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Psalm 100:3

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Wed 17 51°/41°



Thu 18 57°/30°



Fri 19 46°/34°



Sat 20 54°/47°



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Mon 22 52°/39°



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

White Oak Missionary Baptist Church/Sunbright

"Christmas To Remember"

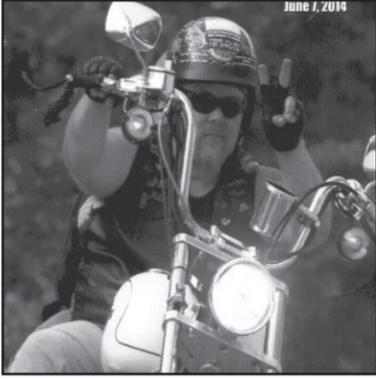
December 20, 2025 @ 6:00

Pastor Brent Leach invites everyone to come and celebrate the birth of our Savior!



— In Loving Memory —

Larry Kenneth Parris Sr.



Larry will also be missed by his favorite running buddies, grandsons Marverick Gene Parris and Mason Kenneth Parris. He could often be seen out with “Mav” and “Moo”.

Nobody enjoyed the outdoors more than Larry. He thought there should just be one season...WARM.

There are many who will remember seeing him out on his Harley every chance he got.

A Jack of All Trades, Larry worked construction all his life. Willing to help out a friend or even a stranger every now and then.

Heaven is one Biker richer and those left behind are much poorer for it.

Keep it between the Clouds and Enjoy the Ride.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Larry Kenneth Parris, Sr.

Larry Kenneth Parris, Sr. Passed away on November 21, 2025, at his home surrounded by his family.

Waiting for him in Heaven are his parents Vida Jean Wilson Parris and Cecil Edward Parris. Mother-in-law Betty Seabolt and adored granddaughter Dakota Grace Crady. Good friend Dustin Cooper.

He leaves behind the love of his life and high school sweetheart, Lora Seabolt Parris. Together they have three children: Larry Kenneth Parris Jr. (Kenny), Amanda Lynn Parris and Amelia Rochelle Parris.

Brother: Garry Cecil Parris and Sister: Mary Jeannie Parris Freeman.

Roberta Mehlhorn, 82



Roberta is preceded in death by her parents Foy and Hattie Tilson, twin brother Gerald Wayne, sisters Ruby Pass and Charlotte Boshears, and niece Pam Shaver.

In addition to her husband Philip, she is survived by her daughters Lynn (Peter) Giuffre of Naugatuck, CT and Lisa (Mike) Pierce of Wartburg, sister Shelby Burgess of Dunlap, TN, grandsons Brian and Brandon Lester of the Joyner Community and Eric Giuffre of Naugatuck, CT along with many nieces, nephews, friends, and neighbors.

Roberta Mehlhorn, age 82 of the Joyner Community died peacefully on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at Life Care of Morgan County. Philip, her loving and devoted husband of 64 years who never left her side.

She was a lifelong member of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. She was among the first employees hired at Tennford Weaving in Wartburg until the plant’s closing. She then worked with the K-25 Clean-up Project until her retirement. When Roberta wasn’t assisting her husband at the family’s produce stand, she visited many parts of the United States with her sisters. She will be remembered fondly for her wonderful cooking -- especially her Chicken & Dumplings.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, November 30, 2025, from 1:00-3:00pm. Funeral Services will immediately follow with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will be at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg. Nephews Matthew, Michael, and Joey Mehlhorn, Barry, Mikel and Robbie Burgess, and Joseph Boshears, Jr. will be serving as Pall Bearers.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Roberta Mehlhorn.

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

Donna Terese Strutton Curl, 68



ter-in-law, Michelle “Shellie” Curl; along with several aunts and uncles.

