

The Sting Didn't Mean a Thing

More on Saunders' Taxpayer-Subsidized 'Date Night' with Bailey

The USMNEWS.net report entitled, [Keeping the Home Fires Burning](#), provides documentation indicating that USM president Martha Saunders and her husband Joe Bailey had a date-night of sorts on 15-Sept-2010. That day they travelled by USM plane from Hattiesburg to Atlanta, reportedly in order to catch a play that was written and produced by a prominent USM alumnus. Airplane Operations charged Saunders' USM office, not her personally, **\$2,320** for the use of the auxiliary's plane. Next, the USMNEWS.net report entitled, [Taxpayers Burned](#), added copies of receipts filed by Julian Allen, the USM associate vice president for research, and one of the Airplane Operations pilots, for taxi-cab service in Atlanta on 16-Sept-2010. One of these was for a trip to Applebee's restaurant, while the other was for a trip to the airport. These two cab rides totaled **\$49**. This report provides newly-uncovered evidence regarding this taxpayer-subsidized date that Saunders and Bailey went on in mid Sept-2010.

Week Ending 09/17/10
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8600 W 110th Street
Overland Park KS 66210-1809

Customer Number: [REDACTED]
USM
MICHAEL HERNDON
MSA Reference #: 03890871
Number of Invoices: 1

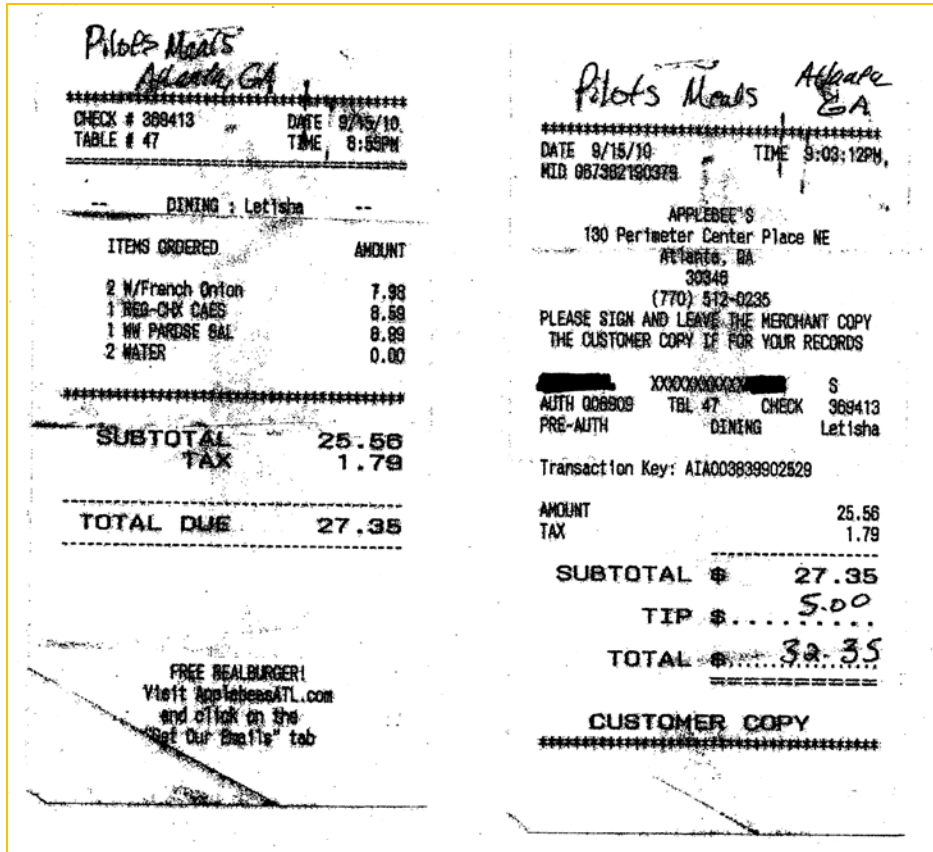
INVOICE DETAIL

Inv Date	Inv #	Card #	A/C Reg	SIGNATURE FLIGHT SUPPORT - PDK ATLANTA, GA	KPKD 770-452-0010
09/15/10	00012706	XXXX 138 1	N777AQ		
Product	Quantity	Amount	Inv Total		
Jet Fuel	150.00 gals	775.35			
FET		32.85			
#-Handling Fees		-150.00			
#-Handling Fees		150.00			
Other tax		58.94	867.14		
1 INVOICE(S) FOR CARD #: XXXX1381			CARD TOTAL	867.14	
TOTAL - 1 INVOICE(S) FOR USM			BILL TOTAL	867.14	

The insert above is an invoice for USM that shows that the USM plane was readied for its 15-Sept-2010 journey to Atlanta. On 15-Sept-2010, the plane was fueled at a cost to USM of **\$867**. Thus, the three charges mentioned here bring the total cost of the date to **\$3,236** (so far).

