Norman K. Martin, son of founder Roy O. and Mildred Martin, Sr., passed away on March 10, 2020, at the age of 93. The fourth of five children, Norman grew up during the depression and embodied the strong work ethic of his parents and the frugality of the times. He served in the U.S. Army Air Corp. in the final year of World War II, joined the Martin family business in 1947, and met his wife, Lorraine, the following year. The newlyweds settled in Alexandria, Louisiana, and started their family.

Initially, Norman procured and managed timberland for the family business and, eventually, ran the timber-treatment facility. He and his colleagues took a scientific approach to land management, ensuring a long-term supply of raw materials to the company’s manufacturing operations. In fact, Norman was recognized by the lumber industry for ushering in cutting-edge forest-management practices to the region.

He ventured into real-estate development in 1967, creating his own company, and then embarked upon a successful third career in investing.

Norman’s passion for helping those less fortunate led him to build affordable housing for low-income individuals. In this respect, and without any self-promotion, he was a trailblazer for equal opportunity and human dignity. He cofounded and supported a number of philanthropic organizations throughout Central Louisiana, like other Martin family members, and continued that legacy after relocating his family to Kansas City later in life.

Above all, Norman was a humble servant of Christ and made a lasting impact on those who knew him. Norman is survived by Lorraine, their 7 children, 13 grandchildren, and a host of other relatives.
The Manufacturing Institute Honors Collene Van Mol with Women in Manufacturing STEP Ahead Award

The Manufacturing Institute will award RoyOMartin Health Services Manager Collene Van Mol, BSN, COHN-S/CM with the Women in Manufacturing STEP Ahead Award at an upcoming reception in Washington, D.C. The STEP Ahead Awards honor women who have demonstrated excellence and leadership in their careers and represent all levels of the manufacturing industry. Collene has extensive experience in worksite wellness, onsite clinic and occupational-health program development, OSHA compliance, and worker’s compensation and FMLA case management, as well as in leadership development. Instrumental in the creation of RoyOMartin’s wellness program, she also co-chaired the company's efforts in the creation and 2011 opening of a patient-centered medical home primary-care clinic for employees and dependents, which now contains a pharmacy. Collene is active with a number of professional associations, boards, and committees pertaining to employee health, from the local to national levels.

“The 2020 STEP Ahead Honorees and Emerging Leaders represent the exciting opportunities available in manufacturing and help inspire more women to pursue these careers,” said Teressa Szelest, 2020 Chair of STEP Ahead and President, Market and Business Development North America, BASF Corporation. “There is an evolution of the manufacturing workforce as more women enter into leadership roles, bringing innovative ideas and transforming how we work and increase productivity.”

– Leigh Ann Purvis

Construction Team Receives 2019 Chairman’s Award

Since 2015, the RoyOMartin Chairman’s Award has recognized the company's business unit with an outstanding year in health, safety, and environmental (HSE) performance. This year, the honor was given to the construction team.

President and COO Scott Poole, along with the construction leadership team, thanked the team for working safely through countless upset conditions, leading successful outages without injury, and achieving 365 days with no recordable incidents as of February 5, 2020.

Chairman, CEO, and CFO Roy O. Martin III echoed the team’s successes in safety. He presented the award to the construction group in honor and memory of the company’s late chairman, Jonathan E. Martin, who initiated this annual recognition. “One of many places Johnny's legacy lives on is through the Chairman's Award,” Roy stated. “Johnny’s passion for his RoyOMartin family was the driving force behind creating the award.”

Receiving the Chairman’s Award is not earned by marking all the boxes on the safety checklist. Each year, a deep review of HSE metrics is completed for each business unit, then compared to the previous year’s numbers. Safety record/ incident rate is a critical component, but it is not the sole determining factor. Leading indicators in health, such as the number of completed wellness goals and health fair attendance, are also reviewed, as well as safety audit and near-miss metrics. Environmental performance is also weighed prior to the final decision.

