



## **Welcome to the Banner**

**Bringing you information today on **200** years of statehood. Highlighting news and events celebrating Alabama.**

**With focus on past and future, Alabama wraps up bicentennial**

**Alabama celebrates Bicentennial Saturday with day of events**

**New bicentennial park kicks off Alabama's third century**

**Alabama celebrated its bicentennial Saturday**

**Alabama turns 200: Birmingham children get free books to celebrate**

**City of Orange Beach giving away bicentennial ornaments**

**On this day in Alabama - December 20**

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## Help us @ [al200finale.org](http://al200finale.org)

Alabama has been a state for 200 years, and its people are stepping up to commemorate its bicentennial. We're here to keep you up to date on events and programs throughout the state and help you tune in to the state's diverse cultural and historic heritage.

To stay on top of everything that's going on, check out our community calendar at [ALABAMA200.org](http://ALABAMA200.org) or [AL200finale.org](http://AL200finale.org) and to get the full scoop, like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram and Twitter. Encourage your friends and family to do the same.

Your participation helps us reach as many people as possible and is an easy and effective way to show pride for our state, from Bay Minette to Tuscaloosa, Huntsville to Old Cahawba, and the many other towns and communities joining in the celebration. Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to celebrate with us. Join the party!



# Bicentennial Stories from Around the State





## **With focus on past and future, Alabama wraps up bicentennial**

From the article on *APNews.com*:

Alabama blew out 200 candles on its birthday cake Saturday, as officials and residents gathered to celebrate the state's bicentennial in Montgomery.

Gov. Kay Ivey spoke and a series of monuments picturing the state's history were unveiled in a park across the street from the state capitol.

"It's such a brief time in the history of the world," the Republican Ivey told those gathered outside the capitol. "And yet, during these many years that parallel the life of our great state, Alabamians have been at the forefront of so many pivotal events that have shaped not only America, but also the world."

The 16 bronze plaques, each on a base of Alabama granite, depict scenes from the state's history. State Sen. Arthur Orr, a Decatur Republican who has chaired the bicentennial celebration, said the bronze reliefs focus on ordinary people, showing "history is made every day by people like us."

Alabama was admitted as the 22nd state on Dec. 14, 1819. Orr noted it was not only the 200th anniversary of the state, but the 170th anniversary of the fire that destroyed the first state capitol building constructed after the seat of government moved to Montgomery from Tuscaloosa.

Orr noted that outside the second building, which stands today, Jefferson Davis took his oath of office as president of the Confederacy in 1861, George Wallace delivered an

inaugural in which he proclaimed “segregation forever” in 1963, and then only two years later, Martin Luther King Jr. spoke at the end of the Selma to Montgomery voting rights march. In that speech on the back of a flatbed truck, King famously asked: “How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.”

Orr said Alabama’s history is “marked by much that is good, but also scarred entirely too much by that which is not.” He urged Alabamians to build on their past but not be bound by it.

“Although history shaped who we are today, it does not control our future,” Orr said. “As we begin Alabama’s third century this very day, our future is in our hands.”

As part of the program, Ivey said she received a letter written by then-Gov. Albert Brewer in 1969. She said she in turn would be writing a letter to her successor in 2069 to be sealed in a new time capsule the city of Montgomery is creating.

“We are continuing forward the legacy of our great state and continue to seek ways to make Alabama even better,” Ivey said.

Over the prior two years, the state has held celebrations in all 67 counties. Saturday’s events included a parade up Dexter Avenue featuring a bus similar to the one Rosa Parks rode on when she was arrested and sparked the Montgomery bus boycott. There also was a moon rover replica commemorating Huntsville’s contributions to the space program, and a 150-member bicentennial all-star band that played a song composed for the occasion.

For the complete article please see <https://apnews.com/c1d53a5eba277a5275f5bf12cb4fdf84>





## **Alabama celebrates Bicentennial Saturday with day of events**

From the article on *WSFA.com*:

All week long, events have been leading up to Saturday, where Alabama's 200th birthday was celebrated in downtown Montgomery.

The celebration Saturday featured all-day events beginning Saturday morning and extending through the evening.

