



The Record

Governor signs disaster declaration, calls for special session

Encourages Legislature to do what's right to protect Kansans

TOPEKA – Today Governor Laura Kelly announced a series of actions her administration is taking to respond to the emergency situation COVID-19 currently presents to the economy and to public safety.

1. After careful review, Kelly has vetoed House Bill 2054. This sweeping, hastily crafted legislation pushed through the Kansas Legislature last week includes provisions that will damage Kansas' ability to respond to COVID-19 and all future disasters. The bill also weakens local county health officer authorities and adds unnecessary layers of bureaucracy to their emergency response efforts.

2. Kelly has signed a new state disaster declaration to ensure that Kansas can effectively respond to the current emergency situation, which includes an unprecedented economic emergency and the imminent threat of new outbreaks of COVID-19, specifically regarding food supply. This will also ensure the state can continue its coordinated response with federal and state partners.

3. Kelly has called a special session starting June 3. She has asked the Legislature to

put politics aside, work with her, and deliver an emergency management bill that has been vetted, debated, is transparent and addresses the need to keep Kansans safe and healthy.

“As I've said from day one, the safety and well-being of Kansans is my number one priority. What the Legislature sent to my desk does not protect Kansans. It does not help Kansans. It puts their lives at risk,” Kelly said. “I'm calling on the Legislature to come back and put a carefully crafted, bipartisan bill on my desk that will provide the resources Kansans need, in a timely manner. We must stop putting Kansans at risk.”

The new state disaster declaration addressing the current emergency enables Kansas to provide the following services through the Kansas Division of Emergency Management, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas National Guard and the federal government:

- Allows National Guard members supporting numerous field missions throughout the state to serve communities in response to the disaster and threat. To date,

a total of 678 National Guard personnel are supporting these missions.

- Allows KDEM and National Guard to provide vital food support to communities and protect against threat of food supply shortages. Guard members have packed more than two million meals which are being distributed to food banks across Kansas.

- Allows KDEM and National Guard to swiftly provide medical and non-medical Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to hospitals, first responders and many more to combat the imminent threat of COVID-19 surges. To date, over 7,000 cases of PPE have been delivered across the state, which includes 3.2 million individual pieces of PPE. More will be needed to address the imminent threat of new outbreaks.

- Allows KDEM to assist the Kansas Department of Corrections to provide support personnel – including medical and food preparation personnel.

- Allow KDEM to make deliveries of Remdesivir to counties across Kansas. So far, KDEM, along with their

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Fact-Checking Isn't Censorship

By Dr. Jim Haas

Years ago, the late New York Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who had worked in the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, and Ford administrations, said, “We are entitled to our own opinions,



but not to our own facts.” Can't argue with that, but last week the Tweeter-in-Chief erupted because the people who run Twitter added fact-check links to his tweets about voting-by-mail. He's against it, claiming it's “substantially fraudulent. Mail boxes [sic] will be robbed, ballots will be forged & even illegally printed out and fraudulently signed.”

Well, no. Oregon, Colorado, Utah, and several other states have voted by mail for years with no evidence of “substantial fraud.” Election administrators nationwide consistently rate voting from home more secure because it leaves a paper trail that can't be hacked.

These facts don't matter to the Tweet Monster, who went on to accuse Twitter of “interfering in the 2020 Presidential Election, completely stifling FREE SPEECH...” Again, no. His tweets are there for those who care to read them; his speech is free. All that Twitter did was alert readers to the fact that his claims are not supported by evidence and make it easy for readers to check it out for themselves. As Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey said, “This does not make us an ‘arbiter of truth.’ Our intention is to connect the dots of conflicting statements and show the information in dispute so people can judge for themselves. More transparency from us is critical so folks can clearly see the why behind our actions.”

There was no censorship, but even if there were, the Constitution's First Amendment guarantees only that “Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press.” It applies to government, not to private companies like Twitter. Knowing this requires reading the Constitution, and whether the chief executive of the U.S. has done so, or understands it if he has, is an open question.

