

THE WICKER REPORT

By: United States Senator Roger Wicker



Wicker marks 75th anniversary of victory over Japan World War II adversary has become a valued partner

Carl and Gayle Long tied the knot in 1939 in the pastor's study at Tupelo's First Baptist Church. Carl was a salesman who supplied grocery stores, and Gayle taught in a local school. Two years into their marriage, Pearl Harbor changed everything. Like so many young Americans of that generation, Carl answered the call of duty and left behind the love of his life to serve his country. What followed were years of service, sacrifice, and prayer. The Longs made it through the war and had one child, Gayle, who became my wife. Their surviving letters record Carl's service on the USS Monrovia, the bloody Battles of Tarawa and Okinawa, the terror of kamikazes taking aim at American ships, and the hardships of a young couple living through mankind's deadliest conflict. Theirs is the story of countless Americans who gave so much to defend our country in World War II.

America Turned an Enemy Into a Friend

September 2 marked the 75th anniversary of the American victory over Japan, when Japanese officials surrendered on the deck of the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Present at that ceremony were military leaders, dignitaries from around the world, and General Douglas MacArthur, who would lead the occupation of Japan. But

noteworthy were the Americans who could not be there – the 405,399 men who died in the war and the 670,846 who were wounded. With the signing of the terms of surrender, hostilities came to an end. The United States had become a superpower, and the world had changed significantly.

History books are filled with examples of victors taking revenge on the people they conquered, but the United States set a different example after World War II. One of General MacArthur's first acts following Japan's surrender was to prohibit Allied personnel from assaulting Japanese people or eating scarce Japanese food. Japan was allowed to keep its emperor as a symbolic leader. America helped rebuild Japan from the wreckage of war and installed a new constitution that transformed Japan into a modern democracy. Our presence and aid helped prevent communism from taking root in the country, and our two countries even forged a bond over baseball, America's pastime.

Alliance With Japan Makes Us Safer

To this day, Japan hosts more than 54,000 U.S. military personnel and their families. These forces have helped maintain stability in the region and countered threats from China

and North Korea – keeping conflict far from American shores. This large military presence has also protected our vital trade relationship with Japan. Americans have come to enjoy Japanese products from high-tech electronics to sushi, and Japanese consumers spend billions of dollars each year purchasing American oil, medical equipment, and computers. In fact, Japan was Mississippi's fifth-largest export market in 2018, and 15,000 Mississippi residents are employed by Japanese-owned companies like Toyota, Nissan, and Yokohama. Our relationship with Japan is not perfect, and I have been troubled in recent years by Japan's unfair justice system. Japan's wrongful arrest of Greg Kelly, a Nissan executive from Tennessee, threatens to undermine business relationships between our two nations. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe recently announced he will be retiring, and I hope his successor will restore a strong respect for the rule of law and continue to prioritize our alliance. The world is more secure and prosperous because of the U.S.-Japan relationship, and I hope our ties can strengthen in the years ahead.

“NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX LEVIES FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR FOR THE CITY OF DURANT”

The City of Durant will hold a public hearing on its proposed budget and proposed tax levies for the fiscal year 2021 on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 5:00 p.m., at the Durant Senior Citizen Center located at 460 W Depot Street, Durant, MS.

The City of Durant is now operating with projected total budget revenue of \$3,815,668. \$453,444, or 11.88% of such revenue is obtained through Ad Valorem Taxes. For the next fiscal year, the proposed budget has total projected revenue of \$ 3,798,760. Of that amount, 11.90% or \$452,000 is to be financed through a total ad valorem tax levy.

The decision to not increase the ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2021 above the current fiscal year's ad valorem tax millage rate means you will not pay more in ad valorem taxes on your home, automobile tag, utilities, business fixtures and equipment, rental or real property, unless the assessed value of your property has increased for the fiscal year 2020.

The City of Durant millage rate remains the same as last year at 47.81.

Any citizen of the City of Durant is invited to attend this public hearing on the proposed budget and tax levies for the fiscal year 2021 and will be allowed to speak for a reasonable amount of time and offer tangible evidence before any vote is taken.



- September 17 - Jimmy and Patsy Thomas, Bill and Teresa Bishop, Orman and Katherine Knox
- September 18 - Wayne and Evelyn Bishop
- September 20 - Chase and Chelsie Tate, Will and Sara Burwell, Jody and Amanda Bevill
- September 21 - Lee Arthur and Gladys Cox, Burden and Bettie Anderson
- September 22 - Dick and Laura Atkinson
- September 23 - Chad and Dana Hammons, Richard and Bridgett Chisolm, Jacob and Ashley Williamson

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

*New flag

(Continued from page 1.) mission in support of “Operation Enduring Freedom.” An American flag was presented to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Dickerson by Johnson on December 23, 2002, in memory of their son, Lt. Col. Jerry Dickerson who, along with fellow Durant native James J. Ferguson, died during the September 11, 2001 attacks. Johnson also presented a flag to Ferguson's family on December 23, 2002.



SERGEANT CHAMACO JOHNSON



- September 17 - Carol Merchant, Jaime Lyn Trotter, Jym Jackson, Niki Walker
- September 18 - Brooks Hudson, Cathy Murtagh, Michael Hatcher, Linda Sullivan, Theodore Martin
- September 19 - Brandon Byrd, Hannah Trotter, Karen Powers, Gloria Garrett, Teresa Bishop, Ashley Greer Nolan, Robin McCrory, Dorothy Brown Dixon, Eunice Kirkwood
- September 20 - Cissy L. Carthan-Terry, Shirley U. Carthan, Mamie Barton, Bill Barrett, Beverly Nichols, Byron Pemberton, John A. Branch, Martha Jo Killebrew, Bobby Bruce
- September 21 - Maggie Melton, Dustin Taylor Lowe, Emily East, McKenzie Lloyd, John Williams, Jamahl Jackson, Don Burrell, Neil Marshall, Maude Ethel Hogsett
- September 22 - Jada Williams, Louise Gilmore, Meta Tutterow, John Franklin Johnson, Alvin Jordan, Jr., Andrea Adams, Nick Nichols, Dakota Rutherford, Jenni Montone, Gregory Anderson, Cooper Hood
- September 23 - Bret Burnley, Tom Killgore, Carl Britt, Franky McCain, Diane Niven, Tina Smith