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**Mr. Robert
Franklin "Bob"
Downer**

Mr. Robert Franklin "Bob" Downer, 85, died Thursday, September 13, 2018, at Anson Health and Rehabilitation.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, September 16, 2018, at Leavitt Funeral Home with Rev. Steve Goodwin officiating. Interment will be at a later date and will be private.

Mr. Downer was born in Anson County on August

Obituaries

25, 1933, a son of the late Phillip Edward Downer and the late Annie Bailey Downer. He attended Lilesville High School before entering the US Navy where he served from 1951 until 1955 on two aircraft carriers. Mr. Downer worked 30 years for the Charlotte Mecklenburg School System, first as a carpenter, and then later as an electronics tech working on things like TV's, intercoms and clock systems. He had a lifelong love of hunting and fishing.

Survivors include his wife of 61 years, Frances Carolyn McRae Downer of the home; two sons, Robert "Bob" Downer, Jr. (Tracie) of Jefferson, NC and Jerry Downer of Marion, NC; one daughter Patricia Seago (John) of Wadesboro; two grandchildren, Jacob Downer (Lucia) and Mary Katheryn Downer; a sister, Sandra Freeman (Donnie) of Williamsport, MD; and many nieces and nephews.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Downer was preceded in death by a brother Phillip Downer, Jr.; two sisters, Shirley Ann Coley and

Audrey June Downer; along with two infant twin sisters.

Memorials may be made to any Christian charity of the donor's choice.

Leavitt Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Online condolences may be made at www.leavittfh.com.

**Mr. Bobby
Pearly Sellers**

Mr. Bobby Pearly Sellers, 61, slipped away peacefully to be with the Heavenly Father, with his faithful wife Lynda by his side, on August 18, 2018, at Carolinas Healthcare System Main, in Charlotte. A Celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, September 22, 2018, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wadesboro with Father Jean Pierre Swamunu Lhaposso officiating.

Bobby was born on November 22, 1956, in Anson County, son of James Sellers, Sr. and Dora Hildreth Sellers. He was a former employee of Hornwood and was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Surviving is his wife

Lynda Sellers; his children, Nedra (Collie) of Chesterfield, Bobby B. (Tiffany) of Midland, NC, Lynette (Alex) of Asheville, NC, Jonathan of the home and Chad (Tammy) of Charlotte; his grandchildren, Emma, Noah, Sophia, Joslynn and Jadaisha; his mother Dora Hildreth Sellers; his brothers, James (Margaret) Sellers, Donald (Betty Jean) Sellers, David (Debra) Sellers and Shalar Sellers, Sr., all of Wadesboro; one sister, Kay Sellers Privette (Alvin) of Wadesboro; sister-in-law Jane Sellers of Waxhaw, NC; his father in law Amster Eleby, Sr. of New Jersey; brothers-in-law, Alfred (Shelley) Eleby of New Jersey, Joe (Donna) Horne of Mint Hill, NC; sisters-in-law, Chris (Othar) Lilly of Winston Salem, NC and Vaniece (Ron) of New Jersey; along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father James Sellers, Sr. and his brother Billy Yates Sellers.

Holland Funeral Service and Crematory is serving the family.

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You Decide: What's the New Outlook for Jobs?

By Dr. Mike Walden: A few years ago a couple of economists made a big splash by predicting almost half of occupations in the country had a big chance of being replaced by automation and technology in coming decades. Unemployment rates would soar to double digits and stay there. The economists' forecast revived fears of "technological unemployment" posing a bigger threat to jobs than any future recession.

How out-of-touch those forecasts now look today. Companies are hungry for workers. Many are hiring unqualified people and then training them. Unemployment rates are reaching historic lows among many groups and in many regions.

The job situation and facts have significantly improved from just a few years ago. A famous person (some say it was the 20th century economist John Maynard Keynes) once said, "When the facts change, I change my mind. What do you do sir?" So, maybe it should be no surprise the dire projections of job loss due to automation and technology have been revised.

A new report now says only 20 percent of current occupations are severely threatened with extinction from non-human ways of performing work tasks. Interestingly, one of the economists who was part of the dire prediction just five years ago is a member of the new, more optimistic, outlook. What changed? It's easy to understand researchers are influenced by the times in which they work. The research suggesting a potential 50 percent loss rate of occupations was originally done in 2013. Although at that time we were a couple years past the Great Recession, the job market was sluggish. Many referred to the "jobless recovery." It was easy to blame technology and automation.

