

# FLEET FOCUS

A newsletter from Lee County Fleet Management

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## STAR SPANGLED BANNER

On September 3, 1814, Francis Scott Key and John Stuart Skinner set sail from Baltimore aboard the ship HMS *Minden* flying a flag of truce on a mission approved by President James Madison. Their objective was to secure the release of Dr. William Beanes, a friend of Key's who had been captured in his home. Beanes was accused of aiding the arrest of British soldiers. Key and Skinner boarded the British flagship HMS *Tonnant* on September 7 and spoke with Major General Robert Ross and Admiral Alexander Cochrane over dinner, while they discussed war plans. At first, Ross and Cochrane refused to release Beanes, but relented after Key and Skinner showed them letters written by wounded British prisoners praising Beanes and other Americans for their kind treatment. Because Key and Skinner had heard details of the plans for the attack on Baltimore, they were held captive until after the battle. After the bombardment, certain British gunboats attempted to slip past the fort and affect a landing in a cove to the west of it, but they were turned away by fire from nearby Fort Covington, the city's last line of defense. During the rainy night, Key witnessed the bombardment and observed that the fort's smaller "storm flag" continued to fly, but once the shell and rocket barrage had stopped, he would not know how the battle had turned out until dawn. By then, the storm flag had been lowered, and the larger flag had been raised. Key was inspired by the sight of the large American flag flying triumphantly above the fort. This flag, with fifteen stars and fifteen stripes, came to be known as the Star Spangled Banner Flag and is today on display in the National Museum of American History. It was restored in 1914 and again in 1998 as part of an ongoing conservation program. *(continued on page 4)*

### QUOTABLE QUOTES:

You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence not with a parade of guns, tanks and soldiers, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten but it is patriotism.

*Erma Bombeck  
(1927-1996)  
Author*

Whether these are the worst of times or the best of times, they are the only times we have.

-- *Arthur (Art) Buchwald  
(1825 – 2007)  
American humorist*

That piece of red, white and blue bunting means five thousand years of struggle upwards. It is the full-grown flower of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the century plant of human hope in bloom.

*Alvin Owsley (1888-1967)  
American diplomat*

Those who have enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to

win them.

- *Franklin Delano Roosevelt  
(1882 – 1945)  
32<sup>nd</sup> U.S. President*

Not for fame or reward, not for place or for rank, not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all, and died.

- *Inscription at Arlington  
National Cemetery*

**DO I REALLY NEED TO KNOW THIS?**

\*\* 214 women have served in the House of Representatives. Of these, 36 were elected to fill vacancies caused by their husbands' deaths.

\*\* Representative Patsy Mink, a Democrat from Hawaii, was the first Asian-American woman elected to Congress-1965.

\*\* Edith Rogers, a Republican from Massachusetts, holds the record for the longest service by a woman in the House of Representatives.

Originally elected to fill the vacancy caused by her husband's death, she served from June 25, 1925, until her death on September 10, 1960.

\*\* Shirley Chisholm, a Democrat from New York, was the first black woman in Congress.

\*\* Frank and Gail Zappa had four children: Moon Unit, Dweezil, Ahmet Emuukha Rodan and Diva Thin Muffin Pigeen.

\*\* The Japanese Bullet Train runs at speeds of more than 100 mph over special tracks with minimal curves. In 1997, a newer version of the Bullet Train became the fastest scheduled train in the world, regularly reaching speeds of up to 186 mph.

\*\* The highest railway in the world, the Peruvian Central Railway is an engineering marvel, climbing 13,000 ft on its trip from La Oroya to Lima,

Peru. The railroad, which features 66 tunnels and 59 bridges, zigzags across valleys in order to minimize the steepness of its climb. There is an onboard doctor who administers oxygen to passengers who get altitude sickness.

\*\* The French TGV (train a grande vitesse, or high speed train) is an electric train system that runs between Paris and several other cities, regularly traveling at speeds as high as 186 mph. A modified TGV set a world speed record in 1990 when it hit 320 mph in trial runs.

\*\* African elephants weigh up to 14,000 lbs. and can eat as much as 600 lbs. of food a day! Their trunks contain as many as 100,000 different muscles.

\*\* In Sweden, more Barbie dolls have been sold than the country's current population.

\*\* Barbie's full name is Barbie Millicent Roberts. She is from Willows, Wisconsin, and went to Willows High School.

\*\* The Midsummer moon was called the "Honey Moon" after the mead made from fermented honey that was part of wedding ceremonies performed at the Summer Solstice.

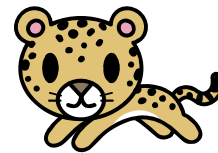
\*\* An iguana can stay under water for 28 minutes.

\*\* The shortest animal gestation period is the

American opossum, which bears its young 12 to 13 days after conception; the longest is the Asiatic elephant, taking 608 days, or just over 20 months.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO U**

Ann Landers	7/04
Jesse Ventura	7/15
<b>Bob Hillman</b>	7/25
Walter Payton	7/25
<b>Randy Feinstein</b>	7/27
Norman Lear	7/27

**THIS MONTH'S TRIVIA**

How did the Pink Panther get his name?

- He had a very large pet cat named "Pink."
- He had a tattoo of a panther on his forearm.
- He drove a pink Cadillac he called the "Panther."
- He solved a crime involving a large pink diamond.

Send your guess to Marilyn Rawlings at Fleet in order to be eligible to win this month's prize.

**QUOTABLE QUOTE**

Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought. Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it.

