



MACOA CELEBRATES

50

*years of*  
MEALS ON WHEELS



HIGHLIGHT NEWS  
2022  
VOL. III



TOGETHER, WE DELIVER

# ON BOARD

MACOA has had a very good 2021-22. It celebrated 50 years of serving seniors in Montgomery and Central Alabama, had great fundraisers that have kept MACOA financially strong, updated the five-year Strategic Plan, and recruited an excellent Chief Operating Officer in Carrie Shostak and Office Manager in Lydia Millington. And we not only survived COVID, but continued serving our clients all the way through, not missing a single week. We have come through COVID a stronger organization.

This basis, plus excellent leadership and Montgomery community presence from Chief Executive Officer, Donna Marietta, an excellent, hardworking staff, a strong working Board with six shiny new faces, and 1,200+ volunteers, sets MACOA up for a great 2022-23.

MACOA has grown from feeding about 15 people 50 years ago to now serving 428 throughout Central Alabama. We not only serve each of these seniors a meal, but also check on them to make sure all is well. Unfortunately, while what we do is very good, we have a waiting list of about 175 seniors that qualify for our service. Our goal is to serve all those on the waiting list. And sooner than later would be better.

What will that take? It will take improving our already excellent fundraising efforts. It will take many more volunteers. I mention volunteers to ask you if you would be interested in helping us. If you are, we will find a place for you to contribute to our efforts.

I have the pleasure of serving as Chairman of the Board this year. And I do mean pleasure. Yes, it's work, but with so many rewards. Working with this staff and Board is such a pleasure. I believe that we are set up to have a great 2022-23.

**Let's do it!**

Roy McAuley

*Chair of MACOA's Board of Directors*

## 2022-23 MACOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zenobia Blackmon  
Angela Bradwell  
Sherice Brown  
Larry G. Carter  
Angela Crosby  
Cassandra Crosby  
General Trent Edwards  
Robert Froese  
Jason Gardner  
H. Lewis Gillis

Allison Guice  
Roy McAuley  
Andrea McCain  
Nikita McClain  
Judge Vanzetta McPherson  
Gary Oos  
Cheryl Payson  
Sheron Rose  
Paul Scott  
Jennifer Scott-Epperson

Kris Stallworth  
Aimee Steineker  
Willis Teel  
LaShandra Warren Barnes  
Sherry Weeks  
Dr. Tonda West  
Sherry White  
Reverend Richard Williams

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Dottie Blair  
Cathy Caddell

Barbara Duke  
Sue Groce

Pete Knight  
Sarah Spear

Sieu Tang Wood

# CEO'S NOTES

As I reflect on the 50 years that MACOA has been serving seniors, I think about the many generous donors, thousands of dedicated volunteers, hundreds of board members, thousand of seniors who received our services and deep and meaningful partnerships with people who call Montgomery “Home.”

“Home”, it is a wonderful word, isn’t it? It is our sanctuary and a place of our own. Home is a place full of memories, pictures and experiences. It is a reminder of our loved ones, family and friends. Dorothy had it right in the Wizard of Oz when she said, “There’s no place like home,” and that is how many seniors we serve feel about their home.

Ultimately, that’s our mission at MACOA – to care for the homebound, disabled, and elderly of our community and to help them remain independent and living right where they want to be – in their home.

We fulfill that mission by providing daily, hot, well-balanced meals to those in need. The caring and friendly Meals on Wheels volunteers communicate the message to our clients that they are not forgotten. The friendly visit and safety check made by volunteers helps our clients stay connected with social interaction. Everyone needs social connections to survive and thrive. Our message is simple, but its impact is profound!

As MACOA looks ahead to the future, you know there is so much more to do. We must expand into areas where there are people who need our program and have no daily meal services. Countless more need our meals but we can only do it with your help and support.

This is your call to action for an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of seniors who make this city their “home.”

Help us change the story of senior hunger in our community. Contact MACOA to volunteer or donate.

Thank you.

