

THE WICKER REPORT

SENATOR WICKER'S WEEKLY REPORT

from CONGRESS

Wicker launches tour of Mississippi Military Bases

America's Pilot Pipeline Runs Through Mississippi

In the movie “Top Gun,” San Diego is referred to as “Fightertown, USA.” With all due respect to Hollywood, our state of Mississippi has multiple fightertowns, and I recently visited two of them: Columbus and Meridian. These were the first two stops in a statewide tour I am taking of Mississippi military bases as I prepare to serve as Ranking Member of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The visits were especially gratifying to me as a retired Air Force officer. I met with our airmen and base leadership, witnessed their flight operations firsthand, and heard about their successes and challenges. I also met with local community leaders and members of the defense industry who keep our forces well supplied. With 12 military installations and countless defense suppliers across our state, Mississippi should be proud of the role we play in protecting our country.

Key Field Fuels American Air Power

I also visited Key Field in Meridian, home to a fleet of KC-135R “Stratotanker” refueling jets that make up the 186th Air Refueling Wing. The Mississippi Air National Guard operates eight of these aircraft, supporting missions over the Caribbean Sea and the Atlantic Ocean. Some of these jets are now being replaced by next-generation KC-46A “Pegasus” aircraft, and I am pushing for Key Field to receive as many of these as possible. As part of my visit, I met with our airmen and top officers, toured a tanker aircraft, and watched an aeromedical evacuation exercise. Later, in Jackson, I attended a military economic development forum with Major General Durr Boyles, commander of the Mississippi National Guard, and installation commanders from across Mississippi to discuss the needs of our defense community.

We are now entering the most dangerous time since the height of the Cold War. Russia is continuing its brutal war against Ukraine, and China is investing heavily in its own forces, including its air combat capabilities. We

WEST REPORT

by West Civic Club

The January Civic Club meeting was opened by Carol Black reading the clubs Prayer and all members reciting the Pledge of Allegiance . There were ten members and one quest present. Birthdays for the month of January were Lynn Hathcock, Natalie McLellan, and Carol Black. Happy birthday ladies. Our hostess were Mitzi Aldridge and Kathy Gelston. The

need to deter war with these adversaries by investing heavily and consistently in our military, sending a message of strength to the world. As I continue to tour our state’s military installations, I look forward to supporting Mississippi service members in every way I can.

President then introduced the Mayor of West, Sammy Aldridge. Sammy told us about the process of cleaning the inside and outside of our towns water tower then getting it painted and refilled. That was a much needed improvement not only in the looks but quality of water. The City Hall and Front Street had new roofing put on this fall. The City also had an electrician put new power boxes along front street. This was all funded through a grant that was approved earlier. Some of the other projects going on in town are renovating the old City Hall, with the idea of leasing to UMMC as their local clinic. We are also working on trying to beautifying downtown West. The fire depart-

ment is looking around for a good used brush truck as the one we have is broken and the cost of repairs is large, the age is also a factor. Our police department is actively working on trying to help keep our town safe for all. Writing tickets and patrolling the area. Mr. David Putman has been a very big help to our area in getting grants to get some of the work down for our town. Thank you Mr. Putman. Some of the activities at the Library this month are reading Tic Tac Toe, Craft Kit and a snowball Guess. Stop by and Guess how many snowballs are i the jar for a chance to win. It was brought up that we really should get a new State Flag for display in the club room. It was approved by the vote of members present and Sara McLellan offered to purchase the flag. Thank you Sara. Carol asked the members to start thinking about the election of our officers this year. There will be a committee of three people to solicit members will-

ing to fill the open positions. They will be installed at our May meeting. Their duties begin September of this year. We discussed wether to look into the possibility of having our school reunion this year or just send letters out requesting a donations. It was decided that because of the age, expense involved, we would just send out letters and anyone that wants to donate will be welcome to do so. Our meeting was then adjourned by the Club President leading us in the reading of the Collecty. Our next meeting is February 15. If you are interested in joining you may get in touch with any member or anyone in town can direct you in the right direction. I just received from our Librarian, Martha, the activities for the month of February: Coffee and puzzle 2-10 at 10 am and 2-24 at 10 am. There are Crafts and Minute to Win it Games for Teens and children on February 17 from 3-4 pm. If you have any questions you may call 662-967-2510.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 1) Head-hanging emotion

6) Cut, as a coupon

10) Highest position

14) Widespread destruction

15) Put on the payroll

16) Annoy with sweetness

17) Dump output

18) Put back in position

20) Playful humor

22) Number that everyone has

23) Give weapons to

24) That nice lady

25) Use a sponge

28) Decay

29) Arena seating levels

31) Tuck, for one

33) Bro's female counterpart

34) Shriek at a mouse sighting

36) Dubious

37) Doubtfulness

40) Years in Rome

42) California's Big ____

43) Visualize

44) They're often brushed

46) Ducks, geese and such

48) Adriatic, among others

51) An old TV "Squad"

52) Not working today

54) Emeritus, for short

55) Ending for "sit" or "shut"

56) Thoughtless haste

60) Ones held in custody

62) "Arabian Nights" figure

63) Word said at an altar

64) "Damn it all!"

65) Street groups to avoid

66) Surfer, stereotypically

67) Old trans-Atlantic super-speeders

68) Goes across

DOWN

- 1) Ram's horn used as an instrument

2) Tried one's hand

3) Black-and-white shorebird

4) Far from less

5) Overjoyed

6) Auto trim material

7) In ____ of (rather than)

8) Isle of Man location

9) Kind of pasta

10) ____ of the Apostles

11) Assign to a category

12) Bon ____ (witticism)

13) Hurricane part

19) Bondsman

21) Camera parts or flowers

26) Awkward, goofy person

27) Get too nosy

30) '70s fashions in the 2000s, e.g.

32) ____ of passage

33) Fit of agitation

35) Month on a Jewish calendar

37) Like a first draft

38) They stir up trouble

39) Rainy day provisions

40) Bank machine

41) Lead character in "The Matrix"

45) Western tribe

47) Arm parts

48) "Burnt" color

49) U.S. navy officer

50) Give the once-over

53) Backs with bucks

57) Locks on a lion

58) You can take it or leave it

59) Tide designation

60) Family member

61) Creature on Australia's coat of arms

FICKLE

By Roger D. Ellis

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