Ironically, that chief executive's response was to sign an executive order threatening to remove social media's immunity from prosecution for allowing false or misleading information. He doesn't have the power to change an act of Congress, but should his lawyers find a way to squirm around that and make social media libel, who would be hurt? He would. He is the master of falsehood and fakery and fraud.

Twitter deserves some credit for finally taking a stand on behalf of facts. They've apparently decided to fact-check tweets by world leaders on two topics: pandemic health issues and electoral matters in democracies. It's a start, but if you or I tweeted the threats and lies and incitements to violence that have come from our leader, we'd be kicked off for violating the terms of service. Why hasn't he? I smell a profit motive.

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Registered voters in two metro counties have been mailed applications to vote by mail in both the August primary and November general elections. The application takes only a minute to complete and sign, then just stamp and mail. A ballot will be mailed to you three weeks before each election. It's easy, secure, and fast. No driving, no parking, no waiting in line. No masks, no hand sanitizer, no social distancing. And no coronavirus. All that *and* we get to vote for the candidates of our choice. Power to the people!

Jim's columns are online at <http://greatsociety2point0.blogspot.com>

Sue's Soapbox

By: Sue Reich



This week I saw two beauty salons open; one was Lil on 55th street and the other was JoAnn also on 55th street. Wow! It looks so neat to see some businesses having some business. Mr. Ed and I are going to our doctor in Argentine tomorrow. We pull up, they come out, take our temperature then we can go in. I need my "nerve" pills refilled; Mr. Ed needs his usual check-up. He has lost so much weight. It is sort of hard to fix what he can eat. I have lost weight too. Trying to do everything around here that he used to do plus what I have to do around here. Get so tired and the worse of it all is sleeping. I am up and down and up and down. One morning I woke up at 2:30 a.m. and stayed awake for 10 or 12 hours.

Got tomato plants planted in my cement blocks the other day. Planted, holly hocks, tomatoes, marigolds, just a mishmash of plants just to have something pretty out front. The guy that used to mow would mow down my flowers every spring, thus, cement blocks. Oh well, he was fired, but not before he tore up our riding mower. So now I have to take our stimulus check to get the Cadet fixed. It is going to be picked up Friday. When it rains, it pours.

I talked to one of my domino buddies, Darlene. She is getting buggy too. Darlene was very active and now that everything is drive up, she really doesn't know what to do with herself. David Young, another buddy, and I talk a lot by phone. His wife, Sheila started back to work. She works at Fantastic Sam's. Bet she was glad to get back to work. Guess that is why I try to keep busy. I took Mr. Ed to Denny's yesterday for

a haircut. About time, he really needed one. Denny has remodeled his barbershop on Maple Hill. It looks really nice. I guess this virus has some good to it for those of use that are shut in a lot. Get things done that we normally don't do. I got my back porch straightened out and cleaned. Really sorry about all the deaths that have occurred though. Such a shame. People of all ages, babies, elderly, nurses, etc. My son John keeps me worried. He works in a nursing home, as a RN, as I have said before I'm so proud of him.

Dear readers, must let you know that these neighbors of mine have to be the best ever. I had very bad birthday last year. This year the same, May 2. A couple of weeks later, I was tricked by Peggy Stuart to go with her on a very short ride. She was in my driveway; we crossed the street to the O'Neals house. The neighbors behind us were there. Tracy and Denis Bailes. To make a long story short, they had a belated, surprise birthday party for me. When Tracy O'Neal came out with a cake and all sang Happy Birthday to me, I cried. I was in shock. Thank you so much, all of you adorable people, I love you. Please take care, use common sense with all of this going on. Watch your p's and q's. Luv ya much, from your little ol' gal from Argentine. "I know what happiness is, for I have done good work" Apples of Gold. Sue.

