

# EDITORIAL OPINION

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## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is Tuesday, March 9, the 68th day of 2021. There are 297 days left in the year.

On this date in:

**1841:** The U.S. Supreme Court, in *United States v. The Amistad*, ruled 7-1 in favor of a group of illegally enslaved Africans who were captured off the U.S. coast after seizing control of a Spanish schooner, *La Amistad*; the justices ruled that the Africans should be set free.

**1916:** More than 400 Mexican raiders led by Pancho Villa attacked Columbus, New Mexico, killing 18 Americans. During the First World War, Germany declared war on Portugal.

**1933:** Congress, called into special session by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, began its "hundred days" of enacting New Deal legislation.

**1945:** During World War II, U.S. B-29 bombers began launching incendiary bomb attacks against Tokyo, resulting in an estimated 100,000 deaths.

**1959:** Mattel's Barbie doll, created by Ruth Handler, made its public debut at the American International Toy Fair in New York.

**1964:** The U.S. Supreme Court, in *New York Times Co. v. Sullivan*, raised the standard for public officials to prove they'd been libeled in their official capacity by news organizations.

**1976:** A cable car in the Italian ski resort of Cavalese fell some 700 feet to the ground when a supporting line snapped, killing 43 people.

**1987:** Chrysler Corp. announced it had agreed to buy the financially ailing American Motors Corp.

**1997:** Gangsta rapper The Notorious B.I.G. (Christopher Wallace) was killed in a still-unsolved drive-by shooting in Los Angeles; he was 24.

## TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS

Country singer **Mickey Gilley** is 85. Singer **Jeffrey Osborne** is 73. Guitarist **Jimmie Fadden** of The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band is 73. Actor **Linda Fiorentino** ("Men In Black") is 63. Actor **Tom Amandes** ("Eli Stone," "Parent-hood") is 62. Guitarist **Rusty Hendrix** of Confederate Railroad is 61. Actor **Juliette Binoche** ("Chocolat," "The English Patient") is 57. Rapper **C-Murder** is 50. Actor **Emmanuel Lewis** ("Webster") is 50. Actor **Jean Louisa Kelly** ("Yes, Dear," "Mr. Holland's Opus") is 49. Actor **Kerr Smith** ("Life Unexpected," "Dawson's Creek") is 49. Actor **Oscar Isaac** ("Star Wars: The Force Awakens") is 42. Comedian **Jordan Klepper** ("The Daily Show") is 42. Rapper **Chingy** is 41. Keyboardist **Ben Tanner** of Alabama Shakes is 38. Rapper **Bow Wow** is 34. Rapper **YG** is 31. Actor **Cierra Ramirez** ("The Fosters") is 26.

## BIBLE QUOTE

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. — Numbers 6:24-26

## LETTERS POLICY

**Note to readers:** The Naples Daily News has revised its guidelines for letters to the editor. Letters can be 220 words or less. We might edit them for accuracy, clarity and taste, to eliminate personal attacks and prevent libel. We might reject letters or return them to senders, who can rewrite them for resubmission. The sources of statistics or assertions of facts that aren't common knowledge must be cited in the same sentences. No poetry, letter-writing campaigns or airing of personal grievances or complaints about businesses will be considered. Submissions must be made online via the form at [naplesnews.com](https://naplesnews.com) or by email to [letters@naplesnews.com](mailto:letters@naplesnews.com). Publication is limited to one letter per writer per month. For verification, letter writers must provide a home address and phone number, but only the community name will be published with the letter writer's name. The Daily News strives to print as many letters as possible, but not all letters will be published. Shorter letters are preferred so that more writers can be included. Priority also is given to letters about local events and issues.

# Men must stand with women to end domestic violence



**Your Turn**  
Tom Leipzig  
Guest columnist

The most recent annual statistics for Collier County show there were 1,686 domestic violence calls to 911, affecting nearly every neighborhood in our community. It is very likely that you know one of these callers. They could be a neighbor, a co-worker or even a relative.

Today (March 9), Collier County Commissioners will proclaim the third annual Gentle'men Against Domestic Violence® Day. On this day, GADV calls on men to stand as equal partners with women to end domestic violence and human trafficking in Collier County and beyond. A full-page ad in the Naples Daily News will include the names of 250 like-minded men who are taking a stand as part of our 250 Men & More campaign. These men share the belief that we have a unique role and responsibility to create social change, now and for future generations.

In addition to joining GADV, there are many things that men can do to become part of the solution.

