

Steel Magnolias

Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc.

Significant Celebration

August 17, 2009

Momentous July Month of New Beginnings

For me the month of July has always possessed an incredible aura. July 4th fireworks are such a spectacular display that childhood memories were riveting, long before I understood anything about Independence Day. Since I left Collier County, Florida on July 3rd and then married five years later on July 3rd, my emotional response to fireworks is even more intense.

There were no fireworks, at least none visible to the human eye, Friday, July 24, 9:30 a.m., in the Quintard Mall parking lot, as Steel Magnolias members met for a victorious and historic trip to Montgomery.

After a few pictures were made of our giddy group, Dr. Dave Roberts prayed for safe travel, we loaded into three cars

and took State Road 21 out of Oxford.

I can't accurately report on the mood in the other vehicles but, because of Dr. Dave, we had a riotously great time all the way to Montgomery, including our lunch break at Ruby Tuesday in Wetumpka. I'm not sure whether the employees at Ruby Tuesday wanted to join the fun or call the law!

Marilyn Lawson and Tommy Buzan were to meet us at the capitol. Rep. Fite and Senator Benefield were in their offices and walked over for the photo session.

When we walked into the Archives Room, Marilyn and Tommy checked their watches. We were on time but they arrived early. Guess we had too much fun at Ruby Tuesday!

What a memory to TREASURE! Rep. Fite and Senator Benefield were the most gracious of host. We left the Alabama State Capitol building feeling like we were a significant part of legislative history!

Even more importantly, we felt gratitude to God that poor uninsured women in Alabama could be diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer and receive essential treatments without fearing the loss of everything the family had worked for.

Not ready to see the party end, on our way home, we stopped at Blue Bell Ice Cream Factory in Sylacauga. Some chose chocolate, some caramel, but Prentiss and I devoured a sinfully good scoop of peaches & cream and a scoop of blackberry pie ice cream.

Pictures on following pages reveal some of the fun we had, when the little shots made their way to the BIG HOUSE, for a photo shoot with Governor Bob Riley!

New Beginnings Banquet

Four days after our historic trip to the Archives Room at the State Capitol, Steel Magnolias, Men of Steel and supporters gathered at Classic on Noble for the 6th Annual New Beginnings Banquet. This year's event



Sharing love through support

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.....
was a celebration of the passage of HB147.

Classic's main dining room was filled to capacity and everyone arrived in a festive mood. Following a formal welcome and introduction of survivors and RMC staff, by Marti Warren, Jimmy Taylor, Director of Men of Steel gave thanks for our food. True to their name, Classic did an outstanding job! The creamy grilled chicken with saffron rice was delicious, as was their signature salad and apple dumpling.

This year's program received more accolades than I remember of previous events. Dixie Reynolds kicked things off with her lively rendition of "I'm Gonna Take That Mountain!," followed by Marti leading breast cancer survivors in "I'm A Steel Magnolia!"

The most comments have been about a poem, read by Dr. Dave Roberts, "Which Am I?" It seems people reacted much the same as I did when I first read this poem. I trust each of us will allow the words to search our hearts.

Which Am I

**I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in my home town.
With a heave and a ho and a mighty yell,
They swung a crane and a side-wall fell.**

**I asked the foreman, "Are these men as skilled
As the men you hire when you have to build?"
He gave a laugh and said, "No, indeed!
Just common labor is all I need,
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."**

**And I thought to myself as I went my way,
Which of these roles have I tried to play?**

**Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life with a ruler and square?**

**Am I shaping my deeds by a well-laid plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?**

Author Unknown

Intercessory Prayer

Dixie Reynolds and her sister Brenda Lockridge, made a beautiful floral wreath/candle ring that encircled a large votive, in memory of their beloved aunt who lost her life to breast cancer. The candle burned, in memory of lives lost and in honor of lives changed because of cancer. Ina Rooks gave a report of how many newly diagnosed patients have received prayer cards since July 2008.

Just before Representative Fite took the podium, I gave him a joke, called in by our Jester, Ms. Hazel Johnson Rudolph. As usual, Hazel picked a good one! Rep. Fite's delivery and timing were right on cue, evidenced by all the laughter

Fire Storm in Montgomery

Rep. Lea Fite gave us a picture of the passage of HB147. He said, "Lenora knows nothing about politics!" It was the contacts made and the sheer magnitude of mail coming from Steel Magnolias and the timing was right. "I've never seen anything like it. After the first committee meeting, there was no discussion, everyone was waiting to vote yes, HB147 should become law."