She is survived by her loving husband of 42 years, Glenn Allen Curl, Sr.; 6 children: Glenn Curl, Jr., Steven Curl, Michael (Autumn) Curl, Amanda (boyfriend Matt) Lemons, Elizabeth “Beth” (Mathew) Luppo, Thomas (Amber) Curl; 4 grandsons Andrew, Johnathon, Caden, and Matthew; 6 granddaughters Paisley, Maddy, Makenzie, Aubrey, Bella, and Alexis; brother Peter Strutton; sister Cathy (Ron) Pierson of Michigan; “adopted” children: Blake (Summer) Turner, Crystal (Jon) Ogle, Will Heath, Felix Colwell, Eddie Polchlopek, Sarah (Bubba) Lemons, and David (Vantisha) Weaver; special

friends: April and Alan Jones, Pat Jones, Don Daugherty, Veronica Vincent; former son-in-law Darren Lemons and so many other extended family and friends.

Donna was born in Chicago, Illinois on April 26, 1957 to Willard Strutton and Rose Carone Strutton. Donna met her husband in 1982 and were married on January 12, 1983. Donna and Glenn moved to Tennessee to be close to her 6 children, and she was a mother to anyone who she was around. She was the kindest woman to everyone that knew her.

She will be greatly missed by her husband, children, and friends. A special thank you to Life Care Center of Morgan County for

their care over the last several months.

The family will receive friends Friday, December 12, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 7:00 p.m. with Bro. Frank Kirby and Bro. Mike Hammonds.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Donna Terese Strutton Curl.



— In Loving Memory —

Jimmy Lee Stewart, 74



Jimmy Lee Stewart
January 7, 1951 – December 1,
2025

Jimmy Lee Stewart, born January 7, 1951, in Sunbright, Tennessee passed away December 1, 2025. He grew up in the Sunbright area before marrying and moving to Atlanta, Georgia where he started a family and

lived for many years. He and his family then moved to Cookeville, Tennessee where he spent the remainder of his life. He was a life-long painter and owned his own business. He loved politics and his community and was a former county commissioner in Cookeville, Tennessee. He was a member of Sycamore Church of Christ. He enjoyed sports whether it was the Tennessee Volunteers or local basketball teams as they played for state championships, fishing, planting his garden, and above all drinking a cup of coffee (year-round and cup after cup) sitting around with friends and loved ones telling a good story.

He is preceded in death by his parents John C. Stewart and

Madelyn Human Stewart and his oldest son, James Stewart of Gainsboro, Tennessee.

He is survived by his son, Michael Stewart, and his daughter, Amy Stewart Harris, both of Cookeville, TN; grandchildren Courtney LaFever (Okilbek), of Gainsboro, TN, David Stewart (Harmony) of East Knoxville, TN, Alli Beth Roberts of Cookeville, TN, and Parker Roberts of Cookeville, TN; great-grandchildren Harper Autumn LaFever of Gainsboro, TN and Sadie Mae Stewart of East Knoxville, TN; sister Martha Jane "Janie" Stewart Galloway of Hixson, TN, brother John D. "JD" Stewart of Utah, Cathy Atkinson Hill mother of his children, grandmother of his grandchildren

and great-grandchildren, and friend; and several nephews, niece, and extended family and friends whom he loved dearly.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 6, 2025 from 4 – 6 p.m. (CST) at Sycamore Church of Christ in Cookeville, TN with Brother Kevin Daugherty officiating. Interment will be on Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3 p.m. (EST) at the family cemetery at Pleasant Ridge.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jimmy Lee Stewart.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

Kathie Freytag, 68



Kathie Freytag, age 68 of Wartburg died peacefully on Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, at home surround by family.

She is preceded in death by her son Brandon Freytag; parents Oliver and Evia Byrge; brother Leslie (Clara) Byrge; father/mother-in-law David (Faye) Freytag.

