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Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
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TOMMY LEE FRANCIS

PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:

HEATHER FRANCIS

EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

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WEEKLY WEATHER



TODAY 9/15  90° 67°

WED 9/16  89° 66°

THU 9/17  90° 68°

FRI 9/18  87° 65°

SAT 9/19  86° 69°

SUN 9/20  86° 63°

MON 9/21  82° 61°



Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Cookies and Crackers

Mimi makes these yummy cookies. Well, I say they are yummy despite the fact that Ms Ivory and me have NEVER got to taste them. Since, "chocolate is a big no-no for us dogs!" What's up with that?

Any-woof, they must be yummy cause all the football players gobble them up! Pap makes these spicy crackers called Firecrackers. The kids and the coaches inhale them, too!

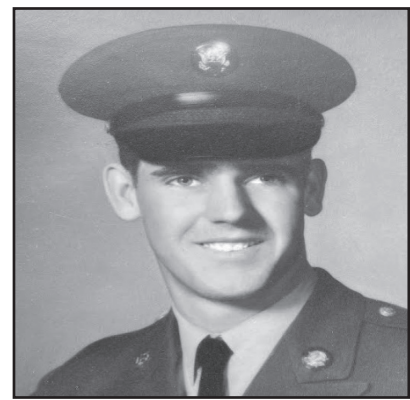
So, the last few weeks Mimi has made 450 cookies and Pap has made about 12 gallon sized bags of the Firecrackers. Mimi says her thumbs hurt from making so many cookies. She does it though for those boys. I hope they enjoy them! I do however wish, that she would let us enjoys some, too! Hey a girl can wish, right?

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



— In Loving Memory —

Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton, 78
United States Army Veteran, Vietnam War Vet.



Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton, age 78, went home to be with the Lord on August 26, 2026 at home surrounded by family.

He is preceded in death by his parents JR and Pauline Wyrick Sexton; mother and father-in-law Arvil and Hester Tilson; precious granddaughter Lee-Ann Taylor; brother David Sexton; sisters Kathy Weatherford and Brenda Melhorn; sisters-in-law Faye Jones, and Wanda Emrihen; brothers-in-law Ray, Paul, Don Tilson and Paul Weatherford.

He is survived by his wife of 57 years Lois Tilson; daughter Crystal Sexton; very special granddaughter Tori Duncan; sister Sherry (Robert) Laymance; brother Merrill (Susan)

Sexton, special sister-in-law Betty Tilson Hobbs (Will); life long best friends who have been there through it all, Doyle Miller and Ronnie Phillips and a host of nieces and nephews.

Tom spent two years serving in the Army during the Vietnam War and that is one of his proudest achievements.

The family will have a funeral on August 29, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at Fork Mountain Church in New River and interment at Beech Grove Cemetery with Bro. Roy Langley and Randell Landrum officiating.

The family would like to thank Best Homecare and Quality Hospice, especially April, for all they did for us during this time.

“Until we meet again, Pap, we love you”

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Thomas “Tom” Ray Sexton.

Shirley Mae Underwood, 82



Shirley Mae Underwood age 82, of Sunbright passed peacefully on Monday, August 25 at the Cumberland Medical Center with her son and daughter at her side.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Underwood, Parents Orville and Nellie Galloway, Brothers Harold and Buddy Galloway, Sisters, Wanda and Clara.

Three sons survive her: Bill (Crystal), John (Ginger) and Paul Underwood, Daughter: Faydra. Grandchildren: Eugene Underwood, David (Stephanie), Hope (Dylan), Rachel Underwood, Tyler, Savana, Marla, Mason Underwood, and Logan and Shelby England. Also, several great grandchildren.

Shirley was joyful woman who believed Jesus Christ was her Lord and Savior. She did many jobs during her time here on earth but shined when she could bless or help others. She had many special friends and was a grandmother to all.

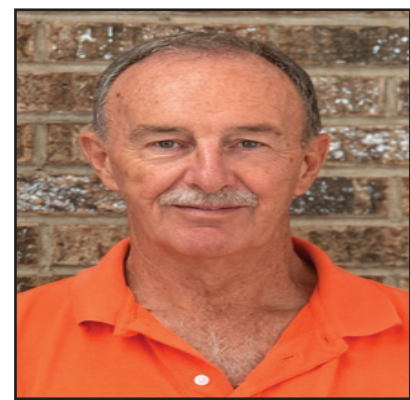
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley Mae Underwood.

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.

Bobby Dale Crouch, 73



Bobby Dale Crouch, 73, of Shady Grove, passed away peacefully on August 29, 2026, at Parkwest Medical Center.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Gordon Crouch and Mary Schneider, and his grandparents, Arthur and Susie Nance.

Bobby is survived by his wife, Elinor Crouch; his son, Cale Crouch and wife Amanda,

Stepdaughter Telese Sietsema and his grandchildren, Caleigh, Evan, and Reese Crouch, Ethan and Sophia Sietsema.