Twilight Zone

By: Sue Reich

I have been getting a lot done in my adobe hacienda. Cleaning out every single cabinet in my kitchen, really downsizing. Box after box is being filled up. I am taking it to a special place to be used by other people. I don't need 99 utensils to cook with. Found things that I didn't even know that we had. As I deliver *The Record*, I see more homes with all kinds of stuff out on the curb. I have cups, glasses, dishes, bowls, just everything that was collecting dust and taking up room. Many mixing spoons, tongs, spatulas, scissors, steak knives, kitchen towels and with just Mr. Ed and I, we don't need all of that. One thing, Mr. Ed isn't in that good

of health. One day he fell in his bedroom. He called for me and I went in and knew I couldn't get him up. I called 911 and it rang and rang and rang. Called a neighbor, he was at work, after a couple more calls, I got Peggy Stuart. Her adult son lives across from her. They came over and she was still trying 911. Still no answer. Brad got Mr. Ed up and sat him on the edge of his bed. We questioned and questioned him to make sure he was ok. Need to go to the ER? Need

an ambulance? He kept saying he was ok. Finally, after much questioning, they left. What ticked me off was 911 never answered. Peggy finally got through and they said we must have had a "glitch". So, what good is 911 if there are glitches?

Oh well. I wonder how long this is going to go on. I am getting a tad irritated because I miss seeing everyone. Miss my grandchildren in Raytown, my son John and his wife Matilda. Mr. Ed sleeps a lot, not much for

conversations. lol. I feel like a lonely little petunia in an onion patch. If it wasn't for my furbabies I would sleep all day too. Guess what? I got a speeding ticket the other day. Cop stood way back, sorta ticked me off but I am going to go ahead and pay it. Under protest of course. I just got through delivering and was on my way home because I don't like to leave Mr. Ed alone. Oh well, that's life. Can't get any worse, right? Take care, be kind. Don't speed.



Argentine Federal Savings Updates Health and Safety Procedures

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Our lobby(s) will be re-opening soon. If you come see us in person, you will notice that we have implemented some necessary precautions with respect to all person to person contact situations as recommended by the CDC including but not limited to:

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in office at one time

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ing. Staff are instructed to screen daily, and required to stay home and consult medical professionals if they are feeling unwell.

Argentine Federal Savings has put these precautions in place in order to best protect our customers and employees. We will continue to follow this guidance in order to maintain a safe and comfortable business environment. We are doing our part, and we respectfully ask that you cooperate by doing your part. Stay positive and keep faith, we are getting through this. And always know that WE CARE.

Roger McWherter
President & CEO

Comin' & Goin' Turner Style



By Sharon Hoover

Today is my birthday but I don't feel any older than I did yesterday. Age is just a number. My annual birthday dinner is postponed until a later date. When I was growing up, I didn't appreciate it being the day before Decoration Day that was May 30th. My folks would go out of town to place flowers on the graves of family members who had passed away. I don't remember when it was decided to change the name to Memorial Day and acknowledge the last Monday in May to honor the dead. Of course, that means my

birthday also falls on Memorial Day occasionally, now that I am older that's no big deal. Many holiday observances were changed so we could have three days weekends – Abe Lincoln's and George Washington's birthdays were consolidated to President's Day on the third Monday in February, Martin Luther King's birthday celebrated the third Monday in January, Labor Day is always on the first Monday in September and Columbus Day the second Monday in October.

Coincidentally four women in our family were born on President's birthdays. My grandmother was born on Abe Lincoln's birthday - February 12. My mom was born on Ulysses S. Grant's birthday – April 27. I was born on John Kennedy's birthday – May 29 and my sister was born on Dwight Eisenhower's birthday - October 14. Of course, neither Kennedy nor Eisenhower had become president until after we were born. But I thought we

should be in a "Ripley's Believe It or Not" book. I used to love to read the strange and unusual stories. It was weird stuff.

Nosy parker me, I looked them up on the internet and it seems the company has been franchising museums all over the world. There are about 19 in the USA alone. I guess I am not the only one who likes oddball stuff. Most are closed because of the pandemic as is the closest one to Kansas City in Branson.

I was out shopping this week and was amazed to see people of all ages not wearing masks. The droplets of a sneeze or cough or even speaking loudly can travel over eight feet. If you feel the mask doesn't protect you, it can protect those around you. Too many people with the virus are walking around without symptoms, I'm afraid another wave is coming soon and will be worse than the first.

Until next time please practice social distancing, stay safe and be careful.

