

# Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

May 2017

## President's Byline : Hurricane Harvey - We Are In This Together



Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall over the weekend and our thoughts and prayers have been with our fellow Texans on the coast. The category 4 hurricane crashed into the Texas coast, devastating families and businesses. As the storm stalled and the rain continued to fall, more than 20 inches in some areas, with predictions of up to 30 additional inches to come our thoughts have focused on helping those who have been in Harvey's path.

All of us know someone who is in the midst of the storm. We all prayed for our friends Ron and Linda Jenkins who were finally rescued by a neighbor with a boat and have now made their way safely to their daughter, Ashela Quinonezas, home. We held our breath as Jeran Akers daughter and her family, his three grand babies, were rescued by kayak with mom walking beside in chest deep water.

We are so proud of our family and friends who are first responders and have rushed into the danger to help others. All 12,000 members of the Texas National Guard have been activated to help the state deal with the #Harvey disaster, many like Matt Young, Alicia Jeffers Young's husband, are from Collin County.

More Plano firefighters are headed to support rescue efforts in the Houston area. Firefighters from the following departments met at Plano Station 4 to travel south in response to a request for boat teams in the areas affected by Harvey: Carrollton, Denison, Greenville, Paris, Plano and Wylie.

Diane and Mark Nusbaum have traveled to Katy with a truck full of supplies and a boat to help with the rescue efforts. John Myers is helping his friend who lost his home and has no insurance with a GoFundMe page.

There are so many ways to help, gathering supplies, sending money, relaying information and praying. In addition to helping people you can help with dogs and cats, horses and sending essentials to first responders who cannot get to supplies. Neighbors who take in people from the affected areas need supplies, shelters need blankets and food, the list goes on and on.

Social media has made it so easy to see how to help. There are facebook pages for Hurricane Harvey that list what needs are and let others list what they need. The RPT has a great list on their facebook page of how we can help and what the needs are county by county.

Governor Abbott says 18 counties are now covered by a disaster declaration approved by President Donald Trump, according to AP. Almost 7 million people live within those counties, out of Texas' overall population of 27.8 million. The news is prediction more than 30,000 people across the Gulf Coast are likely to seek temporary shelter as Tropical Storm Harvey continues to drench southeastern Texas and Louisiana with heavy rains and surging floodwaters.



We have come together so many times to support candidates and campaigns, now is the time for us to come together and help those who need us so desperately. Imagine having nothing but the wet clothes you are wearing, your family and your life. There is so much work to be done and so many who need our help. Please take a minute to look at the information on the next few pages and see how you can help.

As we pray for those in need and remember to give thanks for our blessings, remember to pray for Texas and the spirit that makes us all who we are.

Dallas Morning News editorial cartoonist William Bubba Flint has a message for Houston: We're in this together.

**Denise Midgley**  
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**Calendar of Events  
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# Ways to Help Hurricane Harvey Neighbors

**The ER at Craig Ranch**, 6045 Alma Road, McKinney, TX 75070 is taking donations and are open 24 hours. They need: Bottled Water and / or Gatorade, Baby Diapers, Toiletry items, toothbrush, toothpaste, etc. Clothing – all genders and sizes, Non-perishable food items

Grocery chain **H-E-B** plans to donate \$100,000 toward Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. On Monday, all H-E-B, Central Market and Joe V's Smart Shop stores across Texas launched a statewide tear pad campaign, giving customers an opportunity to support victims through donations of \$1, \$3, or \$5, which can be added to their total grocery bill.

**Kroger** is asking its customers to give money to benefit victims of Hurricane Harvey by “rounding up” their purchases to the nearest dollar or making a cash donation when they visit their local Kroger. Customers’ donations will assist the American Red Cross in providing aid to victims of Hurricane Harvey, according to a press release. Kroger will begin accepting donations on Monday, Aug. 28 and will continue through Sunday, Sept. 3. Kroger wants to provide aid to all those in need and a Round-Up is a simple way for shoppers to give. Round-Up funds add up quickly, so even a small amount of change will make a very big difference. For example, a customer who purchases \$99.02 of groceries can “Round Up” his bill to \$100 – so 98 cents goes toward the relief effort.

