



AFGE National Security Exclusions – All Unit FAQ

Q: Do we still have a union?

A: Yes. Your union still exists and is fighting hard. These attacks are happening because AFGE members are effective at defending jobs and public services. We have faced similar attacks before and won back rights through litigation, organizing, and public pressure. If we stand together, we will come out stronger again.

Q: The agency says we do not have a contract. Is that true?

A: Our position is that existing collective bargaining agreements remain in force unless a final, lawful determination says otherwise. Courts are still deciding key issues. Management can claim there is no contract, but that does not make it so. Keep enforcing your rights, meet all deadlines, and document refusals. AFGE is fighting in court, in Congress, and in the public square.

Q: Are we still being represented while these attacks are pending?

A: Yes. AFGE still represents members. Representation includes disciplinary and adverse action cases in any agency grievance forums, MSPB, EEO cases, workers' compensation claims, and more. We are 100% still representing each other!

Q: How do we encourage members to maintain membership right now?

A: The attack on your union is an attack on your mission and on the services you provide. Dues directly fund the legal and organizing fight to overturn unlawful actions and to protect jobs. Ask every member to move to AFGE E Dues so the union cannot be defunded by payroll changes. Share a clear join link such as joinafge.org and include simple step by step instructions.

Q: Are we challenging Executive Order 14251 and follow on exclusions?

A: Yes. AFGE is in active litigation challenging EO 14251 and subsequent exclusions. See AFGE's updates at afge.org/lawsuitupdate and operational guidance at afge.org/AFGEstrong. We are in this to win!

Q: Should Locals or Councils concede that our contract has been terminated?

A: No. Do not concede termination. Continue to grieve violations, demand information, and meet timelines under your agreement. Use standard language noting that the union does not agree that the agreement is terminated and that all actions are taken under protest and with a reservation of rights.

Q: Where should we send agency directives and exclusion notices?

A: Forward all written instructions, memoranda, HR screens, and notices related to exclusions or contract status to EOnotices@afge.org. Include your Local number, agency, facility, contact information, and a short description of the issue.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Ossoff makes campaign stop in Warner Robins

By **DON MONCRIEF**
Editor, The Union Advocate
don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org

"First, let me talk about commitment. Commitment to Middle Georgia specifically. I am committed to be present and deliver for Middle Georgia. That includes tens of millions of dollars for Robins Air Force Base for



Sen. Jon Ossoff speaks to those in attendance at a campaign rally in Warner Robins Feb. 19. (Courtesy photo)

upgrades. With JSTARS gone, to ensure that new aircraft, new missions will sustain the base, will sustain the economy for the region.

"I take very seriously my obligations to Robins Air Force Base. That's one of the reasons that I sought this seat as the senior Democrat on the Military Construction Subcommittee. So, I could deliver for Robins Air Force Base. So, I could deliver for DoD installations around the state.

"We are a military state. We are proud of the bases we host, the personnel who serve here. We're proud of our veterans in the community. So, thank you for all of you who secure our nation security."

That was Jon Ossoff. The Democratic Senator from Georgia made a campaign stop in Warner Robins – the Reid Building at Fellowship Bible Baptist Church – Feb. 19.

Following that short introduction, Ossoff "reflected" on a project that was to take place in Macon, the first-ever national park. Initially, he said, the effort made "tremendous progress." However, he went on, the "current administration reversed its park support." That still hasn't deterred him and others, he said, "and we're confident that we will see it happen. It's worth doing. It will be an extraordinary achievement."

Ossoff continued that he felt it was important to highlight, "since the political atmosphere is so bitter, so hateful, so divisive, that it can be difficult to redeem things that bind us."

One of the things we need to remember in times like this, he said, was that the overwhelming majority of people are good people.

"They love human beings. They seek

See **OSSOFF**, page 6

Local representatives attend LegCon

By **DON MONCRIEF**
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Representation.

AFGE Local 987, on behalf of the membership, had it at the AFGE, AFL-CIO 2026 Legislative and Grassroots Mobilization Conference held Feb. 8-10 in Washington, D.C.

The event included training and meeting opportunities – i.e.

DefCon, YOUNG, EEOC – as well as the chance to take part in a "march on Washington" and, along with a host of representatives from other agencies – i.e. from the VA, HUD, TSA, Social Security - to meet with a good number of legislators to present/discuss/tackle issues.

One of those to attend was Steward Sharon Kornegay. This marked a number of times she has attended, but she said

this year's conference was a "uniquely meaningful experience. The gathering once again brought together federal employees, union leaders, and advocates from across the nation to stand in unity for fairness, dignity, and strong workplace protections for the federal workforce," she said, then added: "The highlight of the conference for me was participating in the march led by

AFGE YOUNG, comprised of unionists under the age of 40, alongside young advocates from the NAACP and other labor organizations.

"We marched together in the cold and snow, yet the weather only strengthened the sense of unity, resilience, and shared commitment to justice and equity. Walking with this next generation of leaders was both inspiring and humbling,

reflecting renewed energy and hope for the future of organized labor."

One image, Kornegay said spoke powerfully to her was that of a one-legged man encouraging others to keep walking. "It became a profound reminder that true progress often requires us to march beyond our own egos and fears, pressing forward with courage, faith, and collective purpose," she said.