Examine and challenge your own thoughts about gender and the role you

## Guest commentaries

A guest commentary can be 600 words or less on a topical subject. Authors must have considerable experience, public involvement or expertise in the subject matter. Due to the large number of guest commentaries we receive, these may be returned to the author with a recommendation to resubmit it as a letter to the editor within the guidelines for letters. Submit to [letters@naplesnews.com](mailto:letters@naplesnews.com).

might, even unintentionally, play in supporting men who are abusive. This could take form in jokes, song lyrics or sharing stories that demean women and endorse sexual abuse or the oppression of women and girls. Even if you don't join in, remember that silence is affirming, and is essentially consent. When we choose not to speak out against domestic violence, we are supporting it.

If you are a parent or guardian, educate and re-educate your sons and other young men about our responsibility in ending domestic violence. Challenge traditional images of manhood that stop us and future generations from actively taking a stand to end violence against women.

I challenge all men to stand with us and recognize that violence against

women is not the responsibility of women and the violence will not end until men become part of the solution to end it. We must take an active role in creating a cultural and social shift that no longer tolerates violence against women.

With the support of The Shelter, GADV strives to create systems of accountability to women in our community. Violence and discrimination against women will end only when we take direction from those who understand it most, women.

Today in America, one in three women will be a victim of domestic violence at some point in her lifetime. With your support, we can help ensure that no young girl or woman in our community will ever be on the terrifying end of a 911 call. It's time to stand up and speak out.

*Tom Leipzig is Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Shelter for Abused Women & Children.*

## More information

For more information on how you can join GADV, go to [naplesshelter.org/gadv](https://naplesshelter.org/gadv). If you know or suspect that someone is a victim of domestic violence or human trafficking, call The Shelter's 24-hour crisis hotline at 239-775-1101.

# My mom taught me resiliency. I'm obligated to pass it on.

**Your Turn**  
Jennifer S. Bankston  
Guest columnist

My high school teammates waved and headed to waiting cars after tennis practice. I craned my neck, looking for my mom's metallic-blue Ford. In the 1980s, I was a rising sophomore, on the cusp of 15. At 5-feet-11, and left-handed, I had a passion for drop-shotting a 2-ounce yellow ball across a net.

It was not my mom who picked me up that day. My broad-shouldered dad arrived with red, tear-stained eyes. A quiet, complex man, with a penchant for ice hockey and ballroom dancing, he simply told me: It was mom. It wasn't good. I got in his car, the aroma of a cigar wafting through the air-conditioner.