In recent years, the economy – and especially the job market – have been performing much better. The previous labor surplus has been turned into a labor shortage. This certainly may be a factor behind the more optimistic occupation projections. In this new reality, the updated analysis of the effect of automation and technology on occupations reflects a point many economists have made for decades. While technological advances can replace some jobs and occupations, they can simultaneously increase the need for others.

Automation and technology can be job-enhancing in two ways. First, the advances can lower business costs, thereby enabling companies to lower prices. The lower prices stimulate more buying and thereby motivate businesses to expand.

Here's an example. Automation is coming to fast food restaurants with kiosks ordering. The kiosks replace workers at the counter taking orders (by the way, this was my first job 50 years ago). But if the kiosks allow fast food restaurants to lower their prices, the restaurants will sell more, open more outlets and hire more workers – and potentially end up with higher employment than before the kiosks arrived.

Second, if automation lowers prices, consumers will have more to spend on other things, which in turn creates more employment opportunities.

So, the good news is the latest research suggests automation and technology may not be the job-killers they were thought to be – and they may even increase jobs. Yet the research still predicts 20 percent of existing occupations are threatened by severe downsizing. What are these occupations? I can't give you the entire list, but here are the top ones: printers, financial clerks, food processing workers, manufacturing workers, sales reps, mechanics and several construction occupations. These are occupations where the increasing capability of technology will allow machines to soon replace many of the tasks done by people. And – in the calculations done by the economists – they are occupations where the direct losses due to technology and automation won't be counterbalanced by new spending from consumers.

Now let's look at the other side – of occupations least threatened by technology and automation – and therefore most likely to expand. The top ones include teachers, engineers, counselors, entertainers and performers, scientists, architects and health professionals and technicians. These are occupations requiring human-to-human interactions that technology and machines are unlikely to soon replicate, or occupations requiring high levels of cognitive analysis and decision-making, or both.

The evaluation of how the evolution of technology will impact occupations and jobs is a continuing issue requiring continuing study. Individuals planning careers and educational institutions deciding on programs of study are both importantly impacted by this issue. The latest analysis of the interaction between advances in technology and automation and jobs is more optimistic than earlier studies.

Still, we shouldn't be lulled into thinking no one will be harmed by our rapidly evolving tech-heavy economy. Even if only 20 percent of occupations will be taken over by technology – that is still a big number, and it will mean millions of workers nationwide and thousands in North Carolina will have to be retrained for different kinds of work.

Yet the news about upcoming technological unemployment is better than it was just a few years ago. But will it continue? You decide!

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.

"LET'S MAKE THE CHURCH BEAUTIFUL AGAIN"

Whatever happened to the beautiful church? The church who resembles the one who died for it, Jesus Christ! The church who understood the scripture that said, "and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 1 The church who was unafraid to take a stand for what is right, because we are the "righteousness of God"! 2 The church who worships in the "beauty of God's holiness." 3 Worshipping not only at their local church, but in their homes, their schools and in their businesses. Born-again believers, the church is not a building! We are the church!

The last time I heard prominent leaders in our county voice their opinion about how alcohol will bring prosperity to our county they promised an Applebee's Restaurant. As if alcohol or a restaurant would bring prosperity. Tell that to the ones who are addicted to alcohol! Come hear their stories on Sunday night when they speak about broken homes, fortunes lost and hopeless lives! The evil one is still in the life stealing, killing and destroying business! Jesus said that he came that we might have a "super abundant life!" 4 We don't need more alcohol! We need more Jesus!

Church we have a responsibility to bring light to the darkness! Be very careful for God says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbor drink." 5 He also said, "By our words[or votes] we are condemned or ...justified." 6 "Righteousness exalts(raises up) a nation," 7 a state or a county. Not alcohol! God makes it very plain for the church to "Be Sober!" 8

Therefore, church let's be beautiful again! Let the preachers in the pulpits of Anson County proclaim the truth about what the Bible says about alcohol. Let every member of the true body of Christ lift up their voice and conscience against the referendum on November 6th, and **Vote NO!**

Rocky Carpenter
Pastor
Harmony Community Church

- John 8:32
- Romans 3:22
- Psalm 96:9
- John 10:10
- Habakkuk 2:15
- Matthew 12:37
- Proverbs 14:34
- 1 Peter 5:8

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