Donna Marietta  
*Chief Executive Officer*



## **MACOA STAFF DIRECTORY**

**Chief Executive Officer**  
Donna Marietta  
dmarietta@macoa.org

**Chief Operating Officer**  
Carrie Shostak  
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**Chief Financial Officer**  
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**Director of Senior Services**  
Pam Goodwin  
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**Director of RSVP**  
Jennifer Dvorak  
jfdvorak@macoa.org

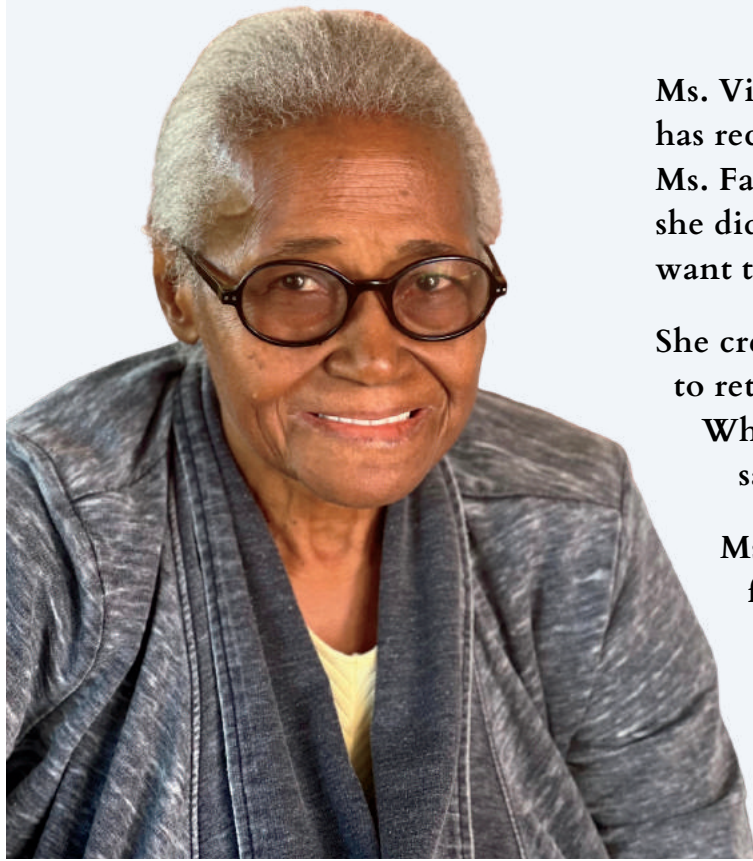
**Donor Relations  
Coordinator**  
Hazel Waites  
hwaites@macoa.org

**Office Manager**  
Lydia Millington  
lmillington@macoa.org



# CLIENT SPOTLIGHTS

## VICTORIA FAISON



Ms. Victoria Faison is an 86-year old Montgomery native who has received Meals on Wheels since 2016. After a hospital stay, Ms. Faison was placed in a nursing home. Instantly, she knew she didn't want to stay there. In her words, she said, "I didn't want to die there."

She credits Meals on Wheels for making it possible for her to return to her home, where she strongly desired to be.

When asked what Meals on Wheels means to her, she said one simple word, "**Hope.**"