He is also survived by his brothers, Joe Kerger; Howard Schneider and wife Debbie; Dani Schneider and wife Tami;

and Albert Schneider and wife Kim; as well as his aunt, Mildred Painter, and uncles, Ralph Nance and Bill Nance along with a host of friends and family.

Bobby retired from Morgan County Correctional Complex. He also owned and operated Performance Body Shop for several years. Bobby was passionate about racing and cars. After retirement, he spent his time hauling cars, trailers and heavy equipment across the country as well as traveling with his wife.

Family has chosen private graveside service.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Bobby Dale Crouch.

Julia Grace Byrge, 88



Julia Grace Byrge, age 88, of Devonia passed away August 29, 2026 at Diversicare in Oak Ridge. She was the daughter of the late Eli and Willie Lively Byrge.

Julie enjoyed spending time with family, crocheting and crossword puzzles.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Cordis Byrge, Johnny Byrge, Curtis Byrge; sisters Mary Daugherty and infant sister Laura Byrge.

She leaves behind niece Rhonda (Michael) Byrge; nephew Randy Daughtery (Georgia Phillips), Andy Daugherty, Peter Daugherty, Lee (Laura) Daugherty. Also survived by great nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

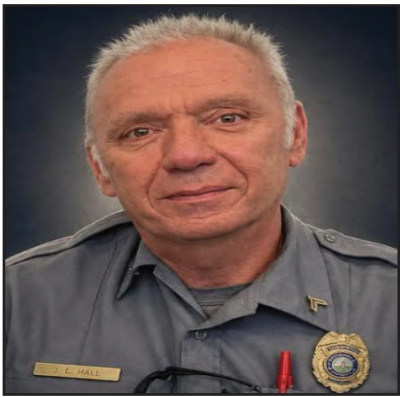
The family would like to send a special thanks to Diversicare and Amedysis Hospice for their extended care during this difficult time.

The family will have a graveside service Wednesday, September 2, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at Grave Hill Cemetery in Devonia with Bro. Danny Lawson officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Julia Grace Byrge.

— In Loving Memory —

Jeff Wiley Hall, 60



Jeff Wiley Hall, age 60, of Deer Lodge passed away at his home on September 1, 2026. He was born April 27, 1966 to Randall and Eva Hall.

Jeff loved working on Mopar cars, camping and fishing, traveling, he loved teaching and his leadership was amazing to watch. But most of all he loved his family and spending as much time with them as he could. He loved his job at Morgan County Correctional Facility where he gave 29 years of his dedication. He was a correctional Sargent/K9.

He is preceded in death by his mom Eva Maxine Hawn Hall.

He leaves behind wife of 9 years April Hall; children Gabby Hall (Ronald Smith), Michael (Laquita) Hall, and RT Hall, stepchildren Mahala (Nicholas) Miller, Bailey Norris; grandchildren Zoie, Tennessee, Eva, Lilly, Kielon, Kimora, Lola, and Lyla; father Randall Hall; brother Scott Hall; sister Miranda Hall and a host of extended family and wonderful friends who will miss him dearly.

The family will receive friends Saturday, September 5, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 12:00-2:00 p.m. with a memorial to follow at 2:00 p.m. with Bro. Mitch Hawn officiating.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Jeff Wiley Hall.

Linda Hope Bunch, 74



Linda Hope Bunch, age 74, of Petros, Tennessee, departed our world to be with our heavenly Father and her loving husband William Bunch on August 23rd at 12:42 am. Paradise gained a wonderful soul and she once again can hold the hand of her prince charming and hear his voice. They had been together for 59 years and she yearned to hear his voice once again.

She is survived by her two sons Roger and Brian; grandchildren Michael Bunch, Matthew Bunch, Marrkus Bunch, Jacob Bunch and Allison Bunch;

great grandchildren Jaxson Bunch, LeLand Bunch and Jase Bunch; niece Elizabeth Lawson; sister Nancy Matlock and sister-in-law, her little Betty Boop, who along with Nancy stayed by her side through it all. She was a beautiful butterfly in this world, bringing much love and joy to us all and she will be sadly missed. We rest easy knowing that in her last days she professed the Lord Jesus Christ to be her savior. He always was and always will be, she said.

We will miss you. Go fly high our sweet butterfly, loving mother, grandmother, sister and dear friend. Go be seated with our Lord and hold your husband's hand. Until we meet again, we will all love you forever.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Linda Bunch.

Carolyn Beatrice Bell, 63



Carolyn Beatrice Bell, age 63, of Knoxville, TN, passed away on August 10th, 2026. She was born on October 10th, 1962, in Knoxville, TN, to William Bell and Wanda Bell Roche.

Carolyn will be remembered for her warmth, quiet strength, sense of humor and devotion to her family.

She is survived by her Mother, Wanda, Sister, Charlotte, children Mitchell, Dustin and Aaron, grandchildren Alex, Austin, Kamden, Sierra, Alek, Nick and Ansley, great nieces Shaianne and Ella, great nephews Coy and Cash and many friends, and was preceded in death by her father, William Bell, her nephew Doug Mount and grandson Brayden Pearson.