Other highlights for her included meeting with AFGE Attorney Ericka Dorsey – "to discuss effective approaches for addressing the complex issues affecting the employees I am currently representing," she said – meeting with Sen. Raphael Warnock and congressional staff from other elected officials, as well as meeting with Rev. Dr. Robert White

See **LEGCON**, page 6



(Courtesy photo)



(Courtesy photo)

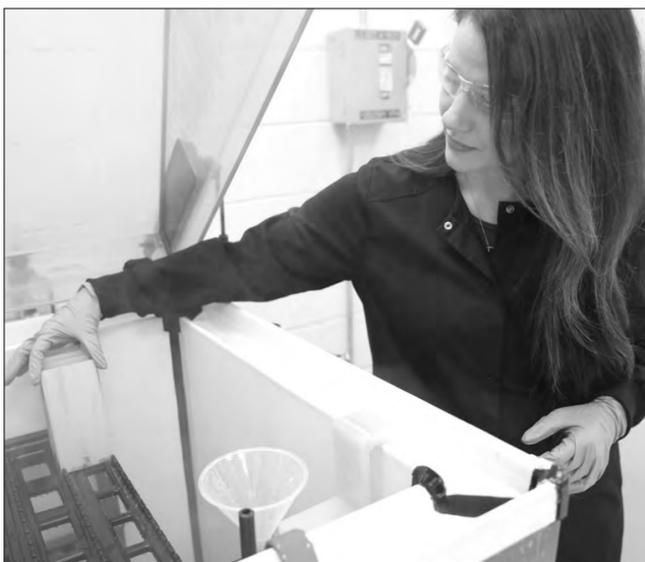


(Courtesy photo)



(Courtesy photo)

Jennifer Salemi, 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron Chemical Analysis Laboratory chemist, checks the salt spray coupons for corrosion in an open salt fog chamber at Robins Air Force Base May 21, 2025. The fog chamber is designed to do rapid corrosion tests on metals undergoing the metal finishing process ensuring the process protects aircraft parts from corrosion and ensures paint adhesion. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather)



WR-ALC 802nd MXSS Chemical Lab multifaceted contributions to mission readiness

By **JOSEPH MATHER**
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

Inside a busy laboratory at Robins Air Force Base a team of chemists and technicians work tirelessly, ensuring the readiness of aircraft and the safety of personnel.

From verifying the structural integrity of aircraft components to safeguarding the base's drinking water, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Complex 802nd Maintenance Support Squadron's Chemical Analysis Laboratory plays a critical role in ensuring Air Force readiness, both locally and globally.

Max Hetzer, 802nd MXSS Chemical Analysis Laboratory chief, said the lab utilizes cutting-edge techniques and equipment, ultimately enabling mission partners to deliver weapon systems sustainment.

"We provide expert chemical analysis," said Hetzer. "This helps our partners deliver reliable weapon systems on time and within budget."

The lab is split into two main sections.

The Industrial Process Support Lab focuses on production quality. It tests materials used in aircraft maintenance, such as plating tank concentrations, purge fluids, engine oils and epoxy. Fast turnaround times are key, with results delivered in just over a day, on average, to allow customers to make quick decisions and ensure smooth workflow.

The other section, the Industrial Hygiene and Shelf-Life Lab, focuses on safety, health and environmental compliance. It analyzes hazardous waste, drinking water, and checks for harmful substances in work areas. This team supports various groups across the base, supporting personnel health and environmental integrity.

The impact of these labs on readiness is significant. The IPS Lab ensures that the processes uti-

lized by 402nd Commodities Maintenance Group to produce aircraft parts meet strict standards, reducing rework and saving time. The IHSL Lab's quick response to water testing prevents base-wide shutdowns, maintaining operational readiness.

According to Hetzer, by keeping the work in-house versus outsourcing, the labs also generate considerable cost savings. Shelf-life testing saves hundreds of thousands of dollars annually by extending the use of materials, reducing hazardous waste disposal costs.

The lab's reach extends beyond Robins. It supports organizations across the Air Force and Department of War, to include other bases' fire departments and even international partners requiring shelf-life testing.

Hetzer said that a critical area of focus is metal finishing, and that without it, aircraft production could not be supported. Metal finishing protects aircraft parts from corrosion and ensures paint adhesion. The lab meticulously analyzes the chemicals used, guaranteeing the quality of the finished product.

The lab constantly expands its workload. Recent additions include hazardous waste testing, expanded shelf-life analysis and potential support for polychlorinated biphenyl testing.

The lab boasts numerous certifications, including International Standard Organization 17025 accreditation, demonstrating its commitment to high quality standards. These certifications allow the lab to provide trusted results and expand its support to a wider range of customers.

Hetzer has witnessed remarkable improvements in quality, speed and standardization since joining the lab in 2009.

"It makes me proud to provide same-day results, knowing we help return aircraft to the warfighter quickly," he said.

51st CBCS virtualization innovation powers C3 dominance

By **LAUREN BOGGS**
78th Air Base Wing
Public Affairs

The 51st Combat Communications Squadron with the 461st Air Control Wing at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia, is using innovative technologies to deliver flexible and combat-ready command, control and communications, or C3, capabilities to the joint warfighter in any environment.

Master Sgt. Vincent Martinez, 51st CBCS Expeditionary Communications Technology Integration Center manager, and Staff Sgt. Kleo Malaveci, 51st CBCS Radio Frequency Transmission System supervisor, have developed a plan to accomplish more while using less.

They've virtualized portions of tactical data link kits that warfighters use to securely share real-time information. Put simply, virtualizing a TDL kit means replacing specialized, physical hardware with software applications that can run on a standard computer.

