A. L. Burruss Chronology

1927 (Jun 3) Born in rural Forsyth County
1934-1935 Burruss family moves to Smyrna, Georgia
1944 Graduates from Smyrna High School
1945 Enlists in US Naval Reserve; stationed in the Philippines
1947 (Aug 17) Marries Barbara Nelle Elrod (Bobbi); they move to Smyrna, Georgia
1951 Acquires Tip Top Poultry in Marietta, Georgia, and becomes its president
1952 (Feb 5) Son Robin Alan born
1955 (Apr 16) Son Michael Adair born (died June 28, 1956)
1958 (Dec 10) Daughter Patricia Renée born
1959 Moves with his family to Marietta, Georgia
1963 (Jan) Named Area Young Man of the Year by the Jaycees
1964 (Nov 4) Elected to Cobb County’s new five-member county commission for a 4-year term beginning January 2, 1965
1968 (Apr 7) Announces he will not run for a second term on the Cobb County Commission
1968 (Sep 11) Wins the Democratic primary election for Post 7 in the Georgia House of Representatives
1968 (Nov 5) Elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, the first of nine successive terms
1966 Befriends Jimmy Carter, flying him around Georgia in Carter’s first, unsuccessful campaign for governor
1970 Active in Carter’s second and successful campaign for governor, again loaning Carter his plane to campaign around Georgia
1971 (Jan)  Becomes Governor Jimmy Carter’s administrative floor leader in the House

1974 (Jan 7)  Elected Speaker pro tempore of the Georgia House of Representatives

1975 (Jan 13)  Reelected Speaker pro tempore

1975 (May)  Named Georgia Legislative Conservationist of the Year for his support of the Metropolitan Rivers Protection Act of 1974

1976 (Jan)  Serves on the Kennesaw Junior College Board of Trustees, pivotal in getting funds for college to become four-year institution

1976 (Feb)  Campaigns for Carter in the New Hampshire primary

1976 (Mar 31)  Announces he will run for Speaker of the House

1976 (Apr 26)  Cookout for “Al Burruss Appreciation Day”; three thousand five hundred people attend

1976 (Nov 11)  Loses the race for Speaker of the House to Tom Murphy

1980 (Nov 4)  Elected majority whip in House

1982  Elected House majority leader, a post held until his death

1984  Named Cobb County Citizen of the Year

1986 (Mar 9)  Announces he has pancreatic cancer

1986 (Mar 19)  City of Marietta announces the new forty-six-acre park under construction to be named the A. L. Burruss Nature Park

1986 (Mar 27)  Delivers Lenten Lunch Lift speech to First United Methodist Church of Marietta from his hospital bed (tape-recorded)

1986 (May 10)  Dies at Kennestone Hospital, Marietta, Georgia
1987 (Jan 20) Dedication of the new Burruss Correctional Training Center in Monroe County

1987 (Feb 9) Plans announced for A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research at Kennesaw State University

1988 (Jul) Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia create the A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research

1988 Dedication of the new A. L. Burruss Elementary School in Marietta, Georgia
INT: This is Al Burruss speaking for the Lenten Lunch Lift at First United Methodist Church in Marietta, Georgia, on March 26, 1986, from his hospital bed at Kennestone Hospital where he’s recovering from exploratory surgery.

Al Burruss: My medical condition prevents me from being with you in person today. When Charles [Rev. Charles Sineath] called me several weeks ago about making this talk I decided I would stress to you that my basic religious beliefs are contained in the Apostle’s Creed. I plan to talk with you about God being the only God, our Father Almighty, the Maker of Heaven and Earth. And then I wanted to talk with you about how I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only son, our Savior, our Lord and our Redeemer, who the Bible tells us was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate and was crucified on the cross for the atonement of the sins, of not only you, but of me. Yes, he died and was buried in the tomb. Then I wanted to talk with you about the Resurrection. Remember that without the Resurrection, all other things we believe about God, that we believe about Jesus Christ, that we believe about the Holy Spirit are really not important because our life here on Earth is horrible. Our eternal life comes about through the Resurrection of Christ. This is the ultimate goal that we all seek. I am convinced that I believe these things very strongly. That the events that have occurred during the last few days have emphasized that my beliefs are really stronger than I thought. Since the news has come that I have pancreatic cancer that
is most probably terminal, I’ve been strangely calm and sustained. I give all the credit for this to the fact that my faith was there stronger than even I believed it to be. I am not panicked. It’s true that I have spoken about the possibility that my life will be shorter than I want it to be. But I am also encouraged by the fact that my faith tells me that my death and my judgment days can be changed, but they can only be changed by our God and our Maker. Because of my prayers, the prayers of my family and the prayers of so many of you here, and other people throughout this county and throughout this great state of Georgia, I feel there has been an intervention and it is now to have complete or partial healing take place. This is the direct result of prayers for my spiritual and physical improvement. Please take this message home with you: God is real and He will be with us through any trial or tribulation that may come our way. I firmly believe that God is greater than any problems that we have. Please continue to remember to pray for me and my family. I thank you for listening and may God bless you.
In July 1988, the Georgia Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia created the A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research. Its mission “is to enhance the ability of governmental agencies and non-profit organizations to make informed decisions for the public good by providing relevant data, technical resources and skill development.”