**Lake Pointe Church** is collecting items that will be transported down to affected areas this week. There will be a donation trailer by the church soccer fields at our Rockwall Campus, Monday through Wednesday. They will receive the following items from noon to 6pm: Bottled water, non-perishable food items, baby formula, diapers, moist wipes for bathing, hygiene products (oral care, deodorant, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, etc.), pet supplies (dog & cat food, cat litter. Please bring only these items.

**Diane and Mark Nusbaum** traveled to Houston with supplies and food for some of the hundreds of people who don't have a home anymore. They also have a boat with them that they are using to rescue people who are stranded at the tops of their houses and stuck in their attics in the midst of high waters and completely flooded areas. To help donate to supplies and food Diane set up a go fund me page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/bless-houston>

**John Myers** - John Myers set up a GoFundMe account for his employee Rudy Sanchez Jr and his family who have been evacuated from their home due to flooding from Hurricane Harvey. Rudy's house was flooded and they were taken by boat out of their house and they are now in an elementary school cafeteria that is been set up as a disaster relief location for misplaced people. Rudy does not have flood insurance, so please help Rudy <https://www.gofundme.com/RudySanchez-Houston>

**Tupps Brewery**, 721 Anderson McKinney, TX 75069, is having a big box donation for the organization Trusted World and they currently need everything for victims, it is being delivered on Friday to the hub in Allen

**Trusted World**—Harvey Response Information

**3 pm to 8 pm Monday , 9 am to 7 pm Tuesday to Friday**

Drop-off location: 15660 N. Dallas Parkway., Drop-off hours: 3 pm to 8 pm Monday, 9 am to 7 pm Tuesday to Friday

Volunteer hours: 10 am to 8 pm Tuesday to Friday.

Here's what we can currently take: New underwear and socks (all sizes), Non-Perishable food, Toiletries, Feminine hygiene products, Baby diapers, wipes and formula. We also need moving boxes. We appreciate your generosity, but we can only accept the items on this list at this time. You can sign up to volunteer online and get the latest information at <https://trustedworld.org/hurricane-harvey-volunteers/>

**Carter BloodCare** will send blood donations to its partners affected by Hurricane Harvey. 1-877-571-1000. Text DONATE4LIFE to 444-999

[Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund](#)

Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner has established the [Hurricane Harvey Relief Fund](#) that will accept tax deductible flood relief donations. The fund is administered by the Greater Houston Community Foundation.

**J.J. Watt** ( Houston Texans defensive end) set up a fundraising account to help Hurricane Harvey victims and put in \$100,000 of his own money. <http://www.wfaa.com/news/jj-watt-sets-up-fundraiser-for-houston-donates-100000/468270056>

**SPCA** of Texas is expecting 300 cats and dogs to come to North Texas. The agency is asking for donations of cat litter, litter boxes, towels, blankets, treats, toys and newspaper. Donations can be dropped off at the following two locations: SPCA of Texas Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center at 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas and the SPCA of Texas at 8411 Stacy Road in McKinney. [Monetary donations can be made online at SPCA.org/gifhttps://www.sPCA.org/news\\_hurricane-harvey](https://www.sPCA.org/news_hurricane-harvey)

# Ways to Help Hurricane Harvey Neighbors

Texas Baptist Men- [www.texasbaptistmen.org](http://www.texasbaptistmen.org)

Southern Baptist of Texas Disaster Relief – [absc.org](http://absc.org).