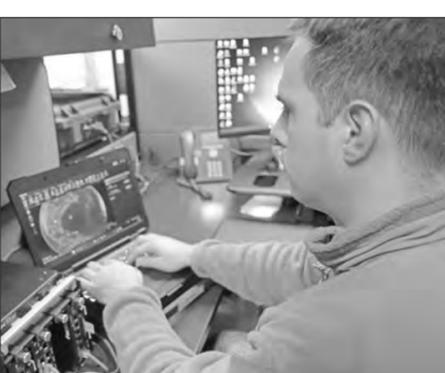
The new approach requires less hardware, expands the tactical bubble by integrating diverse TDL feeds, and provides a more accurate common operating picture to enhance battlefield situational awareness.

"By virtualizing capabilities, we're able to cut out some hardware and make a deployment solution to change the cost of a kit to just licensure and radios," said Martinez.

Martinez says virtualization enhances air dominance when C3 lines are severed or degraded by adversaries by providing vital information to the leaders conducting capabilities-based assessments. "During those times, if we can provide local and subordinate elements' situational awareness to that commander, we're in a better place to execute proactive maneuvers and even robust the targeting chain for those with the ability to do something with that information," said Martinez.

Lt. Col. Emily Short, 51st CBCS commander, said the innovation was a complete grassroots effort that began after the squadron was tasked to channel new ideas.

"Martinez and Malaveci are passionate about solving problems for the warfighter, and their 'tinkerer' spirit has led them to innovate a solution that will advance joint interoperability and connectivity between air and ground forces," said Short.



Senior Airman Joshua Powers, 5th Combat Communications Group System Learning Center cyber transport systems instructor, operates a virtualized tactical data link system using an expeditionary communications kit at Robins Air Force Base Feb. 2. Airmen with the 51st Combat Communication Squadron designed the virtualized TDL system to connect a variety of deployed tactical systems without the need for additional hardware. (U.S. Air Force photo by Joseph Mather)

The project earned official backing after wing leadership awarded them around \$50,000 in AFWERX Squadron Innovation Funds that are meant to support operation improvement initiatives.

The 51st CBCS recently began hosting portions of the TDL kit virtualization project on a development collaboration cloud that allows other users to set up their own servers using scripts from the project. The build is also automated, saving Airmen time when deploying the system.

"Empowering our personnel to identify and implement innovative solutions is crucial to success—we are continuously seeking ways to improve how we operate," said Col. Jennifer Carns, 5th Combat Communications Group commander. "This TDL kit is a prime example as it directly improves C3 operations, ensuring our readiness and strengthening our ability to respond effectively to support the mission in a dynamic environment."

BBB tips on dealing with door-to-door sales

Better Business Bureau is noticing an increase in calls related to door-to-door sales. Door-to-door salespeople offer a range of services, including paving, pine straw, magazine subscriptions, security alarms, and other products and services. Many door-to-door salespeople are legitimate, but others might only be looking to make a sale and then move on. BBB recommends people have a plan in place prior to hearing that tell-tale knock at your door:

Ask about licensing. Many cities require door-to-door salespeople to have a peddler or solicitor license. Ask if the salesperson has checked in with the city and gotten proper licensing. Not sure? Call the city or county offices to verify.

Check identification. A reputable seller will provide all the information asked of them, including a photo ID and a business card.

Verify the individual and the company. A reputable salesperson should not have a problem with having their identity checked with a quick phone call to the company, especially if they claim to be with your existing vendor. Research the company and contact them to check if the salesperson is in fact an employee. Read the company's Business Profile and customer reviews at BBB.org.

Read the contract closely. If you are interested in a product or service, get everything in writing including price, contract details and all other terms and conditions. Tell the salesperson the proposal will be reviewed, and a decision will be made. Verify the physical address and valid contact information for the company are included. Read and understand all the terms and conditions carefully before signing on the dotted line.

Don't give in to pressure. Watch out for



Kelvin Collins

high-pressure sales tactics and be aware that anything you sign could construe a contract. If you feel pressured, end the sales pitch.

Do the Math. Paying \$30 to \$40 per month for subscriptions or monitoring may not sound like much, but it can add up. Be wary of automatically renewing subscriptions and make sure you check the average costs for any product that interests you. Most magazines have detachable postcards inside with some of the lowest rates available.

Know your rights. The Federal Trade Commission's Three-Day Cooling-Off Rule gives the customer three days to cancel purchases over \$25 that are made in their home or at a location that is not the seller's permanent place of business. Along with a receipt, salespeople should also include a completed cancellation form that customers can send to the company to cancel the agreement.

Stand strong. Be careful about allowing strangers into your home. If you do allow a salesperson inside your home and decide during the presentation that you are not interested in making a purchase, simply ask them to leave. If the salesperson refuses to leave, tell them you will call the police – and follow through if they do not leave immediately.

People who have issues with door-to-door solicitors can file a complaint on BBB.org, as well as reporting anyone suspicious with their local law enforcement.

Medal of Honor spotlight

Army Spc. Edward DeVore Jr.

By **KATIE LANGE**
DoD News

When Army Spc. 4th Class Edward Allen DeVore Jr.'s company was attacked in the jungles of Vietnam, he did everything in his power to beat the enemy back. After a squadron of soldiers were pinned down, DeVore gave his life to ensure they could get to safety. For his selfless actions, he received a posthumous Medal of Honor.

