

LETTERS ♦ FEEDBACK ♦ COMMENTARY

COMMENTARY

Lockheed chief had passion for ...

LEARNING, SHARING

Thursday night a gentle light left this world and now illumines the next. Retired Lockheed-Georgia President Bob Ormsby, a giant of a man both professionally and personally, has left us for his next great adventure. Bob's life is the stuff of legend, and as a friend once said about Bob



Alan Price

GUEST
COLUMNIST

"you can't make this stuff up."
Born 88 years ago in Winston Salem, N.C., Bob knew from a very early age he was destined to be involved in aviation. That desire took him to

Georgia Tech, where he obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering and roomed with a future president, Jimmy Carter.

Bob began his career with the Glenn Martin Company, the "Martin" in Lockheed Martin, and came to Marietta in 1954 to work on the first aircraft designed from the ground up to carry cargo — the legendary C-130. Later, Bob helped design the C-141 and headed up the initial design team for the C-5 Galaxy.

Bob liked to reminisce about the role the C-5 played in saving Israel. During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel was running out of tanks and surrounded by enemies. Prime Minister Golda Meir placed a call to President Nixon. Shortly after, C5's began arriving in Israel with hundreds of tanks — tanks that turned the tide of battle. As Bob liked to recall, "I had a role in producing an aircraft that saved a nation."

His talents took him all the way to the presidency of Lockheed Georgia and in serving from 1975 to 1984, he held the position longer than any other. When asked how he accomplished this, Bob had a great response: "Well, people usually say, 'Wow,' and I say, 'Why wow?' I wasn't good enough to get promoted and I wasn't bad enough to get fired. How mediocre can you be?" That was just Bob being Bob.

In 1984, Bob was promoted to head all the Lockheed aircraft facilities before retiring in 1986. He has served as chairman of the NASA Aeronautics Advisory Committee, as a fel-

low of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and is the recipient of the NASA Distinguished Public Service Award.

While Bob's professional achievements are spectacular, his accomplishments as a servant-leader illustrate his great depth of character. Long before it became popular, Bob spoke constantly about the need to reinvigorate the American educational system and to promote STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

It was this passion which led him to help establish and serve as the first director of the Cobb County Aviation Museum. It was here that I was fortunate enough to become a Friend Of Bob (FOB). As capital funds director for the Aviation Museum, I worked closely with Bob on projects far and wide. He was passionate about STEM education, about preserving our aviation heritage as a means to interest young persons in STEM, and about making tomorrow better than today. Bob was the real deal.

Two weeks ago, Bill Dudge, Sandy Sanders and I had the opportunity to spend an hour with Bob in conversation about an aviation concept we are all deeply committed to. Typically, we had to delay



Lockheed-Georgia President Bob Ormsby, who died Thursday at age 88, stands with a scale model of the massive cargo jet he masterminded, the C-5 Galaxy, in the early 1980s.

Staff/file

our meeting for several days as Bob had previously scheduled a daylong meeting to discuss aeronautical careers with Georgia Tech students!

Bob was a self-made man who shared his insights, opinions and vision with any and all. He preached the gospel of self-achievement through aeronautical STEM, and to his last day, Bob did what he loved — worked with people to insure a brighter future for us all.

"If I have reached great heights, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants." Bob, you are that giant. Standing upon your shoulders, we have glimpsed the future you envisioned for

us all. It is one of the great honors of my life to have known you and called you friend. Thanks for the memories and the lessons you taught. In sharing these with the next generation, we will try and preserve your legacy.

When we honor a fellow pilot, we wish them God speed, and safe journeys in their travels west. So too with you, Bob. May you have great conversations, true fellowship and challenges worthy of your talents as you move to the next phase of life beyond this. We will miss you, old friend.

Capt. Alan Price of Marietta is a retired Delta pilot.

LETTERS

Cobb schools turn 'reporting' law into fiasco

DEAR EDITOR:

The mandatory reporter law in Georgia was strengthened in order to provide for the protection of children, not the overzealous prosecution of educators. The Cobb County School District is responsible for implementing a policy and training teachers and administrators about the law and mandatory reporting. Instead, CCSD seems to be conducting a roving witch hunt for those who do not report anything and everything in a school.

The situation harkens back to the time that Cobb Schools declared that a "Tweety-Bird trinket" was a weapon and suspended a student from school. These situations occur when common sense and reasonable judgment are lost.

Principal Crawford's case appears to target a principal who had little to no involvement in the overall situation. The alleged rape never happened and the consensual touching between the two students occurred off campus. It would seem that the Awtrey counselor, assistant principal and the child's mother all were satisfied that nothing occurred and the matter was closed.

The district's own timeline says that Cobb DFACS said that the situation was not reportable under the law and the police department determined that no crime had occurred.

Despite all this information, the district has charged the principal as if it has nothing better to do. Apparently addressing drugs and gangs in schools is a secondary priority. How can a teacher, counselor or administrator do his job if the School District and DFACS and law enforcement cannot even get on the same page?