She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Wesley Freytag; son Justin (Samantha) Freytag; grandsons, Coleman, Oliver, Kaden, Gabriel and Gunner Freytag, Andrew Gilley; granddaughters, Annie Freytag,

Emma Canela, Ellie and Ember Gilley, grandchildren's mothers, Jenny Burja and Hillary Freytag, sister, Brenda (Gary) Adkisson, along with many nieces, nephews, friends, family and neighbors.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 5th, 2025, from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home, Wartburg. Funeral Services will be Saturday, December 6th, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. with Pastor Roy Langley officiating. Interment will follow at Union Cemetery in the Joyner Community.

Son, Justin Freytag, Grandsons, Coleman, Oliver, Kaden Freytag, Andrew Gilley, Special adopted grandson, Joseph Childs will be serving as Pall Bearers

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Kathie Freytag.

Georgia Mae Coffman, 96



Georgia Mae Coffman, age 96, of Wartburg Tennessee passed away peacefully at home on Sunday, December 7, 2025. She was a lifelong member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

She is preceded in death by her husband Hige Coffman; parents George and Edla Heidel; sister Vera Sexton; brother Herbert Heidel; niece Donna Sexton McCray and nephew Wade Sexton.

She is survived by her sister Elsie Murphy; nieces Sharon Brightwell and Marie Sexton;

nephew Gary Sexton and a host of great and great-great nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends Saturday, December 13, 2025 from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church with the funeral to follow at 10:00 a.m. with Pastor David Graves officiating. Interment will be at Morgan Memorial Gardens in Wartburg.

The family would like to thank the University of Tennessee Hospital and University of Tennessee Hospice for their wonderful care and support.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Georgia Mae Coffman.



— In Loving Memory —

Fulton Wayne Freels, 25



Fulton Wayne Freels, age 25, of Sunbright, passed away peacefully at his home on December 8, 2025.

Fulton was welcomed into heaven by his beloved fiancée, Nevaeh Ballard, and his grandparents, Omer and Bonnie Freels, who preceded him in death.

He leaves behind his father, Tony Freels; his mother, Teresa Wray, and husband Shane; his sister, Breanna Kilgore, and husband John; his brother, Kurtis Silcox; his cherished niece, Lilian Williams, and nephew,

Roger Kilgore; and his grandfather, Roger Silcox. Fulton is also survived by a host of extended family members and friends who will forever remember his kind heart, quiet strength, and the love he shared with those around him.

The family will receive friends Sunday December 14, 2025 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg with the funeral to follow at 3:00, Bro. Terry Potter officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions be made to Schubert Funeral Home.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Fulton Wayne Freels.

Betty Lou Chaney, 72



Betty Lou Chaney, age 72, was born on July 6, 1953, and departed this life peacefully at her home on Friday morning, December 12, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family.

She was preceded in death by her father, Bill Moore; her beloved son, Billy Jack Chaney; and her sister, Peggy Sue Chaney.

Betty Lou was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose life was rooted in family, faith, and love. She was married for 57 years to her lifelong companion, Troy Jackson Chaney Jr., and together they built a family filled with deep bonds and lasting memories.

She is survived by her husband, Troy Jackson Chaney Jr.; her son, Leroy Andrew Chaney and wife Blake; her daughters,

Matilda Marie Chaney and Cassie Rena Phillips and husband Mark; and her mother, Joy Moore-Davis. She is also survived by her sisters, Barb Beck and husband Steve, and Gail Hunter and husband Steve.

Betty Lou leaves behind a legacy of love through her ten grandchildren: Michael, Ma'Shele, BJ (Courtney), Myranda (Cody), Scottie, Bubba, Lou (Ethan), Ariel, Cylas, and Andrea; and seven great-grandchildren: Pamela, Dharius, Kaysen, Rhett, Jaylon, Kallie, and Marleigh Mae.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 2:00 p.m. Interment will follow in the New Petros Cemetery in Petros.

Betty Lou will be remembered for her gentle spirit, unwavering devotion to her family, and the warmth she shared so freely with all who knew her.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Betty Chaney.