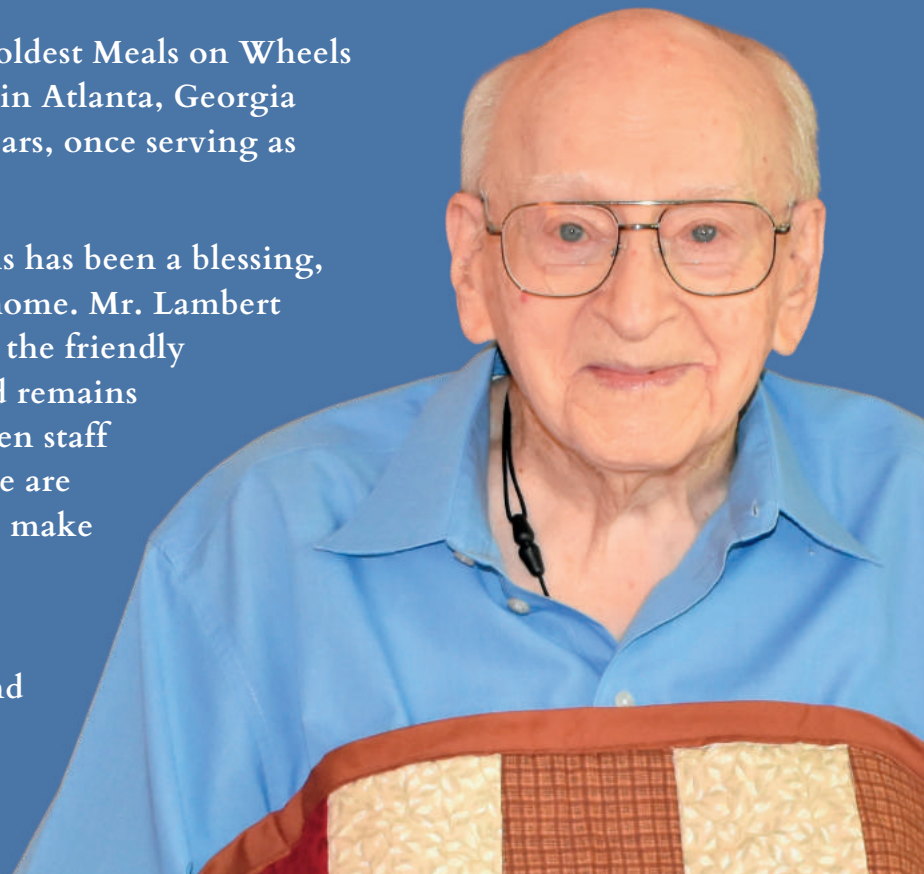
Ms. Faison brings instantaneous joy from her positivity, faith, and humor. She is a shining example of how delivering Meals on Wheels helps form mutually enjoyable relationships, and we are grateful to know Ms. Faison!

## JOHN LAMBERT

At age 104, Mr. John Lambert is MACOA's oldest Meals on Wheels recipient! Mr. Lambert was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia and has lived in Montgomery for over 40 years, once serving as the Pastor of Cloverdale Christian Ministry.

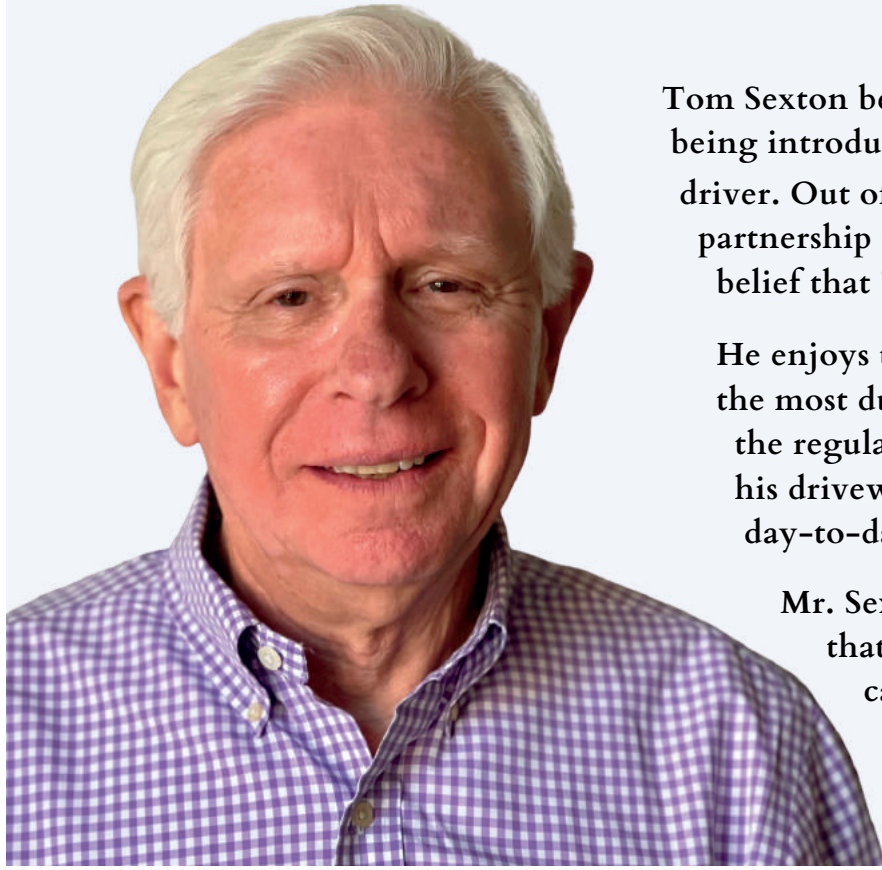
Mr. Lambert says receiving Meals on Wheels has been a blessing, especially after he experienced a fall in his home. Mr. Lambert says he is grateful for the visits he gets from the friendly Meals on Wheels drivers every weekday and remains very thankful to the Meals on Wheels kitchen staff for preparing his meals saying "I know there are hundreds of people (behind the scenes) who make it possible for (volunteer drivers) to be there with that meal, which I thoroughly enjoy."

