

Volume 33, May-June, 2021

No. 3

#### Word from the editor:

Remember that this is your newsletter. Make sure information you have that is relevant to all gets to me to be included in the newsletter.

#### Prez Sez:

Happy Spring!!! It's so nice to have this warmer weather and to see the flowers and trees blooming again. The SCS/SNC Retiree Board and officers met via Zoom in January, March, and April to keep up with each other and to do some succession planning. We have been looking forward to the time when we can actually meet in person again. As some of you may have heard, Southern Company has communicated to current employees that the offices will be opening up for partial employee attendance the first week of July 2021. When the board met in April, we discussed whether to have the Spring luncheon in May and possibly have the July meeting as we usually do at the SCS/SNC Corporate office.

We decided that there were still many uncertainties related to meeting in person and having a luncheon as early as May, so we have elected to postpone this gathering until May 2022. However, we felt that a July meeting was highly probable. We contacted Southern Company and learned that they are repopulating the office with employees in a

phased approach and that elective visitors would not likely be allowed until later in the fall timeframe. We will be monitoring the status of office availability and will schedule something as appropriate. However, we are looking at the possibility of meeting somewhere other than the corporate office in July. As plans evolve, we will keep you posted in the newsletter and via email. In the meantime, enjoy this Spring weather and stay safe.

#### **Deanna McComb**





Want to keep up with what's happening? Got a computer? Visit the SCS Retiree Website <a href="http://www.scsretirees.com">http://www.scsretirees.com</a>



### MAY-JUNE SCS/SNC MEMBERS' BIRTHDAY LIST

#### **May Birthdays:**

- 2 Michael Eidson
- 3 Patricia Phillips
- 3 Randy Pike
- 4 Bill Burmeister
- 4 Jim Corbitt
- 4 Stacey Hill
- 6 Jeffrey A. Morrow
- 7 Don E. Mansfield
- 7 Cary Martin
- 7 James Minor, Jr.
- 8 Rhonda McGill
- 9 John Adkins
- 11 Woods McRoy
- 12 Donna Folker
- 12 Faye Patterson
- 12 Ricky Taylor
- 13 Rick Graham
- 13 Mary Sue Ludwig
- 14 Ricky Allen Jr.
- 14 Lajuana Logan
- 15 Douglas Farris
- 15 John Morrow
- 16 James Douglas McGee
- 16 Michael Edmiston
- 16 Dianne McCov
- 16 Victor G. Smith
- 16 Cindy Patton
- 18 John Davis Oliver
- 19 Linda Griggs
- 21 George Hairston III
- 21 Debbie Rice
- 21 Roy Shanlever
- 22 Donn Milton
- 23 Gene Byars
- 24 Leighton Mays
- 24 William R. Vierkandt
- 24 Linda K. Wilson
- 26 Sam Bowman
- 27 Helen Robin
- 27 Denise Metz
- 27 Stephen B. Smith
- 27 Patsy Wall
- 28 Joyce Sewell
- 29 Susan Brolund

### May B'Days (Cont'd:)

- 30 Jim Black
- 30 Marcia Edmundson
- 31 Robin Posey

#### June Birthdays:

- 1 Diane Adams
- 1 Karen Edwards
- 1 Janice Luster
- 3 Theda Griffith
- 3 Joyce Hickman
- 3 Brenda Marlar
- 4 William Newman
- 6 Sid Baxter
- 6 Robert Bruner, Jr.
- 6 Cary Campbell
- 6 Linda Shepard
- 7 Alvin Joel Connor
- 7 Peggy Howard
- 8 John Brandt
- 8 Joe Wall
- 9 Lois Mclean
- 9 Jim Newton
- 9 Christopher Vacarella
- 10 Michael Nelson
- 10 Preston Willis
- 11 Jerry Smith
- 12 Mary Dougherty
- 12 Teresa Ann Littleton
- 12 Candace Rayfield
- 13 Mitch Amick
- 13 Malek Barroody
- 13 Miriam Hollingsworth
- 14 Anna Garlington
- 14 Bill Marlar
- 14 John Thies
- 14 Bob Winter
- 15 Miriam Durden
- 16 Mike Burns
- 17 Adel Alapour
- 17 Ronald Bryan
- 17 Melinda Mosley
- 17 Joe Powell 17 Alice Wells
- 20 Diane Cocherell
- 20 Nell Larson