DeVore was born June 15, 1947, in Henryetta, Oklahoma, to Edward Sr. and Evelyn DeVore. When DeVore Jr. was about 4 years old, his family moved to Harbor City, California, where he and his two siblings grew up.

After graduating from Narbonne High School in 1966, DeVore joined the Army as the Vietnam War was raging. By March 17, 1968, he found himself in the heart of the fighting.

On that day, DeVore was serving as a machine gunner with B Company, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, during a



Photo courtesy defense.gov
Army Spc. Edward DeVore Jr.

reconnaissance mission in a swampy area of the Mekong Delta about 5 miles south of Saigon.

DeVore's platoon, acting as the company's lead element, was abruptly attacked by intense automatic weapons fire, rockets, grenades and claymore mines from a well-concealed bunker in the swamp about 65 feet away. Quickly, one soldier was killed and three more were wounded.

Despite the obvious danger, DeVore ran through a hail of gunfire to provide cover fire with his M60 machine gun.

His valiant actions allowed soldiers to move the wounded back to safety, but the company continued to be attacked as they waited for supporting artillery, airstrikes and gunships to rescue them. One particular squad was pinned down in the middle of the firefight.

DeVore disregarded his own safety and went forward to assault the enemy in an effort to save the squad. About 115 feet before reaching the enemy bunker, DeVore was hit in the shoulder and knocked down. He ignored the pain and jumped to his feet to continue his assault, despite warnings from his fellow soldiers.

As DeVore continued to fire on the enemy, he was struck and killed. However, by drawing fire on himself, the trapped squad was able to rejoin the rest of the platoon behind friendly lines.

DeVore gave his life to save his fellow soldiers.

On April 7, 1970, DeVore's family received the Medal of Honor on his behalf from President Richard M. Nixon during a White House ceremony that also honored 20 other posthumous medal recipients.

DeVore is buried at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

His name has not been forgotten. In 1974, a building at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, was named in his honor. In 2017, DeVore was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Three years later, a portion of a highway in Oklahoma was also named in his honor.

As DeVore continued to fire on the enemy, he was struck and killed. However, by drawing fire on himself, the trapped squad was able to rejoin the rest of the platoon behind friendly lines.

UNION MEMBERSHIP IS LIKE A GYM MEMBERSHIP. DUES ARE PAID TO BE PART OF THE GROUP WITH SIMILAR INTERESTS AND GOALS. BUT, JUST LIKE A GYM, IF WE DON'T SHOW UP, INVEST OUR TIME - OR PARTICIPATE, WE DO NOT GET STRONGER!

THE UNION ADVOCATE 

Published by the American Federation of Government Employees Local 987, Warner Robins, Georgia.

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Printer
Houston Home Journal
Editor/layout and design
Don Moncrief

the Department of Defense.

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Please submit articles, photos, etc to don.moncrief@afgelocal987.org. For questions about story content, to pass on story ideas or to request coverage, please contact the aforementioned.

PROGRESS, NOT PERFECTION



Photos courtesy of Shutterstock

How Healthy Habits Can Stack Up One Step at a Time

FEATURE IMPACT

Despite the best of intentions, it's common for plans to build healthier habits to fall flat. Often, the culprit isn't a lack of motivation or discipline; rather, it's unrealistic expectations.

Overhauling your lifestyle requires a level of commitment that isn't always practical. Understanding your personal health needs and the challenges you need to overcome can help give you a more realistic roadmap toward better health.

Tools to Guide You

Every plan needs a starting point and there are many reputable sources that can help guide you toward a plan that addresses your personal health needs.

For example, the American Heart Association introduced My Life Check, a simple, free tool to help individuals understand their heart health and what's driving it. Users answer simple questions about their daily habits and health factors to get a personalized Heart Health Score in minutes.

The results are private and downloadable, giving you full control of your information. The tool turns big goals into small, specific actions you can start right away. Knowing your numbers relative to your heart health (and where you are in comparison to target ranges for optimal health) can help you decide how to build a better map to get you where you want to be.

While the report is customized to each individual, no personal data is stored and answers are only used to calculate health scores and provide personalized recommendations and practical steps to improve your health, so you can use your results to focus on what matters most to you. Every small step you take, such as moving more, eating smarter, sleeping better or managing stress, can add up over time.

Finding Your Path

Once you're armed with data and know where you stand on your heart health numbers, small steps become clearer and more manageable. That knowledge makes it easier to choose one area to focus on, such as getting more sleep, taking daily walks or adding more color to your meals.

Healthy changes don't need to be expensive or complicated. The best habits are ones that fit real life when every action you take moves you closer to your goals.

Staying motivated and on track is also easier when you can check back in, see your progress and realize the steps you're taking are making an impact. Checking in every few months to see how you can grow gives you the chance to celebrate your progress, learn from challenges and keep building lasting habits that feel good.

To get started with personalized tips to set your own health goals, visit heart.org/mylifecheck.

HEALTHY HABITS FOR EVERYDAY LIFE

Eat Smart

Choose foods that help you feel your best, one meal at a time. Add more color to your plate and focus on balance, not restriction. Simple, affordable swaps can make a real difference.

Smart Tip: Aim for an overall healthy eating pattern that includes whole foods, fruits and vegetables, lean protein, nuts, seeds and cooking in non-tropical oils such as olive and canola.

Move More

Find movement that fits your life, such as a walk, a stretch or dancing while you cook. Every bit of activity counts and it all supports your heart and mind. Move for joy, not just for results.

