

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

APPENDIX A

TRANSCRIPT OF A. L. BURRUSS
LENTEN LUNCH LIFT SPEECH,

MARCH 26, 1986

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.

APPENDIX B

A. L. BURRUSS INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE & RESEARCH

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.”



President Betty L. Siegel with Bobbi Burruss at the Founding Ceremony for the A. L. Burruss Institute of Public Service & Research. (1988)

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.

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INDEX

A

Allen, Frederick 75, 82, 105, 107
Appropriations Committee 6, 37, 70, 72 (*see also* House Appropriations Committee)
Arnall, Ellis 23, 109
Atherton, Howard 28, 30
Atlanta Journal and Constitution, The 3, 67, 74, 79, 99
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, 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, Doug 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 Daily Journal, The 10, 20, 22, 24, 25, 28, 30, 34, 40, 68, 77, 84, 86, 87, 89, 99, 101
 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