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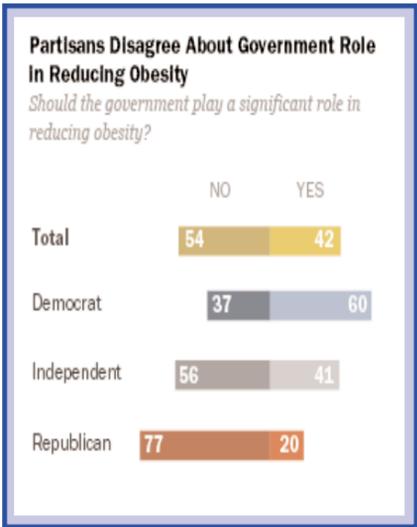
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Catholic has three more who sign scholarships
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AUTHOR AND SEVEN GRANDSONS AT DISNEY: LEFT TO RIGHT- JUSTIN WELCH, CALEB SWANN, BRADY SWANN, ROSEMARY BROADWAY, JONATHAN BUCHNER, JOSHUA WELCH, GARRETT BUCHNER AND CODY SWANN.

A Super Hero for God

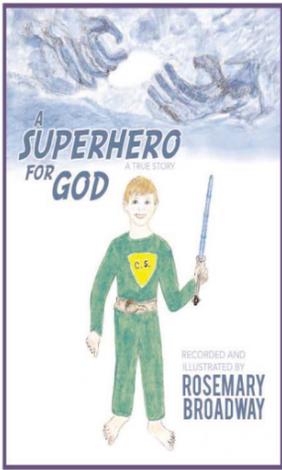
It took a super effort to produce

BY BILL RICE, JR
Rosemary Broadway never intended to become an author. She just wanted to record an event in her life and in the life of one of her grandsons, a story that, for her, had profound meaning.

But from this story - and from her telling - a book emerged - "A Super Hero for God" (published by Archway Publishing, a subsidiary of Simon & Schuster).

Broadway wrote the story and did all of the illustrations for what most might consider a children's book or a Christian book. However, for Montgomery native Broadway, it's a story that can touch anyone of any age.

The story of the story begins in the summer of 2011 when two of Broadway's grandsons, identical twins **Cody and Caleb Swann**, were visiting her from their



home in Clinton, Miss. While in town, they attended church services at Westminster Presbyterian Church.

During the children's sermon portion of the service,

the boys gathered with other children at the front of the sanctuary where pastor **Candasu Vernon** was telling the story about how Moses - upon direction from God - had taken off his sandals because "you are standing on Holy ground." For effect, the pastor was telling the Biblical story in her stocking feet.

"Do you notice anything about the way I am dressed?" she asked the children.

One of Broadway's grandsons (she thinks it was Caleb but is not 100 percent sure), immediately answered. "You are not wearing your feet!" he exclaimed.

The response elicited a big laugh from the congregation, but the fact that he had "misspoken ... "horrified" young Caleb, whose face turned beet red.

See **BROADWAY**, Page 11

Judge on 11th Circuit is found to have conflict

Reporting by The Center For Public Integrity
Special to The Montgomery Independent

A federal court has scrapped a 2010 decision in an employment discrimination appeal and plans to reopen the case after The Center for Public Integrity uncovered a conflict of interest by one of its judges.

Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge **Susan Black** vacated the original opinion in the case involving Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. last week and ordered it be reconsidered by a new panel of judges.

Black tossed the decision because 11th Circuit Judge **Frank Hull** bought up to \$15,000 worth of stock in Jacobs several months before ruling in favor of the international con-



Judge Frank Hull
(Yes, that is her name)

struction giant, violating court rules.

The rehearing came as a surprise to **Lee Winston**, who represented **Shirley Brown** of Huntsville, Ala., more than three years ago in the complaint against the engineering firm. Brown, who is African-American, sued the firm alleging racial and sexual discrimination.

"I'm glad it's getting a fresh look," said Winston, who is based in Birmingham, Ala. "Obviously the judge shouldn't have heard the case."

The 11th Circuit, based in Atlanta, covers Florida, Georgia and Alabama. The appellate courts are second only to the U.S. Supreme Court in terms of seniority.

Marion F. Walker, the attorney representing Jacobs Engineering, said she has never had a decision vacated for a conflict in her 36 years as a lawyer in the circuit. But she told the Center that she doubts the opinion in this case will change much.

"We felt the record is pretty clear," she said. "It's regrettable because it puts other judges to work on something that three judges have already spent a great deal of time on."

The case is one of 26 cited by the Center in its months-long Juris Imprudence investigation, in which judges had financial interests in a party with a case they heard. Judges cannot own even a single share of stock in companies that come before them.