Mr. Lambert is beloved by the volunteers and staff that have been lucky enough to get to know him through delivery his meals.



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHTS

## *TOM SEXTON*



Tom Sexton began delivering Meals on Wheels in 2019 after being introduced to the program by a friend who was a route driver. Out of his desire to serve the community came a partnership with MACOA where Mr. Sexton lives out his belief that "to serve people is a good reason to live."

He enjoys the connections he has made with local seniors the most during his time as a MACOA volunteer. One of the regular seniors on his route regularly meets him in his driveway where they share happenings from their day-to-day lives, including families, football, and more.

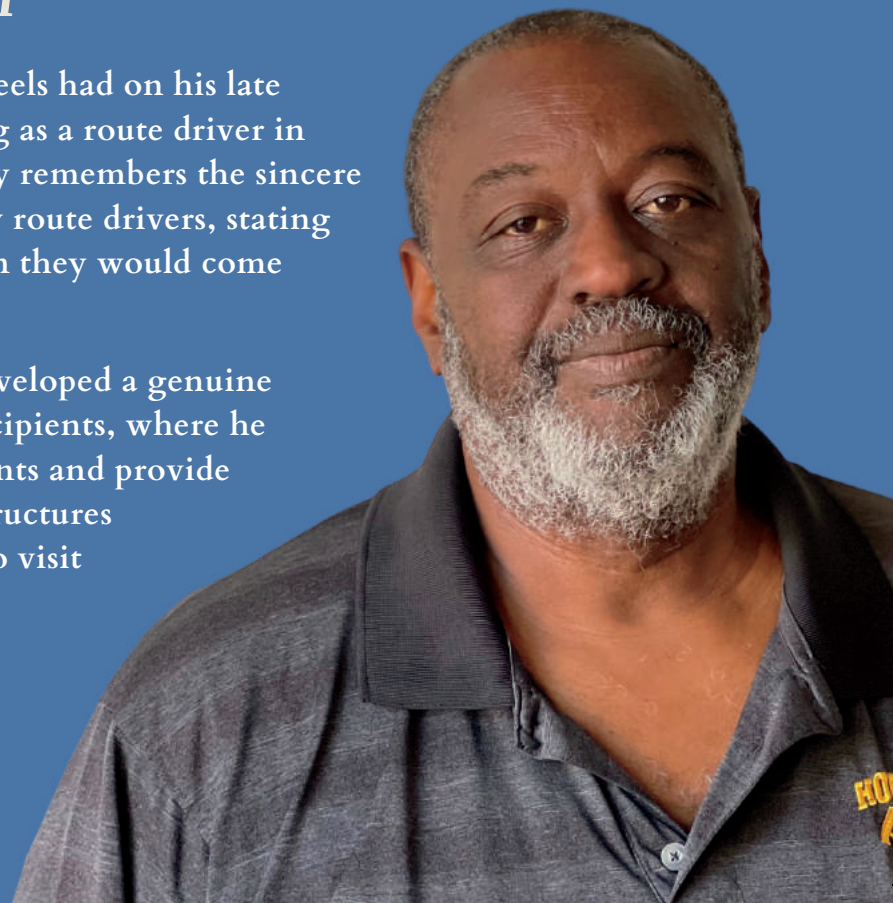
Mr. Sexton is a testament to the positive ripple effects that come from sharing about opportunities and causes we care about. We are grateful for those that spread the word of MACOA's mission, and leading us to volunteers like Mr. Sexton.