A memorial service will be held on August 22nd at Schubert Funeral Home. Her family is grateful for the kindness and support shown during this time.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Carolyn Beatrice Bell.

JP Durham Jr., 58



JP Durham Jr., age 58, born August 28 1967, passed away Sunday August 23, 2026 at home surrounded by his family, his life-long partner and best friend of 40 years Millie Howard Durham; sons Justin Durham and Joshua Durham (Marian).

JP is also survived by many family members, several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces

and nephews that were dear to his heart. Also, his dog and best friend Mocha and several close friends he considered family.

JP is preceded in death by his father JP Durham; his mother Judy C. Hall Durham; brother Tommy Durham and his beloved dog Oreo.

In lieu of flowers please make a donation/contribution for funeral expenses to Schubert Funeral Home Wartburg, P.O. Box 326, TN., 37872.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of JP Durham, Jr.

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



— In Loving Memory —

Franklin Lee Hester Jr.



He is survived by wife Syble Hester, daughter and son-in-law, Megan & Caleb Mullins, and grandsons Mason & Avery Mullins.

Frank also leaves behind sister Debbie & Jesse Haney, nephew Wayne Haney & wife Virginia, special nieces and nephews Cassie, Caleb, Addie, Sadie, Toby, Lisa, Matthew, and Erica,

Franklin Lee Hester Jr. went home to be with the Lord September 9th, peacefully, at his home with his loving wife of 34 years by his side. He fought a short battle with cancer. Frank loved the Lord and was ready to go to his heavenly home.

He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and Papaw. He had a laugh and smile that lit up every room he was in. His passion was cars, specifically Mopar, and was known as the Mopar man, and knew every part under the hood of any car. He had many lifelong friends who visited often to laugh about the good ol' days and share memories. Frank was loved by many.

He was preceded in death by his son Jeffery Cross, brother Bobbie Hester, parents Charles and Violet Perkey, grandparents Jesse and Vesta Burgess, and mother-in-law Syble Roberts.

sister-in law Linda Hester, Aunt Glenda & Herbert Daugherty, special great nieces Cassi and Latisha, sisters-in-law Kathy & Tai DeBlonk, Della Murray, and Faye Dagnan, brother-in-law Donnie Roberts, and many beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

The family will receive friends Friday, September 11, 2026 at Schubert Funeral Home from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Funeral services will be Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at the Wartburg Church of Nazarene with Bro. Sam Wood and Bro. William VanNorstran officiating. Interment to follow at Piney Grove Cemetery in Harriman.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Franklin "Junior" Hester.

Rose Ann (Jones) Aytes, 78



Aytes, a sister Mary Adkins, niece Jessica Martin, brother-in-law George Martin, and sister-in-law Sheila Aytes.

Rose is survived by her daughter Sonya (James) Williams, son Travis Aytes, grandsons Rylan and Crimson Aytes, sisters Teresa Martin of Clinton, Brenda Tucker (Buddy) of Ozark, Alabama, brother-in-law Gary (Glenna) Aytes of Rockwood, and sister-in-law Kathy (Tom) Muse of Knoxville.

The family will gather for a private graveside service at Frankfort Community Church.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Rose Ann Jones Aytes.

Rose Ann (Jones) Aytes, passed away at the age of 78 on Monday, September 14, 2026 after a lingering illness. Rose was born in Oliver Springs, Tennessee on January 4th, 1948, daughter of Garfield and Lena Mae Jones of Coalfield.

She was preceded in death by her husband William David

Danny Lee Hutson, 76
Veteran



Danny was preceded in death by his parents, Ellard and Polly Brown, and his brother, Glen Brown.

Danny leaves behind his beloved wife, Margaret Hutson; his children, Sandy, Daniel, and James; his grandchildren, Sarah, Preston, Jonathan, Kelly, and Dale; and his great-grandchildren, Zoe, Hattie, Rosie, and Luke; and his sister, Connie Davis; and two beloved friends that stood by him and cared for him until the end, Kelly Swint and Kenneth Hicks.

In Loving Memory of Danny Lee Hutson

Danny Lee Hutson, 76, of Sunbright, Tennessee, passed away on September 10, 2026.

Danny was a man who rarely sat still for long. He was a true jack of all trades and seemed to have a knack for fixing, building, or figuring out just about anything. If something was broken, Danny was likely the person you called.

Danny had a lifelong love of cars. He enjoyed fixing them, building them, and racing them. His hands were always busy creating something or working on the next project. One of his greatest accomplishments was building the home where he and his beloved wife, Margaret, spent their life together.

Danny was known for his generosity and his willingness to help anyone who needed him. He gave freely of his time, talents, and knowledge and never expected anything in return. He was simply the kind of man who believed that if you could help someone, you did.

When he wasn't working on something, Danny was always ready for a little fun. He never turned down a game of horseshoes, a chance to go fishing, or an opportunity to light off some fireworks.

Above all else, Danny was a God-fearing man who loved his family deeply. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and the love he had for his family will continue to live on in each of them.