Smart Tip: Adults should get 150 minutes of moderate physical activity (or 75 minutes of vigorous activity) per week. Kids should aim for 60 minutes every day, including play and structured activities.

Sleep Well

Rest is a foundation of good health, not a reward. Protect your bedtime routine and give your body the recovery it deserves. Notice how good sleep makes everything else easier.

Smart Tip: Most adults need 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Children require more. Adequate sleep promotes healing, improves brain function and reduces the risk for chronic diseases.

Manage Stress

Check in with yourself regularly, both mentally and emotionally. Create simple moments to pause, breathe, laugh or step outside. Connection, kindness and calm all support a healthy heart.

Smart Tip: The first step to stress management is awareness. Step "away from yourself" for a moment. Objectively ask yourself, "Is my stress level too high?" If so, look at what might be causing that stress.

BAKE A CHERRY PIE WITH LATTICE CRUST

By **DONNA ERICKSON**
King Features Syndicate

Prepare a luscious, mouthwatering cherry pie with lattice crust for a memorable dessert. It might not be cherry season, but when you thaw frozen, pitted, dark sweet cherries for this filling, you'll enjoy a fresh taste of summer in the middle of February! Serve it up warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream, then have fun telling your kids how the cherry tree found its place in American lore.

CHERRY PIE WITH LATTICE CRUST

-- 2 rolled-out rounds of pie dough, such as Pillsbury refrigerated pie crusts from the dairy case of your grocery store

-- 5 cups frozen, pitted, dark sweet cherries, thawed and drained

-- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
-- 1 cup sugar (or to taste)
-- 1/4 teaspoon lemon juice

-- 2 drops almond extract (optional)

Heat oven to 425 F. Press one of the dough rounds into the bottom, up the sides, and beyond the rim of a 9-inch pie dish.

Combine the flour and sugar in a medium bowl. Place the drained cherries in a large bowl. Add the mixture to the cherries and toss gently. Add lemon juice and almond extract, then toss.

It's time to weave the lattice crust. Set remaining pie-crust round on a work surface. Using a pizza cutter, cut into 10 even strips, each a half-inch wide. Your kids may wish to use a ruler as a guide.

Place five of the strips evenly spaced out and parallel across the pie. Starting with the first strip, loosely

fold every other strip halfway back. Place another long strip perpendicular to the five strips over the middle of the filling. Fold the three strips that you folded halfway back over this cross strip.

Now fold the two strips under the cross strip halfway back. Place a second perpendicular strip crosswise over the pie and turn the folded strips over it like before. Repeat with one more strip. Now do the same for the other half of the pie until the weaving is complete.

Trim and fold the strip ends into the bottom crust and crimp the edges. Bake for 10 minutes, then reduce the heat to 325 F. Continue baking for 40 minutes, until crust is golden and filling is bubbling around the edges.

Cool. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.



fun

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

KIDS, I'M EXCITED TO HEAR WHAT WORDS IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE YOU LEARNED.

MY NEIGHBOR SPEAKS SPANISH, SO HE GAVE ME SOME WORDS TO WRITE DOWN.

GERALD, DO YOU HAVE ANY WORDS OR PHRASES YOU CAN SHARE WITH THE CLASS?

SURE DO... WHEN MY GRANDPA GETS MAD HE SPEAKS FRENCH AND THEN PARDONS HIMSELF.

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

OOGRAH, YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO GET A NEW ROCK FOR THE FRONT OF OUR CAVE, AND YOU HAVEN'T! THE OLD ROCK LOOKS AWFUL AND THE NEIGHBORS ARE TALKING.

OKAY, OKAY... I'LL GO FIND A NEW ROCK.

OOGRAH CAVES

BARNEY GOOGLE AND SNUFFY

PAW, DID YA TAKE SOME MONEY OUT OF OUR RAINY DAY FUND?

I KNOW WE BEEN HAVIN' AWFUL NICE WEATHER, MAW...

BUT I SWEAR IT LOOKED LIKE RAIN TH' OTHER DAY !!

IT'S RAININ', PAW--HOW 'BOUT WE DIP INTO THAT MONEY I BEEN SAVIN' FER A RAINY DAY AN' GO DO SUMPIN' !!

THAT'S A BODACIOUS IDEA, MAW !!

WHAR SHOULD WE GO? WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

WELL...

I GOT A WHOLE LIST, MAW !! I'LL REEL IT OFF AN' YA PICK WHICHEVER ONE YA LIKE !!

THAR'S LUKEY'S POKER GAME... ROB'S POKER GAME... STEVE'S POKER GAME... KEVIN'S POKER GAME... TIM'S POKER GAME... BOB'S POKER GAME...

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS POPEYE

THANK YOU FOR A PERFECT VALENTINE'S DATE LAST NIGHT.

BUT WE JUST STAYED AT HOME 'ALL EVENIN'.

AN EVENING AWAY FROM PEOPLE, HOW PERFECT!

WORKIN' RETAIL AIN'T DOIN' ANY FAVORS FER VER MISANTHROPKY.

OLIVE, POPEYE, MORNING.

"MORNIN'?"

NO INSULTS? BLUTO, ARE YOU OKAY?

NO, I'M NOT.

LAST NIGHT I HAD A DATE WITH THE MOST GORGEOUS 'GAL NAMED QUEENIE!

