



*Alabama* DEPARTMENT OF  
**ARCHIVES & HISTORY**  
Find Your *Story*

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
January 10, 2017

**Media Contact: Georgia Ann Hudson**  
georgiaann.hudson@archives.alabama.gov  
(334) 353-3312

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT PRESENTATION ON JANUARY 19 AT NOON**  
**RALPH "SHUG" JORDAN AND WORLD WAR II: FROM NORTH AFRICA TO OKINAWA**  
**PRESENTED BY LEAH RAWLS ATKINS**

Montgomery, AL (1/10/17) - *Food for Thought* begins another year of fascinating and informative lunchtime lectures on the rich history of Alabama at the Alabama Department of Archives and History on **Thursday, January 19 at 12:00 pm**. Leah Rawls Atkins will present *Ralph "Shug" Jordan and World War II: From North Africa to Okinawa*.

Before becoming a legendary football coach at Auburn University, Captain Ralph "Shug" Jordan trained and led men onto the shores of Normandy on D-Day, coming home with a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. In this presentation, historian Leah Rawls Atkins will share nearly forgotten stories of Jordan's heroism on the battlefields of World War II, long before he led young men to victory on the gridiron.

Dr. Leah Rawls Atkins, a native of Birmingham, taught history at Auburn University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Samford University, and retired as director of the Auburn University Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in 1995. Her late husband, George, played football at Auburn for Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan and was an assistant coach under his leadership for sixteen years. When she was teaching at Samford, Dr. Atkins developed a course on World War II, where she used interviews with Jordan on his experiences during the war. Atkins is co-author of *Alabama: The History of a Deep South State* with Wayne Flynt, William W. Rogers, and David Ward.

*Food for Thought* 2017 is made possible by the Friends of the Alabama Archives and a grant from the Alabama Humanities Foundation, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities. The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch. Complimentary beverages are provided. **Admission to *Food for Thought* is always FREE.**

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. It is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit [www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov) or call (334) 242-4364.

###

Alabama Department of Archives & History  
624 Washington Ave.  
Montgomery, AL 36130  
[www.archives.alabama.gov](http://www.archives.alabama.gov)