



People / Politics

Email Edition 426

December 15, 2011

Jet Toney Becomes First President of Georgia Professional Lobbyists Association

The newly organized Georgia Professional Lobbyists Association elected its first slate of officers including **Jet Toney** as president during its second Professional Development Seminar held at the Georgian Club at the Galleria.



Jet Toney

Toney, who heads Cornerstone Communications is one of several lobbyists who have worked in recent

months to organize the association of professional lobbyists and develop a meaningful Code of Ethics for the group.

Rudy Underwood was elected vice-chairman, **Trip Martin** is the treasurer, and **Rita Young**, secretary. Executive Committee members are **Kirby Thompson** and **Scott Maxwell**.

Members of the Board of Directors: **Brad Carver**, **Josh Mackey**, **Rusty Sewell**, **Helen Sloat**, **Neil Herring**, **Brad Borum**, **Don D'Derrico**, **Richard Moore**, **Matt Sawhill**, **Jason Bragg**, **Lee Lemke**, **Ethan James**, **David Tatum**, **Will Wingate**, **Sara Balog**, **Clint Mueller** and **Shane Hix**.

The new executive secretary of the Ethics Commission, **Holly LaBerge** was introduced to the group. Dr. **Paul Voss**, President of Ethikos, was the featured speaker. The program also featured updates from Senate Majority Leader **Chip Rogers** and Senate President Pro Tempore **Tommie Williams**. **Bill Crane**, **Stefany Sanders** and Sen. **John Albers** completed the day's presentation with discussions about social media and corporate communications.



First Lady Sandra Deal and Gov. Nathan Deal

Governor and First Lady Plan Day Of Volunteer Service on December 17

"With a Servant's Heart" is the title given to a planned *Day of Service* sponsored by Governor **Nathan Deal** and First Lady **Sandra Deal** in Georgia on December 17th. This follows a tradition begun by the Deals at the beginning of his administration.

The Deals suggest that all Georgians join them for this Day of Service to "volunteer and act on the needs of your community."

Potential volunteers are invited to go to the Deal for Governor website for more details.

Mrs. Deal said, "We think this day will bring us closer together and make Georgia a better place to live and raise a family." Special t-shirts will be given to the first 500 volunteers.

The Deals also called for support of Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army Red Kettle programs.



Westmoreland Joins Colleagues In Support of Newt Gingrich for Presidential Nomination

Georgia Congressman **Lynn Westmoreland** has announced his endorsement of **Newt Gingrich** for president, the AJC has reported.



Newt Gingrich

Westmoreland becomes the fifth member of the Georgia Republican Congressional delegation to endorse Gingrich, joining Reps. **Jack Kingston** of Savannah, **Phil Gingrey** of Marietta, **Tom Rice** of Roswell, and **Austin Scott** of Tifton.

The national news media continues to report that Gingrich has a substantial lead in the polls in most of the early caucus and primary states.

Gingrich represented a suburban Atlanta district in the U.S. House for two decades, rising to the rank of Speaker of the House. The recent departure from the race of **Herman Cain** leaves Gingrich as the only remaining presidential hopeful with Georgia roots.

■ **Barrow Plans Campaign Strategy** – Georgia Congressman **John Barrow** of the 12th Congressional District says “It is no secret that I’m in for the fight of my life next year.” He says he agrees with “Roll Call” newspaper that he faces a tough re-election cycle because of the redrawing of the district lines. He says, “This is the second time that Republicans have quite literally written my home right out of the district.” Barrow has notified his supporters that he is running for the seat and will continue to provide a “moderate and reasonable voice in Congress – representing my own values and the values of my constituents.”

■ **Chambliss Cosponsors Right to Know Act** – Sen. **Saxby Chambliss** has cosponsored legislation that would require every federal agency to provide taxpayers with an annual report card online for all programs. The Taxpayers Right to Know Act, S.1957, introduced by U.S. Sen. **Tom Coburn** (R-OK) would detail each of the programs the respective federal agency runs, the associated costs, if they duplicate other programs, and their outcomes.

Former Senator Robert Brown of Macon Dead From Self-Inflicted Gunshot Wound

Former Georgia Senator **Robert Brown** of Macon died on Thursday of a self-inflicted gunshot wound according to a report from the Bibb County coroner, **Leon Jones**.