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The Record Publications

(913) 362-1988

Publishers of The Record and The Companion

Jon A. Males
Owner/Publisher/Editor

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The Record (USPS No. 002269) is published weekly every Thursday by The Record Publications at PO Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66106. Newsstand price, single copy, 35 cents; subscription price per year, \$16.13. For editorial, display, and classified advertising information call 362-1988. Periodical postage paid at Kansas City, Kansas 66110. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Record, 3414 Strong Ave., P.O. Box 6197, Kansas City, Kansas 66110.

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Disaster Declaration ...from page 1

state agency partners which include the Kansas National Guard, Kansas Highway Patrol and Civil Air Patrol, have made 26 deliveries of Remdesivir to 10 counties. Remdesivir is delivered to hospitals to treat critical patients, and this service is potentially life-saving for those patients. KDEM makes these deliveries immediately when needed for patients throughout the state.

- Allows KDEM to continue providing non-congregate shelter for positive and exposed persons who are essential workers. There are currently 50 contracts related to non-congregate sheltering needed for the present disaster. Continuing to provide this support will mitigate the threat to the food supply and the threat of surges in COVID-19 infections.

- Allows medical workers and first responders to rely on the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System to decontaminate their PPE. This system is provided by FEMA and continuing to provide this service will mitigate the threat of surges in COVID-19 infections.

- Allows KDEM to manage donations and warehouse space necessary to store PPE. This storage is necessary due to the threat of new COVID-19 outbreaks as statewide restrictions are lifted and the economy reopens.

- Allows KDHE to provide community-based testing under the State Emergency Response Plan. Increased testing will help the state mitigate the threat of, or respond to, future outbreaks and allows businesses, employees, and customers to resume economic activity with increased confidence that outbreaks will be prevented or mitigated.

- Allows KDEM to continue transporting testing samples. KDEM has transported over 1,000 samples to state labs since April 29, 2020. By transporting the tests via KDEM couriers, the tests arrive at the lab the same date they are collected, and results are provided the following day. Without this same-day service, the results of the tests will be delayed and the ability to contact-trace will be severely limited, risking additional illness and death as well as economic insecurity.

- Allows KDEM to provide translation support. Currently, KDEM is providing 16 translators to support contact-tracing operations to mitigate the current and imminent threat of a new COVID-19 outbreak.

- Allows the Civil Air Patrol to continue to provide needed emergency transportation.

If the state disaster declaration is not extended by the Legislature within 15 days, the following significant problems will likely occur:

- Possible closure of meat processing plants;

- Inability to assist hog farmers with the euthanasia and disposal of excess hogs;

- The loss of unemployment benefits;

- Significant delay and possible frustration entirely of the economic recovery of the State;

- Reduced PPE inventory for healthcare workers and first responders;

- KDEM would be unable to receive, sort, package, and transport PPE and other commodities to health care workers and first responders;

- Food shortage and an inability of state agencies to provide the various food programs needed to assist Kansans;

- Reduced testing and a lack of timely test results;

- Inability to conduct contact-tracing missions;

- Increased outbreaks of COVID-19 in the prison population;

- Increased outbreaks of COVID-19 in nursing homes;

- Inability to service or transport ventilators or anesthesia machines;

- Inability to coordinate mission assignments or take emergency actions necessary to deal with issues related to the current disaster;

- No immunity for state employees or volunteers providing vital services;

- Inability to initiate and maintain the Kansas Response Plan; and

- Increased costs to the State of Kansas as a result of losing federal funding.