## *CURTIS SMITH*

After seeing the positive impact Meals on Wheels had on his late mother's life, Curtis Smith began volunteering as a route driver in 2016 to give back in a personal way. He fondly remembers the sincere relationships his mother developed with many route drivers, stating "I saw the difference it made (in her life) when they would come around and sit with her and talk."

In his time as a route driver, Mr. Smith has developed a genuine relationship with current Meals on Wheels recipients, where he captures opportunities to spend time with clients and provide heartfelt community with them. He even restructures the schedule of his route to make more time to visit with a client who loves a thorough catch up.

Dedication such as this provides a meaningful connection for our seniors, eliminating loneliness one meal delivery at a time.



# OUR STANDOUT TEAM



MACOA's mission would not be possible without our dedicated staff members that daily keep our Meals on Wheels kitchen running smoothly. Mr. Derry Jackson is among this incredible team, and brings a shining smile, positive outlook, and strong commitment to those we serve along with him **each and every day.**

Mr. Jackson is appreciated by so many, and was even recognized recently as the Easterseals Central Alabama Senior Community Service Employment Program Client of the Year. This was especially meaningful to Mr. Jackson, a proud Veteran, as he "loves" working at MACOA, and in-turn the Easterseals program for introducing him to an opportunity that would ultimately mean so much to him.

We are grateful for our decades-long partnership with the

Easterseals program for introducing us to tremendous ambassadors of our mission such as Mr. Jackson. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Jackson on this well-deserved award, and thanking him for his commitment to serving our community.

# THANKSGIVING HELPERS



On Thanksgiving morning, our community showed up in big ways to make sure our most food insecure and isolated seniors received something special for this holiday. Altogether, our volunteers and donors made 260 meals possible, showing our vulnerable senior neighbors that they were not alone or forgotten, especially on a day that means so much to us all.

We hope you all had a Thanksgiving holiday filled with joy, warmth, and community, just as we did at MACOA. We are thankful for you each and every day.



# THE BREAKFAST

The Breakfast, an event celebrating MACOA's **50 years of service** to Central Alabama's seniors through our Meals on Wheels program was held on October 20, 2022 at the Capital City Club. We welcomed nearly 200 attendees at this inaugural event, where past, present, and future supporters came together to share in the achievement of this significant milestone.

Our guests heard moving testimonials from volunteers John Craft and Iesha Brooks from Faulkner Law School, where they highlighted the mutually enjoyable social connections that come from delivering meals, but also their first-hand experiences in how this touchpoint with clients helps ensure their safety. The event was hosted by Mark Bullock of WSFA, a MACOA volunteer, who noted the role volunteers make in being the true pulse of the well-being of our senior clients who face isolation and hunger on a daily basis.

The star of the event was Meals on Wheels client, Victoria Faison, who shared how our meals have made it possible for her to remain independent and in her home. Ms. Faison shone a light on the transformative role MACOA serves in our recipients' lives, and that our services are so much more than just a meal.



*We appreciate the tremendous support of those who generously gave their time, talents, and resources to make this a successful event that will benefit our Meals on Wheels program.*



MUSICIANS FROM  
**Baldwin Arts & Academics  
Magnet School**



# HONORING OUR VETERANS

“We are not giving them anything – they earned it,” says Danny Wright, First Sergeant of the Alexander City Honor Guard (ACHG), Commander of the local American Legion, and RSVP volunteer. He is speaking of the Veterans and their families that are honored at their funeral services in recognition of their dedicated service to our country as part of the Honor Guard’s mission.

