

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Coincidence? Luck? God?

Eighty-two year old Navy submariner is sometimes haunted by these questions. As many of us who survived the Vietnam era, he suffers from "survivor's guilt."

**The Veterans' Corner**  
**Scott Drummond**  
 USCG Veteran



David Cornell was a machinist mate, serving aboard four submarines between 1956 and 1966. He was close friends, in the engineering division with Bob Gaynor, nicknamed "Mitzi" for the famous and gorgeous Mitzi Gaynor. In March of this year, Cornell tears up giving an interview from his home on Cow Hill Road. He and Bob had served together on the USS Seadragon, SSN-584 from 1959-1961. He says, "I've been thinking a lot about Bob these days."

You see, they were preparing for a very historic mission from their Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, Maine to the Pacific via the Northwest Passage. In the interim orders were received for one of them to report to the ill-fated Thresher, SSN 593. With tears in his eyes Bob simply said, "I'm here." On April 10, 1963, 58 years ago this month the USS Thresher broke apart and went down in 5,500 feet of water, 220 miles east of Boston. Amongst the 129 lives lost was David's dear friend, Bob William Gaynor.

One hundred twelve were U.S. Navy, seventeen were civilians. Deep diving exercises were underway at the time. There is an investigation ongoing. Cornell attributes the not being selected for the transfer to his expertise aboard the Seadragon.

When the tragedy struck, Cornell was serving aboard the USS Barb, SSN-596. He said he instantly thought of his dear friend as the infamous news circulated. He went on to say, "He was like a brother to me." Gaynor was survived by his widow and three children. Cornell went on to have four sons by his first wife, Sandra, who passed away in 1994. They had a home in North Stonington since 1964 and lived there for decades. After Navy duty, Cornell went to work for Pratt and Whitney, retiring in 1992. He married Jo-Ann in 1996. According to his wife, he has felt remorse most of his life due to circumstances beyond his control. He has a speech prepared for the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the Thresher in April of 2023. It begins, "I am David T. Cornell and I am a submariner."

He wishes to be cremated upon his passing and have his ashes transported by submarine to the waters where the Thresher, his fellow submariners and his dear friend Bob Gaynor gave their lives while serving something far greater than any of us, our United States of America.

There is no greater love for man than he who gives up his life for his fellow man. I would add that those amongst us who would voluntarily do such, also know and understand how great this love really is.

*Semper Paratus*

## Letters to The Editor

### MLB Fiasco

Dear Editor,

The law-abiding citizens of Georgia are disgusted with Major League Baseball (MLB) for taking a political stance by removing the All Star Game from Georgia because our governor wants to make voting fair for all Georgians. Moving this year's All-Star game out of Atlanta, because of Georgia's new voting law, MLB has surrendered to political correctness and mob rule. It has been reported that Major League Baseball (MLB) commissioner Robert Manfred decided to move the All-Star Game on his own after holding extensive discussions with voting rights groups associated with Lebron James, Stacey Abrams and Rev. Al Sharpton. Now there is an objective trio of advisers.

The Georgia law is in many ways more open and advanced than laws of other states including Delaware and New York. Even the liberal Washington Post has said President Biden is lying in his criticisms of the Georgia law. We must stand up for what is right and tell Coca Cola, DELTA and the Woke companies that support MLB to stay out of politics. This can be done easily by not buying their products. You can also contact them by phone, email, or letter and voice your disgust. This is definitely another hoax perpetuated by the liberal left, not based on facts, but following their agenda to allow illegal voting. With the liberals, the TRUTH does not matter.

I am done with MLB and their corporate sponsors. It is a shame that today's MLB allows political correctness to intrude on America's National Pastime!

Bill Scott

### Easter Sunday

Dear Editor,

It was Easter Sunday 2021, quiet, you think everyone is with their family. But no, at 1:30 PM, here come our wonderful Fire Department people, First Responders and lots of big equipment.

Here in Bald Mountain Park we had a trailer home burn all the way to the ground, the occupants barely getting out alive, behind which is nothing but forest, which is also on fire. All of these nice people saved us nine families and were there until late in the evening.

Thank you for your excellent work!

