

Montgomery Advertiser

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Nancy Reagan
dies at age 94

FORMER CARVER STAR HONORED AT MSU **IN SPORTS**

Pistol permits forego checks

For some, buying a gun just got a little bit easier

MARTY RONEY
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Carl Chance was shopping for a shotgun at Prattville's Bass Pro Shop recently, when he found out buying a gun just got a little easier.

Current concealed weapons permit holders in Alabama are no longer required to undergo a background check each time to purchase a firearm.

"Hey, I'm all for it," the Elmore County resident said. "If (Elmore County Sheriff) Bill Franklin says I'm good to carry a pistol, that ought to be good enough for the feds."

Commonly called a "pistol license" the concealed carry permits are issued by county sheriffs in the state. The permits allow the holder to carry a pistol on their person or in their vehicle. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobaccos, Firearms and Explosives has agreed to a request from Attorney General Luther Strange for an exemption from the mandatory background check for permit holders, said Michael P. Knight, a BATFE spokesman for Alabama. The requirements are:

» The permit was issued on or after Aug. 1, 2013.

» The permit was issued within the last five years.

» The permit hasn't expired.

To attain a permit or have it renewed, the applicant must undergo a background check. That negates the need for a National Instant Criminal Background Check that is required when someone buys a gun from a federally licensed firearms dealer, Strange said.

"I'm pleased that the ATF has approved my request to exempt Alabama conceal carry permit holders from having to undergo additional background checks each time they want to buy a firearm," Strange said. "Alabama concealed carry permit holders in good standing have already passed a background check and there is no need to force them to submit to additional checks if they intend to buy a firearm within five years of receiving their permit."

Some 23 other states have similar exemptions in place, the BATFE website shows.

Filling out the form to purchase a gun is still required, Marvin Richardson, assistant director of enforcement programs and services for the BATFE, wrote in an open letter to Alabama federal firearms license holders explaining the change. The form verifies the buyer's identity and asks several questions to determine if the person is able to buy or possess a gun. Some of the questions deal with if the buyer is a convicted felon, addicted to illegal drugs or has been committed to a

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"Hey, I'm all for it. If (Elmore County Sheriff) Bill Franklin says I'm good to carry a pistol, that ought to be good enough for the feds."

CARL CHANCE
ELMORE COUNTY RESIDENT

51 YEARS LATER



U.S. Congressman John Lewis pauses to dance with children during the re-enactment of the Bloody Sunday march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma on Sunday.

MICKY WELSH / ADVERTISER

IN THE STEPS OF BLOODY SUNDAY

ALVIN BENN SPECIAL TO THE ADVERTISER

SELMA – Thousands of activists from across America walked over a controversial bridge in Selma Sunday afternoon, singing freedom songs and vowing not to forget a violent incident that occurred 51 years ago.

The incident is known as "Bloody Sunday," a label that followed the March 7, 1965 beating and tear gassing of peaceful marchers seeking to walk to Montgomery to meet with then-Gov. George Wallace who ordered them to be stopped.

"What happened here was an important part of American history and I wanted our students to experience something significant," said Marty Williams, a counselor at Grant High School in Portland, Ore.

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Black Lives Matter advocates and supporters of Gegg Gunn, a Montgomery man recently killed by a police officer, were out in full force to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. **Metro, 4A.**



Lee Kennedy speaks with visitors after marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge for Selma's 51st Jubilee.

REBECCA BURYLO

Many reflect at Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee

REBECCA BURYLO
MONTGOMERY ADVERTISER

Lee Kennedy slowly, but surely crossed Selma's Edmund Pettus Bridge Sunday, pushing his walker up and over the historic landmark. He followed closely behind a large crowd, whose arms linked, singing, "Help me on my journey, help me on my way, oh Lord," during the 51st anniversary of 1965's "Bloody Sunday."

Every year, the city remembers the day law enforcement attacked Civil rights protesters crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965 with the Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee. The attacks, broadcast around the world, led to the Selma-to-Montgomery march later that month.

Sunday, the city was alive with visitors roaming the streets, sam-

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Today's weather » 8A
Partly sunny & pleasant;
Partly cloudy tonight
▲77 ▼51



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