Danny will be remembered for his hardworking hands, generous heart, willingness to lend a helping hand, and his ability to stay busy. His family and friends will miss his presence, his stories, and his companionship.

Although Danny may have finally put down his tools, the things he built; both with his hands and within the hearts of those who loved him, will remain for generations to come.

He lived a full life, worked hard, loved deeply, helped generously, and left this world having made it a better place for those around him.

Danny Hutson will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and never forgotten.

The family will receive friends Monday, September 14, 2026 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 Union Grove Cemetery in Sunbright with Military Honors.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Danny Lee Hutson.

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



— In Loving Memory —

Michael Stephen Brown, 71
United States Coast Guard Veteran



Michael Stephen Brown, 71, passed away on September 9, 2026, leaving behind a lifetime defined by faith, hard work, devotion, laughter, kindness, and an immeasurable love for his family.

Michael was born on July 13, 1955, to Charles and Dorothy Brown. Throughout his life, he was a man deeply rooted in his faith and devoted to providing for and caring for the people he loved. He worshipped at St. Mary's Catholic Church and carried his faith with him throughout his life.

For more than 50 years, Michael worked as a U.S. Coast Guard Licensed Chief Marine Engineer. He was also a proud member of LIUNA Local 818. His long career reflected the work ethic that defined him—a hardworking and dedicated provider who always made sure his family was cared for.

Of all his accomplishments, however, Michael's greatest source of pride was his family.

He was a devoted husband to the love of his life, Joan Mary Brown, affectionately known as "Beebus." Michael and Joan shared 51 years of marriage and built a beautiful life together. Some of Michael's favorite moments were also the simplest: sitting on the porch beside Joan, spending quality time together and enjoying the life they had created.

Michael loved classic rock, Joan's home-cooked meals with their family, and spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He could always tell a good, funny story and had a way of bringing laughter to the people around him.

One of the things that made Michael so special was his genuine kindness. Anyone who had the chance to meet him remembered what a nice and good-hearted man he was. Michael never met a stranger and was liked by all who knew him. He believed in doing the right thing and, throughout his life, consistently chose the path he believed was right. His kindness, character, and ability to make people feel welcome left an impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him.

Most importantly, Michael never let his family wonder how much they were loved. He made sure to tell them often. At the end of each night came the familiar words that will forever remain

in the hearts of those who loved him: "Sweet dreams, don't let the bed bugs bite. Mwahh."

Michael was a remarkable example of what it meant to be a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend. His family and those fortunate enough to know him could look to him for wisdom, strength, guidance, and love. Although his presence will be deeply missed, the lessons he taught and the love he gave will continue to live through his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren for generations to come.

Michael was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Dorothy Brown, and his brother, Charles Brown.

Michael is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, Joan Mary Brown; his children, Danielle Brown; Michael and Christina Brown; and Stephenie Brown Bozdogan; his grandchildren, Mikhaila and Dillon Wilson, Gabrielle and Noe Banales, Ethan and Hannah Argus, Abigail Argus, Brielle Brown, Lilliana Brown, and Myriam Bozdogan; and his great-grandchildren, Owen Wilson, Hudson Wilson, James Holloway, Juniper Holloway, Caspian Argus, and Aliana Banales.

He is also survived by his sister, Cheryl and Kevin Dunne; his brother, Thomas and Lisa Brown; his brothers-in-law,

Robert and Judy Mutch, John Mutch, and Roy Mutch; and his sister-in-law, Joyce and Ryan Baldauff.

Family and friends are invited to gather in Michael's memory at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Family and friends will gather from 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m., with the funeral service beginning at 11:00 a.m. A reception will follow at 12:00 p.m.

Michael leaves behind more than memories. He leaves behind a legacy—a family shaped by his love, strengthened by his example, and filled with stories that will continue to be told.

His wisdom will be carried forward. His funny stories will be repeated. His music will bring back memories. His kindness will be remembered. His love will remain in the family he worked so hard to provide for.

And at the end of the day, those who loved him will always be able to hear his familiar words:

"Sweet dreams, don't let the bed bugs bite. Mwahh."

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Michael S. Brown.

Harvey Eugene Ward



On Saturday afternoon of Sept 12, 2026, Harvey Eugene Ward passed away peacefully at his house. He departed this world for his heavenly home and his last words spoken were THANK YOU JESUS!

A retired coal miner, Eugene loved Jesus, his family and his country. He was a wonderful Godly example for anyone who

was blessed to be part of his life.

He believed actions revealed a person's character more than words and never wanted any recognition for his good deeds. His family could call on him anytime for guidance, wisdom and love. He will be deeply missed, but the knowledge he shared will be passed down for generations to come.

Preceded in death by his late wives Dovie in 2001 and Norma in 2019. Siblings Charles F Ward Jr, Florine Jackson and Kenneth Ward. Great Great Grandson Ayvian.

Survived by his children Garry, Teena & Gina Ward.

Bonus Sons and daughter in

laws: Jr & Teresa Meredith, Jeff & Carol Meredith, Jason & Carolee Meredith.