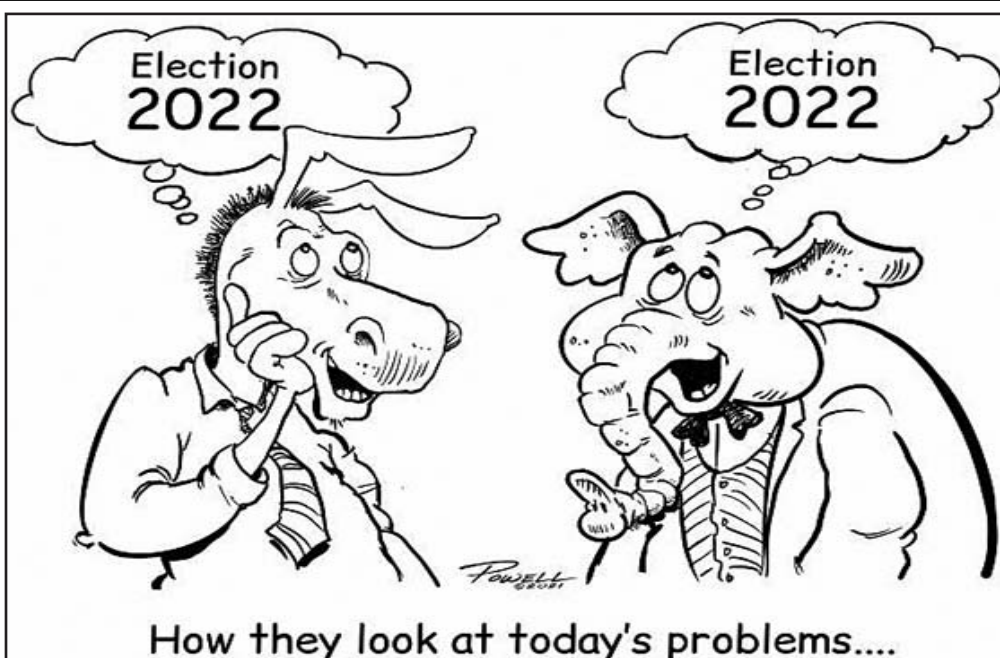
Ingrid Bolton

## Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!  
 Contact us at 706-896-4454  
 Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM



The Towns County Herald is an independent and nonpartisan publication. As such, third-party views contained herein are not necessarily the opinions or positions of this newspaper, e.g. advertising, press releases, editorial content, perspectives expressed in articles covering local events, etc.



How they look at today's problems....

## Change My Mind

Here's the premise: Massive infrastructure and spending bills generally do not help ordinary people as much as they facilitate the transfer of wealth from average incomes, through corporate entities and into the hands of the wealthy, which exacerbates rather than relieves economic and social ills.

After two terms under Franklin Delano Roosevelt and massive New Deal spending, FDR's treasury secretary, Henry Morgenthau, said to the House Ways and Means Committee in 1939, "We have tried spending money. We are spending more than we have ever spent before and it does not work. And I have just one interest, and if I am wrong... somebody else can have my job. I want to see this country prosperous. I want to see people get a job. I want to see people get enough to eat. We have never made good on our promises... I say after eight years of this Administration we have just as much unemployment as when we started... And an enormous debt to boot!"

Roosevelt has been almost deified by popular culture and official narrative.

Politics looks at the Roosevelt years at a glance and sees massive government intervention for the common good, the end of the Depression and victory in war, followed by some of the most rapid industrial and economic growth that the planet has ever seen.

The extraordinary measures enacted during the New Deal years have been with us so long that society has forgotten how controversial they were and how vigorously contested. Roosevelt's New Deal has become part of the dogma which justifies government expansion.

Personally I think there is much to admire about FDR. There is no doubt that programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps and the WPA helped lift people out of poverty, but a wider focus on the cumulative results of Roosevelt's many programs reveals a much more complicated story than a hero administration intent on rescuing the common citizen.

As is the case with most government spending, some companies prospered as favored recipients of government contracts, and they gobbled up scores of smaller companies which were not politically connected. Economic conditions did not improve until after WWII.

Whenever we talk about massive government intervention, whether it's Roosevelt's New Deal, Johnson's Great Society, Reagan's massive cold war military buildup, Bush's budget deficits and expansion of the regulatory state, Obama's disappearing 800 billion "Shovel Ready" dollars, Trump's 39% increase of the National Debt or Biden's proposed multi-trillion dollar infrastructure program, we can find similarities.

When government spends big, the bulk of the money is absorbed long before it reaches the citizen.

Consider the anecdotal evidence of our recent \$3 trillion stimulus bill.

Had it been evenly distributed in the spirit of the "equitable outcomes" philosophy trending on college campuses today, every family in the US would have received over \$40k. Instead we got \$1400 of conjured pixel money. Where did the rest of the money go?

Let's take a closer look at the New Deal dogma, but from a contrarian perspective.

It has been argued that it was WWII and not the New Deal which rescued the American economy from The Great Depression.

I think that is also incorrect.

Economic indicators were dire during the war, but after WWII, America had the only economic and manufacturing infrastructure left standing, and we were without competition for decades.

