

Obituaries

HAROLD ALLEN JUNKINS

Harold Allen Junkins, 82, passed away on May 5, 2025. Born on January 27, 1943, in Wichita, Kansas, Harold was the son of Clifton Junkins and Stella (Morrison) Junkins.

A proud Navy veteran, Harold enlisted in 1960 and served his country with honor. Following his service, he built a long and successful career at Beech Aircraft, where he worked for 33 years, installing avionics and later as a manufacturing engineer.

On October 2, 1979, Harold married the love of his life, Linda (Hooper) Junkins, in Miami, Oklahoma. Together, they shared decades of love, laughter, and unforgettable adventures.

Harold was a true countrymanproud, tough, and full of heart. He had a deep love for the outdoors, especially hunting and fishing, and he never passed up a good ride on a motorcycle or dirt bike. He valued loyalty and camaraderie, and he treated his closest friends like family.

A man who made friends wherever he went, Harold was known for his humor, honesty, and his no-nonsense, redneck charm. His presence filled a room, and his stories filled countless afternoons and evenings with laughter.

A memorial service will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, August 8th, at Carlson Funeral Home in El Dorado, Kansas, with a Celebration of Life to follow at 3:00 PM at the El Dorado VFW.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks that donations be made to the American Cancer Society or the El Dorado Lions Club. Please sign his online guest book and leave a memory at www.carlsonkirbymorris.com



AUGUSTA HISTORY

History sketch of the Cron family

Augusta Historical Society and Museum

Alpheus Gusteus Cron was born on February 22, 1842 in Clarksville, Pennsylvania. On February 22, 1866, at the age of 24, he married Emily Frances Womer. Alpheus and Emily began their family of 11 children the following year. The Federal Census listed them in Pennsylvania until 1878, when at the age of 36 a daughter, Edna was born in the Dakota Territory. At the age of 40, in 1883 they had made their way to Butler County to a farm 5 miles southeast of Augusta, where the remainder of their children were born. At the age of 83, Alpheus and Emily moved to Mulvane and lived there until their deaths in 1935. Alpheus was 93 and Emily was 90. They are both buried in Mulvane.

Of the 11 children, we have a bit of information on 3. William Wilmot was born on May 22, 1881 in the Dakota Territory.

Will and his wife Jessie had one son, Gerald and a daughter, Dorothea. They lived at 810 State Street and Will served as long-time city clerk here in Augusta, and is memorialized with a street named in his honor. Will lived until 1982 and is buried in Wichita.

Their son, Frank ‘Harry’ was born on June 3, 1868 in Clarksville. He and his wife, Amy Blanche Stanley, had no children. Harry attended Augusta schools, graduating in 1891. He taught in area country schools as well as Augusta schools for 3 years. In 1897 he served as deputy county treasurer and in 1899 he was elected to serve as principal of ElDorado High School. However, he chose to enter banking rather than continuing a career in education, and accepted a position at Citizens State Bank. He went on to study law. He was admitted to the bar but chose not to enter the profession. He remained with Citizens until 1923,

serving in all positions. At that time, he organized Walnut Valley State Bank, becoming the president. He served in many positions in the state legislature and elected as state representative. Harry lived until 1963 and is buried in ElDorado.

Their daughter, Anna, was a business woman of early Augusta. It was said that “she established the first toy manufacturing concern west of the Mississippi”. Miss Cron lived for 16 years in Denton, Texas where she was the head of a manual training department of the Texas School of Industrial Arts. She was also highly interested in clubs for business women. Miss Cron speaking of the need of a women’s club, said “The town is full of bright, intelligent women, some are college graduates, some are musicians. All are intelligent women that Augusta is proud of. They are women who, if organized, could and would be a factor in the upbuilding of the community.”

The Augusta Gazette of September 19, 1919 ran an article on the C. L. C. Toy, Novelty and Furniture Corporation, Augusta’s newest manufacturing industry: “It is reported that the corporation was conceived by women, developed by women, officiated by women, controlled by a board of women directors and as far as is practicable, will employ women workers. The ladies are, and have been building furniture and other equipment for the plant, thus doing the work of men. The corporation manufactured every conceivable toy made of wood, and in addition made a line of dolls for the retail trade.”The C. L. C. Toy Company was listed in 1921 as doing business at 717 Ohio. Unfortunately, this the only information we have on Miss Cron’s business. She is shown as living at 613 School Street during this time. Anna died in January 1976 and is buried in Los Angeles, California.

DEVOTION

What will I show Jesus?