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

Psalm 123:1

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



Felix Esco Ooten, 88



Felix Esco Ooten, age 88, of Kingston passed into eternal rest on Thursday Morning, December 11, 2025, at the Lantern at Morning Pointe in Lenoir City, TN.

Felix was born on April 9, 1937, in Oakdale, TN., to Vera Viola Hamby Ooten and Clarence Ooten. He worked all his life starting at a young age delivering newspapers. He worked at the YMCA in Oakdale and

then worked on the railroad until he was laid off. He attended Tennessee Tech in Cookeville for a year before going to work at Tennessee Eastman in Kingsport. He attended East Tennessee State University for one quarter before getting a job at the Y-12 Plant in Oak Ridge, TN. While working full time at Y-12 and raising a family, he continued his education at the University of Tennessee where he received his bachelors degree in Accounting. He was employed by Union Carbide/Martin Marietta in Accounting and Computer Sciences until his retirement in 1994.

Felix's retirement included working in the yard or around the house. He was always doing something. He enjoyed traveling. He had been to all 50 states, 9 Canadian provinces,

and several Western European countries. He was an active member of Redeemer Lutheran Church for over 50 years where he held a number of different positions.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Loretta Potter Ooten, his daughter, Karen Renae Ooten, and his second wife, Frances Franklin Ooten.

Felix is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Connie Ooten-Hopkins and Jerry Hopkins and his granddaughter Elizabeth Hopkins of Knoxville, TN. He is also survived by his brothers and their wives Major and Joyce Ooten of Pensacola, FL., Homer and Yvonne Ooten of Tallahassee, FL., Garland and Marilyn of Douglasville, GA., and Ronnie and Judy Ooten of Knoxville, TN. Felix is also survived by several

cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of other friends.

The family will receive friends on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 4 to 6 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1658 Roane State Highway, Harri-man, TN. The funeral will follow at 6pm with Rev. Michael Miller officiating.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to Redeemer Lutheran Church in memory of Felix.

Honorary pallbearers are Major Ooten, Homer Ooten, Garland Ooten, Ronnie Ooten, Mike Ooten, and Jerry Hopkins.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Felix Esco Ooten.

— In Loving Memory —

Billy J. Hurst, 97

United State Navy Veteran, United States Army Veteran, Combat Wounded Korean War Veteran



Margurite; his parents, Dave and Lucy Scott Hurst; brothers Marvin, Ben Jay, Jack, Shalar, Herman, Addison, and Ernie; and sisters Dorene, Irene, Thelma, Ova, and infant Clara.

Billy is survived by special nieces and nephews and their families: Danny Adkins and wife Patty of Monroe, MI; Shelly Holloway and husband Bobby of Spring City, TN; Ann Jones and husband Michael of Deer Lodge; Mike Hurst and wife Judy of Lancing, TN; and special stepson Paul Carnahan and wife Mari of Bradenton, FL. He is also survived by many other cherished family members and friends.

Mr. Billy J. Hurst, age 97, of Deer Lodge, TN, passed away on Tuesday morning, December 9, 2025. Born on September 11, 1928, he lived a long and meaningful life marked by devotion to family, service to country, and pride in his work.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of 51 years,

A proud veteran, Billy served honorably in both the U.S. Navy

from 1945–1946 and, later, in the U.S. Army during the Korean War from 1950–1952. During his service, he was wounded in the upper leg and spent six months recovering at a Fort Campbell hospital, which brought his military career to a close.

Following his time in the service, Billy brought the same dedication to his civilian life. He worked for 30 years at Cadillac Motor Co. in Detroit, MI, where he served as a Quality Control Technician. He took great pride in his work and retired in March 1981, after which he and his wife, Marge, enjoyed many years together in Bradenton, FL. After her passing in April 2005, Billy returned home to Deer Lodge, TN, where he lived until his own passing.

