gentiles under such circumstances. Cornelius and the others were immersed by the authority of Christ. They even urged Peter to stay with them for a while.

Two fundamental propositions must be kept in mind as one analyzes the case of Cornelius---for this context has been subject to much theological abuse. (a) Cornelius was a lost man until he heard the words spoken by Peter that were instrumental in his salvation (11:14). Hearing alone, however, does not save, as Jesus clearly taught (Mt. 7:24-27). (b) Whatever was involved in Cornelius’ salvation, the fundamental conditions were the same as those required of the Jews, for God is no “respecter of persons” (v. 34); the Lord made “no distinction” between Jews and Gentiles in terms of their salvation, as Peter himself later declared (15:9). The Jews were saved on Pentecost when, in faith, they repented of their sins and were immersed for the forgiveness of those sins (2:37-38). Does anyone for one minute think that the Jews would have tolerated the notion that there were fewer salvation demands for the Gentiles than for them?

Several important truths are learned from this incident. (a) Though Cornelius was a man of superior moral quality, he still was lost (11:14) and needed the gospel. (b) His experience in seeing and hearing an angel did not produce nor prove his salvation. (c) His prayers had not saved him, (2, 22). (e) It was necessary that he believe in the true God and his Son and “work righteousness” in order to be acceptable to the Lord (v. 35). Working righteousness is the equivalent of obedience (Mt. 3:15; Rom. 6:16). (f) Holy Spirit baptism did not save him---or demonstrate that he was saved already---for that experience occurred just as Peter “began to speak” (11:15) and, thus, before Christ was proclaimed as Lord. Peter makes this point clear as he rehearses the events of this occasion in chronological “order” before the Jews in Jerusalem (11:4).

(Acts 11:1-18) **Gentile conversions defended at Jerusalem:** the report of Gentile conversions rapidly reached the apostles and the church in Jerusalem---and it created a negative reaction. Accordingly, when Peter finally arrived at the city, some of the Jewish brethren “contended” with him. They were ready to do battle. But Peter---methodically and “in order” ---presented his case. (a) He told of his heavenly vision while in Joppa. (b) The apostle recounted the amazing circumstance of Cornelius’ messengers appearing at Simon’s gate at just the right moment. (c) He informed them that the Spirit had commanded him to go to Caesarea, making no distinction between himself and the Gentiles. (d) He identified “these six brothers” who had accompanied him to Caesarea to verify the events. (e) He told of the angel’s appearance to Cornelius and his command that Peter was to be summoned from Joppa. (f) The apostle related the Spirit’s “like gift,” such as they had received on Pentecost. That it was a “like gift” does not signify that it paralleled the apostles’ bestowal in all particulars.

After all of this, he drew the only conclusion possible: “Who was I to withstand God?” It was as if he said, “Dispute with me and you dispute with your Maker!” When they heard these things, their antagonism evaporated, and they glorified God saying, “To the Gentiles also God has given the opportunity to repent and receive life” (v. 18) Repent is viewed as a gift since the Lord provided the opportunity for them to do so. It also is a summary term that embraces all aspects of their obedience to the gospel plan.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo  
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard’s Weekly column is sponsored by  
**The Lord’s Church**  
102 Paxton Road, Lancing

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today



**RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com**

# Shop Rusty Wallace Kia

**For the best selection in the area!  
Rusty's exclusive 200,000 mile warranty!  
Excellent service before, during & after the sale!**



**2025 KIA Telluride**



**2025 KIA K5**



**2026 KIA Sportage**



**2025 KIA K4**

**You'll get it all  
when you choose  
Rusty Wallace Kia  
of Knoxville on  
Callahan Drive!!!**

# **RUSTY WALLACE**

**865-688-8886**



**KNOXVILLE**

**I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE**

*\*see dealer for details*