Grandchildren: Eric (Stephanie) Oakes, Derick (Stephanie) Oakes, Craig Ward, Jen (Will) Patterson, Kelly (Jason) Burton, Adam (Shayna) Montgomery, Morgan Meredith, Farrah Meredith, Matthew Meredith, David Ward and Allison Ward.

11 Great Grandchildren and his baby sister Shirley (Charles) Foster.

A host of nieces and nephews, additionally family members, church family and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made to American Heart Association or

Mossy Grove Baptist Church.

The family will receive friends Saturday, September 19, 2026 at Mossy Grove Baptist Church from 11:00-12:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 12:00 p.m. with Bro. Jim Disney officiating. Interment will follow in the Western Cemetery in Coalfield.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Harvey Eugene Ward.

Historically Speaking

First Ladies: Observations by Alan Lowe and Nancy Smith (part three)

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause wrote this four-part series on the First Ladies, which is being presented in the Historically Speaking column related to the July 4 celebration of the 250th birthday of the United States of America—the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

On Mar. 3, 2026, Alan Lowe hosted a panel discussion in Oak Ridge on some of the famous wives of American presidents. The women he hosted – one on stage with him and two on Zoom on a big screen – are authors of the 2024 book “Remember the First Ladies: The Legacies of America’s History-Making Women.” The three authors are Diana B. Carlin (on stage), Anita B. McBride and Nancy Kegan Smith (the latter two were on Zoom).

Lowe has been executive director of the American Science and Energy (AMSE) Museum in Oak Ridge since 2019. The panel discussion was hosted on the stage at AMSE, where Lowe announced that the First Ladies book can be purchased at the AMSE shop. It was the second of four presentations this year by Our American Roots, a series produced by the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club and Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning.

Lowe, who is also executive director of the Atomic History Campus at K-25 in Oak Ridge and CEO of the Oak Ridge Discovery Foundation, previously served at several presidential libraries around the nation. Since 2020 he has started three podcasts.

He became host and producer on the web of his live interviews mostly with authors by phone for the AMSE Science Cast (a segment of which can be heard on WUOT every Saturday at about 9:30 a.m.), the American POTUS (which is a podcast about the presidency) and the

American FLOTUS (which is a podcast about the First Ladies of White House fame). You can hear these podcasts by visiting <https://AMSE.Cast.libsyn.com/>, <https://americanpotus.org> and <https://americanflotus.org>.

Lowe said that he started the American FLOTUS podcast two years ago at the suggestion of his friend Nancy Kegan Smith, who called him to announce the formation of the First Ladies Association for Research and Education, or FLARE. So far, the jointly produced podcast has 10 (?) episodes.

Enjoy the quotes and comments by each of the women experts on history-making First Ladies, as well as founders of FLARE, during the panel discussion in Oak Ridge last March, which is Women’s History Month. This third article will feature, in response to Lowe’s questions and observations, the comments of Nancy Kegan Smith, and the fourth and last article will present more stories about First Ladies by all three authors and Lowe.

Alan Lowe, First Ladies panel moderator, gave Nancy Kegan Smith a two-minute assignment: he asked her to take on the difficult task of quickly summarizing the immense societal impact of Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt (1933-1945). He led the country through the Great Depression and most of World War II before dying in office in 1945.

But first he introduced Smith as the retired director of the Presidential Materials

Division at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. She started her career as an archivist at the Lyndon B. Johnson Library Museum in Austin, Texas,” Lowe said. “Then she moved to Washington, where she became director of the Presidential Materials Division, which oversees issues of presidential and First Lady records and gifts.

“She’s a founding member of FLARE. She was its second president and currently serves there as immediate past president. Nancy was on the committee that hired me for my first job ever at the National Archives.”

Speaking on the big screen on Zoom, Smith said that no first ladies have had as much of an impact on civil rights, racial equality and other areas as Eleanor Roosevelt did. “She consistently fought racial discrimination. She was much more liberal on this issue than her husband, Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

“In 1936, she addressed the annual NAACP and the National Urban League conventions after joining both organizations. She advocated for anti-lynching legislation, supported multiple anti-segregation campaigns and lobbied against the poll tax. She always talked about the injustice of racism and said one of the main destroyers of freedom is our attitude toward the colored race.”

Smith said that Eleanor’s most famous action probably was to give Marian Anderson, the wonderful Black opera singer, an opportunity to perform before a huge crowd in Washington, D.C. In February 1939, the Daughters of the American Revolution refused to allow Anderson to sing at Constitutional Hall.

“Marian was denied because she was Black,” Smith asserted. “Eleanor went behind the scenes and talked with the Secretary of the Interior, Harold Ickes. It was arranged for Marian Anderson to do a concert in front of the Lincoln Memorial.

“Her impressive performance was one of the greatest early events in U.S. civil rights history,” Smith said. “Some 75,000 people attended. You can see it on YouTube. It will really make you cry. And Eleanor resigned from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

“The Ku Klux Klan placed a \$25,000 bounty on her head. And when she left the First Ladyship, she continued to fight for civil rights.”