To accomplish this mission in line with Kennesaw State University President Betty L. Siegel’s goal of “commitment to community,” the Institute made plans to reach out to city, county, regional, state, and federal agencies and elected officials, as well as non-profit and community service organizations. It aimed to provide technical assistance and applied research services on diverse topics ranging from gerontology to lake management.
studies within North Atlanta and Northwest Georgia.

The A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research draws upon the expertise of the academic departments of Kennesaw State by providing opportunities for many faculty, from diverse research fields, to participate in applied research projects on an as-needed basis. In addition, Kennesaw State University students serve as student assistants, interns, co-ops, and as interviewers in the Institute’s Telephone Survey Research Laboratory. Moreover, the Institute’s staff also has extensive community involvement of its own, taking part in many voluntary programs with government agencies, the juvenile court system, chambers of commerce and civic organizations, often speaking to these groups, advising them and sharing in their enterprises.

Since its inception in 1988, the Institute has partnered with a number of prominent organizations, including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Lake Allatoona Watershed Study, and the Nature Conservancy, and it has collaborated on joint projects with other universities, including Emory University and the University of Georgia. The Institute also assists many local, state, and national government agencies, such as the Department of Justice, the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety, and other law enforcement departments.
Select Bibliography


INDEX

A

Allen, Frederick 75, 82, 105, 107
Appropriations Committee 6, 37, 70, 72 (see also House Appropriations Committee)
Arnall, Ellis 23, 109
Atheron, Howard 28, 30
Austin, Chet ix, xii, 3, 16, 23, 39, 43, 44, 63, 88

B

Banks, E. T. 5, 15
Barnes, Roy E. 2, 38, 66, 67, 72, 73, 75, 77, 78, 81, 83
Barrett, Ernest 21
Bartow County 78
Bell Aircraft 4
Brown, Betty 86
Brown, Tommy 22
Brumby, Otis 89
Burger, Frederick 34, 103, 104, 107
Burruss, A. L.
  as Cobb County Commissioner 29
  as family man 20, 56, 60
  as fiscal conservative 22, 26
  as Gov. Carter’s floor man 31, 32, 33, 34, 74, 77, 92
  as legislator 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 64, 65, 68, 73, 77, 82, 85
  as majority whip 41, 65, 66, 67, 70
  as minority leader 77
  as Speaker pro tempore 34, 39, 40, 63, 67, 84
  on anti-smoking legislation 36
  on Equal Rights Amendment 36
  on women’s credit bill 35
Burruss, Bobbi 2, 4, 7, 10, 12, 13, 18, 46, 48, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 60, 97
Burruss, Buddy xii, 2, 6, 9
Burruss, Chess (A. L.’s father) 52
Burruss, Eula (A. L.’s mother) 10, 52, 86
Burruss, Gerald xii, 86, 108
Burruss, Robin xii, 13, 46, 48, 54, 56, 64, 86
Busbee, George 9, 33, 37, 51, 53, 75, 109
C

Calvary Children’s Home 14
campaign ads, for county commissioner 21
Capitol, state of Georgia 13, 34, 66, 78, 86
Carbine, Bill 74, 106
Carter, Hugh 33, 53
Carter, Jimmy xi, 1, 14, 18, 23, 31, 33, 38, 41, 49, 53, 61, 69, 70, 84, 87, 92, 101, 103, 105, 106, 109
Carter, Rosalynn 87
Cauthen, Rev. Hugh 87
Cobb County ix, xi, 1, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 32, 35, 37, 38, 67, 69, 73, 75, 76, 78, 83, 84, 86, 87, 91, 92, 99, 100, 101, 102, 104, 105, 106, 107, 109
Collins, Marcus 64, 65, 105
Cornelia, GA 5, 17, 18
county commission ix, 1, 19, 20, 22, 24, 48, 91

D

Dakin, Milo 35, 103
Darden, Buddy 82, 87
Davis, Renée Burruss xii, 2, 5, 11, 12, 18, 46, 52, 54, 55, 56, 61, 86, 91

E

Edwards, Juanelle 68
Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) 35

F

Fink, Gary M. 32, 33, 101, 103, 109
First United Methodist Church of Marietta xii, 7, 75, 87, 92, 95
Fleischmann, Arnold 39, 41, 63, 104, 105, 109
Flournoy, Bob 19, 21
Forsyth County 2, 3, 9, 73, 74, 88, 91, 99
Fowler, Rachel 70

G

General Assembly (state of Georgia) ix, 14, 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 34, 35, 67, 70, 72, 74, 77, 79, 82
Godwin, Art 18
Green, Vernon 5, 15