At the heart of it was Gov. Kay Ivey's reveal of the Alabama Bicentennial Park, which includes 16 monuments, each with a plaque displaying a scene from Alabama's history.

"They focus on watershed moments in our history, but as often as not, they show everyday citizens going about their lives and showing their commitment to hard work, innovation and doing what's right," said Ivey.

Also on hand was Alabama native Kirk Jay, who finished third on NBC's *The Voice* contest. Jay, along with the Booker T. Washington Magnet School choir sang during Saturday's celebration.

There was also a parade featuring several bands from around the state, all in the capital city to celebrate Alabama's bicentennial.

The evening was hosted by Taylor Hicks and Jett Williams. A Who's Who of Alabama musicians, including Allison Moorer, John Paul White, Eddie Floyd, Jimmy Hall, Dan Penn, Candi Staton, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas and The Muscle Shoals Allstars

performed at the show. This was followed by a spectacular Light Show, sponsored by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians.

The celebration concluded Sunday with an encore finale presentation of the Light Show at the attorney general's building.

For the complete article please see <https://www.wsfa.com/2019/12/15/alabama-celebrates-bicentennial-saturday-with-day-events/>



## **New bicentennial park kicks off Alabama's third century**

From the article by Dennis Washington on *AlabamaNewsCenter.com*:

Thousands of people visited Montgomery on Saturday as the state kicked off its third century with a celebration of the previous two.

The Alabama Bicentennial Commission hosted the Alabama 200 Birthday Celebration in the state's capital. The morning began with a parade of more than 70 marching bands, city floats and living history on wheels. It concluded with a performance of the Bicentennial All-Star Band performing "Something in the Water," an original composition written by Anthony Krizan, Cheryl DaVeiga, Jerry Foster and Robert W. Smith.

At noon, the new Bicentennial Park was unveiled. Located at the foot of the Alabama State Capitol on Dexter Avenue, the park tells the story of Alabama in 16 bronze

plaques mounted on granite bases. Immediately following the dedication was the Alabama Bicentennial Festival, an afternoon full of exhibitions, performances and open houses in the Capitol Complex, up and down Dexter Avenue and throughout downtown Montgomery.

The day wrapped up with the Alabama Bicentennial Concert and Finale Presentation. The concert included performances from Taylor Hicks, Jett Williams, Eddie Floyd, Jimmy Hall, Allison Moorer, Dan Penn, Martha Reeves and the Vandellas, Candi Staton, John Paul White and the Muscle Shoals Allstars. Immediately after the concert was “Sculpting a State,” a 10-minute presentation projected on the front of Alabama’s Attorney General Building.

For the complete article please see <https://alabamane.wscenter.com/2019/12/16/new-bicentennial-park-kicks-off-alabamas-third-century/>



## Alabama celebrated its bicentennial Saturday

From the article by Brandon Moseley on *ALReporter.com*:

Saturday, the state of Alabama celebrated its 200th anniversary as a state with festivities in Montgomery. The state held a festival, concerts, parade, fireworks, and dedicated the new Bicentennial Park on Dexter Avenue across from the Capital building.

“Alabama sure knows how to throw a party!” Alabama Governor Kay Ivey (R) said. “This three-year celebration wouldn’t have been possible without the time and effort put

forth by the Bicentennial Commission. Thank you to the AL200 Commission, Sen. Arthur Orr and the student committee for spearheading this endeavor. Job well done!”

State Sen. Arthur Orr (R-Decatur) chaired the Alabama Bicentennial Commission, which planned the events and festivities that culminated in the weekend’s events.

Sen. Orr said on social media, “Thank you Gov. Kay Ivey Bicentennial and Exec. Director Jay Lamar and all who made yesterday an extraordinarily memorable day!”

“It was a wonderful weekend celebrating the 200th birthday of the state of Alabama,” Congresswoman Martha Roby (R-Montgomery) said. “I had the opportunity to attend celebratory events in our beautiful Capital City, and I am grateful to have spent this exciting time surrounded by Alabamians from all over the state.”