– Daniel Bembenick, Safety Manager

Pictured (l to r) Daniel Bembenick, Michael Stanley, Patrick Johnson, Toby Martin, Steve Wilson, Roy O. Martin III, Josh Marcantel, Scott Poole, Melanie Chapman, and Dwight Stanford.
2019 Accomplishments

Corporate

• The following individuals assumed new or expanded roles in 2019: Chairman, CEO, and CFO Roy O. Martin III; President and COO E. Scott Poole; Executive Vice President of Manufacturing and Product Sales Terry Secrest; and Vice President of Plywood Jeremy Burford.

• Announced $30 million in capital expenditures for modernization projects at RoyOMartin’s Oakdale, La. OSB and Chopin, La. manufacturing plants.

• Received two awards at the Central Louisiana Regional Chamber of Commerce’s annual Bizzy Awards: Cleco Innovation Award and Rapides Regional Medical Center Community Benefit Award.

• The late Jonathan E. Martin, former chairman, received the Alexandria Rotary Club’s Service Above Self Award.

• Roy O. Martin III was named a Louisiana Legend by Louisiana Public Broadcasting.

• Produced and sold more than 1.9 BSF of OSB and plywood.

Human Resources

• Launched “I Believe” multimedia employee-engagement and recruiting initiative to include a program overview, culture video, employee testimonials, and a TV commercial. The most-viewed corporate video of 2019 was an employee testimonial, earning more than 5,000 views.

• “I Believe in Leadership” and “I Believe in Our Future” programming included expanded succession plans for critical positions and departments; new Personal Growth Plans offering one-on-one leadership coaching sessions; a revamped RoyOMartin University Leadership Essentials Program; and the deployment of several computer-based training and development tools.

• Through the Pay for Knowledge and Skills (PKS) advancement program, production team members earned 553 skills, with both OSB facilities holding steady at 100% participation and RoyOMartin-Plywood participation increasing by 18% to 97%.

• RoyOMartin-OSB in Oakdale completed four maintenance multi-craft classes, allowing 23 millwrights and electricians to achieve Multi-Craft Level 1 certification.

• Created company-wide Maintenance Training Plan with Central Louisiana Technical Community College and other vendors to increase the skill levels of mechanical and electrical team members.

• Launched a new website landing page for careers. Employment-related webpages at royomartin.com had a 76% increase in online traffic from 2018.

• RoyOMartin Women in Manufacturing Day celebrated its third year, and the number of women employed company-wide increased by 13%.

• WoodWorks industry-based curriculum marked its 12th anniversary, with 17 schools across Louisiana and Texas participating for the 2019/2020 school year.

• Completed $250,000 grant to cover technical-skills training at SOWELA community college.

• Won Student Choice Award, 2nd Place, Zone 3 at the Students Exploring Career Opportunities expo.

• Corrigan OSB, L.L.C. was honored with the Corrigan-Camden Independent School District’s Stand Up for Texas Public Schools Award.

Safety

• 12 years recordable-free for the land and timber department.

• Completed English and Spanish contractor safety videos for use at all manufacturing locations.

• RoyOMartin-Plywood has been APA’s safest plywood plant in North America for 6 out of the last 7 years. The team also identified and corrected more than 150 hazards through a 2019 process-hazard analysis.

• Corrigan OSB, L.L.C. was inducted into APA’s Incident Free Honor Society for 2018 and earned the RoyOMartin Health, Safety, and Environmental Chairman’s Award from the late Jonathan E. Martin.

• Updated Corporate Safety Policy for distribution company-wide.

• Implemented new safety-management system.
2019 Accomplishments cont.

Benefits

- Completed first year of being 100% tobacco-free at all RoyOMartin locations.
- Offered RightNow Media @ Work, a video-streaming service for employees and family members.
- Introduced new credit union to promote financial wellness.
- Prescriptions filled at Legacy Pharmacy increased 20% from 2018.
- Expanded Legacy Health & Wellness to provide new-hire and annual onsiteaudiograms and respiratory clearance.
- Implemented mental-health services at Legacy.
- 78% of employees participated in the company wellness program.
- Had nearly 11,500 health-services patient encounters, a record number, and a 3% increase from 2018.