No one wishes for even a single act of child abuse to go unreported, but educators and administrators cannot reasonably be expected to educate children if they are looking over their shoulder and being second guessed and persecuted by the District. The District should be supporting educators, not punishing them for trying to do their jobs.

The career of Trudie Donovan was brought to an improper end, unfitting of her years of service. After being arrested, photographed, bonded out and then waiting two years she has finally been cleared, but she can never be restored. I hope her case becomes a lesson to the District for the future and that Mr. Crawford's charges are dropped.

Steve Woodman
Marietta

Treatment of wounded veterans shameful

DEAR EDITOR:

Don McKee's MDJ columns about the backlog of one million veterans' disability claims is flat out unacceptable. There is only one reason why our wounded warriors cannot receive adequate care for the disabilities they suffered in war and that is that our government cannot bring themselves to give those responsible for providing adequate care enough money to do their jobs.

I am a veteran of the Korean War and cannot remember when our politicians provided full funding for the VA to care for wounded vet. They can always find enough money to wage their stupid wars, but they can never find enough money to care for those who are wounded fighting them. Once those brave warriors buy the political claptrap about "service to their country" and became wounded in fulfilling what they are told is their duty, they are treated like unwanted road-kill.

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki is not the one who needs to be replaced. Those who need replacement are those who gave him the job to care for our wounded veterans and then spent the money necessary to do his job on golf outings in Hawaii and Bridges to Nowhere. The treatment provided to those brave souls is sickening.

Perhaps the veterans just have to learn to die quicker because, after all, they all volunteered. Well, Mr. President, according to the McKee article, 19,500 have heeded your call while awaiting service.

How many is enough, Mr. President? And please don't try to pull another Benghazi on us and pretend that you don't know what those you put in charge are doing. Remember where the buck stops.

Jim Stoll
Kennesaw

Thatcher death reminder of poisoned well of U.K. politics

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — The death of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has prompted reactions from Britain's far left that takes bad taste to new extremes.

During its Top 40 music countdown Sunday night, BBC Radio 1 was "forced" to play a seven-second clip of "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead" from the 1939 film "The Wizard of Oz," because Thatcher haters had bought enough copies during a feverish online campaign to bump it to the top of the pop charts. It ultimately reached the number two spot, 5,000 sales short of the top position.

If you think U.S. politics has become too corrosive, consider the British variety. Call it patty cake vs. cage fighting.

"Death parties" have been held across the U.K. at which anti-Thatcherites celebrated her passing. Anarchists, who demonstrated their hatred for Thatcher over the weekend, plan to join other haters for a demonstration at her funeral on April 17, which has prompted Scotland Yard to make preparations to defend heads of state, or their representatives, along with celebrities against terrorist attack.

A veteran Metropolitan Police officer, Sergeant Jeremy Scott, tweeted that he hoped Thatcher's death was "painful and degrading," adding the world would be a "better place" if Prime Minister David Cameron and some of his cabinet members were also dead. Scott has since resigned.

The Daily Mail reported that a drama teacher named Romany Blythe called Baroness Thatcher a "despot" and said:

"They danced in the streets when Hitler died, too."

Some students who attended death parties were too young, or not yet born, to be aware of the Thatcher years. The Daily Telegraph quoted 21-year-old Aamna Mohdin, a biology student at Queen Mary, University of London, who called Thatcher a "terrible person" and a "draconian woman" who did nothing for women or feminism.

These are the products of "higher" education. One student who attended a death party was quoted as saying she didn't become a liberal until she went to university. No surprise there.

Why such visceral reactions to a woman who served her country for 11 years as prime minister? For many, government is a drug to which they have become addicted. They need the drug to survive. Margaret Thatcher tried to break that addiction and get her people to support themselves. Anyone who suggests it is possible, even desirable, to break the government "habit" becomes the target of the "addicts" and their enabling politicians, both in life and now in death.

The British press has reported on families in which several generations have been on "benefits" with no expectation of ever working, and no motivation for finding

work. They are offended by suggestions they look for a job.

Thatcher sought to break that cycle and in so doing angered many who thought it their "right" to be on the receiving end of other people's money. The debate in the U.K. mirrors that taking place in the United States as too many politicians, reluctant to tell anyone "no" for fear of losing votes, indulge people in their social and economic addiction to government.

The battle being fought in both countries is between those who value the individual as supreme and others who regard the state as supreme. In the U.K. and U.S., government has exceeded its boundaries and just as last winter's floods in the U.K. have caused severe damage, there has been similar damage to liberty and the promotion of capitalism in both countries.

The Cameron government has cautiously tried to emulate Thatcher in its reform attempts. These include the costly and underperforming National Health Service — a preview of coming attractions if Obamacare is fully implemented in the U.S. next year.

If Cameron succeeds, the left will probably celebrate his eventual demise, too. This is the poisoned well of British politics.

Cal Thomas is the nation's most widely syndicated columnist.

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LETTERS POLICY

The Marietta Daily Journal encourages letters to the editor on topics of general interest, but reserves the right to edit them for content and length. Letters should be no longer than about 250 words and must include the writer's name, address and daytime telephone number for verification purposes.

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