Somebody Cares – [Somebodycares.Org](http://Somebodycares.Org)

Samaritan's Purse - <http://www.samaritanpurse.org>

Team Rubicon USA -<https://teamrubiconusa.org/where-is-team-rubicon-staging-in-response-to-hurricane-harvey/>

Houston Food Bank: <http://www.houstonfoodbank.org/>

Food Bank of Corpus Christi - <http://www.foodbankcc.com/>

Houston Humane Society - <http://www.houstonhumane.org/>

San Antonio Humane Society - <https://sahumane.org/>

San Antonio Food Bank: [www.safoodbank.org](http://www.safoodbank.org)

Central Texas Food Bank: [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org](http://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org)

Red Cross Volunteers: [www.redcross.org/volunteer](http://www.redcross.org/volunteer)

Salvation Army Supplies Donation Collection: [www.salvationarmy.org](http://www.salvationarmy.org)

Dallas Evacuee Donations: [www.trustedworld.org](http://www.trustedworld.org)

Carter Bloodcare—Blood donations in North Texas: [www.carterbloodcare.org](http://www.carterbloodcare.org)

San Antonio Blood Bank—Blood donations in South Texas: [www.southtexasblood.org/harvey](http://www.southtexasblood.org/harvey)

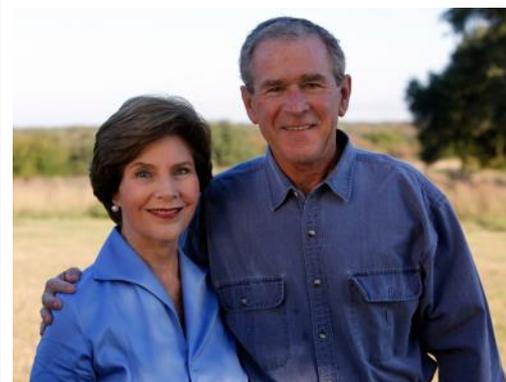
Texas Diaper Bank—Donations: [www.texasdiaperbank.org](http://www.texasdiaperbank.org)

The United Way has also announced a way to text a donation: Text UWFLOOD to 41444 to donate to the United Way Flood Relief Fund

American Red Cross - text "HARVEY" to 90999 to donate \$10 to the American Red Cross.

Hurricane Harvey will have a lasting impact on the Gulf Coast of Texas. National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) members will be there providing relief and recovery for years to come, and will need your assistance. <https://www.nvoad.org/hurricane-harvey/hurricane-harvey-how-to-help/>

## Message from President George W. and Laura Bush



This morning I spoke with Governor Abbott about the rescue and operations underway in Houston and along the Gulf Coast. Laura and I are moved by the heroic work of the first responders and volunteers who are putting themselves at risk to save others. The devastation breaks our hearts, but we are confident that these strong communities will recover and thrive.

Laura and I are pleased to donate to Team Rubicon USA, the American Red Cross, and the The Salvation Army USA. We hope our fellow citizens will join us in giving to these groups and others that are making a difference on the ground. We are proud of the people of Texas for showing the resilience and compassion of our state, and we pray for their safety and well-being.

# RPT Keeps Online List of Needs—<https://www.texasgop.org/>

## Republican Party of Texas

**ACTION ALERT:** Help Hurricane Harvey Victims

Post will be updated - check back often

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STATEWIDE

**Samaritan's Purse Volunteer Network:** volunteer for at least 3 days to join a team in the coastal area. Info & sign up: <https://spvolunteernetwork.samaritanspurse.org/hurricane-h.../>

**From the Cajun Navy:** If you or someone you know are in need of rescue, please download the Zello app, type in Texas search and rescue, and then search for any search and rescue close to your vicinity. This will connect you with officials on the ground there that can navigate help your way. See <https://www.facebook.com/LaCajunNavy/posts/1646206412070325>

**Milk banks for babies** -- <http://www.texasmilkbank.org/donate-milk>

\*\*\*\*NEEDS from Counties:

**Hidalgo County**—Need: non-perishable items for 1st responders impacted by Harvey -- Drop off at Border Patrol Union Office, Monday 8-8, Tuesday 8-6, 4179 Crosspoint Blvd, Edinburg, TX 78539. Items: water, canned goods, bars, chips, Gatorade, jerky, socks, batteries, first aid kits, trash bags, tarps.