Rep. Fite told about the uninsured woman who spoke to the House Government Appropriations Committee. It was she who drove home the fact that if she had done one thing wrong, if she had gone to her doctor before going to the health department, her life would have been different. The sight of this woman, bearing the signs of a patient, fighting cancer, convinced committee members of the need to pass HB147.

After a short talk about how Steel Magnolias and Rep. Fite's combined efforts pushed HB147 through the House, Rep. Fite introduced co-sponsor of HB147, Senator Kim Benefield, whose mother, Catherine Stillwell, is a breast cancer survivor.

Senator Benefield echoed Representative Fite's report on the House. There was no discussion in committee or on the floor of the Senate. Senators had all decided to support closing the loophole in the Medicaid Breast and Cervical Cancer Treatment Act, it was just a matter of recording the votes.

Steel Magnolias sincerely thanks Representative Fite and Senator Benefield for their conscientious representation of people in their districts! On behalf of uninsured Alabama women, thank you for being passionate voices for some of the weakest among us!

A Word Fitly Spoken

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver
Proverbs 25:11

A word fitly spoken is: A word spoken with propriety, opportunely and suitably to the occasion, is as much in its place and is as conspicuously beautiful as the golden fruit which appears through the apertures of an exquisitely wrought silver basket.

Which Am I, has inspired several comments, “I am going to include just one:

“That poem was a sermon meant for me, it touched my heart to the core. We don’t realize how much power we have with our tongues, actions and attitude, we can certainly tear down in a few minutes what takes years to build.”

Every organization has a problem with inappropriate speech, gossip, etc, ours included! Lets remember, WE are a NO GARBAGE TRUCK ZONE! We took the Pollay pledge!

**WE STAND TOGETHER.....WE DO NOT ACCEPT GARBAGE.....
WE DO NOT SPREAD GARBAGE.....WE ARE NOT GARBAGE TRUCKS**



Victory in Montgomery

Steel Magnolias at Ceremonial Signing in the Archives Room of the Capitol Building

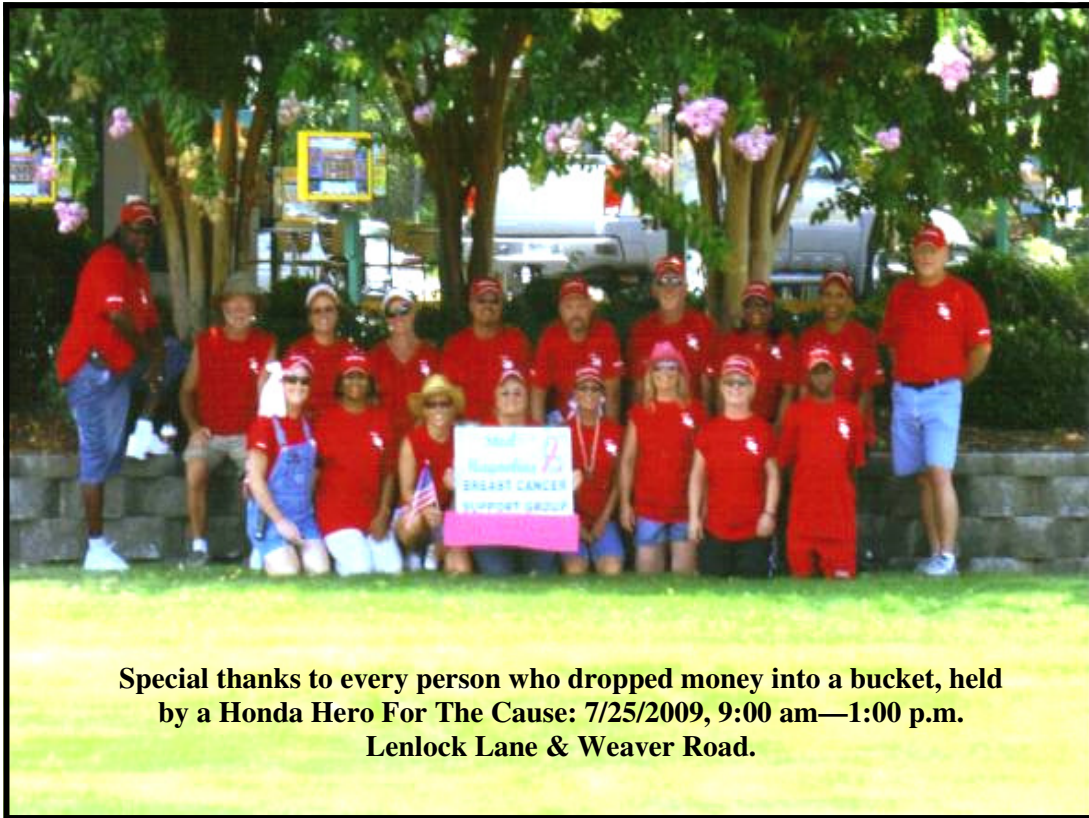
Back Row—From left—Representative Lea Fite, Gladys Denizard, Margaret Taylor, Prentiss Johnson, Paula Atkins, Dr. Dave Roberts, Marilyn Lawson, Anita May, Senator Kim Benefield, Susan Dupree, Tommy Buzan, Rebecca Tiner, Elizabeth McCabe.