2



#### June Birthdays (Cont'd)

- 20 Mark Scott
- 20 Wayne Walton
- 21 John Heatherly
- 21 Charley Long
- 21 Lakshmi Reddy
- 21 Dan Summers
- 23 Keith Fowler
- 23 Julia Segars
- 23 Jack Woodward
- 24 Frank Segars
- 25 Vallabhbhai Patel
- 25 Richard Patton
- 25 Julie Polke
- 26 Mickie Bryan
- 26 Jeri Corbitt
- 27 Emmett G. Darnell
- 27 Kate Newman
- 28 Ron G. Cocherell
- 29 Judy Coggin
- 29 Janet Thompson
- 30 Susan Burmeister
- 30 Gayle Busby
- 30 Marty Turnage
- 30 David Webb
- 30 Kevin F. White

#### From SCS Families and Friends:

"Dear SCS/SNC Retirees,

Thank you for your generous donation to Highlands United Methodist Church in memory of my uncle. He so enjoyed his association with the group, especially the yearly trips and his work with the newsletter.

Thank you for remembering John (Uncle Ronald to us) in such a special way.

Sincerely, Susan Hall Bellows"

"Thanks so much for your generous gift to Shades Crest Baptist Church in memory of Warren Glover.

Mary Ann Glover and the Glover Family"



### **OBITUARIES**

**Ronald N. Ballard**, age 77, passed away on January 17, 2021.

Aurora Ann Sharp Garrett, age 90, passed away on March 11, 2021. She was preceded in death just three months prior by her husband of 71 years, Henry B. Garrett. Ann is survived by three children, Henry Michael Garrett (Cathy), Elizabeth Garrett Butterworth (Craig), Robert Charles Garrett (Shirley); four grandchildren, Elizabeth Sharp Butterworth (Duston), Joyce Butterworth McKinnon (Kyle), Charles Craig Butterworth, and Mary Dixon Garrett; and three great grandchildren, Isaac Orin Parker, Grace Anaya Parker, and Aurora Jane McKinnon. Memorials may be made to Huffman United Methodist Church (711 Gene Reed Rd, Birmingham, AL., 35235) or to St. Martin's in the Pines (4941 Montevallo Rd, Irondale, AL., 35210).

Kevin Glandon, age 59, of Birmingham, Alabama, passed away on April 1, 2021. He is survived by wife Stephanie Little Glandon, their children, Loveday (fiancé Jacob Murphy), John and Cole, also mother Gloria Glandon, brother Steve Glandon (Julie), nephews, Ross Glandon, Philip Glandon (Molly), Nathan Glandon, niece Rachel (Patrick) Baldwin, Great niece Charlotte Baldwin and Great nephew Rhys Glandon. He was preceded in death by his father Max Glandon, and younger brother Brian Glandon. Donations in Kevin's memory can be made to the American Heart Association.

John Plaxco, age 97, passed away on March 14, 2021. He is survived by his son, John "Jack" Plaxco; daughter, Margaret Chandler; grandchildren, Lelia Wilcox (Ian), Kathryn Drake (Kory), John Plaxco (Kat Moore), Daniel Chandler (Megan Holder), David Chandler (Annie), Paul Chandler (Jessica), Marie Curtis (Quinn); great-grandchildren, Kathryn, Evelyn, Maggie Flynn, and Leda Wilcox; Rowan, Madelyn, and Felicity Drake; Annabelle and Sophia Chandler; Marcee Jeanne and Isabelle Chandler; and Boone



