

# THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



## Wicker Welcomes Mississippians Joining the March for Life

Annual Event Underscores Urgent Need to Defend the Unborn

Following this year's March for Life, Mississippians gathered in the U.S. Senate for a hot chocolate

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## Conservation Corner

by James Cummins  
Executive Director  
of Wildlife Mississippi

Trees are the oldest living things on earth and there is no question that they make our lives more comfortable, convenient and beautiful. You could say they are our partners in life. Just thinking of our world without trees might take your breath away—literally—and with good reason. We need trees in order to live. Trees create oxygen so we can breathe and provide shade to keep us cool. Every spring and autumn, they also brighten our world with color.

From the newspaper we read each day or the desk we use at work or the firewood we burn in the winter or the tree we climb to bowhunt, we are surrounded by forests and their products. Some are more obvious than others, such as music boxes, bookcases, chairs, cabinets and porch swings. Others are less conspicuous because they come from wood byproducts, including shatterproof glass, cosmetics and even medicines.

We use dozens of products that come from trees. For example, cellulose—a major component of cell walls in trees—turns up in products such as paper, insulation, carpeting, ice cream, shampoo, and yes, even ethanol conception, and repeatedly supported efforts to defund Planned Parenthood. I am encouraged by President Trump's commitment to protecting the unborn, demonstrated by his executive action last year to reinstate the Mexico City Policy. This policy bans the use of taxpayer dollars for international groups that perform or support abortions.

Just a few days ago, we recognized National Religious Freedom Day, celebrating our nation's founding constitutional protections regarding the free practice of religion. For many, the right to life stems from deeply held moral and religious beliefs. As citizens, we can speak out on the issues we believe in without fear of persecution. I am thankful so many Americans have chosen to exercise this freedom on behalf of the unborn since the March for Life began 45 years ago. These moments are a shining display of our liberty and a reminder to guard it.

James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org).

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reception hosted by my D.C. office. They had just walked up Constitution Avenue to the steps of the Supreme Court, braving the January cold in a powerful display of solidarity against the devastating decision delivered by Roe v. Wade more than 40 years ago.

I join these Mississippians and countless others around the country in supporting the overturn of Roe v. Wade. I firmly believe that life begins at conception and that innocent unborn children should not be excluded from the inalienable protections enshrined in our nation's founding documents. Indeed, the unborn are the most defenseless among us.

#### A Shocking Fact About the U.S. and Late-Term Abortions

Sadly, the United States is one of only a few places in the world where abortion can

be performed after 20 weeks, more than halfway through a pregnancy. Only seven countries – Canada, China, the Netherlands, North Korea, Singapore, the United States, and Vietnam – have earned this distinction. The claim, first reported by the Charlotte Lozier Institute in 2014, seemed so outrageous that The Washington Post wrote about it in its Fact Checker column. The newspaper awarded the claim its special Geppetto Checkmark for being true.

Surveys have shown that a majority of Americans support ending late-term abortions. I am hopeful that the Senate will pass an important piece of legislation that could – at the very least – remove the United States from the company of North Korea and China when it comes to abortion. Unborn children can feel pain at 20 weeks. The “Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act,” which I have cosponsored, would make it illegal to perform an abortion when an unborn child has reached 20 weeks or older, except in cases of rape, incest against a minor, or when the mother's life is threatened.

#### Fight for Life Marches On

Protecting the sanctity of life has always been part of my work on behalf of Mississippians, both in the state legislature and in Washington. This Congress, I have introduced legislation to prevent taxpayer dollars from ever going toward abortions, cosponsored legislation defending the right to life at

#### WILLIAM RICHARD POTTER

William Richard Potter, 61, Straight Bayou, Mississippi died Sunday, January 14, 2018 in Rolling Fork at Sharkey - Issaquena Hospital.

He was born May 8, 1956 in at Greenwood-Leflore Hospital in Greenwood; the son of K.M. Potter and Burnie Landrum Potter. He has been a lifetime resident of the Delta. His usual occupation was in automotive repair.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include: wife Julia Potter; two sons, Will (Taylor) Potter of Belzoni and Walt Potter of Anguilla; two sisters, Barbara Hoke of Belzoni and Sandra Briggs of Greenville; one brother Herrell Potter of Belzoni; one grandson Pass Potter of Belzoni; and family friend Cecil Womble of Belzoni.

Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, January 20, 2018 at Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni, Mississippi. Visitation was held from 1:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: Gooden Lake Baptist Church, Belzoni, Mississippi.

#### J.T. KEEN

J.T. Keen, 72, of Durant died Saturday, January 20, 2018 at his residence. Visitation will be held at 1:00 p.m. until service time at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 25, 2018 at Southern Funeral Home in Durant. Burial will be in Mizpah Cemetery in Durant.

J.T. was employed with the Mississippi Department of Transportation for 27 years. He was a member of Calvary Baptist Church.

Survivors are his wife Martha Joyce Keen; son Henry Lee Keen of Iowa; daughter Jayme Holley of Durant; and three grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter Jasmine Holley.

#### JAMES WILSON MARTIN

James Wilson Martin, 87, died January 20, 2018 at the North MS Medical Center in Tupelo. Visitation was held from 10:00 a.m. until service time at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, January 24, 2018 at Southern Funeral Home in Lexington. Burial was in Beulah Cemetery in Lexington.

side service at 3. Interment will be at Oak Grove Cemetery in the Coxburg community.

Pallbearers were Matt Harris, Jesse Lee, Laurence Presti, Richard Dickard, Foster Dickard, Deacon Irby, Mike Nabors, and Carl Thornton. Honorary pallbearer was Robert Dickard.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to Colonial Heights Baptist Church, 444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland MS 39157 or Oak Grove Cemetery Fund, 20659 Hwy. 17, Lexington, MS 39095.

#### Mississippi State Bulldogs, and his little dog Maggie.

He loved his church and was a faithful member of Colonial Heights Baptist Church since 1967. Throughout the years he served as deacon, Sunday School teacher and director. He lived his Christian faith each day and it is certain that upon entering Heaven, he heard the words “Well done, good and faithful servant”.

Mr. Dickard was preceded in death by his beloved son Glenn Dickard, his two brothers Willie Ramon and Wenzell Ross Dickard, and parents Albert “Toby” and Pearl Dickard.

He is survived by his wife Mildred West Dickard; daughter Susan Mauer of Mandeville, LA; daughter in law Margaret Huch Dickard; granddaughters, Natalie (Jesse) Lee of Memphis, TN, Kimberly (Laurence) Presti of Charlotte, NC and Megan Harris of Austin, TX; grandson Matt Harris of New Orleans, LA; and great grandson Miles Lee. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews, even great great nieces and nephews and cousins.

We would like to thank the many friends and family who visited and prayed faithfully, the hospice and healthcare workers and our precious ladies who cared daily for “Uncle Red” with such kindness and respect.

The celebration of his life was held Tuesday, January 23 at Colonial Heights Baptist Church, 444 Northpark Drive, Ridgeland with visitation from 9:30 a.m. until 11 a.m., followed by the service at 11 a.m.. A second service was held at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 8349 Thornton-Tolarville Rd., Lexington with visitation from 2 until 3 p.m., followed by a grave-



#### EUELL L. DICKARD

Euell L. Dickard, 90, went home to be with the Lord on January 16, 2018. He was born on May 31, 1927 in Holmes County Mississippi to parents Albert Ross and Lela Pearl McLean Dickard.

After graduating from Holmes Junior College, he joined the United States Marine Corps where he served as a Corporal from 1945-1946. We proudly honor him for his service as a World War II veteran. After his discharge he went on to graduate from Mississippi State.

While working in Oxford as Assistant County Agent, he met Mildred West. They were married on April 12, 1952. Soon after, they moved to Eupora, MS where he began his service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. While in Eupora, he served as president of both the School Board and the Jay-Cees. In 1967, he was transferred to Jackson, MS as an administrative officer with the Farm Service Agency. He retired in 1986 with 37 years of government service. He went on to actively serve as president and committee member of NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees). After retirement he was employed by Magnolia Federal as a property appraiser.

He loved his wife, family, and friends, his country, his home and yard, piddling in his shop, his farm in Coxburg, fried chicken, his Mis-

# Obituaries



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