Land & Timber

- Regenerated more than 7,000 acres, a 63% increase from 2018.
- Planted more than 3.6 million trees, 58% more than last year.
- Harvested 1,236,048 total tons of products to all destinations combined.
- Thinned 22,236 acres of pine plantations, a 31% increase.
- Conducted harvest operations on more than 30,700 acres, a 19% increase.
- Total stumpage sales were 103,000 tons.
- Sourced 3.8 million tons of raw materials to RoyOMartin and Corrigan OSB, L.L.C. facilities, a 31% increase.
- Completed annual audit and have maintained Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification since 2002.

Timber Mill Sales & Production

- Completed $8 million expansion of the timber mill at Chopin, adding an additional dry kiln.
- Increased timbers sales volume by 16%.
- Increased timbers production by 18%.
- Improve timber fiber recovery by 3%.
- Experienced 86% sales growth in mulch, introduced in 2018.

Plywood Sales & Production

- Increased plywood sales by more than 4 million sq. ft. 3/8" basis, the highest sales volume in plant history.
- Increase volume of sanded and siding by 1%.
- Product grade yield matched the best year on record.
- Pressed volume was the third-highest in plant history.
- Introduced mariner ply and 7/16" siding to market.

Legal

- Helped avoid unintended adverse legal consequences through due diligence and early consideration of legal implications for multi-department decision-making through expanding daily consultations and providing in-house legal training for leaders.
- Partnered with various companies, departments, and subsidiaries to complete a variety of noteworthy activities involving safety; employment; hunting leases; land transactions; and more.

OSB Sales & Production

- Increased production volume by 67.9% for both Oakdale and Corrigan plants.
- Increased sales volume by 68.4%. Value-added products made up 25.1% of total OSB sales in 2019.
- Production cost / msf was down 3.9% at Oakdale and 40% at Corrigan.
- Received APA verification on 15/32” structural-1 and 19/32” panels manufactured at Corrigan.
- Created an American Institute of Architects course on FSC® wood and follow-up campaign for its more than 1,000 participants.
- The July launch of the website product blog targeting builders and homeowners led to more than 4,000 pageviews.

Information Technology

- Processed the largest-ever company-wide payroll.
- Implemented new order-management system for sales, credits/debits, and accounting.
- Facilitated organization-wide system upgrade, impacting all phone lines, high-speed connections, and internet.

Communications

- Won the Award of Excellence, Campaign & Strategic Programs: Internal Communications from the Public Relations Association of Louisiana – Central Chapter for the video honoring the Martin family’s 95 years in the wood-products business.
- Scripted and produced 25 corporate videos with 113 finished minutes of footage produced.
- 12,753 Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram followers led to 102,842 engagements with unpaid social-media posts—a 249% increase in engagement.
- Had a 20% increase in the number of online media mentions, reaching 682% more readers of trade and business publications.
- Visits to royomartin.com rose 56% from 2018.
Supply Chain

- Transported more than 1.7 billion feet of finished goods and 1 billion pounds of residual products.
- Achieved significant cost savings on purchases of spare parts and supplies and through inventory adjustments.

Profit-Sharing & Accounting

- Prepared and distributed more than 250 financial statements.
- Implemented a Roth component to the retirement plan and had a greater than 97% participation rate. The average savings rate was more than 6%.

Environmental

- Marked another year of excellent environmental compliance.
- Obtained environmental permits for a dust-collection project at RoyOMartin-Plywood to improve air quality for employee health.
- All manufacturing facilities completed the National Fire Protection Agency's Dust Hazard Analysis.

Philanthropy

- The Martin Foundation provided major funding to 14 social programs, 12 cultural programs, 2 libraries in Central Louisiana, and a reading program in Polk County, Texas.
- The Martin Foundation issued 115 scholarships across Louisiana and Texas.
- In 15 years, raised nearly $2.5 million through the BHA Guns & Golf Classic for the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home.
- Opened Fort Martin, a new playground at Indian Creek Recreation Area in Woodworth, Louisiana, as a partnership with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
- RoyOMartin began a partnership with Operation FINALLY HOME to provide building products for use in homes for veterans.
- Received the Workplace Health Achievement, Silver Recognition, by the American Heart Association. Named Top Fundraising Team for the Cenla Heart Walk by the American Heart Association – Central Louisiana Chapter by raising $35,500.