#### **Obituaries (Cont'd)**

### John Plaxco (Cont'd):

and Lexi Curtis; brother-in-law, Marion Dick; sister-in-law, Allene Tynes; and many adoring nieces, nephews and friends. He was preceded in death by his wife of 69-years, Jeanne Tynes Plaxco; parents Reverend Moffatt Ross and Agnes Devlin Plaxco; brother, Moffatt Ross Plaxco, Jr.; sister, Mary Elizabeth Patrick; sister-in-law, Faye Tynes Dick; brother-in-law, Hubbard Armstrong Tynes and son, James Moffatt Plaxco. In lieu of customary remembrances, memorial contributions may be directed to First Presbyterian Church, 2100 4th Avenue N, Birmingham, Alabama 35203 or First Light Shelter (for women and children), 2230 Fourth Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

John Bernard (JB) Smith, Jr., age 70, Southern Company Services, passed away on February 23, 2021. He is survived by his wife Wanda, daughter Shana Leigh Jones (Johnny Mack) and son, Jason Andrew Smith (Kimberly Ann); eight grandchildren (Avery McKay, Johnny Mack, Jr., Micah Mae, Fielder McDaniel, Carson Andrew, Casen Luke, Collins Grace, and Crew Locklin. J.B. is also survived by sisters Virginia Smith Hess (Carl) and Bernadine Smith Roberts: and sisters-in-law, Karen Phillips Chandler (Tony) and Kay Ivy Phillips. He was preceded in death by brothers-in-law Jimmy Roberts and Billy Phillips.

#### .....IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT......

As Deanna mentioned in Prez Sez, we are still unable to meet in person as a group. Due to COVID-19 the buildings are still closed. We really miss seeing everyone and look forward to seeing you as soon as we are allowed to safely meet.

We will keep everyone informed.





Remembering

On January 1, 1948, a recent Georgia Tech graduate named John Plaxco rode the train into Birmingham. The next morning, he made his way by streetcar to the Southern Services office within the Alabama Power Company Building. As he unpacked his satchel at his new desk, he was alarmed to discover that he had forgotten his slide rule. His new co-workers just laughed and said that he would only be needing a sharp pencil and an eraser. That began an exciting 38-year career helping to provide energy for people and communities across the South.

He was a humble and generous man, growing up in a small Georgia town, the youngest of 3 children. His father was the principal of the local school and the minister of the Presbyterian Church. His mother had been a professor at a small college. After 2 years at Georgia Tech, he entered the Naval Academy and served as an Ensign in World War II before returning to Tech.

Soon after moving to Birmingham, he met the love of his life, Jeanne Tynes, at First Presbyterian Church downtown. They were married the next year and soon had a young family in Homewood. They were active members of the church and he served as deacon and elder.

He was proud of his work and on vacations would often detour to take the family to see a power plant. He admired his boss, KW Boyles; Margaret Carter was his everdependable secretary; and he made many great friends at SCS.

After retiring in 1986 as manager of the Electrical Design Department, he enjoyed being a member of the Retirees Group and staying in touch with old friends. Sadly, dad passed away on March 14, 2021.

Submitted by son, Jack Plaxco



John with his grandchildren, 2018

Ken Boyd



In December 2020, Ken Boyd's latest book, entitled *Historic Watermills of North America*, was released by The University of Alabama Press. This large-format coffee table book represents more than 40 years of Ken's research, study and photography and provides a visual preservation of these fascinating old structures along with descriptions, commentary and perspectives. Ken has previously published two very popular and internationally distributed books on historic locomotives entitled *Historic North American Locomotives* (Published by Kalmbach Media / *Trains*, 2018) and *The Art of the Locomotive* (Published by Voyageur Press, 2014). Total sales for the locomotive books are approaching 35,000 copies.

Ken retired from Research & Environmental Affairs in 2017 after 37 years with Southern Company.