Smith added that Eleanor spoke up on behalf of both European Jews and Japanese-Americans during World War II when they were being unjustly incarcerated in concentration camps.

After FDR died, President Harry Truman appointed her a U.S. delegate to the United Nations, for which she chaired the UN Commission on Human Rights, established in 1946. According to Smith, she played a leading role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on Dec. 10, 1948. (According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the declaration remains one of the most influential human rights documents in the world.)

In less than two minutes, Smith convincingly argued that Eleanor Roosevelt is probably the best example of a First Lady “who had both a domestic and global impact on civil rights and human rights.” Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, wife of President Bill Clinton (1993-2001), and Lady Bird Johnson, wife of President Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969), were also active in advancing civil and human rights.

(My husband, Herb Krause, met Eleanor Roosevelt in 1959 during her visit to Collingswood High School in New Jersey, where he

was a student. Herb said she spent considerable time listening to the students. Also, she told them she learned from her visit to the Soviet Union that, unlike in the U.S., many women worked as physicians and in other professional jobs, and many secondary school students took advanced courses in mathematics and science.)

Lowe asked Smith to speak about Lady Bird Johnson’s achievements because “I know you are a great admirer of her legacy in many arenas.” He also weighed in with what he knew about her because he had a chance to interview her while working at the Johnson Library. “She was a very strong believer in civil rights, even though she grew up in rural East Texas,” he said.

The first question addressed was, why was she called Lady Bird? It was rumored that her Black nanny gave her the name. An oral history interview with Lady Bird revealed the truth: she played with two Black girlfriends who gave her the nickname, which stuck because she liked it.

“She always felt racism and segregation of the South was wrong,” Smith said. “Her biggest and best-known achievement in civil rights was the Whistle Stop Tour Oct. 6-9 in 1964. A lot of people think that Lyndon Johnson asked her to do it, but she told me it was her idea.”

The train left from Alexandria, Virginia, and ended up in New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. Johnson, her press secretary, Liz Carpenter, and her social secretary Beth Abell, planned the trip, which covered nine southern states in four days.

According to Smith, Lady Bird had the idea to stop at small towns “where other Democrats don’t go” to speak to Southerners “about the importance of the landmark legislation that had been passed in 1964, the Civil Rights Act, outlawing discrimination in public accommodations, mandating desegregation of public facilities and education and ending unequal application of voter registration.

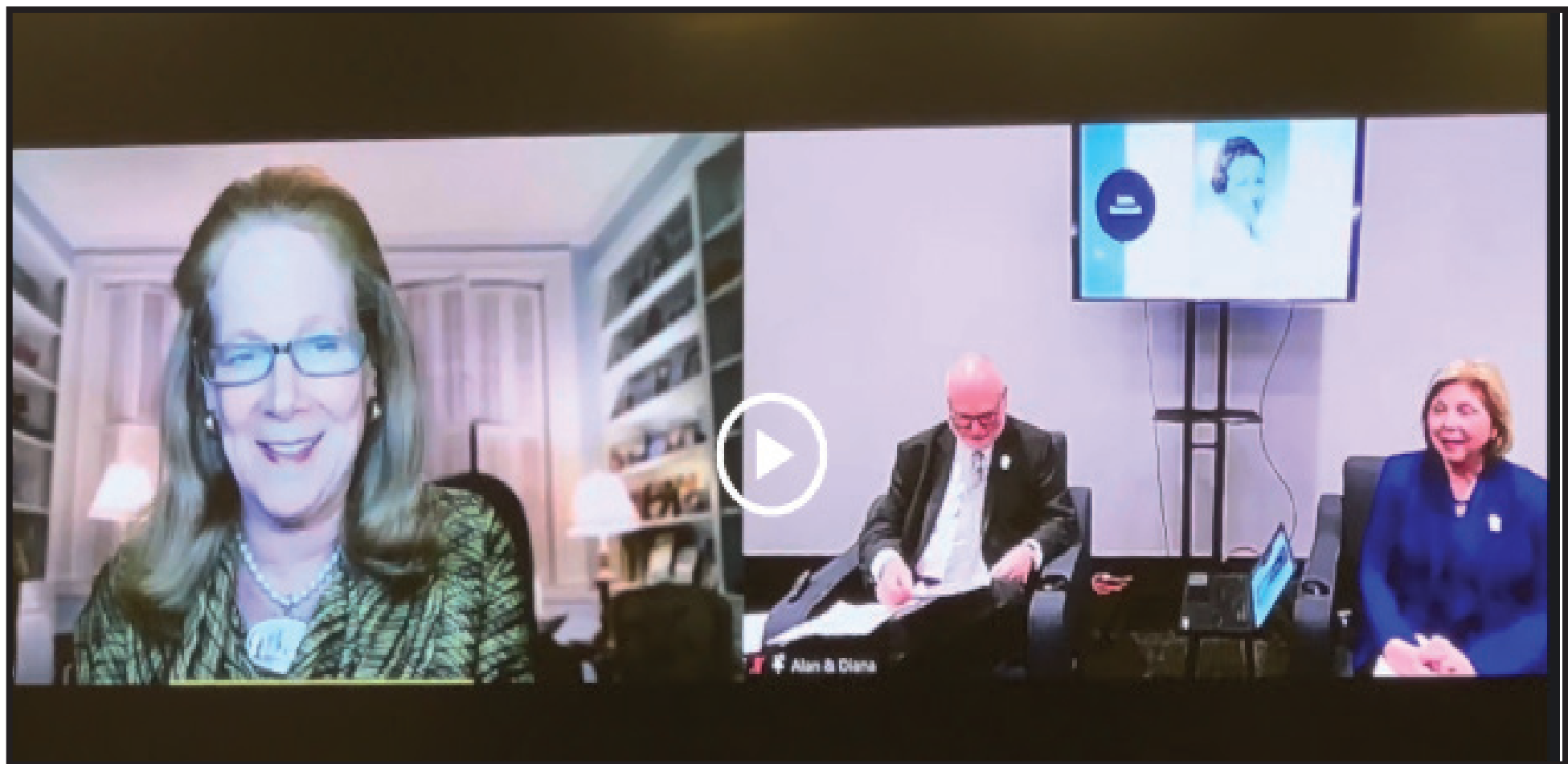
“She really felt the South needed to hear this. The trip was made under extremely dangerous conditions. They were afraid for Lyndon Johnson to go to the South, because they thought it was so dangerous. Mrs. Johnson demonstrated a great deal of courage.

