

# Quarterly Report

## April 2017



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### SOS Office Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Adoption Day

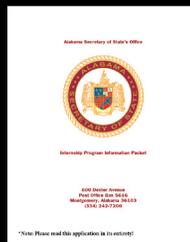


Secretary Merrill wants to hear from you! Send him an email at [John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:John.Merrill@sos.alabama.gov).

**Mailing Address:**  
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Alabama State Capitol  
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Montgomery, AL 36103-5616



Secretary Merrill Honors Four People with the NASS Medallion Award



Secretary of State's Office Welcomes College Students to the 2017 Internship Program



A Quick Look into This Quarter's Accomplishments



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Adoption Day



The Secretary of State's Office celebrated the selfless endeavors of six families at the 2017 International Adoption Day celebration on January 27<sup>th</sup>. The ceremonial commendation commenced with a welcome and introduction from Secretary Merrill, which was followed by a moment of prayer led by Kenny Hoomes, the Associate Pastor of Montgomery First Baptist Church. Beasley Allen Attorney Andy D. Birchfield served as the guest speaker to deliver words of encouragement before the distribution of the certificates, which were signed by Governor Bentley and Secretary Merrill. The families enjoyed delectable refreshments provided by Ann Amster of Children's Hope, as well as a private tour of the Alabama State Capitol. "I want to congratulate the Braddock, Busenbark, Powell, Powers, Schwindling, and Starzl families for their precious additions," Secretary Merrill stated. "The adoption process should be as quick and easy as possible, and through our Authentications Division, we have made great strides to ensure that each family receives the services they need in a timely manner."

The next International Adoption Day will take place in January 2018.



**Have you adopted an international child? Want to participate in our next International Adoption Day celebration? Call the Authentications Division at 334-242-5325, and we'll add your family's name to our guest list!**

# Four People Honored with the NASS Medallion Award



**Recipient's Name:** Bobby Timmons

**Date of Recognition:** January 23, 2017

**Basis for Selection:**

- Has served the Alabama Sheriff's Association for 43 years
- Currently serves as the association's Executive Director
- Former Birmingham Police Officer
- Former Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff
- Former special assistant to Sheriff Mel Bailey
- Former Law Enforcements Liaison to Governor Don Siegelman
- Member of the Alabama House of Representatives from 1970 to 1974
- Currently owns the McCaleb Timmons Agency in Birmingham, Alabama since 1962

**Recipient's Name:** Steve Flowers

**Date of Recognition:** March 3, 2017

**Basis for Selection:**

- Elected as a State Representative from Pike County in 1982 and was re-elected four times
- Received a resolution passed by the House of Representatives naming him the "Most Ethical Member of the House" in 1988
- Named the "Outstanding Freshman House Member" by Alabama Magazine and the "Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama House of Representatives" by the Alabama House in 1992
- Analyzes Alabama politics for national television audiences on CBS, PBS, ABC, and the British Broadcasting Network
- Writes a weekly column on Alabama politics that appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers with a circulation approaching 450,000



**Recipient's Name:** Penny Davis

**Date of Recognition:** March 16, 2017

**Basis for Selection:**

- Served as the Associate Director of the Alabama Law Institute from 1979 to 2016
- Highly skilled in civil and commercial litigation, legal research and writing, and family law, amongst other fields
- Received the Award of Merit and the Lifetime Service Award from the Alabama State Bar

**Recipient's Name:** Dr. Edwin C. Bridges

**Date of Recognition:** March 28, 2017

**Basis for Selection:**

- Served as the Director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History for 30 years
- Chairman of the steering committee that helps coordinate commission initiatives with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission
- Author of *Alabama: The Making of an American State* and co-author of *Georgia's Signers and the Declaration of Independence*

Since taking office on **January 19, 2015**, Secretary Merrill has honored **15** people with the **NASS Medallion Award** for their service to the state.



# SOS Internship Program 2017

**F**or the third consecutive year, the Secretary of State's Office is pleased to announce the commencement of the 2017 internship program, which can be completed in the Spring, Summer, Fall, or Winter seasons. Due to the influx of interest, all prospective interns were asked to submit the completed internship application located on the SOS website, along with the required essay and recommendation letter, by Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> under the following guidelines:

- 18+ years old by the day of application
- Full-time, undergraduate college student
- Freshman year or higher
- Any field of study

If selected, the interns may be responsible for assisting with the clerical and administrative needs of the office as a whole, assisting the Executive Staff with writing, editing, and preparing laws, answering incoming calls for the Secretary of State's Office, gathering information regarding the number of registered voters in the state, and/or researching and analyzing the elections laws of the Alabama Code and Federal Election laws, amongst other tasks. All official interns are required to work at least 360 total hours (9 weeks) and will receive an hourly pay for their services.

Last year, the Executive and Elections Divisions of the SOS Office were pleased to host Trevin Fluker of The University of Alabama, Todd Ossanna of Auburn University, and Alexandria Smith of The University of Alabama.

For more information regarding the Alabama Secretary of State's internship program, contact David Brewer at [David.Brewer@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:David.Brewer@sos.alabama.gov) or Brittany Hamilton at [Brittany.Hamilton@sos.alabama.gov](mailto:Brittany.Hamilton@sos.alabama.gov).

\*

## Summer 2016 Interns:



Trevin Fluker, The University of Alabama



Todd Ossanna, Auburn University



Alexandria Smith, The University of Alabama

# Quarterly Accomplishments



- **Between January and March 2017, all staff of the Secretary of State's Office completed Secretary Merrill's mandatory Ethics Training session.**
- **Several additional municipalities were added to the Alabama online voter list for purchase by interested citizens. Click the link to view: <https://www.alabamainteractive.org/sos/voter/voterWelcome.action>**
- **In order to increase transparency, all Secretary of State staff salaries were posted online. Click the link to view: <http://sos.alabama.gov/sos-office/office-salary-information>**
- **The 2017 SOS Annual Report was officially launched in February 2017. Click the link to view: <http://sos.alabama.gov/sites/default/files/q-a-reports/aReport-2017.pdf>**
- **The SOS Office expanded the digital filing system to include reports issued from other state agencies, such as the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission and the Alabama State Board of Registration for Foresters.**
- **Secretary Merrill attended the National Association of Secretaries of State Winter Conference in Washington D.C. in February 2017.**



Don't Miss Volume 3 Issue 2,  
Coming July 2017!

## Office Locations:

**Alabama State Capitol**  
**600 Dexter Avenue**  
**Montgomery, AL 36130**

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State Capitol  
Suite S-105  
334-242-7200

Elections  
State Capitol  
Second Floor  
334-242-7210

Finance  
State Capitol  
Second Floor  
334-242-7220

**Alabama State House**  
**11 South Union Street**  
**Montgomery, AL 36130**

Business Entities  
State House  
Suite 119  
334-242-5324

UCC  
State House  
Room 220  
334-242-5970

Information Systems  
State House  
Room 125  
334-242-7222

Government Support / Authentications & Trademarks  
State House  
Rooms 224 & 226  
334-242-7224 / 334-242-5325