History shows us that massive government intervention is a tail which cannot be pinned exclusively on a donkey or an elephant (a pig tail would be closer to the truth).

They are more a symptom of oligarchy attempting to protect political power from economic or social collapse.

Tragically, too often war has functioned as an effective way of covering the tracks of political and economic mistakes.

Mistakes which lead to economic collapse are usually followed by social collapse, and if that doesn't directly lead to war, it certainly makes war more likely.

In conclusion, while some are prepared to celebrate Biden's new spending spree, I'm more inclined to clutch my wallet, save my seeds and hoard toilet paper.

Change my mind.

Outside  
 The Box  
 By: Don Perry  
[worldoutsidethebox.com](http://worldoutsidethebox.com)

## Pollinator Gardening

We all know the benefits of pollinators. Many of the crops that we grow would not be possible without pollinators. The State Botanical Garden of Georgia has a program where they designate four plants as the pollinator plants of the year. All four are native plants. The goal is to get more nurseries growing these pollinators and to encourage people to plant them in their gardens. Let's go through each of one and give a brief plant profile on them.

False rosemary is the first pollinator plant of the year. It is a perennial. It does look like rosemary, but the leaves have a minty smell when crushed. They have dainty light purple flowers that bloom in the spring. Unfortunately, for us, this plant does not do well, as it needs a warmer climate than what we have in the mountains. It is hardy to USDA zone 8a; we are in zones 6a-7, depending on your elevation.

Sweet pepperbush is great plant that will grow in our area. It is native to the Eastern US. It blooms in the summer and grows to be 4-8 feet tall. There are some dwarf cultivars of it available too. It has white blooms that attract birds, butterflies, and hummingbirds. It can take part shade, which is good for our area, as we have many trees and lots of shade. It doesn't have many problems with disease or insects. It does have a cousin called the mountain pepperbush that can grow in the North Georgia Mountains. The mountain pepperbush grows to be 12-20 feet tall.

Butterfly weed is a plant that every pollinator garden should have. It is our native milkweed. You can see it blooming along the side of the road during the summer. It has bright orange clusters of small flowers. It attracts butterflies and native bees. This one is not as tall, only growing to be 1-2 feet tall. I don't recommend moving from the roadside to your house, because native plants don't like to be transplanted, especially after bloom. You can purchase this from local nurseries. It likes to be grown in full sun.

The last plant is downy goldenrod. It's a fall bloomer and grows 1-3 feet tall. It's a great plant for native bees and other pollinators. There are a number of different species of goldenrod. We start to see a lot of goldenrod bloom at the end of August and into September. Many beekeepers will stop collecting honey from bees once goldenrod starts to bloom. Goldenrod honey is not as marketable, and by not collecting honey, it gives the bees a chance to build up their stores for winter.

Planting a pollinator garden is beneficial to your garden and to the pollinators. If you have questions about pollinator gardening contact your County Extension Office or email me at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu)

I will be hosting a raised garden bed program at Hamilton Garden on April 22 at 10 am. There will be an educational portion of the program that everyone is welcome to attend. I will also have some 4x4 ft. raised beds available for people to purchase for \$40. To reserve your raised bed call 706-439-6030 and I will put you down.

## A Casting of Thousands

My new best friend, Toshiya, (now as thick as bread, we were just casual acquaintances a little over a year and a half ago) showed me visuals of incubated premature babies who could only, because of Covid, be "touched" with gloved hands through glass.

My heart did not break fast enough so oldsters in nursing homes, who could only press hands on window glass to greet and be greeted by family on the opposite side of the window, were then shown.

It certainly was not for my viewing pleasure. Through The Looking Glass took on a different spin. Sometimes I hate my bestie.

As John and I venture out a tad more since we've been vaccinated, we still take precautions. Not because of mandates but because they just might work.

My first outing to a store that wasn't for groceries was an unexpected thrill. Purchasing sticks for the hot glue gun had me giddy.

I thought I could endure no more adrenalin surges but I'm tougher than I knew. All items for a long delayed project were carted and sweet anticipation took over. Oh, make that all but one item.

Some projects can accept substitutions but when you need worm castings, you need worm castings. Finding bagged worm poop is not as easy as I hoped.

Online searches, calls to friends, and calls to merchants gave me no satisfaction. Just when I thought I was sure out of luck, a local source was discovered.

I was almost moved to tears with excitement.

We're almost there.

See You Around Towns!

## GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor

P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)

Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc. Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*

*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee

Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net)

Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

Kenneth West

Owner/Publisher

Derek Richards

Advertising Director

Shawn Jarrard

General Manager

Editor

Shawn Henrikson

Copy Editor

Todd Forrest

Staff Writer

Lowell Nicholson

Photographer