**Aransas County** -Needs: generators and/or funds to purchase generators - Chairman Ric Young, [rockportric@gmail.com](mailto:rockportric@gmail.com)

**Dallas County** -Need: Trusted World has a donation drive - drop off clothing 8am-6pm. More info: <https://trustedworld.org/cause/hurricane-harvey-relief/>

**DeWitt County**, Chairman Regina Ross-Cowan, 903-263-6691, [regina.ross.cowan@gmail.com](mailto:regina.ross.cowan@gmail.com)

Need #1: The DeWitt County Office of Emergency Management urgently needs 1-2 nurses to assist in the shelter. Call 361-275-0878

Need #2: The shelter in Cuero at the Cuero Intermediate School is in need of certain food items to assist with feeding those affected by Hurricane Harvey. -- Bread, buns, chips, hot dogs, cookies, individually packaged snacks, non-perishable breakfast items (cereal, donuts, bars), plates, plastic ware, napkins

**Fort Bend County** -Needs: volunteers to help with flood cleanup in the days to come - contact Chairman Jacey Jetton, 713-518-6063, [chairman@fbcgop.org](mailto:chairman@fbcgop.org)

**Galveston County**:-Need #1: Bay Area Church is a shelter for evacuees and needs blankets, towels, food/water. Also: diapers, feminine products, trash bags, crockpot, towels, dry clothes/socks, bedding, cots. Address: 4800 W Main St, League City, TX 77573

Need #2: League City PD is looking for people with boats to assist with rescue and evacuation. Please call 281-554-1075

**Harris County** - Need #1: Houston OEM & PD urgently requests high water vehicles or boats to help with rescues. Call 713-881-3100, ask for Fire Marshal

Need #2: George R. Brown Convention Center is a shelter -- needs supplies, especially wheelchairs. 1001 Avenida De Las Americas, Houston, TX 77010

Need #3: Rescuing in the Telge area -- Pleasant Grove Rd., Cypress, TX

**Nueces County** (Corpus Christi) - Need #1: On Monday 8/28, 9-1pm, Calallen High School football players will be accepting water, canned foods, clothes, etc. to be delivered to Rockport victims. More info:

<http://www.kiitv.com/.../calallen-tuloso-midway-fo.../468238936>

Need #2: Broadcast Church is a shelter and needs items such as diapers, formula, hygiene/toiletries for adults & babies, paper towels, trash bags, canned goods. Drop off at 7451 Bay Area Drive, Corpus Christi

**Williamson County** (Austin area) - Need: Generations Church is collecting donations for Houston flood relief. Trucks leave @ 10am Tuesday. Drop off water, towels, blankets, diapers, wipes, dry formula, baby bottles at main parking lot - 1461 E. Woodview Dr., Leander, Tx 78641, 512-616-7000

**Aransas, Brazos, Colorado, Galveston, Guadalupe, Harris, Lavaca, Live Oak, San Patricio:** standby for needs from flooding. Will be organizing work days in hardest-hit areas in the days/weeks to come.

\*\*\*\*OFFERS from counties:

**Aransas County** - AT&T has set up a mobile communication in front of the Emergency Operation/Public Safety Center. It can be used for calling and texting outside of Rockport if you are within 3 miles of the Center.

**Atascosa County**, Marian Knowlton, [Marian.knowlton@gmail.com](mailto:Marian.knowlton@gmail.com), 210-831-6079

Available: generators, tarps, & gas cans for sale, can be delivered

**Concho County**, Beth Grounds, [grounds@centex.net](mailto:grounds@centex.net), 325-483-5430

Sending teams of people and resources

**Harris County** - Jason Weingart is in Houston for water rescue. If you're trapped, call Savannah at 512-876-0069. She's coordinating the efforts.

**Nueces County** -- private individual driving to Corpus Christi with a thousand tarps for roofs, 3 generators to sell, vacuum truck, and a commercial pressure washing crew, bobcat and dump trailer. Contact: Tony, 830-392-6059, [www.peachtree.construction](http://www.peachtree.construction)

\*\*\*\*Can you help with these needs? Comment here, or email [vicechair@texasgop.org](mailto:vicechair@texasgop.org)

\*\*\*\*Can you donate to help with other needs? Consider giving through these organizations:

Salvation Army: <http://give.salvationarmyusa.org>

Texas Baptist Men: <http://texasbaptistmen.org/Give-Now>

#RPTServes

# Helping Out After Hurricane Harvey: Where, What & How To Donate

By: Kelly Phillips Erb, Forbes Staff 8/28/17

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/kellyphillipserb/2017/08/28/helping-out-after-hurricane-harvey-where-what-how-to-donate/#fe518a53c798>

Hurricane Harvey made landfall over the weekend. The category 4 hurricane crashed into the Texas coast, devastating families and businesses. At least two people have been reported dead, and estimates place the total cost of property damage and lost business in the billions.