The family will receive friends on Sunday, December 14, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg, with the funeral service beginning at 3:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Deer Lodge, TN. Bro. Michael Jones officiating, and music will be provided by Bobby and Grayson Holloway and Blake McCartt.

In lieu of flowers the family requests that donations be made to the American Legion Post 149 in his honor.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Billy J. Hurst.



Betty Lou Chaney, 72



brother, James Lee Garrett; grandchildren: Dalton Russell, Madison Burchfield, Melody Burchfield (Gabe) Bunch, Jacob Burchfield, Ethan Burchfield, Kierian DeMarinis, Caleb Potter, and Reann Mashburn; great-grandchildren: Weston, ElleMae, Kaliyah, Kohen, Blake-Lee, and Bowen; and special friend Cydni Burchfield.

Patricia Lyons, age 65, passed away peacefully at her home in Wartburg on Saturday December 13, 2025. She loved serving on the Morgan County Fair Association and at the Senior Center in Wartburg.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Odie and Irene Garrett; sisters, Mary Catherine and Eva June Weatherford; and brother Wayne Garrett.

She is survived by her husband of 32 years, Billy Lyons; children Anthony (Jessica) Burchfield, Derek (Noelle) Birchfield, and Brandy (Nick) DeMarinis;

The family will receive friends on Tuesday December 16 from 5-7:00 pm with the funeral to immediately follow, Bro TJ Aytes officiating. Graveside service will be held on Wednesday at 11:00 am, Morgan Memorial Garden

Special thank you to Reann, Melody, and Brandi for all of their help, and to Covenant Hospice for the excellent care.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Patricia Lyons.



Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge - Oak Ridge's Transition to Peace, Part 2

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). The responsibility of his position during World War II 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's activities. He also was responsible for internal security operations in the production facilities that helped keep the development of the atomic bomb secret.

Following the war, Nichols kept close watch over the MED's production facilities as well as atomic weapon stockpiles until handing over responsibility to the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC). In New York, assisting the American representative to the U.N. Atomic Energy Commission, Nichols made numerous presentations to UN delegates on certain treaty provisions that were very successful in gaining support for international control of atomic energy.

Ordered back to Washington D.C., Major General Nichols was key in developing doctrine with the Pentagon and the U.S. Congress for the use of atomic and hydrogen weapons to protect our nation and allies. Serving as Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project, Deputy Director of Guided Missiles, and other key positions, General Nichols played a major role in the development of missiles for delivery of nuclear weapons and what is today called anti-ballistic missile (ABM) defense.

Serving as General Manager of the Atomic Energy Commission 1953-1955, Nichols remained a fierce advocate of peacetime development of atomic power to meet and exceed our nation's growing energy needs. He assisted with the Atoms for Peace project and helped formulate the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

In this twenty-fifth installment of several articles covering the post-war life and accomplishments of Kenneth D. Nichols, we learn of his efforts and concerns over transition of atomic weapons to the AEC, the closure of the MED, and his new assignments.

Congress passed the Atomic Energy Act effective August 1, 1946, that established the AEC to assume responsibility for nuclear energy from the MED. Nichols, as the Manhattan Project's liaison with the AEC, traveled to the various Manhattan Project sites around the nation with the AEC's five new commissioners (David E. Lilienthal, chairman; Sumner T. Pike; William W. Waymack; Dr. Robert F. Bacher; and Rear Admiral Lewis L. Strauss). Oak Ridge was visited early November 1946.

Prior to the AEC's visit to Oak Ridge, with Nichols' approval, tests began to determine if the K-25 plant could make sufficient U-235 (see article 13) without risking uranium production. The tests were a continuation of ongoing practices to achieve maximum U-235 production. Nichols shared the experimental issues with the Commissioners and recalled, "but like many oth-



Brig General K. D. Nichols greets members of the newly appointed Atomic Energy Commission on November 4, 1946, in Oak Ridge TN. General Nichols shakes hands with David E. Lilienthal while looking on are (from left) Sumner T. Pike and Dr. Robert Bacher. Photo by Ed Westcott. (Courtesy of National Museum of Nuclear Science & History and Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt)

er details of operation, it apparently made little or no impression on the individual members."