- Abraham Lincoln  
(1809 - 1865)

16<sup>th</sup> U.S. President



**WHAT WE PAY FOR AT THE FUEL PUMP:**

In a gallon of unleaded:

Taxes	20%
Distribution and Marketing	16%
Refining	12%
Crude	56%
<i>(% due to rounding)</i>	

In a gallon of Diesel

Taxes	21%
Distribution and Marketing	17%
Refining	10%
Crude	52%



**NEW PHONE NUMBERS ARRIVE AT FLEET**

You may have tried to call Lee County Fleet Management recently only to get a recorded message. That's because Fleet is making the change (along with the rest of the County) to the 533 exchanges. Here's the latest updates of Fleet's telephone numbers:

- Karen Shilling 533-5338
- 53FLEET
- Bill Prussman 533-5399
- Janet Sherman 533-5353
- Parts 533-5333
- Jill Bammerlin 533-5355
- Brad Wright 533-5350
- Administration 533-5300
- EMS Shop 533-5311
- Update the speed dial on

your phones with the correct numbers. If you forget and call the old number, you will be directed to the new number.



**STATUE OF LIBERTY TRIVIA**

\*\* The Statue is actually named "Liberty Enlighten-ing the World."  
 \*\* It is a 225-ton, steel-reinforced, copper, female figure, 151 feet, 1 in. in height, facing the ocean from Liberty Island in New York Harbor.  
 \*\* The right hand holds a torch, and the left hand carries a tablet inscribed with: July IV MDCCLXXVI. (July 4, 1776)  
 \*\* The statue was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi of Alsace France as a gift to the U.S. from the people of France to memorialize the alliance of the two countries in the American Revolution and their abiding friendship. The French people contributed the \$250,000 cost.  
 \*\* The 150-foot pedestal was designed by Richard M. Hunt and built by Gen. Charles P. Stone, both Americans. It contains steel underpinnings designed by Alexander Eiffel of France to support the statue.  
 \*\* President Grover Cleveland accepted the

statue for the U.S. on Oct. 28, 1886.

\*\* The Statue of Liberty was designated a National Monument in 1924 and a World Heritage Site in 1984.

\*\* On Sept. 26, 1972, President Richard M. Nixon dedicated the American Museum of Immigration, housed in structural additions to the base of the statue.

\*\* In 1984 scaffolding went up for a major restoration and the torch was extinguished on July 4. It was relit two years later on July 4, 1986, to mark its centennial.

\*\* Engraved on a bronze tablet inside the pedestal is a sonnet called "The New Colossus," written by Emma Lazarus (1849-1887).

**\*\* The New Colossus**

*Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, With conquering limbs astride from land to land; Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command the air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame. "Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"*



### **BOOK TRIVIA**

\*\* J. J. Audubon's "The Birds of America," published in 1840, is the most valuable book in the world. It sold for \$8,802,500 in March 2000—the highest price ever paid for a book.

\*\* Charles Dickens called the sickly character in *A Christmas Carol* "Small Sam" and "Puny Pete" before settling on "Tiny Tim."

\*\* The Bible is the best-selling nonfiction book of all time. Since 1815, more than 2.5 billion copies have been sold worldwide. It has been translated into more than 2,200 languages and dialects.

\*\* A.A. Milne, the author of the Winnie the Pooh series, used his son as inspiration for the character Christopher Robin. His son, also named Christopher Robin, grew up hating the stories because his schoolmates teased him about his imaginary friends.

\*\* More than 220 million copies of R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* books have been sold since 1992, when the first book, "Welcome to the Dead House", was published.

\*\* Hillary Clinton's memoir, *Living History*, sold more than 200,000 copies in its first day of publication, more than any other nonfiction title. It was published in June 2003.



### **YOU REALLY "BUG" ME...**

\*\* Amazon ants (red ants found in the western U.S.) steal the larvae of other ants to keep as slaves. The slave ants build homes for and feed the Amazon ants, who cannot do anything but fight. They depend completely on their slaves for survival.

\*\* Australian termites have been known to build mounds twenty feet high and at least 100 feet wide.

\*\* When ants find food, they lay down a chemical trail, called a pheromone, so that other ants can find their way from the nest to the food source.

\*\* Only female mosquitoes bite. Females need the protein from blood to produce their eggs.

\*\* Mosquitoes dislike citronella because it irritates their feet.

\*\* There are more than 2,500 varieties of mosquitoes.

\*\* The world's smallest winged insect, the Tanzanian parasitic wasp, is smaller than the eye of a housefly.

### **THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER (cont.)**

Aboard the ship the next day, Key wrote a poem on the back of a letter he had kept in his pocket. At twilight on September 16, he and Skinner were released in Baltimore. He completed the poem at the Indian Queen Hotel, where he was staying, and he entitled it "Defence of Fort McHenry". Key gave the poem to his brother-in-law, Judge Joseph H. Nicholson. Nicholson saw that the words fit the popular melody "The Anacreontic Song", composed by John Stafford Smith, which was the official song of the Anacreontic Society, an 18th-century gentlemen's club of amateur musicians in London. Nicholson took the poem to a printer in Baltimore, who printed copies of it on September 17; of these, two known copies survive. Francis Scott Key's original manuscript copy of his "Star-Spangled Banner" poem is now on display at the Maryland Historical Society.

On July 27, 1889, Secretary of the Navy Benjamin F. Tracy signed an order making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the official tune to be played at the raising of the flag. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson ordered that "The Star-Spangled Banner" be played at military and other appropriate occasions. On November 3, 1929, Robert Ripley drew a

panel in his syndicated cartoon, *Ripley's Believe it or Not!*, saying "Believe It or Not, America has no national anthem". By a law signed on March 3, 1931 by President Herbert Hoover, "The Star-Spangled Banner" was adopted as the official national anthem of the United States.