If that isn't bad enough, Harvey is now a Tropical Storm and is lingering off the coast, dumping water onto coastal Texas, including the Houston area. As the rain continues, many people are in danger due to flooding while others have lost homes and property. Houston is the fourth most populous metropolitan area in the country: over two million people call the city home, while the [metropolitan area](#) counts nearly 6.7 million as residents. By geography, the Houston metropolitan area covers 9,444 square miles, larger than the state of New Jersey.

I know that many of you, like me, want to know what you can do to help out. Some of the tax rules that apply to charitable donations - like checking to see that the organization has its paperwork in order - are good rules to follow even if you're not claiming a tax deduction. So with that in mind, here are a few tips to keep in mind when helping out during Harvey:

**Cash is king.** While you may want to send food and other items, the infrastructure may not support those donations. Many organizations have been clear that cash, or cash equivalent, is preferred (but keep reading). Keep receipts if you intend to claim those donations on your tax return.

**Stay put.** Yes, we all want to get in our cars and help but don't rush to help without checking first. There are already professionals and trained volunteers on the scene, and due to the potential for more flooding, relief officials have asked that folks stay off the roads where possible. If your services are needed and you do volunteer, remember that you can claim a tax deduction for your out-of-pocket expenses but not for your time.

**Be smart.** Be wary of personal solicitations on your doorstep or over the phone. Make sure that gifts made by checks or credit card gifts are secure. And don't send money by text or using apps like Venmo without first verifying the organization and the contact information. If you don't want to donate online or by text, most organizations have alternatives, like donation forms that you can mail together with a check (never send cash through the mail). Always keep excellent records of donations since the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that you do so for tax purposes - and having the information available is handy if you want to follow up with another donation.

**Do your homework.** Check out the credentials of a potential donee/charitable organization before you donate. [Charity Navigator](#) is useful for gathering information about existing charities and has a [Hurricane Harvey specific section](#). Forbes has its own [list of the largest charities in the US](#) complete with details on revenues, corporate pay, fundraising efficiency, and more (just click on the individual charity's name for more info). Finally, you can always confirm charitable status through the IRS web site using the [EO Select Check Tool](#). Remember that some organizations (like churches) may not be listed, so don't be afraid to ask organizations which don't appear on the list for more information.

**Check with the organization first.** While most organizations prefer cash, there are some soliciting in-kind donations (see below). Those wish lists may change as needs are assessed and storage for items may be limited. Check with the organization before you send or drop off anything. And if you're planning to claim a tax deduction for any in-kind goods, be sure to keep receipts showing what you paid for the items.

**Use caution when donating to individuals.** For tax purposes, you can only deduct contributions to qualified tax-exempt charitable organizations. Donations to individuals are never deductible for tax purposes even if the individuals are really deserving. But there's another, non-tax reason to use caution: money solicited for individuals could be part of a scam and even if it's not, the money might not be spent as advertised. Keep in mind that once you hand over the cash, you have no control over how it might be used.

**Rely on oldies but goodies.** There's nothing wrong with new charitable organizations but there is something to be said for those that have been around for awhile - like the [Red Cross](#). Brand new organizations may not have the facilities in place to offer the most effective relief - or they could be scams. Use caution before handing over your cash.

**Pay attention to the rules.** The rules for charitable giving apply even in extraordinary situations although sometimes those rules may be tweaked to allow for more generosity. Stay informed. Be sure to document your gifts and get receipts. And never hesitate to ask the charitable organization or your tax professional if you have questions.



# Legislative Report

## What really happened in the Special Session...

By: Lt. Gov Dan Partick

This is a longer than usual week-in-review email, but I believe it is important for you to know what happened and what didn't happen during the recent special legislative session, and why.