Of course, a cab receipt for a ride to Applebee's implies that Allen and his co-pilot likely enjoyed food and beverages at that establishment. The insert below is a receipt from Applebee's that addresses the cost of the dinner that Allen and the co-pilot were billed for at 9:03 pm (local time) on 15-Sept-2010. Though the date of this dinner suggests that the trip may have indeed spilled over into 16-Sept-2010, the handwritten nature of the aforementioned taxi receipts, which are inserted just beneath the Applebee's bill below, and which were included in *Taxpayers Burned*, supports a "clerical error" argument that

the trip lasted a single day (15-Sept-2010). Perhaps this dispute will be settled in a future report.



Julian Allen
Atlanta's Best Taxi & Limo
 Dunwoody - Sandy Springs - Roswell - Alpharetta

Date: *9/16/10* Fare:.....
 From:..... Tax:.....
 To: *Applebee's* Tips:.....
 Name:..... Total: *\$24.00*

We do business the old fashion way, we earn it!
 Tel: 770-960-0000 . Fax: 770-393-9807
 Email: ride@AtlantasBestTaxi.com

Julian Allen
Atlanta's Best Taxi & Limo
 Dunwoody - Sandy Springs - Roswell - Alpharetta

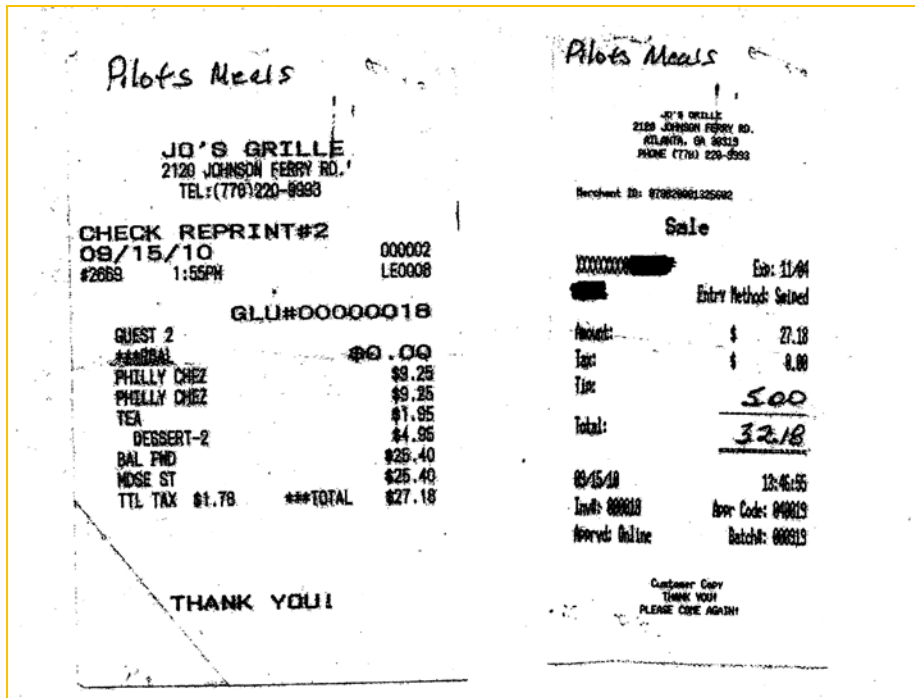
Date: *9/16/10* Fare:.....
 From:..... Tax:.....
 To: *PNK Airport* Tips:.....
 Name:..... Total: *\$25.00*

We do business the old fashion way, we earn it!
 Tel: 770-960-0000 . Fax: 770-393-9807
 Email: ride@AtlantasBestTaxi.com

With tax, the Applebee's meals came to \$27.35. Adding gratuity brought the total to just over \$32.

Interestingly, the insert below indicates that the USM party flew to Atlanta *no later than the morning of 15-Sept-2010*, even though an afternoon departure would have left plenty of time for Saunders and Bailey to catch the play. That is known because the insert

below is a pilots' receipt for lunch that was time-stamped 1:55 pm local time. This would suggest that Saunders likely wanted to do some shopping in the finer retail establishments of the Atlanta area before getting off to the play venue.



As the receipt above shows, on 15-Sept-2010 Allen and the co-pilot grabbed a nice lunch at [Jo's Grille](#) in Atlanta. There they enjoyed sandwiches, sides, tea, and, of course, desserts. With tax and tip, the total was just over \$32 (again).

Table 1 below summarizes what we know thus far about Saunders' trip with Bailey to Atlanta on 15-Sept-2010.

Table 1 – Saunders and Bailey in ATL

Date	Charge	Persons	Amount
15-Sept-2010	Airplane Use (to ATL)	Martha Saunders and Joe Bailey	\$2,320
15-Sept-2010	Jet Fuel	Martha Saunders and Joe Bailey	\$867
16-Sept-2010	Cab Ride to Applebee's	Julian Allen and co-pilot	\$24
16-Sept-2010	Cab Ride to Airport	Julian Allen and co-pilot	\$25
15-Sept-2010	Lunch at Jo's Grille	Julian Allen and co-pilot	\$32
15-Sept-2010	Dinner at Applebee's	Julian Allen and co-pilot	\$32
			\$3,300

There is not any substantial evidence as of yet to indicate that the trip spilled over into 16-Sept-2010. Still, the total cost of the date night reaches *at least* \$3,300, a stinging sum for Mississippi taxpayers. As more expenses are located – and there are more (e.g., Saunders' lunch, etc.) – the total will rise.