New Track Kiln Helps Increase Timber Mill Production

Construction of a 113,000-board-foot-capacity American Wood Dryers (AWD) track kiln at RoyOMartin’s Chopin, La., timber mill began in October 2018, and start-up took place in April 2019. Offering consistent air flow and heat distribution, the new kiln improves moisture content throughout the load, reducing over-drying and high-moisture pockets. “The kiln has decreased our drying rate by 50% on 4x4s,” states Timber Mill Manager Rob Blakenship.

Increased safety controls, in addition to those included in the burner-management system, were implemented with assistance from AWD during construction and the start-up phase.

“These extra safeguards protect against high-temperature conditions and heat-output control and ensure the burner safely shuts down automatically in an upset condition,” explains Vance Starnes, project manager.

Overall, the installation of the AWD track kiln has been a great addition to our production in the timber mill.

– Kimberly Williams
RoyOMartin’s Executive Vice President of Manufacturing and Product Sales Terry Secrest and Corrigan OSB, L.L.C. Technical and Environmental Manager Michelle Driscoll represented the company at the Panel and Engineered Lumber Conference and Exposition (PELICE). The conference, held last March in Atlanta, is an educational and training event for the benefit of the worldwide structural, non-structural wood panel, engineered lumber components, and laminates industry. This is the only event of its kind in the world that brings together both structural and non-structural wood products professionals.

Terry spoke on RoyOMartin’s award-winning safety program, I Believe in Zero (IBiZ), and how it quickly evolved into the culture of the company after its inception in 2014. His presentation explained how involving all employees in the program gives everyone a voice and a responsibility for safety. These IBiZ tenets are part of the daily routine and discussion at all company locations and have proven to increase the safety of employees while on and off the job.

In her presentation on the topic of women in manufacturing, Michelle spoke about self growth, working “outside the norm,” and mentoring future leaders. She shared her personal and professional experiences, crediting her grandmother, who worked in manufacturing during WWII, as her inspiration to not be “boxed in” to the more traditional professional route for women. She showed a video, produced in-house, on the importance of mentors.

Terry and Michelle met with vendors and explored new technologies in the wood manufacturing industry.

– Karen Bostock

Lori Byrd Selected as Chairwoman of NAWLA Trader’s Market

Since its inception in 1996, the North American Wholesale Lumber Association’s (NAWLA) Traders Market holds an esteemed position as a one-stop networking event for the “who’s who” in the lumber industry. RoyOMartin Plywood Sales Manager Lori Byrd has been a huge proponent of the event since joining the company in 1997. Introduced to the forest and wood-products industry by her father, who was a forester with the U.S. Forest Service, Lori’s upbringing provided a unique perspective, so a career in the business came naturally to her. “It’s all I’ve ever known,” she explains.

Prior to joining RoyOMartin, Lori worked in engineering and procurement for nationwide wood-products businesses. Along with her many contributions to the industry, the innate qualities and skills she’s gained throughout her career made Lori the ideal choice for chairwoman of the Trader’s Market in 2019. Her responsibilities in this role are vast, ranging from directing committees and leadership seminars, to overseeing the traders market and serving on the NAWLA Board of Directors. She also works in conjunction with the NAWLA Education Committee and sponsorship boards to determine NAWLA standards. Aside from her roles with NAWLA, she is a certified APA inspector and is an active member of several charitable organizations. The NAWLA Trader’s Market will be held Nov. 4-6 in Columbus, OH. “The show is a homerun for every company that attends,” she states. “It provides an unparalleled opportunity to gain a vast amount of industry knowledge, while developing relationships with peers in this small, but impactful, industry.”

– Ari Bandaranaike

RoyOMartin Plywood Used for Gubernatorial Inauguration

Did you know that, for years, plywood manufactured at RoyOMartin’s Chopin, LA, plant has been used in the construction of the stage and podium at the Louisiana gubernatorial inauguration? This year was no different!

Bobby Byrd, director of OSB sales and marketing, attended the January inauguration of Governor John Bel Edwards at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge. In the event program, both Martco Plywood and Bobby are listed among the “individuals and companies who donated time and resources” to make the ceremony possible. The plant was recognized for supplying the needed plywood and framing lumber for the ceremony, while Bobby was acknowledged for his work on the Louisiana State Uniform Code Council and several special projects for the state.