I know that you expect your elected officials to do their jobs, and you should. Governor Greg Abbott and I, along with the Texas Senate, did our jobs in the Special Legislative Session that ended last week and we passed the conservative agenda you elected us to pass. Meanwhile, with 27 hours to go in the Special Session, the Speaker of the Texas House abruptly adjourned without notice and walked off the job.

I held a press conference immediately after adjournment and discussed the impact of the Speaker's decision to quit and walk away from the Legislature. If you haven't watched it yet, you can view it [here](#).

To put it simply, during the thirty-day Special Session, Speaker Joe Straus, moderate Republicans, and Democrats killed these important conservative bills:

- **Property Tax Reform.** Senate Bill 1, would have given voters an automatic vote if local taxing entities raised their budgets and taxes more than 4%. The House rejected a 4% rollback and instead wanted to allow local entities a 6% roll back, which would effectively kill all future tax reform and relief. At 4%, the Senate Bill would have saved over \$200 million in future property taxes. The House's 6% proposal would have saved virtually zero dollars. We tried to compromise with 5%, which would have been a good step in saving over \$100 million in future property taxes. But, the Speaker stuck with 6%-- said take it or leave it—and adjourned without further negotiations. 19 of 20 Republican Senators and I decided to leave it. We refused to pass a sham bill that wouldn't offer any real relief to Texas taxpayers. This fight is not over. I am committed to standing up for property tax reform whether it is in another Special Session or in 2019.
- **Privacy Protections.** During the Special Session, the Senate again passed legislation to keep men out of ladies' rooms and to protect women's restrooms, locker rooms, and showers. Our privacy protections bill would have stopped public schools from adopting policies that would have allowed boys and girls to share restrooms and locker rooms. It also would have stopped boys from playing on girls' sports teams and taking away potential state titles and scholarships from female athletes even if they said they "identified" with the opposite gender. Texans support privacy legislation. In fact, polls show that despite a relentless barrage of misinformation from the media, who made defeating this bill a top priority, the more conservative Texans know about privacy legislation, the more they support it. Speaker Straus believes it's more important to be politically correct than it is to protect privacy and safety in intimate spaces. He would take no steps to ensure that the expansion of girls' athletics programs is not undermined by boys who want to play on girls' teams and compete for girls' scholarships. There was strong support for privacy legislation in the Texas House, but Speaker Straus made killing this legislation his top priority. He chose political correctness over making sure that Texas had a law protecting the privacy of men and women.

### **Other bills that Speaker Straus killed:**

- **State Spending Cap.** This legislation would have limited state spending to population times inflation. The Speaker killed it.
- **School Choice for Children with Disabilities.** This legislation would have allowed upwards of 25,000 students (out of about 5.2 million in our schools) to use tax dollars to choose a private school if they believed it better met the needs of their child. The Speaker killed it.
- **Prohibiting the government from collecting union dues on behalf of unions.** The Speaker killed it.
- **Career teacher bonus of \$1000.** The Senate passed a bill that would give bonuses to over 100,000 teachers. The bill promised \$600 to teachers who have taught 6 to 10 years and \$1000 to teachers who have taught 11 years or more. The Speaker killed it.
- **Further Defunding of Planned Parenthood.** The Speaker killed it.
- **The Speaker even tried to kill the School Finance Commission,** which will allow us to focus, for the first time in 40 years, on the way we fund our public schools. This is vitally important. Even though the Speaker tried to kill the bill, we managed to amend a House Bill on the last day to be sure it was accomplished.

### **Special Session Victories:**

Despite the obstructive approach of Speaker Straus, the Texas Senate passed 18 of the Governor's 20 priorities in a record-breaking 8 days. In addition to the School Finance Commission, we managed to get several important bills to the Governor's desk including these:

- **Pro-life legislation.** This session was the most Pro-Life in session history. We passed 4 important bills that will fight to protect life in our state including legislation that enhanced abortion reporting requirements for both women and girls. We also passed legislation that will make sure no one is forced to pay for someone else's abortion insurance. Finally, we clarified the directives for end of life practices.
- We stopped cities from annexing areas without a vote of the people and enhanced penalties on mail voter fraud.
- We also added over \$200 million to the Retired Teachers Healthcare System to help mitigate the staggering increase of health care costs for our retired teachers.