Under the new disaster declaration, the operative provisions of the following Executive Orders will be reissued:

- 20-08: Temporarily expanding telemedicine and addressing certain licensing requirements to combat the effects of COVID-19

- 20-12: Driver's license and vehicle registration and

regulation during public health emergency

- 20-13: Allowing certain deferred tax deadlines and payments during the COVID-19 pandemic

- 20-17: Temporary relief from certain unemployment insurance requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

- 20-19: Extending profes-

sional and occupational licenses during the COVID-19 pandemic

- 20-20: Temporarily allowing notaries and witnesses to act via audio-video communication technology

- 20-23: Licensure, Certification, and Registration for persons and Licensure of "Adult Care Homes" during public health emergency

- 20-27: Temporarily suspending certain rules relating to sale of alcoholic beverages

- 20-32: Temporary relief from certain restrictions concerning shared work programs

- 20-33: Extending conditional and temporary relief from certain motor carrier rules and regulations in response to COVID-19

COVID-19 Restrictions Ease as "100 Deadliest Days" Begin for Nation's Teens

New AAA data examines fatal teen crash rates during the summer from 2008 to 2018

As drivers return to the road during eased travel restrictions, so begins the season when teen drivers are most at risk. The combination of schools closed, activities curtailed, summer jobs canceled, and COVID-19 restrictions being lifted, could prove deadly as teens take to the road this summer. AAA recommends that now is a good time for parents to both model safe driving behaviors and help ensure their teens practice them too.

In Kansas, 117 people were killed in crashes involving teen drivers in the past ten years during the "100 Deadliest Days," the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Nationwide, more than 8,300 people died in teen-related summertime crashes from 2008 to 2018. That's more than seven people a day each summer as compared to the rest of the year (six people/day).

"The last decade of crash data shows that teens continue to be over-represented in crashes, and summertime marks an increase of fatal crashes for this age group," said Dr. David Yang, Executive Director of the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. "Our data analysis has found that for every mile driven, new teen drivers ages 16-17 years old are three times more likely to be involved in a deadly crash compared to adults."

Due to their inexperience, teen drivers are at a higher risk of crashes. According to the new AAA Foundation Traffic Safety Culture Index, about 72% of teen drivers aged 16-18 admitted to having engaged in at least one of the following risky behaviors in the past 30 days:

- Driving 10 mph over the speed limit on a residential street (47%)
- Driving 15 mph over the speed limit on a freeway (40%)
- Texting (35%)
- Red-light running (32%)
- Aggressive driving (31%)
- Drowsy driving (25%)
- Driving without a seatbelt (17%)

"Parents remain the best line of defense to keep everyone safe behind the wheel," said Shawn Steward, Manager, Public and Government Affairs for AAA Kansas. "It's never too soon to educate teens on the dangers of distracted driving, speeding, and the impairing effects of alcohol and marijuana. But we can't just tell teens about the dangers. We must also refrain from engaging in risky driving behaviors and ensure we are modeling good behavior."

To keep roads safer this summer, AAA encourages parents to:

- Talk with teens early and often about abstaining from dangerous behavior behind the wheel, such as speeding, impairment and distracted driving.
- Teach by example, and minimize risky behavior when driving.
- Establish a parent-teen driving agreement that sets family rules for teen drivers.
- Conduct at least 50 hours of supervised practice driving with their teen.

To support parents in conducting practice driving sessions during COVID-19 and beyond, AAA is providing a free four-page guide to help parents coach their teens on how to drive safely. The "Coaching Your New Driver – An In-Car Guide for Parents" AAA Parent Coaching Guide 2020 offers behind-the-wheel lesson plans, including a variety of "DOs and DON'Ts" to make the learning experience as helpful as possible. For parents, the guide can be beneficial as they coach their teens on a variety of routes, building on their formal behind-the-wheel training.

TeenDriving.AAA.com has a variety of tools to help prepare parents and teens for the dangerous summer driving season. The online AAA StartSmart Parent Session also offers excellent resources for parents on how to become effective in-car coaches as well as advice on how to manage their teen's overall driving privileges. Teens preparing for the responsibility of driving should enroll in a driver education program that teaches how to avoid driver distraction and other safety skills.

About AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Established in 1947 by AAA, the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety is a not-for-profit, publicly funded, 501(c)(3) charitable research and educational organization. The AAA Foundation's mission is to prevent traffic deaths and injuries by researching their causes and by educating the public about strategies to prevent crashes and reduce injuries when they do occur. This research is used to develop educational materials for drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists and other road users. Visit www.AAAFoundation.org.