Each uniformed service branch in the U.S. Armed Forces has its own official Honor Guard, and most National Guard units have a ceremonial unit, as well. Still, not all Veterans receive honorary ceremonies at their funerals. Because of this, the ACHG was founded out of the desire to make sure all Veterans throughout Alabama are shown gratitude and reverence, even posthumously.

The ACHG’s efforts were, and continue to be, Veteran-led, with its foundation laid by the late Cecil Bryant, Al Tapley, Chuck Fuller, Al Neighbors, and Robert Graves. Community support, such as that provided by Randy Anderson of Radney Funeral Home, helped in the early days of the ACHG’s development and still assists the group’s activities today. Mr. Wright says, “We could not do what we do for our Veterans without Randy’s support.”



***Danny Wright and Susan Hardy,  
Cecil (Sausage) Bryant’s Daughter***

The ACHG is currently made up of nine Veterans from the area: James Carpenter, Charles Fuller, Jerry Hammond, James Machen, Charles Martin, Thomas Martin, David Sanford, and Danny Wright. These Veterans perform the final service for fellow Veterans, which includes the Presentation of Colors, the playing of Taps, and the folding and presentation of the American Flag to the families. In addition to veteran funeral services, the ACHG performs at American Legion and Veterans Day functions and during the opening ceremonies of local events.

We are grateful for the commitment of Veterans to our country and community, including MACOA. Each day, they make our impact and work possible, serving homebound seniors throughout Central Alabama.



# RSVP VOLUNTEERS & THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic Veterans organization. Membership is open to anyone that has served in war time, peace time, received an honorable discharge, or that is an active duty service member.

The American Legion Post in Alex City was formed around 1930. Membership typically includes around 45-50 Veterans, but after COVID-19 participation in meetings declined drastically. Danny Wright, Commander, is working to rebuild membership, and is seeing success through increased meeting participation.



The Legion is committed to serving Veterans in multi-faceted ways, including fundraising to be able to purchase items that will ease financial burdens on Veterans in the community. Commander Wright said the latest fundraiser for their post was a bingo night, where 10% of the funds raised were used to benefit residents at the Bill Nichols Veterans Home through providing them with items such as personal hygiene products. Remaining funds will help repair a van that members of the Post use to transport Veterans to doctor appointments.

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

**They protected us, now we must protect them. Your support ensures America's aging heroes have the independence and dignity they deserve. Our staff can connect you with opportunities to:**

- Provide benefits assistance to Veterans, including navigating the application process
- Serve at the Bill Nichols Veterans Home in Alex City
- Serve in an Honor Guard to honor Veterans who have died (open only to Veterans or active duty)
- Collect toiletries and socks to distribute to Veterans at Bill Nichols Veterans Home or other facilities where Veterans are patients
- Participate in a fundraiser at an American Legion that will assist Veterans with expenses such as gas costs for traveling to doctor appointments
- Volunteer with Stitchers of Hope to make blankets, scarves and hats for Veterans
- Volunteer with a group that makes mats for the homeless, many of who are Veterans

**To serve Veterans with MACOA, contact Jennifer Dvorak at [jfdvorak@macoa.org](mailto:jfdvorak@macoa.org) for more information.**



MACOA is grateful for tribute gifts made in honor or memory of friends, colleagues, and loved ones. Those honored since July 2022 are:

## MEMORIALS

**Berta Ruth Anderson**

Mr. Thomas Anderson

**Bill Anderson**

Mr. Pete L. Anderson

**E. T. Anderson**

Mr. Thomas Anderson

**Bob and Nell Avinger**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Kathy Beck

**Mrs. Willie E. Boswell**

Lt. Col. Samuel E. Ed. Boswell USAF, Ret.

**Dr. Ralph J. Bryson**

Mr. Ronald Cook, Jr.