The Center examined the three most recent years of financial disclosure reports filed by 255 of the 258 judges who sit on the nation's 13 appellate circuits to determine if judges' financial ties overlapped with their work on

See **JUDGE**, Page 2

Annual Lebanese Food Festival Saturday

What should people know about the Lebanese Food Festival and Silent Auction? "It's getting bigger and better every year!" says **Sandra Miles**, chairperson of the event.

The event has grown so much that this year for the first time it will be held at a larger venue, the Church of the Holy Spirit at 7540 Vaughn Road (across from the Wynlakes intersection).

This year's festival is the fifth ever. It takes place Saturday, May 17th from 5 to 8 p.m. In previous years it was held at Saint Bede.

Visitors will enjoy great food that they don't get to sample every day, all of the items made by local families from time-proven family recipes.

Visitors can dine in (or carry out) and enjoy Lebanese entertainment as well as participate in a silent auction that will include everything from beach vacations, a used BMW, furniture, art, china, silverware, crystal, home accessories and much more.

See **Lebanese**, Page 2



ORIGINAL FOUNDING LEBANESE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEMBER, **EDNA SADIE** (STANDING IN BACK) WITH HER DAUGHTER **LIZ SUTTON** AND HER HUSBAND **BILL SUTTON** ENJOY A MUCH- NEEDED BREAK DURING A PREVIOUS YEAR'S FESTIVAL. THE "SADIE FAMILY" RECIPE FOR GREEN BEANS IS USED EACH YEAR ON THE LEBANESE PLATES.

Revenue Tax Sale
See Section 4

Following Orders

Commentary

By Dr. JOHN ED MATHISON



Hiroo Onoda died in January, 2014. He was the Japanese Army Lieutenant who was stationed on the Island of Lubang in the Philippines. You will remember that Japan formally surrendered to the allied powers on September 2, 1945; World War II was over, but not for Hiroo.

A few months earlier he had been given clear orders to stay and fight. He continued to obey those orders – for another 29 years. He hid in the jungles. He raided villages for rice and meat. He would try to kill anyone whom he assumed was the enemy. It wasn't until 1974 that he was finally persuaded to give up his guerilla campaign.

He became the last World War II combatant to surrender to allied forces. When he was carried back to Japan, reporters asked him what he had been thinking about during the last 30 years. His reply was, "Carrying out my orders." He was a good soldier who was "carrying out his orders." When he joined the army in 1942, he was trained in special guerilla warfare. When the Island of Lubang was captured by U.S. Forces in 1948, Hiroo was among a tiny group that vowed to keep fighting. He believed "that the war was still on" and he was compelled to obey his orders. The last of his comrades died in a gun battle in 1972.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT TRIED to persuade him to come out of hiding. They even dropped leaflets. He dismissed them as allied propaganda. When he was finally contacted by a young Japanese student in 1974, he insisted that "he was still waiting for orders." He would not come out of hiding until finally they brought in his former commander who formally relieved him of his duty.

Wow – what obedience. What if we Christians today were as compelled to obey as was Hiroo Onoda?

We are under orders to "go into the world and make disciples." (Matthew 18:19) That was not a suggestion – that was a command. It was not something that we might choose to do among other alternatives – it is our mission as Christians. Are we obeying that command?

We are under orders to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:37-40) How well are we doing with that command? How many things do we put in front of our relationship to God? How often do we choose which people we want to love and which people we refuse to love?

There is an old gospel song which talks about obeying. The chorus says

"Trust and obey
For there is no other way
To be happy in Jesus
But to trust and obey."

Hiroo continued to "carry out his orders" until his former commander formally relieved him of duty. Until our Commander, Jesus Christ, formally relieves us of our duty – we are under orders. We are not called to be successful – but to be obedient.

Our orders are clear – how well are we carrying them out?

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Broadway kept book project to herself

Continued from Page 1

End of an amusing story, right? Well, not quite. Shortly thereafter, the pastor used this incident as the theme of an article she wrote for the church newsletter.

The theme was that we should all put on our "Christian feet" much more often in order to do more good in the world.

The theme resonated with Grandmother Broadway, as well as the idea that such a powerful message would emerge from an event that was, in fact, embarrassing for a child.

To Broadway, the event showed that God can take an embarrassing or insignificant event and make it into a catalyst for good.

She was determined to tell the story, but only as a way to "connect" with her grandsons and record a family memory.

"I wanted them to know what this meant to me," she said.

She wrote the story in long-hand, but it wasn't that hard as basically she was just re-telling an event that had actually occurred and that her own pastor had expounded upon.