Secrest, Driscoll Present at PELICE Conference

RoyOMartin’s Executive Vice President of Manufacturing and Product Sales Terry Secrest and Corrigan OSB, L.L.C. Technical and Environmental Manager Michelle Driscoll represented the company at the Panel and Engineered Lumber Conference and Exposition (PELICE). The conference, held last March in Atlanta, is an educational and training event for the benefit of the worldwide structural, non-structural wood panel, engineered lumber components, and laminates industry. This is the only event of its kind in the world that brings together both structural and non-structural wood products professionals.

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RoyOMartin Supports Women in Agriculture

RoyOMartin was the presenting sponsor for the Louisiana Women in Agriculture (LWAG) conference, held in Alexandria, La., March 12-13. More than 400 participants from across the state registered for this event to receive support, empowerment, and education.

Dozens of RoyOMartin representatives played a role in ensuring a successful two-day event. Examples included serving on the LWAG planning committee; leading informational talks on tour buses; hosting nearly 70 attendees for lunch and a tour of the Oakdale OSB facility; working the RoyOMartin booth in the expo hall; speaking at the opening session; and, simply, attending the event to develop personally and professionally.

RoyOMartin is proud to support women in agriculture and related roles.

Thompson, Bischoff Receive Forestry Awards

Each year, our land and timber department recognizes two of its team members with awards for safety and innovation.

Robert “Bob” Thompson, procurement forester with the Chopin, La., district, was the recipient of the Site Prep Award for innovation and process improvement. “Bob has driven positive change within the department,” states Cade Young, vice president of land and timber. “He has been integral in our harvest-contractor recruitment, stumpage sales, and purchasing efforts throughout the past year.”

This year’s Brothers’ Keeper Award for leadership in safety was given to Joe Bischoff, silviculture forester of the Oakdale forestry district. “Joe is a shining example of the type of ‘safety culture in action’ we try to promote,” Young explains. “He practices his personal commitment to safety both at home and at work. Joe is sincere in his concern for the safety of his co-workers.”

Baxter Named Adult Sportsperson of the Year

RoyOMartin’s Carole Baxter has been recognized as Adult Sportsperson of the Year by The Scoop Walking Horse Magazine’s 2019 Readers’ Choice Awards.

A Martin family member, Carole worked as a senior accountant with the company until her retirement in 2018. In addition to being an accomplished equestrian, she continues to serve as chairperson of the philanthropic Martin Foundation and is widely recognized for her personal involvement with a number of causes.
COMMUNITY

Company representatives visited local schools
Arthur F. Smith Jr. High in Alexandria (upper right photo); Poland Jr. High in the Poland community (lower right); and Phoenix Magnet Elementary in Alexandria (lower left).

Connecting with Local Schools on Together Tuesdays

Throughout the past several months, RoyOMartin representatives participated in the Rapides Parish School Board’s Together Tuesday activities, intended to strengthen relationships between local schools and the community. We engaged with students by greeting and encouraging them as they started the school day or relaxed at lunch. Our mascot, Otis the Black Bear, was also on hand for hugs and high-fives from students and teachers.

Public Relations Association Honors RoyOMartin with Awards

The Public Relations Association of Louisiana (PRAL), Central Chapter, has honored RoyOMartin with the following four awards for various communications pieces in 2019:

- **Best of Show, Campaigns & Strategic Programs: Lagniappe and Cypress Award, Campaigns & Strategic Programs: Lagniappe: “I Believe” Campaign**
  
  *Description: an initiative designed to promote, both internally and externally, the organization’s commitment to a culture of opportunity through five distinct pillars*

- **Award of Excellence, Campaigns & Strategic Programs: Special Events or Observance: RoyOMartin Women in Manufacturing Day**

  *Description: an annual event celebrating female team members who work in a variety of manufacturing and supporting roles*

- **Award of Merit, Tactics: Branding or Rebranding: “Today@RoyOMartin” newsletter**

  *Description: a quarterly company newsletter with worldwide distribution*

To be considered for an award, PRAL members and nonmembers must submit campaigns or projects for consideration using the four-step, technical public relations process known as RPIE: research, planning, implementation, and evaluation. According to the Public Relations Society of America, RPIE “informs a public relations plan with qualitative and quantitative data and lifts the public relations function from tactical to strategic,” transforming “public relations measurement from output-based to outcomes-focused.” Award entries are evaluated on their own merit by an independent panel of public-relations professionals with the Southern Public Relations Federation.