“Today we celebrate 200 years of the great state of Alabama,” Senator Richard Shelby (R) said. “I am honored to have served the state over the years, watching Alabama transform into an epicenter for national defense, space exploration, manufacturing, medical research, and so on. This is a day to recognize how far we have come, while also looking to the promising future we have ahead of us. I am proud of my state and all we have accomplished – today and every day. Happy 200th birthday, Alabama! Here’s to many more. #AL200”

“Thank you to everyone who worked to make the Alabama Bicentennial celebration (& all @al200 events) memorable,” Dr. Nicole Jones said. “Thousands of people visited downtown Montgomery for Alabama’s 200th birthday. A special thank you to author Lobo Tristan for presenting me w/ a copy of his book. #Our67.”

“Today in 1819, the greatest state joined the Union,” Congressman Bradley Byrne (R-Montrose) said. 200 years of memories, and I’m confident Alabama’s best days are yet to come! Happy birthday to my home state.”

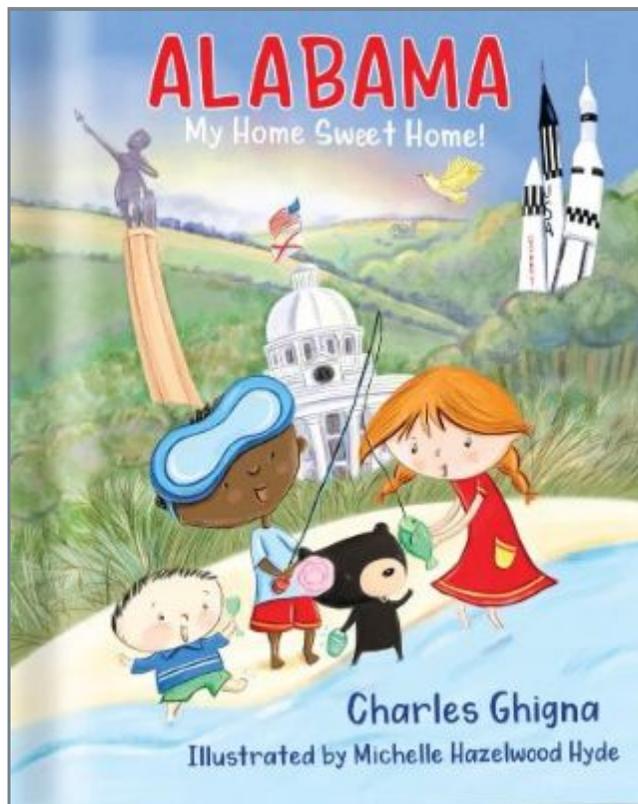
“I recently led the efforts with my colleagues in the Alabama delegation to introduce a House resolution that recognizes the 200th anniversary of Alabama’s statehood,” Roby said. “I was honored to introduce Governor Kay Ivey Friday night and present her with a copy of the resolution.”

“One of the first & most lasting ways that we acknowledge both our history & our future is through the unveiling of Alabama Bicentennial Park today,” Gov. Ivey said Saturday on social media. “Thank you to the AL Legislature & to artist Caleb O’Connor for making this legacy park possible.”

“On Saturday, I attended the Alabama Bicentennial Park Dedication at the state Capitol,” Roby added. “It was a memorable weekend celebrating the incredible people and significant history of the state of Alabama.”

Economic developer and historian Dr. Nicole Jones told the Alabama Political Reporter, “Thank you to everyone who worked to make December 14th (and all of the Alabama Bicentennial events) memorable. Thousands of residents visited downtown Montgomery to celebrate Alabama’s 200th birthday. The Bicentennial Park dedication was special because it unveiled bronze interpretive plaques of everyday Alabamians engaging in activities that have shaped our state’s history. Executive Director Jay Lamar and her team of staff and volunteers deserve much recognition for planning the milestone event as well as the series of events held throughout Alabama’s 67 counties.”

For the complete article please see <https://www.alreporter.com/2019/12/18/alabama-celebrated-its-bicentennial-saturday/>



Alabama: My Home Sweet Home by Charles Ghigna

# Alabama turns 200: Birmingham children get free books to celebrate

From the article by Taylor Babington on *BHamNow.com*:

The 200th anniversary of Alabama's statehood is this month. Did you know there's a children's book commemorating the occasion? And two programs are providing kids across our state with this book and others for free. Learn more.