Sen. Robert Brown

Jones said that Brown was found dead on Thursday at his home in East Macon. He was 61 years of age.

Brown had been in the Senate for about 20 years and was the Democratic leader until he resigned to make an unsuccessful race for mayor of Macon this year. In 1991 Brown became the first black person to represent Bibb County in the Senate since Reconstruction. He previously had served on the Bibb Board of Education.

State Sen. **Jason Carter**, D-Decatur, who sat next to Brown in the Senate, described him as a gifted orator and a brilliant mind who cared about fighting poverty in rural Georgia.

“Robert’s impact on Democratic politics and our caucus will live on for many years,” Sen. **Steve Henson** said in a prepared statement. “He had a keen ability to read people and know when to be forceful and when to be patient.”

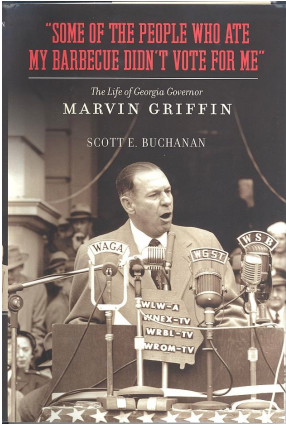
Deal Nominates Environmental Leader

Gov. **Nathan Deal** has nominated **Jud Turner** to serve as the next director of the Environmental Protection Division. Turner will succeed Allen Barnes, who is resigning from state government to pursue interest in the private sector while continuing his important role as a member of Georgia’s tri-state water negotiations team.

The nomination requires approval from the board of the Department of Natural Resources. Turner would begin work the first week in January.

Turner is a founding partner of the law firm Turner, Bachman & Garrett LLC. He previously served as former Gov. Sonny Perdue’s executive counsel. Turner received his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law and his undergraduate degree from the University of Georgia. The Albany native and his wife, Courtney, live in Griffin with their two children.

New Book About Gov. Marvin Griffin's Accomplishments and Controversy



“If you don't want to like **Marvin Griffin**, don't meet him.” This is the introduction line of a book about one of the State of Georgia's most controversial governors, written by **Scott Buchanan**. Buchanan is assistant professor of political science at The Citadel and he did six years of research to write a biography of a man who was a segregationist but did a lot

to improve education for African Americans – he was trying to show that black schools were the equal of white schools.

The author said, “My primary purpose in this book is to chronicle Marvin Griffin's political career and show how dramatically Georgia politics has changed over the past half century.”

Marvin Griffin, a Bainbridge native – born September 4, 1907 – graduated from the Citadel in Charleston and then taught at Randolph-Macon Academy in Virginia where he met and married Mary Elizabeth “Lib” Smith. Griffin moved back to Georgia in 1933 when he took over as editor of the *Bainbridge Post-Searchlight* when his father became ill. He first became involved in Georgia politics a year later when he was elected to the Georgia General Assembly. He lost a bid for Congress in 1936 and went on to work as executive secretary to Governor **Ed Rivers**.

After serving in the South Pacific during World War II, Griffin was appointed by Gov. **Ellis Arnall** to be adjutant general of the Georgia National Guard and ran in 1946 for lieutenant governor but was defeated by Revenue Commissioner **Melvin “M.E.” Thompson**. Griffin was still adjutant general and was around the Capitol during the “three governor” controversy in Georgia following the death of Gov-elect **Eugene Talmadge**. Griffin quickly identified himself as a friend of **Herman Talmadge** and became lieutenant governor in 1948 as of an unofficial “running mate” to Talmadge who was elected governor.

For Griffin's opening race for governor in 1954, Buchanan's book says “He had people from every county in the state and the campaign fed the large crowd 7,000 pounds of barbecue and 600 gallons of Brunswick stew.”

During his campaign speech -- and Griffin was known for his oratory and his humor -- he gave a nickname to all of his opponents. The first of which was **Fred Hand** from Pelham, who was Speaker of the House. One of Hand's characteristics was the extremely dignified image that he put forth. Appropriately, Griffin labeled Hand as “fox hide” to associate him with slyness and deviousness. He also called Hand the “puppet of the Atlanta newspapers.” He called **Charlie Gowan** “bobcat hide” because Gowan liked to “sit at the top of the tree and only votes and speaks against the county unit system and segregation.” Agriculture Commissioner **Tom Linder** became “possum hide” and **M.E. Thompson** was “skunk hide.”