I WAS SO STUNNED, I FORGOT TO PRETEND I LEFT MY WALLET AT HOME AND ACTUALLY PAID FOR DINNER!

GIMME HER NUMBER, I WANNA TELL HER THAT WAS CRUEL, BUT IN A 'LET'S BE FRIENDS' WAY.

The Spats

IT'S POURING DOWN RAIN!!

HOW BAD IS IT?

I JUST SAW TWO DUCKS GO BY IN A ROWBOAT!!

TIGER

HI, BONNIE. LET'S PLAY PING-PONG!

NO PING-PONG?

NO, IT'S MY HOUSE SO YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY.

...AND I SAY WE'RE GONNA PAINT PICTURES.

WELCOME TO MY HOUSE, WE'RE GONNA PLAY PING-PONG!

NO! I'M YOUR GUEST AND YOU HAVE TO DO WHAT GUESTS WANT!

Sponsor this page. Call 478-733-9772.

GRIN & BEAR IT

"We've translated that signal from outer space. ... Someone's wife wants him to pick up a loaf of bread on the way home from Mars."

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

+	÷	=	15
-	+	+	
+	x	=	14
+	x	x	
-	x	=	15
=	=	=	
12	66	15	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

FEAR & KNIGHT

By: rj johnson

DOUBT? ...OR DARE!

- ♥ DGO
- ♥ WINDOS
- ♥ LOVRA
- ♥ SYRO
- ♥ YEVGOA
- ♥ WLO
- ♥ NSGA
- ♥ NODLE
- ♥ YWA
- ♥ ANESIL
- ♥ EVSOR
- ♥ DWLE

Unscramble these twelve letter strings to form each into an ordinary word (ex. HAGNEC becomes CHANGE). Prepare to use only ONE word from any marked (♥) letter string as each unscrambles into more than one word (ex. ♥RATHE becomes HATER or EARTH or HEART). Fit each string's word either across or down to knot all twelve strings together.

FEAR & KNIGHT

William Arthur Ward

Life lived without forgiveness becomes a prison.

answer

VALOR

DISOWN

REVERSED

SALINE

VALOR

answer

CRYPTOQUIP

GO FIGURE!

15		99		12	
=		=		=	
15 =	5	x	6	-	9
	x		x		+
14 =	2	x	3	+	4
	+		+		-
15 =	1	÷	8	+	7

ANSWERS

Go Figure!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Camera is lower. 2. Music note is higher. 3. Rail is added to fence. 4. Cap is different. 5. Hill is added. 6. Tree trunk is thicker.

CRYPTOQUIP

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: X equals L

HI YWSHBA UFEUXF'V

TFXZBYJEXS KWEUV ZXMZSV

IZXX HB ZXHABFK UZWZXXFX

UZHVV, H'K YZXX GJFT

GME - GFZWFK.

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LEGCON

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of Alabama State University, who she said emphasized the importance of being “intentional, teachable, and strategic in our efforts as foot soldiers for justice and equity. He encouraged attendees to train others to carry the baton forward, to understand and honor our history, to walk in divine purpose, and to leave a legacy of knowledge through wise and righteous decision-making,” she said. “He also highlighted the necessity of maintaining strong organizational discipline as we continue this work.”

Overall, the days were very long, she said, but in addition to the aforementioned and other accomplishments, she said she was able to host a one-on-one training session with Local 987 attendees and attend EEO training.

“Experiences such as this strengthen resolve, renew purpose, and remind us that advocacy on behalf of federal employees is not only a responsibility — it is a continued commitment to service.”

Four who were attending their

first LegCon were Stewards Timeka Bryant, Chiquita Pooler, Antonio Lumpkin and Terrell Pressley.

Bryant, who works in AMXG, summed the experience as “very informative. A lot of learning.” In fact, she is still learning as she said she came back inspired to do a “lot” of research from what she learned. “It kind of let me know what the government is doing. Like the logistics area. Just learning what’s going on in the different areas of the Air Force Base.

“Some things we didn’t know that’s going on. There’s a lot of unfairness going on and those things need to be addressed.

“Laws that have changed,” she continued. “Go back and research the reason for the change and why. There’s an attack on our union and I just want to know why and what’s going on.”

That in turn, she said, has prompted her to work on a strategy. Trying to see what’s going to be beneficial and proactive, she said. “Address violations and prevent certain things like losing jobs and furlough days.

“Just find ways to keep people from losing their jobs, being furloughed, unfairness. Just find ways to combat those things

in professional ways. Make it known on the forefront so people know what’s going on and ensure things are not swept under the rug.”

Bryant also said it did her heart good seeing so many young adults — the YOUNG training and march — “standing up for themselves and being professional about the situation. Putting things on the forefront and making their rights known,” she said. “Making it known they deserve to be treated with respect as well, and they deserve to have the same treatment as the older folks. (There are attempts to try) to segregate them from the older workforce and saying they don’t deserve certain things.

“I didn’t know that was going on so learning that was a good experience.”

Also tugging at her heart strings were the stories she heard. Stories, as reported to legislators from a variety of people/organizations, resulting from furloughs, the government shutdown, people being oppressed, et cetera. Stories such as people sleeping in their cars. Some sleeping in their cars along with their “children”. Not being able to buy gas and then being written up at work when they were unable to report to start with. Some losing their vehicles all together.

Stories like the man who is a paraplegic. He has a reasonable accommodation to work at home, but now the agency wants him to come to work and have a caretaker accompany him and take care of his needs. Further, they want “him” to provide a quote — presumably for him to pay somehow, some way, on how much it will cost.