Front Row—From Left—Lenora Johnson, Governor Bob Riley, Marti Warren.

Not Attending Ceremonial Signing because of circumstances beyond their control: Beverly Boggs, Marti Rogers, Gloria Woosley, Teresa Talley, Janet Reese, Rhonda Allen, Carol Barker, Nancy Burnell, Pam Bussey, Sherry Grinstead, Molly Grogan, Marie Harbin, Ina Rooks, Keither Zeimet.

Special Thanks to Regional Medical Center: Chaplain’s Office, Community Relations, Anniston Oncology and private contributors for sponsoring our celebration of the passage of HB147!

Honda Associates Hold Road Block for Steel Magnolias



Special thanks to every person who dropped money into a bucket, held by a Honda Hero For The Cause: 7/25/2009, 9:00 am—1:00 p.m. Lenlock Lane & Weaver Road.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP

Pictured: Front Row—Rhonda Allen, Lorine Glenn, Stephanie Browning, Lois Langley, Rhonda Bittle, Jeni Carroll, Lou Ann Cooper, Casey Jackson. Back Row—Danny Green, Kenneth Nabors, Linda Hodge, Rachel Messer, Danny Stephens, Roger Finley, Rick Carroll, April Orr, Angela Jackson and Clint McClendon (Photographed by Matthew Carroll)

Special Thanks to Honda For Making This Possible!!

For the second year, Honda Volunteers have held a road block to raise money for Steel Magnolias Breast Cancer Support Group, Inc. of Anniston. Honda will pay each volunteer \$100, to their non-profit organization for 5 hours of work.

Road Block in Heflin



Margaret Taylor, pictured on right, wearing light pink, with the help of family, held a road block on July 25, 8:00 am. To 12:00 noon, at the intersection of Ross Street and Bedwell Street. Margaret is so motivated and passionate about the work of Steel Magnolias, she dives right in!

Pictured with Margaret is Anita May, new to Steel Magnolias. We trust that Anita's office skills will soon be used in the Steel Magnolias' office.

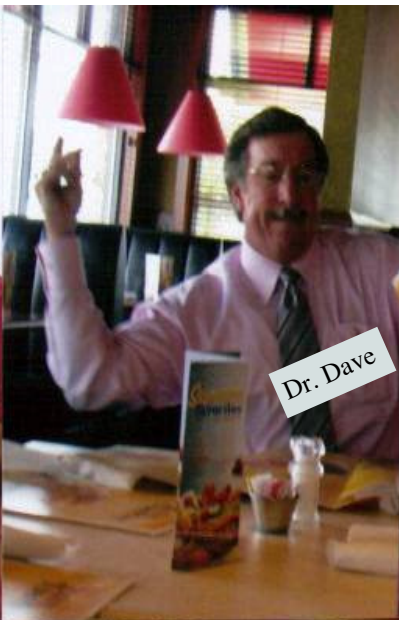
This picture was made in the Archives room of the State Capitol Building.