On hand to accept RoyOMartin’s Cypress Awards were (left to right) Dirk Margheim, media production specialist; Leigh Ann Purvis, corporate communications manager; and Amanda Guillot, multimedia specialist.

– Leigh Ann Purvis
Louisiana State University of Alexandria (LSUA) has announced the creation of a new nursing program, “CENLA Nurses for the Future,” with the support of six Central Louisiana businesses, including RoyOMartin. According to LSUA, the four-year, $460,000 financial commitment will be used to hire an additional nursing faculty member and increase the number of students in the Associate of Science in Nursing program by 40. The ultimate goal of CENLA Nurses for the Future is to produce more registered nurses to fill critical nursing openings in our region.

“The shortage of nurses creates shortages of healthcare delivered,” said RoyOMartin Chairman, CEO, and CFO Roy O. Martin III. “When we can hire nurses directly from Central Louisiana, the money stays in this community and helps patients who go to Rapides Regional Medical Center, CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, and Central Louisiana Surgical Hospital to stay right here.”

In March, six of our electrical team members gained customized skills training with CLTCC’s state-of-the-art AC/DC system course. Through theory and hands-on exercises, they were able to expand their knowledge and skills in electricity and electrical currents.

By partnering with CLTCC, our employees can take advantage of the college’s downtown Alexandria campus featuring an advanced manufacturing training facility with high-tech equipment for active learning.

Fifteen RoyOMartin employees are continuing their journey to obtain an Associate of Applied Science in Business Office Administration from Central Louisiana Technical Community College (CLTCC). These team members, who will continue to work full time while pursuing their degree, are part of the first cohort of CLTCC’s Corporate College. We congratulate them on taking this important step to continue their education.
In January, NEPCon held a lead auditor training course on the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Chain of Custody standard at our Alexandria, La., corporate office. Thirteen participants from across the U.S. and Canada gained information to prepare them to audit for NEPCon or their own organizations.

Holding the training at the RoyOMartin corporate office, which features many native woods in its construction and décor, “allowed participants to be surrounded with reminders of the forest products we’re learning more about,” stated Briana Capra, one of the NEPCon trainers.

As a holder of both the FSC® Single Forest Management and Chain of Custody and Multi-Site Chain of Custody and Controlled Wood certificates, RoyOMartin works with NEPCon throughout the year to ensure continued adherence to FSC®’s rigorous environmental standards. One of the bodies responsible for auditing to those standards is NEPCon, “a non-profit organisation working to support better land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and the climate in 100+ countries.”

– Leigh Ann Purvis

**Board Brief Breaks Down Market Information**

Home building is a local industry, but with benefits and setbacks stemming from outside variables across different parts of the country.

The first publication of the RoyOMartin Board Brief, released January 2020, highlights key market trends and statistics for our customers, providing a better understanding of the factors affecting local markets.

View the full issue on our website: [https://royomartin.com/royomartin-introduces-board-brief-market-update/](https://royomartin.com/royomartin-introduces-board-brief-market-update/)
With spring comes warmer weather, new growth, and new babies in the woods. Mammals, birds, and reptiles are all giving birth, hatching the next generation of wildlife. These young creatures are valuable to the ecosystem and are fun to view from a safe distance. However, it is not uncommon to find a bird away from its nest or a young fawn hidden away from its mother. Although these young individuals may seem in distress and we might be tempted to bring them home, it is in their best interest to leave them alone.

Oftentimes a bird’s parents will be nearby, continuing to feed and care for it until it can fly on its own. They often don’t fall out of the nest until they are nearly ready to fly. The only time it is good to intervene is when the chick has almost no feathers and you can see the nest nearby. If this is the case, it can be beneficial to return it to its nest. The parents will not shun it due to human scent.