“That was the kind of stuff,” she said. “People having to live and deal with this on a daily basis. It got me in the heart. To hear their stories. It makes you wonder how some people can go to bed at night knowing they’ve done people wrong. I don’t understand.”

Pooler, who works in EMXG, deemed the trip an experience of a lifetime.

She was most impressed with the “unity of our sisters and brothers standing and fighting for our people.

“I attended the march, rallies, events and training which was so emotional, educational and uplifting for me. I was also able to meet with Congressmen to express our concerns for our people. To be able to sit face with our leaders was so rewarding. To express our voices and the networking with others.”

Among the issues she discussed/heard discussed, she said, was the government shut down. “Our concern was our federal workers can’t afford another shut down. We need our leaders’ support and voices to be heard on behalf of us - federal workers. We lost too much.” Like Bryant and the rest, she was affected by the stories she heard. People losing their homes, their jobs et cetera.

“Concern also was in case of another shutdown and those in power representing the interests that federal accrued during the previous shutdown,” she said. “We need assistance from our leaders to help assist to put something in place to protect our homes and finances.

“Reasonable accommodations federal workers need from being targeted on the job. Veteran pref-



(Courtesy photo)



(Courtesy photo)

erences on the job is also another concern where the workforce is weeding out this term in the workforce. We still need our veterans. We make up the workforce, too.”

Pooler said, looking forward, what was needed from those who attended, as well as across the board, was to continue to train and continue to educate.

In fact, she said one of the first things she did was to do just that.

“For our VPP meeting last week I shared with our people pictures of us and our purposes of what we were doing. Because a lot of people have a negative view of us and make (negative) comments about the union.

“So, I showed them the positive. The march we were in and our group (being active). I was glad to be able to bring back some positive information for our people. That we do care about them.”

Lumpkin went on to describe the visit as “different”. Different as far as the climate (atmosphere). Different as far as unity throughout the union.

“It was different as far as the different legislations. To understand we have problems in all branches of AFGE. Problems in all branches of government. To understand they’re working through issues same as we are.

“We see things from a small perspective and understand that ... thinking our issues are the only issues. But going up there you realize we have a vast amount of

issues in the course of the world. Especially in AFGE, in our areas. So, talking with them we understand they’re working our issues and understanding our issues and it’s a process to get them corrected.”

Also moving forward, one of the ideas Lumpkin said he brought back was the need for more communication.

“It’s more round table talks. More ability to tackle issues. Communication. Whether you call them blowouts, pow wows or whatever. Because it’s the same thing we’re doing now. Because you’re informing them of issues. We went up there to inform them of issues. What can we use at local 987?

“People bring their issues here. Identifying their issues. Whether it’s through an email, whether it’s through the monthly meetings. People have to express their issues so we can do the same thing.

“In a sense we’re doing the same thing as D.C. Once we get issues we work on the issues. We work on the issues and the issues we’re unable to get resolved we’re able to push them to the next level. Which in turn leads us to D.C. So, better communication, better strategy, urging people to tell their issues more. It doesn’t matter how small it is. Just tell your issues. Then go from there.”

Pressley also described it as a wonderful experience. One, he

said, because he was able to do a lot of networking with a lot of different people — in particular those throughout AFGE and its districts.

“So I kind of connected with a lot of people,” he said. “Got to see like different scenarios, got to understand people’s different perspectives, what they’ve got going on in their places. “So it was fun and interesting. We learned a lot.”

One highlight, he said, was being able to go through the EEO process, like “training,” he said, which was “very beneficial.”

The biggest benefit, however, was the conferences and the guest speakers.

“They said a lot of knowledgeable things. A lot of stuff you could actually take back with you. Take it back to work and it was instilled in you in life. The speakers were awesome so that’s what kind of stuck with me because there was always something memorable I could relate to.”

As far as how the members will benefit from his experience, he said that was an easy one. “We pass it on to them. The experiences we had that they didn’t have insight to because they weren’t there.

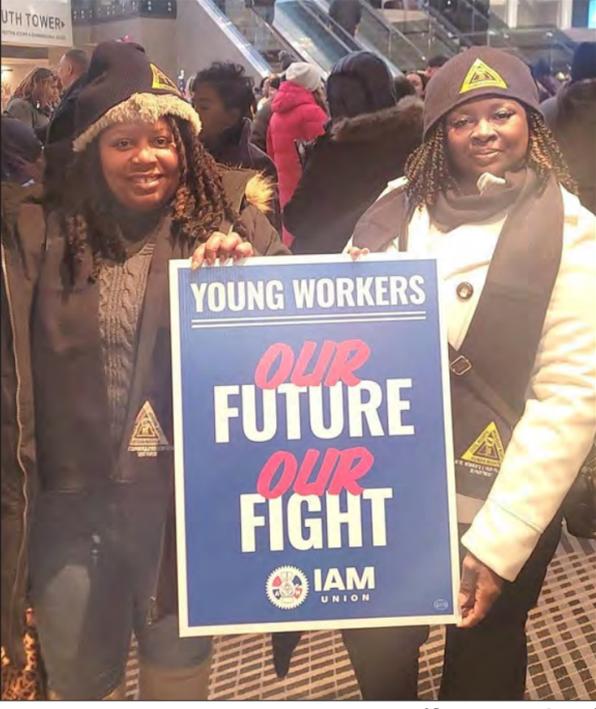
“So being able to come back and share the things that we actually did there and just give it to our members so they can be better at what they do, their craft.