Thank you Margaret, Steel Magnolias Secretary, for the great work you do on behalf of others.



Tommy

Marilyn



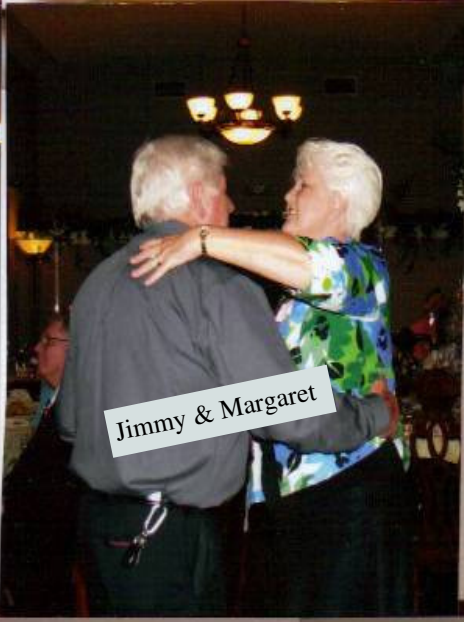
Dr. Dave



Prentiss & Lenora



Dr. Dave



Jimmy & Margaret



Dixie

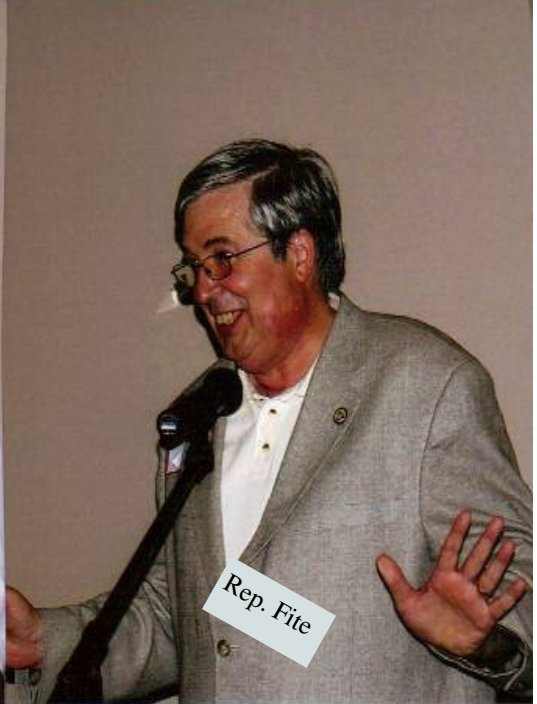


Sen. Benefield

Catherine



Jean



Rep. Fite



Debi & Nick Kaufman



Elizabeth



Marti



Tommy

Lenora

Susan



Dr. Trupp



Chaplain Wilson
Helen Henley



Sen., Benefield



David McCormick, CEO

Rep. Lea Fite



Susan

Financial Report

July	Balance Brought Forward	\$5,675.72
01- 100.00	Lenora Johnson: Monthly Expense	5,575.72
02+ 205.00	Private contribution (25), Banquet Tickets (180)	5,880.72
02- 43.60	Misc.	5,837.12
16- 125.00	5 (25) gift cards to Olive Garden	5712.12
16- 20.00	Pokey Warren	5,692.12
27- 238.41	Lenora Johnson (70) P.O. Box rent, (29.78) Roll of tickets & Award easel, (138.63) Lunch for Montgomery trip	5,453.71
28+1,143.25	Honda Road Block	6,596.96
30+ 319.50	Heflin Road Block	6,916.46
29- 2,200.00	Classic on Noble	4,716.46
30+2,350.00	RAJ (30) Anniston Oncology (400) Chaplain's Office (600) Community Relations (1000) Private donation (100)	
	Banquet Tickets (220)	7,066.46
31- 112.85	Margaret Taylor, Oncology Snacks	\$6,953.61

Correspondence

Tuesday June 30, 2009: 4:38 p.m.

Lenora,

It is already 1 July in Christchurch, New Zealand. We have already eaten breakfast and celebrated the wonderful accomplishment of closing the loophole. Congratulations to you, Steel Magnolias and all those that you motivated to help.