The K-25 tests were a "tremendous success" but would translate to the layoff of about 10,000 workers. Nichols drafted a letter for Maj General Leslie R. Groves' signature notifying the AEC of the intention to close the Y-12 plant (see article 12) by year-end 1946 saving taxpayers \$2M/month (\$399B/year in 2025) without risking uranium production. Lilienthal was quite upset but did not oppose the closure.

Nichols recalled, "The AEC, particularly Lilienthal, was surprised and annoyed to be confronted with this situation. He asked why they had not been informed, and I had little trouble convincing them that it had been included in their briefing at Oak Ridge and that they had been notified there would be no delay in making the decision; otherwise there would be a tremendous waste of government funds.

"... We [Groves & Nichols] were taking the responsibility, as well as the credit for eliminating most of the large Tennessee Eastman payroll. Lilienthal seemed to take the attitude that Groves and I had arranged this just to embarrass the AEC.

"... Perhaps the mistake I had made was in assuming the AEC would be very pleased with any action that cut the cost of producing U-235."

The terms of the 1946 Atomic Energy Act were not clearly defined and led to controversy over patents, information rights, operation of special intelligence, and civilian versus military control and custody of atomic weapons.

Nichols explained, "The military position was that all property under the custody of the MED, with the exception of Sandia and the storage bases, should be transferred immediately to the AEC. It was considered essential to our national defense that the military retain custody of all weapons stockpiles, including all components and fabricated fissionable materials.

"The Commission took a strong position against the exceptions and insisted that everything be transferred to them and that the AEC assume custody of all weapons. The Army, the Air Corps and the Navy would not agree to this. I presented their case to the best of my ability but failed to convince Lilienthal. It was up to the President to

decide the issue. ...

"I considered it entirely impractical and dangerous to national security for the AEC rather than the military to have custody of weapons. ... My belief was and still is that AEC custody was not only too dangerous to national security to tolerate for even a short interval but also was an absurd concept, and I would never indicate in any way that I would accept it as a correct solution."

The AEC drafted an Executive Order on December 9, 1946, for President Harry S. Truman to sign but it was not acceptable to the military. As the "spearhead of negotiating" Nichols met twice with the Commissioners and explained multiple, practical problems with the December 9th draft and the military's concerns.

Nichols drafted his own Executive Order and presented it to the AEC on December 16th; at the end of his presentation, Commissioner Strauss commented, "I have never heard a more lucid enumeration of a man's position." But Nichols' views were not accepted. The AEC presented their final version of the Executive Order which President Truman signed December 31, 1946, just before the New Year's deadline.

Nichols closed out the MED offices by January 1947, and military personnel ceased their services to the AEC by June 1947.

With major differences of opinion concerning the AEC's responsibilities, it was no surprise that Nichols was not appointed the new position of AEC's Director of Military Application. Instead, he received approval from General Eisenhower and Secretary of War Patterson to accept appointment as Professor of Mechanics at West Point at the same time Groves requested leave and announced retirement plans.

Nichols recalled, "Lilienthal's opponents in Congress raised objections to both Groves and Nichols leaving Washington. They claimed that the two best informed about atomic matters would no longer be available." Consequently, Nichols then agreed to be available for part-time consultation with Congress, the military and the AEC; Groves agreed to return to Washington to become Chief of the Armed Forces Special Weapons Project (AFSWP). ("Special weapons" included atomic weapons and exploration of radioactive weapons.)

Historically Speaking Meet Kenneth D. Nichols, the Father of Oak Ridge - Oak Ridge's Transition to Peace, Part 2

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Looking forward to a long teaching career for Nichols until retirement at age 65, the Nichols family packed for their move to West Point. Again, attempting to take their first vacation after the war (see 24th article), they were interrupted when Nichols was ordered to New York to assist General Frederick Osborn, the newly appointed US representative to the United Nations' Atomic Energy Commission, with negotiations for an international agreement for control of atomic weapons.