<u>kenboydphotography@yahoo.com</u> website – kenboydphotography.com





# Positives on the Pandemic





For years we dreamed about buying a new pontoon boat to enjoy with our kids and grandkids. We pulled the string last April and bought just ahead of the pandemic rush on boats and RV's. We were surprised at how much we enjoyed river cruising throughout the Spring and Summer. With our church going to live streaming, we found ourselves at Logan Martin every weekend and more. We also walked two miles nearly every day.

#### **Submitted by Jim Blackmon**





We have all read quite a few articles regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and we all have wondered if we should get one. I talked to many of my friends and have received two different responses. Some say, "no way" would they get the shot while others said they couldn't wait to get one.

I didn't know which way to turn so I took my son Drew's advice and went to UAB. I got the first shot with no ill effects and two weeks later had the second one. Still, with no ill effects.

We were told that it could take up to an hour. However, UAB was extremely organized and had set up their stations in a 4-story parking deck. After you make the appointment, you go to the 1st station ("Check In"), the 2nd station ("1st or 2nd Shot"), and then the 3rd station ("15 Minute Waiting" which is set up as a safety precaution to see if you are experiencing any reaction). If no reaction, you are free to go.

After looking over all the facts it's up to you to make a decision. If everything looks okay then get the SHOT. If it doesn't, then do not get the SHOT. It is up to you -after all it is free.

**Submitted by Jay Dorrance** 





The Covid shutdown started by upsetting all the familiar links with the groups in our lives. It indiscriminately disrupted communications with family, church and social gatherings. But a tool came out of that invisible internet 'cloud' that salvaged our ability to connect with multiple people at a time. We probably ought to celebrate the now familiar video conferencing app called Zoom.

I never heard of this "thing" until sometime after the start of the shutdown a year ago. I'm sure most would agree, even those who despise or distrust e-tech, it's been a lifesaver. I was in the middle of a Bible study with a group of young couples when the shutdown started, and these folks introduced me to the use of Zoom. Every week we connected on the internet and I could see everyone at once, in some ways better than in person. It even provided the clamor of the kids and the baby-sitter in the background!

My cousins and I used it to keep alive the 70- year-old tradition of our family reunion. About fifty or sixty family groups, of all ages, from all over the country, were able to joke and laugh and reminisce together. Later in the year, I used it to organize a reunion with a missionary team I served with in Africa 40 years ago. It was a very precious time of re-connection for us. My wife used it to keep up her ministry to young moms and participate in her woman's small group.

Somewhere along the way, I bought my own subscription and have used it to talk with our kids, and with my siblings, all of whom live out of town, and also to teach at our church. I can only imagine how it has changed business. It has become so ubiquitous, it could almost replace meeting in person, which would be a bit too successful in my humble opinion. In any case, I think we need to consider just how providential the arrival of this software has been. It's kept us in touch with those we love.

Submitted by Bill Norton

### MAY- JUNE HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER



# May 5

On May 5, 1862, the Mexican army defeated the French army at the Battle of Puebla. This single military battle signified defeat of a European colonial power, and a victory for the Mexican people. This single battle was the roots of **Cinco de Mayo.** 

What Cinco de Mayo has come to be, is much more than one battle in the colonial history of Mexico. Rather, it has come to signify Hispanic and Mexican pride and a time to celebrate the rich culture. Today, this holiday is celebrated by Mexicans, and especially the Hispanic community in the U.S. It is a time of song, dance, partying, and in general a time to be proud to be of Hispanic descent.



# May 8

# Victory in Europe Day (VE Day)

On the afternoon of May 8, 1945, the British prime minister Winston Churchill made the radio announcement that the world had long been waiting for. "Yesterday morning," he declared, "at 2.41 a.m., at General Eisenhower's headquarters, General Jodl, the representative of the German High Command, and Grand Admiral Dönitz, the designated head of the German State, signed the act of unconditional surrender of all German land, sea and air forces in Europe." After nearly six years, the war in Europe was finally over.