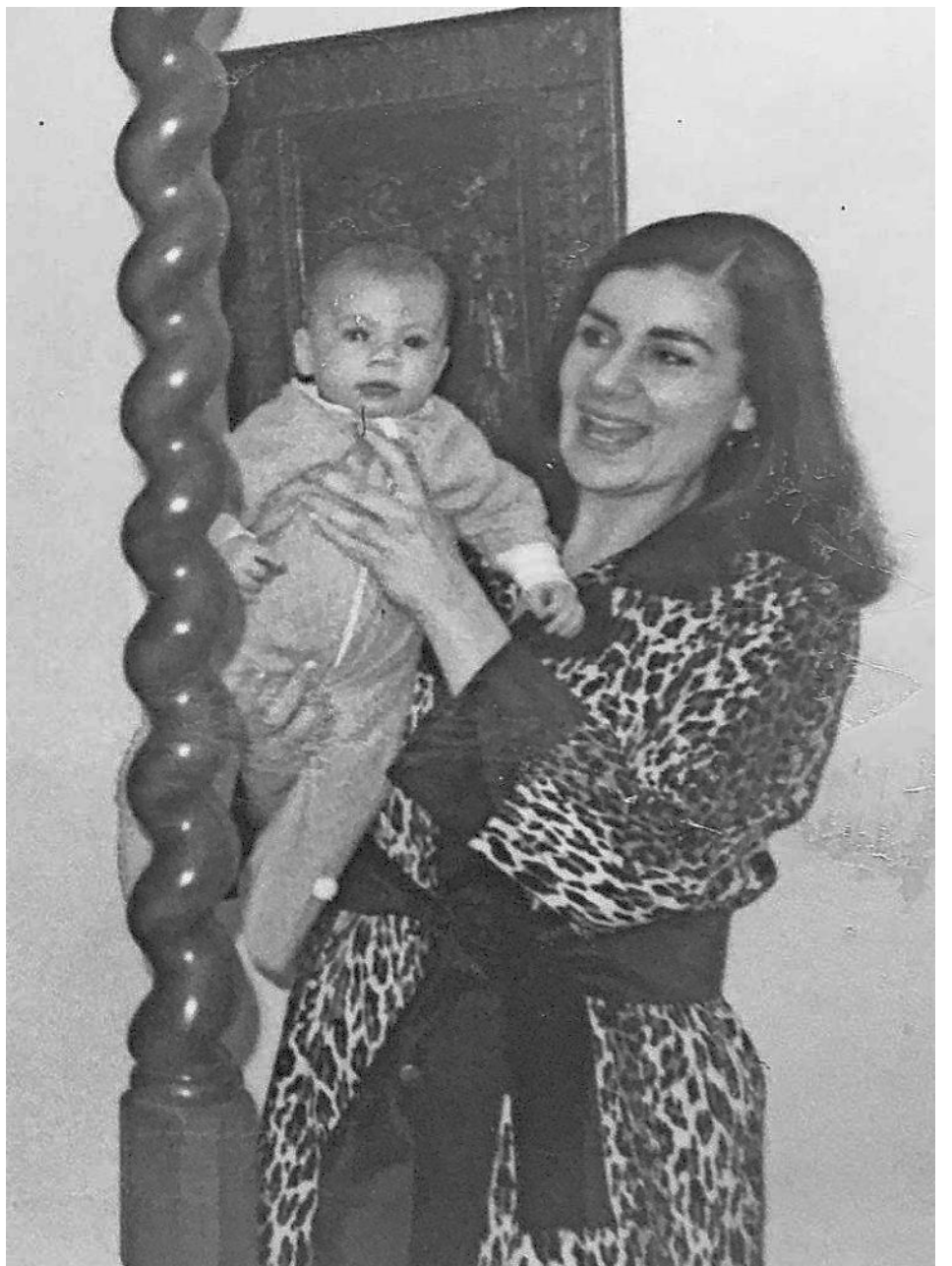
My mom was grand. One of the first female copywriters at a Madison Avenue agency, she helped pave the way for other women, often serving as mentor. With funky, costume jewelry and berets, her personality matched her wild accessories. Around our kitchen table, she loved to regale my friends with stories of traveling the world. Her candor displayed how she spoke up for voices that needed to be heard. Volunteerism took form in helping teenage runaways, who were escaping horrifying situations, and she tried to prevent them from heading to more disturbing futures.

But, as grand and larger than life as she was, my mom suffered from a debilitating illness, childhood rheumatoid arthritis, that, by age 40, put plates in her body to fuse her spine, and forced her into a wheelchair. She had difficulty holding a pen to craft an advertising campaign, eat, or brush her hair. Eventually, she would spend her last years in a nursing home — her pain and suffering so vast.

I stored my tennis racket, and, worked part time to help with household needs. Questions or comments about geometry, college applications, or the crush I had on a boy with shaggy brown hair, were discussed with peers or internalized.

Change was forced upon me, especially developing the traits of independence and resiliency. I would tell mom I wished she could get better. She would say I had to adjust to the new way of being and find my own way. Later, I would pick up often, throw on a backpack, and retrace some of her travels, imagining what her life had been like when she could take long walks and laugh.

My 10-year-old daughter has spent more than 10% of her young life in a pandemic. During this time, she has read many books and shown a curios-



Jennifer S. Bankston and her mother, Barbara Tetefsky, in Chestnut Ridge, N.Y., in March 1971. FAMILY HANDOUT

ity for travel. A budding artist, she is interested in anime, a style of illustration that originated in Japan. She has been studying Japanese culture and taking language lessons. She also knows how fortunate she is to have a roof over her head, food on the table, and Wi-Fi. She has exhibited great empathy as we have mourned the loss of loved ones to COVID-19 together.

Recently, she asked when she will be able to remove her mask and visit Japan. She said she longed for things to go back to B.C. — before COVID-19.

I thought long and hard, deciding to channel my mom's voice, and not coddle my daughter. I told her that we are not going back to what once was her daily routine. We are going forward, and while there is uncertainty, we will each

need to carve our own way. She stared at me for a moment and then wrapped her arms tightly around my neck. I kissed her forehead and told her a story about my mom, the grandma she never got to meet.

Whenever I look at the Prince Graphite oversize tennis racket I still have, I realize how far away I am from that melancholy, 15-year-old. Just as my mom helped me navigate uncertainty, build resiliency, and instill a level of independence, I'd like to restring my racket, volley a tennis ball with my daughter while promoting resiliency and work toward the next normal in our lives.

*Jennifer S. Bankston heads Bankston Marketing Solutions, a business strategy and marketing firm.*