Soon Nichols learned he was also expected to attend the joint Military Liaison Committee (MLC) meetings with the Atomic Energy Commission; be a consultant to the Army Research and Development Division, the War Department General Staff, and the Joint Strategic Survey Committee; and, when requested, meet with Senator Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, and Allen Dulles, Director of the CIA. It was clear, teaching at West Point was on the back burner for Nichols.

Nichols made numerous presentations to UN delegates on certain treaty provisions that were very successful in gaining support for international control of atomic energy. Russia, however, was not interested.

Nichols recalled, "The terms of the agreement that we were developing with the free nations were generous and equitable, and it was difficult to understand why the Soviet Union was not interested if they really desired a world at peace, as they claimed. Of course, a Communist world completely dominated by the Soviet Union would be considered by them as a world at 'peace' -- but at what a price in human spirit and freedom."

With no Soviet agreement, no advance toward international control of atomic weapons was reached.

However, Nichols did not consider his efforts a waste of time. He reflected, "Subsequent efforts by our State Department to obtain agreement with the USSR on the numbers and kinds of weapons to be produced by the Soviet Union and the United States neglect the main issue, which was and is to eliminate completely atomic weapons from the arsenals of all nations.

"Until all atomic weapons are eliminated and all nations have a better understanding of war and peace, we will continue to live under the threat of nuclear and thermonuclear war."



President Truman Transfers Control of Atomic Energy from the Manhattan Engineer District to the Atomic Energy Commission, December 31, 1946. L>R Seated: General Manager Carroll L. Wilson, President Harry S. Truman, Chairman David E. Lilienthal. Standing: Commissioner Sumner T. Pike, Brig General Kenneth D. Nichols, Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, Maj General Leslie R. Groves, Commissioner Lewis L. Strauss, Commissioner William W. Waymack. (Absent: Commissioner Robert F. Bacher)
(Courtesy of US Army Center of Military History)

Tensions continued between the AEC's Chairman Lilienthal and the military over the issue of atomic weapon custody. "Lilienthal made high-level approaches to have Groves removed as Chief of the AFSWP and member of the MLC," remembered Nichols. Groves decided to retire. Nichols gladly assisted many US senators to accommodate Groves' desire for a promotion to Lt General before his retirement.

Soon, Nichols was ordered to report to General Joe Collins in Washington, D.C.; he agreed to new assignments and promotion to temporary Major General provided he could return to West Point in two years. This arrangement, confirmed by the Judge Advocate General, would avoid an act of Congress and keep the door open to teaching at West Point.

Nichols' proposed assignments were to replace Groves as the Chief of the AFSWP (see Groves' letter to Nichols at article 22); serve as Deputy Director of Plans and Operation for Atomic Energy, General Staff, U.S. Army; serve as Senior Army representative on the MLC; and serve as Senior Army representative on the Atomic Energy Committee of Research and Development Board. He would be the youngest major general in the Army. But his promotion and assignments

were held up for unknown reasons.

In summary, these events provide background to understand Nichols' role in the upcoming articles surrounding the Cold War, America's H-bomb development and the Oppenheimer hearing.

Next up: Tensions Rise (1948-1952)

Grateful acknowledgements to K. David Nichols, Jr.; D. Ray Smith; Sandy Fye; Dr. Bionka J. Adams, Alisa Whitley, Douglas J. Wilson and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of History; Emily (Westcott) and Don Hunnicutt; 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 Major General Kenneth D. Nichols.