The celebrations began almost immediately. However, there was still one last technical detail to be taken care of. Since the Soviet authorities had not yet given their approval to the surrender document, a second, definitive document was signed in Berlin.

The official time when this final document was signed was 11.01, Central European Time (although in reality it was not signed until almost 12:45 a.m. the next morning). By Moscow time, however, the official time of signing was already after midnight. As a consequence, America and western Europe consider **VE Day** to have taken place on May 8, while Russia and some eastern European countries celebrate it on May 9.



# May 9

Mother's Day is celebrated in countries throughout the world. In its modern form the holiday originated in the United States, where it is observed on the second Sunday in May. Many other countries also celebrate the holiday on this date, while some mark the observance at other times of the year. During the Middle Ages the custom developed of allowing those who had moved away to visit their home parishes and their mothers on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. This became Mothering Sunday in Britain, where it continued into modern times, although it has largely been replaced by Mother's Day.



# May 18

Armed Forces Day is celebrated on the third Saturday in May. Thanks to President Harry S. Truman, it's a day to pay special tribute to the men and women of the Armed Forces. President Truman led the effort to establish a holiday in order for citizens to unite and to honor our military heroes for their patriotic service in support of the United States of America.

# May 31



Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars, including World War II, The Vietnam War, The Korean War and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

#### MAY- JUNE HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER (Cont'd)



# June 6

During World War II (1939-1945), the Battle of Normandy, which lasted from June 1944 to August 1944, resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany's control. Codenamed Operation Overlord, the battle began on June 6, 1944, also known as D-Day, when some 156,000 American, British and Canadian forces landed on five beaches along a 50-mile stretch of the heavily fortified coast of France's Normandy region. The invasion was one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history and required extensive planning. Prior to D-Day, the Allies conducted a large-scale deception campaign designed to mislead the Germans about the intended invasion target. By late August 1944, all of northern France had been liberated, and by the following spring the Allies had defeated the Germans. The Normandy landings have been called the beginning of the end of war in Europe.

June 14

Flag Day is a celebration of the adoption of the American flag by Continental Congress in the First Flag Resolution of June 14, 1777. Although the 200-year anniversary of this date was celebrated by flying flags on public buildings and holding remembrances in several cities, Flag Day wasn't officially recognized until President Harry Truman signed it into law in 1949.

DAY

Bernard J. Cigrand, known to the general public as the "Father of Flag Day," worked as a schoolteacher at Stony Hill School in Waubeka, Wisconsin. He held the first unofficial observance for Flag Day at that school in 1885, and today a bust of Cigrand stands in Waubeka at the National Flag Day Americanism Center.



## (Continued)

Cigrand delivered speeches around the country about patriotism and holding an observance for the flag on June 14. He later became the president of the American Flag Day Association and the National Flag Day Society. He continued to promote his cause with backing from those organizations. According to amateur historian James L. Brown who wrote the booklet, "The Real Bernard J. Cigrand: Father of Flag Day," Cigrand once claimed he had given 2,188 speeches on the flag and patriotism. The *Chicago Tribune* noted that Cigrand "almost single-handedly" established Flag Day.

Although Cigrand is perhaps the most recognized candidate, several others have also claimed to be founders of Flag Day. In 1889 the principal of a free kindergarten, George Bolch, celebrated the anniversary of the Flag resolution at his New York City school. Soon the State Board of Education of New York, the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia and the New York Society of the Sons of the Revolution celebrated Flag Day too.

In 1893 Elizabeth Duane Gillespie, a descendant of Benjamin Franklin and the president of the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania, attempted to have a resolution passed deeming June 14 as Flag Day. That same year the Colonial Dames of Pennsylvania were responsible for a resolution passed requiring the American flag to be displayed on all Philadelphia's public buildings. In 1937 Pennsylvania was the first state to make Flag Day a legal holiday.