H

Haines, Gordon 17
Harris, Joe Frank 6, 37, 54, 74, 78
Henderson, J. H.  29
Hensley, Sam P.  24, 29
Hines, Harris  40, 66, 88
Holloway, Al  33
House Appropriations Committee (state of Georgia)  37, 72
House of Representatives (state of Georgia) (see also state legislature; General Assembly, state of Georgia) ix, 1, 23, 31, 32, 40, 92, 106
House Rules Committee (state of Georgia)  70, 71
House Ways and Means Committee (state of Georgia)  64, 65, 77, 105
Housley, Eugene  29
Howard, Eugene  68

I
Ingram, Harold  22, 101
Isakson, Johnny  76, 77

J
Jordan, Ben  21

K
Kennesaw State University  ix, xi, 31, 77, 93, 98, 104, 106, 108
as Kennesaw Junior College  37, 92
as Kennesaw State College  31, 55, 77, 83, 88, 99, 101, 103, 105, 108
Kilgore, Tom  72
Kinney, Bill  68, 84, 86, 101, 105, 108
Knight, Nathan  70
Kreeger Jr., George  28

L
Lawler, Terry  xii, 33, 35, 68, 74, 78, 103, 106
Lee, Bill  34
Leggett, Homer  25, 28, 102
legislator (see also state legislator)  29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 36, 64, 65, 68, 73, 77, 82, 85

M
Maddox, Lester  23
Marietta High School  11
McCollum, Herbert C.  17, 99
McDaniell, Hugh Lee  29
Metropolitan Atlanta Transit Authority (MARTA)  26
Metropolitan Rivers Protection Act of 1974  36, 92
Miller, Zell  85, 87, 106
Moore, Linda (Burruss) xii, 3, 10
Mount Zion United Methodist Church  87
Murphy, Tom  34, 35, 38, 40, 41, 61, 64, 66, 67, 83, 87, 92

N
Nix, Ken  67
Nixon, Richard  28

O
Oliver, Bill  21

P
Panama Canal, Treaty of  70, 106
pancreatic cancer  8, 31, 79, 81, 86, 87, 92, 95
Paulding County  23, 25, 28, 36, 78, 82
Peanut Brigade  69
Philippines  4, 9, 15, 91
Phillips, Pete  65
Pierannunzi, Carol  xi, 39, 41, 63, 71, 104, 105, 106, 109
politics  ix, 1, 2, 13, 15, 19, 24, 40, 67, 72, 78, 84, 89
Politics in Georgia  63, 104, 105, 109
Porter, DuBose  63
Prelude to the Presidency  32, 103, 109

Q
Quality Basic Education  74

R
Ragan, Jane Burruss  xii, 2, 9, 99, 103
Rainwater, Betty  70
Reagan, Ronald  69
Richardson, Eleanor  73, 79
Rules Committee (see also House Rules Committee)  70, 71

S
sales tax  27, 30, 75, 76, 107
sales tax, local option  30, 75, 76
Schemmel, Bill  30, 102
Scott, Thomas Allan  xi, 99, 101, 103, 105
Sharp, Tom  68, 106, 107
Shepard, Neal  70  
Shields, Paul  31, 63, 76  
Shipp, Bill  38, 77  
Sibley, Celestine  3, 12, 34, 36, 99, 101, 103, 109  
Siegel, Betty  89, 97  
Simpson, George  37  
Sineath, Rev. Charles  xii, 7, 81, 85, 87, 95, 100  
Smith, George L., II  33  
Smyrna, GA  3, 4, 5, 7, 14, 15, 20, 74, 91, 100  
Smyrna High School  4, 91  
Southern Polytechnic State University, (see also Southern Tech)  17  
Southern Tech  38, 77  
Speaker, of the House of Representatives  39, 41, 92, 104  
Speaker pro tempore  34, 39, 40, 63, 67, 84  
SPLOST 76  
state legislator  29, 33  
state legislature  11, 14, 25, 84  
state representative (see also state legislator)  vii, 31, 72, 73, 76  
Straus, Hal  67, 105, 107  
Sunshine Law  38  
Sutton, Frank  33  

T  
Thompson, Steve  32  
Tillman Memorial Methodist Church  7, 20  
Tip Top Poultry, Inc.  ix, 1, 5, 6, 9, 14, 16, 17, 20, 39, 82, 86, 91  

U  
Urban Renewal Program  16  
US Naval Reserve  15  

W  
Ways and Means Committee, (see also House Ways and Means Committee)  64, 65, 70, 71, 77, 105  
West, Dick  27, 102  
Western Marietta Little League  11  
White House  69, 70  
Wilder, Tom  68  
Willingham, Harold  37, 38  
Wilson, Joe Mack  ix, 19, 29, 30, 37, 38, 53, 65, 68, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 89
A. L. Burruss 1927–1986