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Guest Editorial

FBI Links Terrorist Attack to Al Qaeda, After Breaking iPhone Encryption

By: Tom Valverde

The December 6, 2019 terrorist attack at a Navy airbase, was confirmed by Attorney General Barr and Christopher A. Wray, Director of the FBI, as being a terrorist attack. The two

spoke at a news briefing, a week ago. Three US sailors were shot and killed by a 21-year-old, Saudi Air Force cadet at the Pensacola Navy base. The Saudi trainee who shot and killed the sailors, is now known to have been

Tom's Tasty Treats

By: Tom Valverde

Sometimes, inspiration can hit as you explore books, files, and magazines for recipes. This week's tasty treat is simply my own variation on a recipe that I came across in an old cookbook. I've made these cookies with many variations as they contain a mix of "extras." You may change them out to suit your taste or to use what you have on hand. This is an easy way to make these cookies your own. I hope you will try making a batch soon!

Tom's Apricot, Pecan and Dark Chocolate Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 stick Butter, softened
- 1 1/2 c Powdered Sugar
- 2 lg. Eggs
- 1 t Vanilla
- 2 1/2 c Flour
- 1/2 t Baking Powder
- 1/2 t Salt
- 1/2 c Dried Apricots, cut into 1/4" pieces
- 1 c Pecans, chopped
- 1/2 c Dark or Semisweet Chocolate pieces

In a mixer, cream the butter together with the powdered sugar; mix very well at medium-high speed. Sift the powdered sugar if you find clumps. Add the eggs and beat until well blended. Combine and whisk together the flour, baking powder and salt. Set mixer to low speed. Add the flour mixture a small amount at a time and continue until the result is a smooth dough. Mix in the dried apricots, chopped pecans and the dark chocolate.

Take two sheets of plastic wrap and set on counter. Divide the dough into 2 equal parts, and place each on a sheet of plastic wrap. Form into a log about 2 1/2" in diameter, and wrap tightly. Freeze for 1/2 hour or chill for 2 1/2 hours.* Preheat the oven to 350°.

Once the dough has been chilled and is firm, slice the logs with a sharp knife and cut each, just under 1/4" in thickness. Line cookie sheets with parchment paper. Place cookies about 2" apart.

Bake at 350° for 8-10 minutes, until set and a golden brown.

*This dough can be kept, chilled for up to 5 days. Or the dough logs can be wrapped, placed into a Ziploc bag, and frozen for up to 3 months. Simply let thaw in the refrigerator before cutting into cookies.

All the "extras" really make these cookies, so very delicious! And the possible additions are endless! Try sweet coconut, and slivered almonds and milk chocolate, sounds like a cookie, "Almond Joy"! Or raisins, walnuts, and semi-sweet chocolate. Add some freshly grated orange rind, some dried cranberries and your choice of chocolate and nuts.

This recipe will make 2 dozen, plus cookies. Kids love these with a glass of cold milk. And they're delicious with a hot cup of either tea or coffee. Store the cookies in an air-tight container, at room temperature. They will keep for 6-7 days, but they won't last that long! Enjoy!

an Al Qaeda associate for at least five years. The FBI had the terrorist' iPhones and was able to verify that he had been in "regular contact" with al Qaeda--including on the night of the attack. Barr said, "The gunman had communicated with leaders of Al Qaeda and had joined the Saudi military to carry out a "special operation." Not wanting a terrorist attack to be part of Trump's watch, a change in semantics was called for. So, what had been called an act of terrorism, the Justice Department now refers to the December shooting spree as simply being, "Motivated by Jihadist ideology." Since 9/11, no foreign Terrorist organization has since directed

a deadly attack on the United States.