She also had the idea that any child can be a "super hero for God." This idea came to her when she attended Grandparent's Day for another one of her grandsons and saw a piece of artwork he'd drawn that depicted the little boy as a super hero.

The art work (included in the book!) was in response to the question, what do you want to be when you grow up?

Broadway knew that almost all children are fascinated by "super heroes."

So her main character was going to be depicted in the attire of various super heroes.

Although she doesn't consider herself to be an artist, she also decided that she would do her own illustrations (done in colored pencil) as she wanted the story to be her own interpretations.

The project - writing, editing, organizing and drawing scores of illustrations - took over a year.

She told virtually no one what she was doing, which her co-workers at The Name Dropper later considered a miracle in itself as she is known for sharing her stories and asking for input on all manner of topics.

But, at some point, she did share her story - and the project that grew out of this story - with a friend. The friend was impressed and commented that such a story could benefit many other people.

A light went off in Broadway's head. Who know? Maybe God was working through her to promote a multi-layered and important message. A message that could be shared with an audience far larger than her immediate family.

Yes, she thought, a published book it will be!

She researched publishers and ultimately settled on Archway, which Simon & Schuster had just created to help those who want to self-publish. The company provides editing and design assistance as well as all-important distribution assistance.

It was Archway employees who told her about one giant snag in her project. As virtually all of the illustrations depicted her grandson in "super hero" costumes, she would have to obtain approval from the media companies that own the copyrights to all of the images of super heroes.

Don't count on such approval, her publisher told her. "Well, I'm a determined person," said Broadway.

First she found out who owned the copyrights for the likes of Batman, Superman, Luke Skywalker, Spider Man and

Iron Man. Then she started writing letters, emails and making phone calls.

And waited and waited and then mailed copies of her drawings and outlines of her proposed book. And waited some more. And lobbied.

Without approval, the book project as she envisioned it would simply not be possible.

Only one company - D.C. Comics (owners of Batman and Superman copyrights) ended up giving her approval.

Marvel (owners of Iron Man and Spider Man) and Lucas Films (owner of the Star Wars characters) declined.

"Please say something nice about D.C.," said Broadway when doing her first book interview. "They couldn't have been nicer and I appreciate them so much."

As it turns out, the company's permission saved the day (or at least the book).

Still, "several of my best drawings" including one of a grandson dressed as Spider Man crawling across a wall, had to be pulled from the book.

But with Batman and Superman likenesses and some generic super heroes, she had enough art work to move forward.

Several months ago she finally got the first copies of the book. She first presented it to the twins and their parents, who were (of course) thrilled. Even her pastor, who also got a copy, had forgotten about the event that forms the story.

Sales have "gone very well" she reports.

The Lee High and Huntingdon graduate did a particularly brisk business at the recent

Alabama Book Festival.

Books (hard cover or soft cover) are available at The Name Dropper (where she has worked part-time for 27 years) and all of the on-line book sites including Amazon.com and Barnes and Nobles' on-line store. She's also happy to sell them to anyone who contacts her (best phone number is 272-9502).

She has plans to attend a Book Expo in New York this month as well as a Book Festival in Nashville in October.

She's received positive feedback from readers locally and from all over the world.

While the book focuses on an event that involved just one of her grandsons, "all seven" of her grandsons are depicted in some way in her story.

The cover art includes an image of clouds that resemble "God's hands." This image was provided by a Facebook friend and former Montgomery resident **Milton McGehee**.

She said she's very happy with the finished project and believes the story works on multiple levels and can have different meanings to different people. Because of this, she hesitates to provide a single description of what the book is about.

And she's not interested in making money.

"I'd give the books away if I knew it might make a difference," she said.

The story is about the "super" outcomes that are possible when we wear our Christian feet, or our best feet.

"The rest of the story is still to be written, but it's not to be written by me," said Broadway. "It is to be written by the reader. This is a story that has no ending. It is everyone's story and the sequel is only determined by the reader's response."



Beasley Allen's motto, "helping those who need it most since 1979," applies to the clients we serve, but also to the community. The firm is involved in a wide variety of service projects that touch the lives of individuals in Montgomery, Ala., and the River Region, where the firm is located, as well as people in need throughout the world.

On a local level, our attorneys and staff are active volunteers and board members in partnership with organizations and agencies that work with people of all ages, from all walks of life. Service projects include fund raising; food, toy and clothing drives; providing volunteer man-hours and sweat equity; and participating in blood drives and outreach and awareness activities.

Reaching out beyond our own neighborhoods, Beasley Allen supports charitable foundations and national organizations that work to provide a better quality of life for people around the world.

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