**Mary S. Campbell**

Ms. Dottie Kenady Blair

**Patricia Ann Cash**

Mrs. Sandra Cummins

Bern, Butler, Capilouto & Massey, PC

Mrs. Ellen Dempsey

**Josephine Hall McLaughlin Crenshaw**

Ms. Patricia E. Shaner

**Claudia Dolecheck**

Mr. & Mrs. Richard & Patricia George

**Marilyn Driscoll**

Ms. Nora Cammack

Mrs. Ellen Dempsey

Mr. & Mrs. Jerome & Margie Marvil

Mrs. Anna Lee Ingalls

Mr. & Mrs. Tanya Noletto

Mr. Keith Karst

Mr. & Mrs. Gregory & Janet Florey

Mrs. Frances Bickerton

Mrs. John Chambless

Mr. & Mrs. John & Terri Mottram III

Mr. Don E. Lawley

Mrs. Mary Lee Edgar

**Helen Rittenour Geesey**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Gayle Auman

**James A. Geesey**

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Gayle Auman

**Julia Harden**

Mrs. Phyllis K. Kennedy

**Bonnie Harris**

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Ashley Warnock

**Harold T. Harris, Sr.**

Ms. Carol Harris

**Cindy Hines**

Mr. Donald Hines

**Faye Jackson**

Ray Cox Sunday School Class

**Shirley Johnson**

Mrs. Ellen Dempsey

**Gene Dent Levine**

Ms. Donna L O'Connor

**Sable Marzella**

Mrs. Ellen Dempsey

**Thomas McPherson, Jr.**

Ms. Vanzetta McPherson

**Margaret Moody**

Bradley Moody

**Clarence Smith**

Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Pamela Goodwin

In Memory Of Eugene Threatt

Ms. Lillian Killings

**Thomas H. Turner**

Ms. Frankie Turner

**Fred Tyson**

Ms. Alice Persons

**Morris S. Varon**

Ms. Esther Varon

**Carolyn Wright**

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence & Josie Moore

Mrs. Barbara Moore

Ms. Sherrie Cook

P. H. Stanford Sunday School Class

Mr. William T. Livingston

Ms. Yvonne Saxon

## HONORARIUMS

**Loretta Bach**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Barbara Duke

**Mary Edna Baker**

Ms. Suzanne D. Lowry

**Melanie Beasley**

Kathy Sawyer

Ms. Jane Davis

**Charles & Sandra Berry**

Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Carla Beavers

**Maryanne Brown**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Barbara Duke

**Dawn Campbell**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Phyllis Fenn**

Jack Durham

**Andrea McCain**

Ms. Glenda Allred

**Ben McDavid**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Joan McLeod**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Jeff and Suanne Parnell**

Jack Durham

**Dianne Perrett**

Mr. & Mrs. C.E. & Suzie Sanders

**Jimmy Poole**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Barbara Duke

**Mike & Kathy Preskitt**

Mr. & Mrs. William & Siew T. Wood

**Danny Reese**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Mr. & Mrs. David & Alicia Robertson, Sr.**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Peggy Salter**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Kathy Beck

**Herbert D. Smith**

Mr. & Mrs. Tray & Sherri Hill

**Al & Aimee Steineker**

Mr. & Mrs. Blake Jeffcoat

**Jean Williams**

Mr. & Mrs. Bob & Barbara Duke

**Leah Winston**

Ms. Mary Anne Moorhead

**Sheila Woodham**

Mr. & Mrs. James & Cherilee Walker



## *The Montgomery Area Council on Aging*

115 East Jefferson Street  
Montgomery, AL 36104  
(334) 263-0532  
macoa@macoa.org

THANK YOU, RIVER REGION, FOR DELIVERING

# 4.5 MILLION

## MEALS

## SAFETY CHECKS

## CARING CONTACTS

**SEE AND HEAR FOR YOURSELF THE DIFFERENCE YOU ARE  
MAKING POSSIBLE IN OUR COMMUNITY**

It is a **joy** to share a glimpse into the worthy work you have made possible these last 50 years. We hope you feel fulfilled while watching this quick video, knowing **you are impacting the lives of our senior neighbors every day.**



WATCH A QUICK VIDEO  
SHOWING THE IMPACT OF  
MEALS ON WHEELS IN  
**OUR COMMUNITY**