“They ran a train 15 minutes before her train arrived, because they had received bomb threats. She was often booed at stops. But she maintained a very calm demeanor, which was very traditional of Mrs. Johnson. And she made her points.

“Her successful trip was credited with helping garner Southern support for LBJ, who did win three Southern states in 1964, when many people thought that he would lose all Southern states. It was estimated that with the help of TV coverage, over a half a million people heard her message. She really elevated the dialogue and encouraged the support and implementation of civil rights in the South.”

Next: All three authors comment on First Ladies who have had impacts on healthcare, the environment, international issues and other areas.

Historically Speaking
First Ladies: Observations by
Alan Lowe and Nancy Smith
(part three)
By Ray Smith -
Oak Ridge City Historian



Zoom was used effectively during the presentation of the panel discussion with some humorous exchanges adding to the program (Courtesy of Ray Smith)



Nancy Kegan Smith participated in the panel discussion via Zoom (Courtesy of Ray Smith)

2 Corinthians Chapter 8 and 9



Melvin Howard

affliction” versus “abounding joy,” “deep (down to the bottom) poverty” versus “richness of beneficence.” They were trophies of self-sacrifice and love (v. 2).

As noted earlier (1 Cor. 16:1), there was a segment of poor people among the saints in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26; Acts 24:17; 2 Cor. 8:13-14; 9:12-13; Gal. 2:10), and churches throughout the Mediterranean world were encouraged to help with a relief fund. Such would assist with the Jews’ material needs and also aid in cementing relations between the varying ethnic segments of the multi-cultured church (Rom. 15:14). The Philippian Christians had already assisted with the benevolent enterprise, giving even beyond their ability (Acts 11:29). The apostle implies that they were so generous that he resisted taking their full gift initially, but they persisted in begging him that they might be blessed with this “grace” (the favor) of ministering to the needy saints (v. 4). They even exceeded Paul’s expectation (v. 5)! Their generosity may seem inexplicable to give themselves to the Lord and to the apostolic effort, consistent with the will of God (v. 5).

Now to the business at hand: Titus had been at Corinth, and there was a wonderful relationship between him and the church. Consequently, Paul was going to send Titus back to them, encouraging the brothers to “complete” their previous pledge (v. 10) regarding the grace of assisting the Jews in Palestine (v. 6). At the same time, Titus would convey this current correspondence (16-17; 12:17-18). It was hoped that their resolve to assist would be accomplished speedily (9:4).

(2 Cor. 8:7-15) The appeal to Corinth: With consummate teaching skill, the apostle commends them on the admirable qualities in which they excelled: (a) “faith” (strong and active); (b) “speech” (teaching (2:17); 4:2; 5:19; 6:7); (c) “knowledge” (understanding of the gospel); (d) “earnestness” (zeal and vigor for truth); (e) “love for us” (devoted affection for Paul and his co-workers). “In view of these acknowledged traits, let your generosity in this matter (the contribution) overflow as well” (v. 7). He was not browbeating them with a command, but trying to bring out the best in them: in addition, he was using the dedication of others (the Macedonians) to motivate the Corinthians (v. 8).

Let us reflect upon the greatest example of generosity in the history of the world. The Corinthians “know” (are constantly aware) of the “grace” (favor) of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich (Rom. 10:12), in a heavenly sense, prior to his incarnation, yet he became poor (with no material substance as a man). And what did he gain in this process? Nothing that enhanced him. It was not for self, but on behalf of others. By means of his sacrifice, therefore, we are blessed with the richest treasures of which humanity is capable. If this does not motivate, would anything?