## **The Story Behind the Book**

The Alabama Bicentennial Committee and Reach Out and Read Alabama partnered to commission the book. Not only does the book celebrate our state's anniversary, but it also marks the 10-year anniversary of Reach Out and Read Alabama's Rx for Reading program—more on that later.

## **So What's the Book About?**

The Bicentennial Committee tapped Homewood native and award-winning author Charles Ghigna, AKA Father Goose, to write the Bicentennial book. Michelle Hyde, also from Birmingham, illustrated the story.

“My first thought about writing this book was, ‘How can I best tell the story of Alabama to children without it sounding like a textbook?’” said Ghigna. “I wanted a main character to tell the story, someone fun and friendly for children to follow.”

That's how the idea of Camellia Bear was born. Camellia, named after our state flower, is a black bear—our state animal, of course—who shows readers notable places and faces of Alabama like Rosa Parks, Cheaha Mountain, Martin Luther King Jr., Hank Williams and more.

For the complete article please see <https://bhamnow.com/2019/12/17/alabama-turns-200-birmingham-children-get-free-books-to-celebrate/>





## City of Orange Beach giving away bicentennial ornaments

From the article on *MulletWrapper.com*:

The City of Orange Beach is commemorating the State of Alabama's bicentennial by giving out Alabama 200 commemorative Christmas ornaments. Stop by City Hall or the Coastal Arts Center to pick one up while supplies last.

For the complete article please see <https://mulletwrapper.net/city-of-orange-beach-giving-away-bicentennial-ornaments/>



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**ON** This day in **ALABAMA**



John J. Sparkman

**December 20, 1899**

U.S. Senator John J. Sparkman was born in Hartselle. First elected to the House of Representatives in 1937, Sparkman served a total of forty-two years in Congress as he became one of the nation's most skilled legislators. While in Congress, he became a staunch defender of the Tennessee Valley Authority and played a leading role in Redstone Arsenal and the Marshall Space Flight Center to Huntsville. He served on two prestigious Senate committees, Banking and Currency and Foreign Relations, and won the Democratic nomination for vice president under Adlai Stevenson in 1952 but lost the election to the Republican ticket of Dwight D. Eisenhower and Richard Nixon.

<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1441>

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**Nov. 3-Dec 31 – We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents (Montgomery)**

Celebrate Alabama’s bicentennial with the documents that defined our state and shaped its history. All six of Alabama’s constitutions will be on view together in a special exhibition presented by the Alabama Department of Archives and History. The exhibition will also highlight intensive conservation work recently completed on the constitutions and the 1861 ordinance of secession, which declared Alabama’s separation from the Union on the eve of the Civil War. The ordinance will also be included in the exhibition. Visit <https://www.wethepeoplealabama.org/>

**Go to [Alabama200.org/events](http://Alabama200.org/events) for more information on these and other events.**

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A large graphic featuring the "200 ALABAMA BICENTENNIAL" logo in the top left. Below it, the word "Exhibitions" is written in a very large, bold, serif font. The letter "i" in "Exhibitions" is replaced by a white silhouette of the state of Alabama.

**We the People: Alabama’s Defining Documents**

Nov. 3-Dec 31 – Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: Alabama Department of Archives & History

**Unframed Images: Photography from the collection of P. H. Polk**

Dec. 2 - 30 Jefferson Co., City: Birmingham, Venue: Springville Road Public Library

**Alabama Justice: The cases and faces that changed a nation**

Oct. 30 - Jan. 5 Macon Co., City: Tuskegee, Venue: George Washington Carver Museum

**Making Alabama: A Bicentennial traveling exhibit**

Now-Dec. Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: Alabama Public Television studio and office building

Oct. 25 - Jan. 31 Montgomery Co., City: Montgomery, Venue: The State Capitol

Nov. 4 - Dec. 20 Washington Co., City: Chatom, Venue: Washington Co. Public Library

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