“It’s an amazing feeling. A lot of times ... I’m not going to say we’re short-handed in knowledge, but we don’t have people in place who can actually give us that. So when we go to different conferences and people are giving out the information, you’re able to retain it and bring it back. It’s very helpful.”

Going back to connecting, he said he took down a lot of phone numbers. Because, he said, “It’s helpful to not just be in your area. Because you’re going to have like veterans and stuff but it’s better to be able to reach out to them and get inside help. Right now we’re at Robins. We do planes here but if you’ve got somebody with another connection there where you can just pick up the phone and say, ‘Hey, um, can you assist me with this?’

“So I really enjoy that. Being able to connect.”

Speaking of which, he added, he was looking forward to next year so he could “connect” and recruit others to gain the experience as well.



(Courtesy photo)



National Vice President for Women and Fair Practices Kendrick Roberson delivers a passionate speech. (Courtesy photo)

OSSOFF

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brotherhood and sisterhood and want to be there for their families and just want to build a good life and a better life for themselves and their families.

“As distressing and as dangerous as this national situation is, we have to remain grounded in that faith in our fellow human beings and our fellow Americans.”

He also said he felt it was worth remembering “what extraordinary things we can achieve when we try to do things together.”

For example, he went on, a few years back the Senate passed an infrastructure law that was bipartisan and, he said, was the most significant investment in America’s infrastructure since the Eisenhower administration. “And it is upgrading every airport and seaport in Georgia, surface transportation, pulling lead pipes out of drinking water systems, hardening our energy grid, launching the expansion of rural broadband internet that’s unlike anything since the 1930s.

“We did that together,” he continued. “It got almost 70 votes in the U.S. Senate, Democrats and Republicans alike.” He added that one of the things he was most proud about being a part of in that law was seeing it that Wilkinson County got its “first-ever” public sewer system.

He went on that he wanted to say those things before commenting on the broader national picture, “just trying to ground us in the daily work

of effective representation in government,” he said, then adding what he believed to be the solution, what he believed was necessary to “reunite a deeply divided American people. We have to pursue the possibility of unity again. We have to. And we’re not going to be able to meet the immense challenges we face as a nation or seize the incredible opportunities we have unless we can find some shared American spirit.

“Because we’re Americans before we’re Democrats or Republicans. And that’s how we’re going to move forward together.”

Ossoff said he thought about how the state had lost nine rural hospitals in 15 years and that half of Georgia’s counties have no OB/GYN facility.

The United States has among the largest, wealthiest countries, he said, the highest low mortality rate. “And the state of Georgia, depending on the year, is always at or near the bottom of the list in America. Can you imagine if we stopped bickering senselessly over the small and petty things that consume our politics now and decided to unite as a people to preventable death in childbirth in America.

“Couldn’t we unite people in Georgia and across America to do that. Instead of slashing Medicaid to cut taxes for the rich, starving our hospital of resources. Every single county in the U.S. should have a health clinic. Couldn’t we unite people to do that?

“A lot of this is in front of us and just waiting. We should get excited about the great things we can build and achieve and the great problems we can solve. Unfortunately, that’s not where our

politics are at right now.”

He went on to describe the current national political climate as “dangerous”. He cited raids on election headquarters — the one in Fulton County was raided back at the end of January — and lawmakers targeting political opponents as evidence to support that statement.

“What’s happening right now in the United States I think should chill us to the bone regardless of our political party.”

He continued: “I think that the America people and the state of Georgia are preparing to rebuke these abuses of power. And I know it can be hard to feel it because there can be so many daily outrages. But we have wind in our sails. And it’s not just Democrats. I’m hearing it from Independents and Republicans in Georgia who are telling me they’ve had enough. They’re not willing to go any further with this man and they are voting for a Democrat for the first time.”

Ossoff was introduced by Warner Robins Mayor LaRhonda Patrick, who also had a message of her own. Patrick said there was division and fear everywhere. The scenes across the news mimic daily life and not a third-world country, she said. “Not our country tis of thee.

“What has happened to our America? At times our experiences make us discouraged. But we must remember something very important. Now is not the time for us to give up or to give in. We must be determined and press forward to the mark of our freedom and our dignity.

“Because no matter what, we are still the

United States of America. A nation not built on perfection, but on possibility. A nation built on the U.S. Constitution. A nation built on liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness. And a nation built on freedoms, including the right to vote without infringement.”

This nation, our nation, she went on, is not sustained by uniformity but by unity. A need for unity, she said, that rings even louder now in 2026 than it did back two decades ago, and dare I say in 1983 when I was born.

“We have a choice in this season. We can choose unity over division. We can choose hope over despair. And we can choose courage over comfort. But what we cannot choose is silence, failure or defeat.”

Patrick continued that as we enter another election season emotions will rise. Opinions will differ, she said. Campaign signs will go up. Ads will fill our screens.

“But let us remember this. Voting is not just a weapon. It is a responsibility. We must vote with our conscious. Vote from our convictions and vote with an understanding that the future of our children and our country deserves thoughtful participation. Not blind allegiance.

“What challenges come this election remember this. We are not enemies. We are neighbors. We are Americans. And the promise of this nation has always been that even in our disagreements we can still believe in something bigger than ourselves. I believe in this country. I believe in its people. And I believe that our best days are not just behind us but also continues to grow.”