Continued on Page 4

# What really happened in the Special Session...

By: Lt. Gov Dan Patrick

Continued on Page 4

I am very proud of the hard-work of the Texas Senate in getting these important pieces of legislation passed. Speaker Straus called the Governor's conservative agenda "horse manure." And that's how he treated it. He blocked conservative legislation and tried again and again to spend billions more in our state budget — money that the state simply doesn't have. He wants to drain the Rainy-Day Fund (our state savings account) to pay for new programs and ongoing expenses. Apparently, his goal is to get the state to either increase the sales tax or create an income tax. He is simply out of touch with the conservative majority in Texas. The day after the Special Session, the headline on the front page of the Austin American Statesman read: "Abbott: Straus to blame for failed bills." **What you can do to fight for the conservative agenda:**

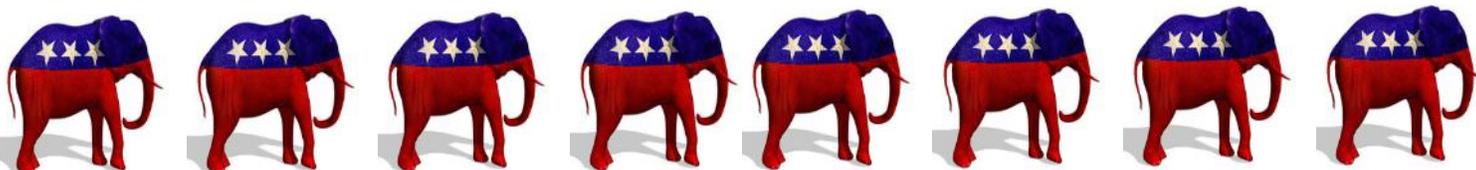
- Re-elect me as your Lt. Governor so I can continue to stand up to the Speaker and keep pressure on those who do not support the Texas conservative majority.
- Re-elect Governor Abbott to keep our state leadership strong.

Governor Abbott and I have worked together and will continue to work together as a team. We are committed to fighting for the conservative agenda that the majority of Texas citizens share. We need to keep this conservative team of Abbott and Patrick together. Thank you and God Bless you, your family, our country and the greatest place God ever created – Texas!

Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor of Texas

"Whomever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant."

Matthew 20:26 (NLT)



# September Plano Republican Women Meeting

## Next PRW Meeting: Tuesday, September 19, 2017 Texas Legislature Report



Taylor



Laubenberg



Shaheen



Leach



Sanford

PRW's September meeting will feature Collin County representatives to the Texas Legislature Texas Senator Van Taylor (8) and Texas House Members Jodie Laubenberg (89) , Matt Shaheen (66), Jeff Leach (67), and Scott Sanford (70) are confirmed speakers

**Location:** Reflections on Spring Creek  
1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

**Time:** **11:15 am:** Arrive and check-in  
**11:30 am:** Meeting, Lunch & Program

PRW membership is not required to attend our meeting Lunch is available with RSVP for \$20 in cash or check payable to PRW **RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm the Friday before the meeting**

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting  
To **RSVP** send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org



# Special Session Report from Representative Jeff Leach

Dear Friends,

As you know, last week the Texas Legislature officially adjourned "Sine Die" from the 30-day Special Session called by Governor Abbott. The Governor called the Legislature back in to Special Session to deliberate upon and address 21 important agenda items, including: the Texas Medical Board Sunset Review, property tax reform, school finance and funding for retired teachers, government spending reforms, various pro-life initiatives, municipal annexation reform, privacy for women and children, teacher pay, and school choice for special needs children, among other measures.