Paul expresses his apostolic judgment. “It is appropriate that you now complete what you pledged a year ago (they had lagged behind in a promise).” The road of good intentions alone does not lead to reward (10-11). Does Paul anticipate an objection---“We will give when we are able”? If so, he counters: “It is acceptable to give of what you have, not what you do not have” (v. 12). He was not pressuring them to contribute so that others might be cased (of their giving) while they were distressed. Rather, there ought to be a more level playing field among givers---those with abundance should give more than those with less; later the tables might be turned (v. 14). This was illustrated by the manner in which Jehovah regulated the distribution of manna in the wilderness (Ex. 16:18). This is not a demand for the prosperous to liquidate their assets, giving them to the poor, so that a socialist economy might prevail.

(2 Cor.8:16-24) Commendation of the messengers: Paul expresses thanksgiving to God that Titus feels the same concern for the Corinthians as he does. The apostle did not even have to exhort him; he anxiously accepted this role and would be coming to them shortly. A highly respected “brother” would accompany Titus on this journey. Some have rather confidently speculated that brother was Luke, but the Holy Spirit left him anonymous and we should as well. He was one of the messengers endorsed by the churches to convey the contribution to Jerusalem. In view of those “vulture” critics, so anxious to “pick his bones,” the apostle wanted to avoid any suspicion at all concerning the contribution to be transferred to Jerusalem. He made it his

practice to act honorably in all potentially vulnerable situations---first in the Lord’s sight (who observes all that we do), and also before men (v. 20-21).

Another unnamed brother, who had proved reliable on many occasions, would also accompany the other two to Corinth. This brother had great confidence in the Christians in Corinth, which should please them. Paul wanted to express a final note of confidence to Titus. He is commended as “my partner and fellow-worker.” Who wouldn’t love to have that descriptive applied to him? He and his travel partners are “messengers” of the churches who glory in Christ, obviously selected for good reason, and known for their spirituality. He thus exhorts the Corinthian saints to exhibit love to these brothers and let their confidence trickle back to the churches, documenting Paul’s praise of them.

(2 Cor. 9:1-5) Justifying the messengers: The apostle continues his discussion of the “ministering” (collection) for the saints in Jerusalem. He commends them on their readiness, just as he has praised them to the Christians in Macedonia (northern Greece). He told Macedonia that Achaia (southern Greece) had been prepared with their contribution for the past year, and that this example of seal had been an encouragement to many. The messengers that are to collect these gifts will be on their way to Corinth shortly; they must be ready so that the apostle’s boast regarding them might not be for nothing, and that neither of them would be embarrassed (v. 3-4). So Paul is sending the messengers ahead of his arrival, that they might pick up the Corinthian contribution before he arrives, that their generosity might be transparent, and it would not appear as if he had “twisted their arm” (v. 5).

(2 Cor. 9:6-15) The blessings of generosity: Paul reminds them of nature’s law of sowing and reaping. Sow sparingly and you will reap sparingly; sow bountifully and you will reap in like measure. Some valuable principles of proper giving are set forth. (a) Giving must be personal; one person cannot sacrifice for another. (b) It must be intentional, of clear purpose, not haphazard. (c) It must be of noble motivation, not extorted, not for show, not regretfully, not with strings attached. (d) One’s giving must be lovingly and happily exercised. God loves the “cheerful giver,” for such a one is like his Son in this regard (6-7; Heb. 12:2).

God, who is Almighty (Gen. 17:1), is able to make “all grace” (the plentitude of his favor) abundantly available to his people, so that, being sufficiently supplied, they will be able to abound in every good work necessary to their cause. Note the comprehensive terms, “all,” “always,” “every” (v. 8). Does this not suggest that the generous giver’s “cup runs over”? Paul quotes from Psalm 112:9 concerning the person who holds the Lord in reverence and delights in his commands. He will be a generous person who earns well-deserved recognition that remains permanently (v. 9).

We must always remember that it is God who supplies our necessities, and he will supply, and even multiply, the things we need for doing good, which increase the fruits of our obedience to him (v. 10). The Lord abundantly supplies our needs so that our enrichment may be used generously to assist others, that ultimately God may be glorified (v. 11). The service being rendered to those in Jerusalem will not only fill up the measure of their needs; it also will result in much praise of thanksgiving to God (v. 12). Through the gracious liberality of their gift, they would be demonstrating the integrity of their obedience to the gospel of Christ and their confession therefore---not only to the saints in Jerusalem, but unto “all.” Who are the all? (a) The saints elsewhere; (b) even non-Christians who may be beneficiaries of this gift, either directly (Acts 24:17; Gal. 6:10) or indirectly, or hear of it as a result of widespread report (v. 13).

The Jerusalem saints will be so thankful to God for their kindness; they will supplicate him on their behalf, and have sweet affection for them on account of the “grace of God” which was channeled through them. How we must thank God for his gift, beyond our ability to adequately describe---even Jesus Christ---who had motivated us to assist others (v. 15; 8:9).

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Direct: (865) 591-6900
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