Corey Landreth,
Lead Pastor
Real Life Church

When the Apostle Paul wrote his first letter to the believers in Thessaloniki he does so with some goals in mind. He wants to encourage them in their faith and give them confidence in their calling. He also wants to correct some misunderstandings these followers had and make sure they know that they are just as much a part of the family of God as anyone else.

To do all this Paul employs various literary devices but the one he uses best, I think, is borrowed cultural narrative. You’re familiar with this literary device whether you know it or not. When you use a place, concept or word that is familiar to someone in order to help explain something they are unfamiliar with you’ve just used borrowed cultural narrative. If you’re trying to talk with someone born in the twenty-teens you might say, “that guys got rizz” to help them understand that someone has charisma, or that they are a charmer. Paul uses two culturally relevant terms when he attempts to clear up these young believer’s misunderstanding about the closeness of Jesus return in 1 Thessalonians 5.

There were two issues they were having a hard time with. First, they thought that you might have to be alive when Jesus returned in order to take advantage of His salvation, so they were sad for those they loved who had died. And second, they thought that Jesus was going to return so soon that they could quit their jobs and neglect the care of their home and their relationships with non-believers.

In order to clear this up Paul says, when King Jesus makes His parusia (literally referring to the 2nd coming a king to a city after a natural disaster) they should be excited for the eis apentesisien where they would meet the King and show him all they had built and accomplished in his Name and for his glory while he was away. Paul wasn’t trying to tell us exactly how Jesus is going to return, he was trying to correct a misunderstanding these new believers had about when Jesus was coming back.

Understanding what is happening in the text helps us understand the text. Jesus is coming again and we need to be ready to show Him all we’ve done in His Name and for His glory whenever He does. Let’s ask ourselves, what will I show Him?

Increased capacity through new technology allows SSA to serve more customers at greater speed

Social Security Administration

The Social Security Administration (SSA) today announced substantial progress in service delivery outcomes resulting from focused technology enhancements and process engineering. These improvements reflect Commissioner Frank J. Bisignano’s strategic vision to modernize SSA’s customer service—meeting people where they are, addressing customer needs at the first point of contact, and improving outcomes across all channels.

“Our vision is centered on providing outstanding service that works for everyone we serve—whether they call, walk into a field office, or choose to manage their benefits online,” said Commissioner Bisignano.

“We are transforming the customer experience, investing in technology to build frontline capacity, and using real-time data to monitor performance across the board. We are delivering higher levels of customer service—and this will continue.”

With the implementation of new telephone technology on the National 800 Number and in SSA field offices, along with process engineering and better strategic resource alignment, SSA has expanded its capacity to handle work on the phones and in its field offices, resulting in improved service to the American people. Recent accomplishments include:

SSA is handling more calls with a faster response time.

The agency handled nearly 1.3 million calls on the National 800 Number last week, or 70 percent more than the same week last fiscal year, while reducing the average speed of answer to 6 minutes. This response time is down from an average of 18 minutes so far this year and 30 minutes last year, or an 80 percent reduction.

SSA is reducing field office wait times.

The agency reduced the

wait time in field offices to 23 minutes so far this year, compared to 30 minutes last year, or a 23 percent reduction.

SSA has also improved service for its customers online by eliminating the longstanding scheduled downtime of 29 hours a week for my Social Security. This enhancement has already enabled 125,000 more customers to access their online accounts in the first week.

These continued improvements across all of SSA’s customer service channels come just two weeks after the agency announced it completed sending over 3.1 million payments, totaling over \$17 billion, to beneficiaries eligible under the Social Security Fairness Act (SSFA), 5 months ahead of schedule. When the SSFA became law on January 5, 2025, SSA identified about 2.8 million current Social Security beneficiaries whose benefits were reduced because of the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) or Government Pension Offset (GPO), including firefighters, police officers, teachers, and other critical public servants. The agency successfully completed actions on these beneficiaries’ records exceeding its original estimate of it

taking a year or more.

At the same time, SSA has driven down disability backlogs. The initial disability claims backlog has been reduced to 940,000 pending cases—down from a record of over 1.2 million last year, or a 25 percent reduction. Average processing time has improved to five days faster than before Commissioner Bisignano’s tenure. SSA has also maintained historic lows of disability hearings pending, with average wait times reduced by 60 days since June 2024.

Commissioner Bisignano’s modernization agenda is designed to improve customer experience, foster operational agility, and build trust in government service. The agency remains committed to measuring what matters and flexibly deploying resources to sustain progress.

“Our strategy is clear: serve customer needs quickly and completely, no matter how they contact us,” said Commissioner Bisignano. “We will continue to evaluate our tools, technology, and processes to empower our workforce to provide best-in-class customer service to the American people.”

For more information about Social Security’s services, visit www.ssa.gov.



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