If you come across a small mammal such as a deer or rabbit, always leave it alone. The mother is usually close enough to see and hide from you. She will return to her baby as soon as you are gone. Once she thinks the area is safe, she will continue caring for her young.

Enjoy being outdoors in this spring season of growth, and if you do encounter wildlife that you suspect is in distress, contact a biologist at their nearest Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) regional office.

– Colt Reeves

**Chaplain’s Corner: Restoration, Revitalization, Revival**

My great, great, great grandfather, Robert Samuel Perry (1787-1852), ran away from his Kentucky home at the age of 19. He made his way to the Bayou Chicot/Grand Prairie area in Louisiana, where he married a young lady from Georgia. Eventually, they settled in what is now the town of Perry, La., when Robert was sent by the parish police jury to build a bridge across the Vermillion River. In 1840 he built a large, two-story, French-Creole style house on the banks of the river in what is now Abbeville, La.

In 1901, the house was purchased by the LeBlanc family, who owns it to this day. It still stands as one of the oldest structures in Vermillion Parish and was placed on the National Register of Historical Places in 1987. The house has withstood many hurricanes and storms in its 180-year history, and though it is structurally sound, it is in need of repairs. One of the house’s current owners has begun a restoration project to revive the old house and its history for future generations to enjoy.

Time has a way of taking its toll on everything in this world, including God’s greatest creation, you and me. While created in the image of God, we have all sinned, and the results of the sin-curse have caused all to age and lose physical vitality over time. The world and time also have a way of pulling at our spiritual vitality and dulling our commitment to Christ, as well as our perception of the priorities of eternity.

It was true in the Old Testament as it is today. After all that God had done for His people, they would follow other gods and stray from their commitment to Him. God would hear their cries for deliverance and would send a prophet to preach and remind them of who God was and who they were. Revival would take place, and God would forgive their sins and deliver and restore them.

Like the attention the 180-year-old house is getting from those planning the restoration project, God has set into motion a plan to restore, revitalize, and revive our tired, discouraged, and troubled spirits. Through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ, God has provided all the resources we need for a complete spiritual restoration and revival. II Chronicles 7:14 gives us God’s instruction for that to happen: “If my people who are called by my name humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.”

I write this during the COVID-19 crisis, as it appears that God is giving us plenty of time to humble ourselves, to pray, to seek his face, and to turn from our sinful ways. My prayer is from an old hymn written by William P. McKay: “Revive us again: fill each heart with thy love: may each soul be rekindled with fire from above. Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Hallelujah! Amen! Hallelujah! Thine the glory! Revive us again.” Amen!

Blessings,
Chaplain Ron Perry

Chaplain Ron Perry is a Marketplace Chaplain, with whom RoyOMartin has partnered since 1997 to provide free, confidential counseling and other services to our employees.

WILDLIFE

**Spring Brings New Life Best Left in the Wild**

With spring comes warmer weather, new growth, and new babies in the woods. Mammals, birds, and reptiles are all giving birth, hatching the next generation of wildlife. These young creatures are valuable to the ecosystem and are fun to view from a safe distance. However, it is not uncommon to find a bird away from its nest or a young fawn hidden away from its mother. Although these young individuals may seem in distress and we might be tempted to bring them home, it is in their best interest to leave them alone.

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– Colt Reeves
This newsletter is written, edited, prepared, and distributed by RoyOMartin

Please contact one of the following staff members to report new items for future issues:

FORESTRY, Colt Reeves
MARTCO, Kimberly Williams (Plywood), Jared Shows (OSB LA)
CORRIGAN OSB, L.L.C., Karen Bostock (OSB TX)
SALES and MARKETING, Ari Bandaranaike
CORPORATE, Leigh Ann Purvis
BENEFITS, Diane Davidson
HEALTH SERVICES, Amy Sonnier
EDITORS, Amanda Guillot and Leigh Ann Purvis

16th Annual
BHA Guns & Golf Classic
Sun., Sept. 27 (Clay Shoot)
Mon., Sept. 28 (Golf Tournament)
Alexandria, La.