Both Hand and Griffin claimed the support of Gov. Talmadge throughout the campaign, but Talmadge issued a statement that he was “neutral.” In reality he passed the word to his key supporters to support Griffin, although he would later say that he thought “**Fred Hand** was the best-qualified candidate.”

There were many accomplishments of the Griffin Administration. Griffin used his role as governor to become Georgia's “goodwill ambassador” to lure industrial development to the state. He pushed through an increase in state income taxes because of a shortfall in revenues. He created a Rural Roads Authority which paved 12,000 miles of rural roads in the state, and appropriations for education increased by 50 percent. Griffin also purchased Stone Mountain for use as a state park.

However, a “corrupt” label of the Griffin Administration was caused mostly by the shenanigans of his brother, **Cheney Griffin**, who ran things in the governor's office and Revenue Commissioner **T.V. “Red” Williams**. **Cheney Griffin** was investigated and indicted for “taking a \$1500 bribe” from a group in Baxley seeking to develop a golf course.

Revenue Commissioner **Red” Williams** was caught up in a bad investment scheme and for diverting funds from an illegal liquor fund and diverting funds for his personal use.

The Griffin administration ended in 1959. Four years later, an eloquent and handsome young state senator from Augusta, **Carl E. Sanders**, soundly defeated Griffin's campaign effort to return to the governor's office.

Marvin Griffin returned to Bainbridge and maintained an interest in politics until he died on Sunday, June 13, 1982.

Department of Driver Services Serves as Toys for Tots Drop-Off Site

The Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) is pleased to partner with the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation this holiday season as a toy collection site. DDS customers may drop off new, unwrapped toys during customer service center operating hours through December 16th. This is the third year that DDS has served as a Toys for Tots drop-off site.

"While DDS is committed to improving customer service for our customers, we also believe in the power of contributing to the community," said DDS Commissioner **Gregory C. Dozier**. "Thank you for helping us contribute to Toys for Tots this holiday season," he added.

Speaker Murphy's Office Replica Dedication Planned for April

The political papers and memorabilia of the late Speaker of the House **Tom Murphy's** Capitol office are now housed in the newly renovated Irvine Sullivan Ingram Library at the University of West Georgia. Colleagues and friends are generously supporting this initiative and the replicated office and adjacent Thomas B. Murphy Reading Room will be formally dedicated on April 19, 2012. Persons wishing to contribute to the project may contact dhomesley@westga.edu.

* Late News for Email Only Edition

* Sponsorships Available for Annual General Assembly Wide Hog Supper

The Friends of Agriculture Foundation, Inc. is working on the sponsorships for the 50th annual Wild Hog Supper which is always the kickoff to the General Assembly session. The 50th Anniversary Dinner will provide support for the Georgia Food Bank Association. In order to attend, individuals will have to have a "ticket and a can of food."

Funds will support the seven regional food banks throughout Georgia.

Information about sponsorship opportunities is available from Stoney McGill, President of Friends of Agriculture Foundation, Inc. (678) 665-7928.

Kubota Bringing 200 Jobs to Jackson

Gov. **Nathan Deal** announced today that Osaka, Japan-based Kubota Corp. is expanding its Georgia manufacturing operations in Jefferson In Jackson County with construction of a new \$73 million manufacturing facility – a move that will create 200 new jobs. The 500,000-square-foot Kubota manufacturing plant will have a production capacity of 22,000 compact tractors per year. Construction of the facility will begin in early 2012 with full production of tractors scheduled for January 2013



Three Ex-Governors – Since they are featured in the book about Gov. **Marvin Griffin** in this edition, we wanted to share this picture from our files, from 1967 at the time of Gov. **Ed Rivers** funeral in Lakeland, Ga. Left to right, Gov. **Lester Maddox**, Gov. **M.E. Thompson** and Gov. **Marvin Griffin**.

Georgia Beat Photo by Joe Sports

* Senate Democratic Caucus Plans Breakfast, Wednesday, January 4

Senate Democratic Leader Sen. **Steve Henson** says there will be a breakfast on Wednesday January 4, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at The Commerce Club, 191 Peachtree.

Sponsorships are available ranging from \$5,000 to \$250.00. More information is available from (678) 235-4407 or stevenson@gmail.com

Check our website: gabeat.com for a listing of other fund raisers on the schedule.