Al Qaeda flourished for years after 9/11, conducting terrorist attacks in Europe and across the Middle East. President Obama ordered the killing of Al Qaeda's leader and architect of the 9/11 attack on the World Trade center in New York City, Osama Bin Laden. This effectively "Hollowed out," the Al Qaeda terrorist group. Shortly after the terrorist attack, a Joint Intelligence Bulletin was released. It announced that 21-year-old, Mohammed Alshamrani had written the phrase: "The countdown has started," on September 11th, 2019." Convincing terrorist thoughts, in spite of the State Department's

revised wording of the deadly event. Lacking from the news briefing, was any statement of Condemnation or Outrage from Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. As Thomas Friedman wrote in the New York Times, "Mike Pompeo is the worst Secretary of State---Ever." No need to mince his words, as so many times Pompeo's actions and decisions are taken to best suit his own potential Political ambitions, and not the work of a diplomat, witness his "Madison Dinners," where he is the guest of honor, not a foreign leader or even a foreign ambassador. It's truly an outrage that Pompeo uses his office for personal political gain. But then again, Pompeo is a part of the Trump regime.

Misuse of Power; Pompeo's "Madison Dinners"

By: Tom Valverde

First came Pompeo's \$30 Billion sale of arms to Saudi Arabia, without prior authorization by Congress. Then, State Department officials reported Secretary Pompeo's misuse of diplomatic security agents to perform errands for him such as picking up restaurant take-out meals, getting his dry cleaning, retrieving the family dog from the dog groomer, and his asking staffers to make dinner reservations for he and his wife. Late last year, a Democratic Senator called for a Special Counsel Investigation into Secretary Pompeo's use of State Department aircraft and department funds for his "Frequent visits to Kansas," where he was reported to be considering a Senate campaign. Now, it turns out that he may have been illegally using government property by hosting lavish dinners at Foggy Bottom where State Department headquarters is located. More details to follow.

Secretary Pompeo asked President Trump to fire the Departments, Inspector General, Steve A. Linick. Again, done late on a Friday night, two weeks ago. Linick is the fourth Inspector General to be fired by Trump in two months. When asked why he fired Linick, president Trump replied, "I don't know him. Never heard of him. But I was asked by the State Department, by Mike, to terminate Mr. Linick. It is unlawful for a Secretary to dismiss an IG, so Mike Pompeo asked Trump to do it for him. Secretary Pompeo smeared himself, and when asked about

Linick's dismissal, he lied, and answered, "I didn't know about the IG firing!" Bold faced lies to the American public told by a Secretary of State. Pompeo himself asked Trump to fire Linick!

Trump doesn't realize that the President must follow the law, and in the case of Trump's firing of Linick, he did not. The president is required to give the Congress a 30-day notice when dismissing an IG, and to provide reasons for the dismissal. This law provision stems from a 2008 Reform. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, "The House we will be looking into Linick's firing as unlawful, and possible "retaliation" against Linick by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo."

Democrats in both the House and Senate are taking up the investigation into Pompeo's actions. Senator Bob Menendez commented, "An IG does the job, as he sees fit to do; 'Independence,' is the watchword of the IG. It is Not up to the Secretary of State to tell him how to do his job" "I'm deeply concerned, said Menendez, "I understand that the IG may have been on the verge of completing an investigation into the emergency justification for weapons going to Saudi Arabia." "I oppose the weapons going to Saudi Arabia because they would be used in a war in Yemen." "We had 22 such arms sales under some, emergency provision, for which there has been no legal justification for, said Menendez. "I can only assume it was done to skirt Congressional review, that would be a very serious violation!"

That may very well be the case. Secretary Pompeo violated the law in regard to the sale of weapons without approval from Congress. We need to know why an IG who was tough in two Administrations, all of a sudden gets sacked on a Friday night and look into the other IGs that have been sacked." "This is the most opaque Secretary of State I've dealt with in my 25 years of my sitting on the House and Senate Foreign Relations Committee." Returning to the probe into Pompeo's Madison Dinners, Senator Menendez wrote a letter requesting "A complete accounting of funds used for the dinners and copies of any remarks made by Pompeo at the dinners. Obviously, both the Secretary of State and the administration would not want any of this to come to light. Unfortunately for those who prefer to operate without oversight, these unprecedented firings by Trump and the highly questionable and possibly illegal actions by Secretary Pompeo will be brought out for full oversight by Congress.



Passings...

By: Sue Reich

Ann (Toplikar) Felich, age 98, passed away May 23, 2020. She was a Wyandotte High graduate, class of 1939.



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