After much persistence and the support of many individuals, organizations, mayors, governors and five presidents, President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation requesting that June 14 become National Flag Day. In 1927 President Coolidge issued a second proclamation, and finally in 1949 Congress approved it and it became a law.

Soon after Flag Day became official, another law passed requiring the state superintendent of public schools to make sure patriotic holidays like Memorial Day, Flag Day, Lincoln's birthday and Washington's Birthday are observed in schools.

## MAY- JUNE HOLIDAYS TO REMEMBER (CONT'D)



# June 20

Father's Day, contrary to popular misconception, was not established as a holiday in order to help greeting card manufacturers sell more cards. In fact, when a "father's day" was first proposed there were no Father's Day cards!

Mrs. John B. Dodd, of Washington, first proposed the idea of a "father's day" in 1909. Mrs. Dodd wanted a special day to honor her father, William Smart. William Smart, a Civil War veteran, was widowed when his wife (Mrs. Dodd's mother) died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart was left to raise the newborn and his other five children by himself on a rural farm in eastern Washington state. It was after Mrs. Dodd became an adult that she realized the strength and selflessness her father had shown in raising his children as a single parent.

The first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910 in Spokane Washington. At about the same time in various towns and cities across American other people were beginning to celebrate a "father's day.".

In 1924 President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national Father's Day. Finally in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson signed a presidential proclamation declaring the 3rd Sunday of June as Father's Day.

Father's Day has become a day to not only honor your father, but all men who act as a father figure. Stepfathers, uncles, grandfathers, and adult male friends are all honored on Father's Day.







- Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.
- Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.
- Marriage Counselor: Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?

Him: To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.

- Never sing in the shower! Singing leads to dancing, dancing leads to slipping, and slipping leads to paramedics seeing you naked. So remember ... Don't sing!
- If you can't think of a word say "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot
- I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.
- You can be miserable before eating a cookie. You can be miserable after eating a cookie. But you can never be miserable while eating a cookie."

I don't mean to brag, but...
I just put a puzzle together in 1 day and the box said 2-4 years.

# Benefits Reference List 🛮 🐣



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Southern Company Retiree Website

Financial services, including direct deposit, available to retirees and employees.

Log on to: www.apcocu.org

(password SoCoRetired)

RetireeSOurce.....Log on to: www.socoretireesource.com

# Notes from our Officers, Committee **Chairs and Board Members**

#### **WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!**

If you know of someone that is sick and doesn't object to their information being shared, please send an email to me at the following address so that we can send them a card and include them in our prayers.

#### socosncretirees@gmail.com.

Additionally, we love to hear good news!

Patsy Evans, Member Care

We would LOVE to hear from any of our retirees wishing to share with us how they are spending their time now that they have retired (vacations, volunteer work, family time, etc.), or any other items that they would like to share.

Please send your input to us at the following e-mail address. This newsletter is YOUR newsletter and we truly appreciate all contributions.

> **Rick and Charlotte Graham** dricharlo@gmail.com

#### 2021 Leadership

Officers

President: Deanna McCombs 205-915-9448 Vice-President: Dave Lisenby 334-701-4589

Treasurer: Fred Ehrensperger 205-655-2725 Secretary: Ken McElrov 205-907-6011

**Directors** 

Audit:

Tallulah DeMarco 205-414-1790 Charlotte Graham 205-440-7935 Rick Graham 205-807-1890 Doris Hardy 205-426-2435 Deborah Javorka 205-305-9739 Rick Rice 205-266-6517

Teresa McCrillis (Ex-Officio) 912-293-4247

**Committee Chairs** 

Arrangements: Sharon Venz 205-482-6836

Mary Romano 205-979-1486 Dennis Read 205-879-6617 Yancey Trucks Fellowship: 205-969-0559 Member Care Patsy Evans 205-991-7900

Membership: Dora Brandt 205-956-0502

Newsletter: Charlotte & Rick Graham

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Nominating: Rick Graham 205-807-1890

Programs: Dave & Beverly Lisenby

205-701-4589

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