Greg, Fruithurst, AL

Mark Your Calendar

Tuesday, August 25: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel meeting, 5:00 p.m. In the RMC Cancer Resource Center, Suite 406, Physicians Office Building. Special Guest Speaker will be Dr. Ellen Spremulli. A few other doctors are expected to join us as well. Food provided by the resource center. Please don't miss this very informative meeting. Dr. Spremulli is first on our schedule, before our food and fellowship.

Friday, September 11, 2009: Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs Supermarket of Benefits and Anniston Army Depot Suicide Prevention Fair, 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Refreshments—sponsored by AOD Federal Credit Union. Event open to the public 9:30 am.....Event will close 4:00 pm

Tuesday, September 22: Steel Magnolias & Men of Steel Meeting. More details at a later date.

Saturday, September 26: RMC Cancer Resource Center Block Party at The Tyler Center.....Focus will be Breast and Prostate Cancer
More details later.

Remember....September has 5 Tuesdays...We meet on the 4th Tuesday, September 22....We get the newsletter out on the 2nd Monday, September 14th.

Joggin' Inside

What Would You Like?

A man dies and appears before St. Peter. St Peter says, "Your time is not yet, we're sending you back, is there something you would like?" The man thought just a minute and said, "I would like a highway from the mainland to Hawaii." St Peter said, "Man, do you know how much that would cost? The amount of asphalt, the amount of steel? I there something else we can do?" The man said, "Can you help me know how to better get along with my wife?" St. Peter, after a short pause, said, "Do you want two lanes or four on that highway?"

(NOTE) This joke was called in by Steel Magnolias' Jester, Hazel Johnson Rudolph and presented at New Beginnings Banquet by Representative Lea Fite. Thanks Hazel, you brought the house down!

The Talking Dog

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and he sees a sign in front of a broken down shanty-style house: 'Talking Dog For Sale.' He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard. The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. "You talk?" he asks. "Yep," the Lab rep recovers from the shock of hearing a dog talk, he says, "So, what's your story?" The Lab looks up and says, "Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I told the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running. But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn't getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings and was awarded a batch of medals. I got married had a mess of puppies, and now I'm just retired" The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog. "Ten dollars," the guy says. "Ten dollars? This dog is amazing! Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?" "Because he's a liar. He never did any of that crap!" Courtesy of Pokey

Italian Boy's Confession

"Bless me Father, for I have sinned. I have been with a loose girl." The priest asks, "Is that you, little Joey Pagano?" "Yes, Father, it is." "And who was the girl you were with?" "I can't tell you, Father, I don't want to ruin her reputation." "Well, Joey, I'm sure to find out her name sooner or later so you may as well tell me now. Was it Maria Minetti?" "I cannot say." "Was it Teresa Mazzarelli?" "I'll never tell." "Was it Nina Capelli?" "I'm sorry, but I cannot name her..." "Was it Cathy Piriano?" "My two lips are sealed." "Was it Rosa Di Angelo, then." The priest sighs in frustration, "You're very tight lipped, Joey Pagano, and I admire that, but you've sinned and have to atone. You cannot be an alter boy for 4 months. Now go out and behave yourself." Joey walks back to his pew, and his friend Franco slides over and whispers, "What'd you get?" "Four months vacation and five good leads."

Courtesy of Pokey

Funeral

A young minister, in the first days of his parish was obliged to call on the widow of an eccentric man who had just died. Standing before the open casket and consoling the widow, he said, "I know this must be a very hard blow, Mrs. Vernon. But we must remember, that what you see here is the husk only—the shell—the nut has gone to heaven." courtesy of: Heavenly Humor Joke Book

Cow For Sale

A Baptist deacon had advertised a cow for sale. "How much are you asking for it?" inquired a prospective purchaser. "One hundred fifty dollars," said the advertiser. "And how much milk does she give?" "Four gallons a day," he replied. "But how do I know that she will actually give that amount?" asked the purchaser. "Oh you can trust me," reassured the advertiser. "I'm a Baptist deacon." "I'll buy it," replied the other. "I'll take the cow home and bring you back the money later. You can trust me, I'm a Presbyterian elder." When the deacon arrived home he asked his wife, "What is a Presbyterian elder?" "Oh," she exclaimed, "A Presbyterian elder is about the same as a Baptist deacon." "Ooooooooh!," groaned the deacon, "I just lost my cow!" Courtesy of: Heavenly Humor Joke Book