



Families First for Mississippi in Durant was the recipient of the Durant Police Chief Extra Effort Coin. The early literacy organization was recognized for giving the citizens of Durant the ability to achieve a high school diploma through a GED course. Offered programs enhance the abilities of citizens by way of education, work force programs and other avenues, "helping the police department in keeping down the crime rates," according to police officials. "When people have jobs and other activities, they are less likely to commit crimes. They now have a goal and a dream for their future." Pictured above (from left) in Trainer Tracy Mallett, Durant Police Chief John Haynes and Trainer Lynn McCafferty. (Photo submitted)



Alma Seamster (pictured above, center), program director at the Durant nursing home was a recipient of the Durant Police Chief Extra Effort Coin. Seamster was recognized for including the department in numerous activities and luncheons, allowing the department to interact with the staff and residents at the nursing home while improving relationships within the community. Extra Effort Award recipients are awarded based on for their dedicated effort in improving and empowering Durant. Also pictured is Officer Jeremy Johnson (at left) and Chief John Haynes. (Picture submitted)



Wayne Bowlin (pictured at right), plant manager at Hunter Engineering in Durant, was a recipient of the Durant Police Chief Extra Effort Coin. Bowlin was recognized for his continued contributions made within Durant, the opportunity for people to make a decent income while living close to home and the way they embrace their employees. The Department has been Hunter Engineering's guest on many occasions to meet staff and management. This time has enabled a strong partnership that continues to strengthen Durant. Also pictured is Durant Police Chief John Haynes. (Photo submitted)

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker Supports Senate Effort to Roll Back Dodd-Frank Regs

Community Banks to Benefit From Banking Reform Bill

For the past eight years, our nation's small banks and credit unions have been caught in the crosshairs of an onerous regulatory regime built by the Dodd-Frank financial law. The law's multibillion-dollar compliance costs have hampered the important roles these local banks play. Now, with a new bipartisan bill for banking reform, the Senate has a good chance of providing much-needed regulatory relief to the smaller financial institutions that serve our communities.

I support this aggressive rollback of Dodd-Frank's harmful regulations and look forward to the bill reaching the President's desk. Having cast a firm "no" vote when Dodd-Frank was considered by the Democrat-led Senate in 2010, I believe this relief is long overdue. The law's onslaught of red tape was not the answer to the 2008 financial crisis nor a substitute for real consumer protections. Americans in rural areas are among those especially hurt when their community's only financial institution cannot meet Dodd-Frank's big-bank requirements. The new Senate bill would protect small banks from these requirements, stipulating that banks must have at least \$250 billion in assets, much higher than Dodd-Frank's \$50 billion threshold.

have found that dealing with high compliance costs and a climate of regulatory uncertainty is unsustainable. Since Dodd-Frank, community banks have closed or consolidated at an alarming rate, ultimately leaving consumers and small businesses with fewer choices for their finances and less access to job-creating capital. Small banks simply do not have the financial or human resources to comply with regulations designed for big financial institutions. Moreover, as small banks merge, the big banks get even bigger.

Community banks were not responsible for the economy's downturn. However, they can help strengthen its resurgence as the primary source for small business loans under \$1 million. This access to capital could make the difference for first-time homebuyers or an innovative startup.

Wicker Amendment Would Help Mississippi's Rural Banks

To empower our small

Outdoor Truths

By Gary Miller

I spend a lot of time alone. I am alone at a desk many hours a day. When I travel, whether it's to speak or hunt, I usually travel alone. I take one or two trips each year that are around 10 hours. I go alone. Most of the time, I enjoy those trips. I think a big reason is because my life at home revolves around people and their needs. So, when

banks and their services to consumers, I have put forward an amendment to the banking reform bill that would exempt small banks from specific rules on capital that were designed for large financial institutions. My amendment would benefit several rural banks in Mississippi, which have not been spared from these burdensome capital requirements.

The central role that small banks play in our local communities cannot be overstated. The success of Main Street should not be jeopardized by Washington's bureaucratic reach to rein in the excesses of Wall Street. Community banks are directly connected to the people they serve.

Given the return of high business optimism and posi-

ive economic news, now is a golden opportunity to offer our small banks the relief they need. The Senate's banking reform bill would do that, once again demonstrating the commitment by Republicans to remove costly regulations impeding economic growth. The bill's broad support suggests that even Democratic lawmakers who supported Dodd-Frank now recognize its flaws and the ways in which the law has not changed the banking landscape for the better.

I leave, I get to go for hours at times and never open my mouth except to sing along with whatever is playing on my radio. Of course, I will make some calls, but I usually can take care of all my business within a short period of time. The rest of the trip is just driving, thinking, listening, and keeping my mouth shut. I really need that

at times.

There is also the opposite of this scenario. After being gone a few days, I can't wait to get back home and see my wife, family, and familiar friends. And what I have really come to appreciate lately are hugs. I think as I've gotten older, I have become more of a hugger. There's something about the raw simplicity of a hug. If you think about it, your own mother lavished you with a lot more hugs than she ever did kisses. And boys could hang on to hugs long after mom's kisses became embarrassing. A hug almost seems magical. It's fascinating how a small embrace can transfer safety, compassion, and peace, no matter who it comes from. A hug is comfort without conduct. It's security without speech. It's love without language.

I wonder how many children live in hugless homes. I wonder how much violence and bullying would be eliminated from our schools if we found a way to give more hugs. I think the worst thing about prisons and jails are the absence of hugs. Cold hearts will only melt if they meet warm hearts. And hugs do just that. Bob Goff said, "The best advice I've been given when I failed - was a hug." I say, "Me too." But if that's the best advice that has been given to me, maybe it's the best advice I can give to someone else as well. I think I can do that. What about you?

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Jordan's Place
1 Mile South of Lexington, MS
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662-834-2955
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HOLMES COUNTY MINI STORAGE
Next to Lexington Farm Supply
22476 Depot St., Lexington, MS 39095
AUCTION SALE DAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL SATURDAY, MARCH 24 AT 9:00 A.M. DUE TO WEATHER

THANK YOU

On behalf of Brandon L. Cooper and his family, we wish to thank the Community of Lexington and the Vicinity for all acts of kindness shown during our time of bereavement.

Thank you to all who demonstrated love for Brandon and the Cooper/Jackson family thru acts of kindness, words of encouragement and prayer, including First Class Staffing (Vantec) employees, former classmates, City, County, and State Law Enforcement Officials, church family and friends.

Finally, thanks to Brandon's peers who are cherishing his memories; continue to grow and mature in love and citizenship to which we know you are capable.

Our family is not alone in having been affected by gun violence. It is our prayer that those with such power in their hands know that a family's life can be changed in an instance by such an impulsive behavior. And, that such or similar acts leave not only victim(s), but an entire community suffers.

We pray that Brandon's death concludes with a turnaround of our community realizing that all lives matters. And that such power of love that is within is translated into acts of self-love and a more united community. This is our prayer.