Acts 25



Melvin Howard

(Acts 25:1-5) The charge before Festus: it is believed that Festus served as Palestine's procurator ca. A.D. 56-59. He would be headquartered at Caesarea. After three days, he was prompted to travel up to Jerusalem, probably to "take the temperature" of the political and religious climate. The Jewish leaders could scarcely wait to "inform against" Paul. They begged him (repeatedly, so the verbal force) to have the apostle brought to Jerusalem. Their idea was to lie in wait and kill him. The hate they harbored for

this man is beyond human description. Festus denied the request. He was about to go back to the coastal city. If they had a case, they could pursue it there.

(Acts 25:6-12) the hearing at Caesarea: after a little more than a week, the procurator went down to his city. He presently convened for court and commanded Paul to be brought to the proceeding. The Jerusalem Jews surrounded the apostle and furiously hurled numerous and reckless charges, none of which could be proved (v. 7). Paul responded that he had committed no violation against Judaism, the temple, or Rome. He was resolute.

Festus, however, was a weakling politician, coveting the favor of the Jews, so he attempted a compromise. Would Paul go up to Jerusalem for a trial and judgment (v.9)? The apostle applied the pressure. "I am here at the site of Caesar's judgment throne. Do you speak for Caesar, or do you belong to the Jews?" It was burning question from a tough defendant, for whom not even the "judge" was a match. Paul said with force: "You know what is going on here? If I have committed a capital crime, I will not resist the penalty. But these accusations are false. If I cannot get justice here, I appeal my case to Caesar" (v.11). The reference was to Nero (A.D. 54-68). Those were "magic" words, and they were his right as a citizen. His case would now go to the "supreme court"! His ambition to go to Rome would now be realized (Rom. 1:10). The Christian does have the right to use the legitimate provisions of civil government for his protection. Both Festus and the council now knew their hands were tied. "Unto Caesar you will go" (v. 12).

(Acts 25:13-22) Festus seeks Agrippa's advice: after the passing of several days, two other important persons arrived on the scene. This brother-sister team may have come to welcome Festus to his new post. Agrippa II was the son of the brute who murdered James (12:1). He was about seventeen when his father was slain by God's angel (12:20-23). He ruled over certain territories in northern Palestine.

Bernice and Drusilla (24:24) were sisters of Agrippa II. According to Josephus, it was rumored that Bernice and her brother had an incestuous relationship (Antiquities of the Jews 20.7.3). Agrippa and Bernice remained in Caesarea "many days." Eventually, Festus decided to approach them with this interesting case regarding Paul, the Christian preacher. After all, they were familiar with the intricacies of Hebrew law; maybe they could help with this difficult case.

Festus prepared the two by rehearsing the history of Paul's case so far as he knew it. There were charges by the Jews against this man. As he surveyed the matter, the accusations had nothing to do with civil law, but involved questions regarding "their own religion" (v. 19), thus would be of no concern to Rome. It seemed to revolve around a man called Jesus who was dead, but whom Paul claimed was alive. Festus confesses he is woefully confused concerning how to handle the matter. He mentioned that, ultimately, Paul had appealed to Caesar. He said he was keeping the prisoner safe until the opportunity arose to ship him to Rome and Caesar's court. Agrippa expressed an interest in hearing Paul, and Festus promised a meeting the next day.

(Acts 25:23-27) the next day's events: as the new day dawned, excitement charged the atmosphere. A significant group of spectators entered the chamber where the proceedings were to be conducted, and Paul was brought into the room. Festus opened the meeting with a brief statement of explanation. The Jews have vigorously protested that "this man...ought not to live any longer" (v. 24). The ruler confessed he had been unable to find sustainable charges. Paul had appealed to Caesar, and a determination had been made that he should go. But Festus was perplexed; he had not figured out how he would explain to the emperor why he was sending this celebrated Hebrew, who was also a Roman citizen. Hence, he declared that the purpose of this session was to allow Agrippa the opportunity for examination and subsequent assistance with framing a sensible bill of particulars. It always helps to add the name of an authority figure when one lacks the courage to take full responsibility!

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."

2 Timothy 1:12 "For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Philippians 1:1-14 "Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."

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