Out of the over 500 bills that were filed during this 30-day session, only 12 bills ultimately passed both chambers and were signed into law. While I am happy to report that there were certainly many legislative accomplishments – including critical funding for our retired teachers, school finance reforms, vital pro-life initiatives, the extension of the Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Task Force, voter fraud reform and municipal annexation reform – I also must report that we missed several opportunities to do big and bold things for the State of Texas – specifically with respect to property tax relief, school finance improvements and state spending reforms. You know that I am committed to fighting in the Texas House for you – the hardworking taxpayer, for our students and educators, and for all constituents who expect the Texas Legislature to protect the values and principles that make our state so great. To that end, I am extremely disappointed with this outcome. To be clear, the Texas Senate did its job. Despite our best efforts, however, we were unable to push many of these important initiatives over the finish line in the Texas House. Even so, we will continue our fight on your behalf and stand ready, willing and able to return to Austin to complete our work, should the Governor call us back for a Second Special Session.

As a courtesy to you, I have provided a brief legislative recap covering the main highlights from the special session. I hope you find this information useful and, as always, I certainly welcome your feedback.

**School Finance Improvements and “Promises Kept” to Our Retired Teachers** - Through House Bill 30 & House Bill 21, both chambers worked collaboratively to protect our retired teachers from skyrocketing health insurance premiums and deductibles with a \$212 million cash infusion from existing revenue into TRS Care. This important legislative package also provides financial relief through a grant program for certain school districts experiencing revenue loss through ASATR. Further, House Bill 21, which I was proud to support, creates a commission designed to recommend systemic reforms and improvements to our school finance system. While I fought hard to advance more meaningful, impactful and lasting school finance reform - including the full repeal of “Robin Hood” - I believe this legislation is an important step forward to a systemic overhaul of our antiquated school finance system.

**Preserving the Private Property Rights of Texas Property Owners** - House Bill 7 protects private property rights by addressing over-burdensome tree removal ordinances put in place by certain municipalities. The legislation, passed by an overwhelming majority in the Texas House, requires certain municipalities who impose tree mitigation fees to provide property owners with credits to offset those fees based on trees planted. The legislative intent is to reduce onerous regulations at the local level so that property owners may maintain their private property as they see fit – while also protecting and preserving our natural resources.

**Extending the Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Task Force** – Created by the 83rd Legislature in 2013, the Maternal Mortality & Morbidity Task Force was designed to address our state’s growing “maternal mortality” epidemic. With the passage of Senate Bill 17, this task force will be further extended to 2023. The Legislature further directed this important Task Force to evaluate options to address the most predominant causes of maternal death and to develop educational materials for physicians while screening pregnant women for substance abuse and domestic violence.

**Pro-Life Health Insurance Reform** – Texans should not be forced to pay for other Texans’ elective abortions. To that end, House Bill 214 removes mandatory coverage for elective abortion procedures from standard health insurance benefits for both public and private insurance plans. The bill prevents Texans from subsidizing elective abortions by allowing individuals to purchase supplemental abortion coverage through the purchase of a separate plan. As a result, Texas will join 25 other states that already limit elective abortion coverage under health insurance plans.

**Pro-Life Safeguards for Women & Minors** – House Bill 13 adds safeguards for women who elect to undergo an abortion by implementing further reporting requirements for physicians, hospitals, ER Care facilities and abortion clinics when complications arise from an elective abortion. Additionally, House Bill 215 expands protections for minors seeking elective abortions without parental consent by adding further reporting requirements for minors and physicians who elect to participate in such a procedure.

**Strengthening Patient Protections** – A result of the collaboration and support of many pro-life, medical and religious organizations across the state, Senate Bill 11 improves protections for vulnerable patients by adding further clarity to our state’s Do-Not-Resuscitate (DNR) practices. Specifically, this important legislation closes a loophole to ensure that healthcare providers do not impose DNR orders without the knowledge or consent of the patient or their surrogate.

**Cracking Down on Voter Fraud** – Senate Bill 5 strengthens the integrity of our elections while increasing penalties for those who knowingly and intentionally deceive, mislead or misinform voters through mail-in-ballot fraud.

**Municipal Annexation Reform** - Senate Bill 6 empowers property owners by giving them a strong voice during the process of municipal annexation. The legislation ends the abuse of forced annexation by limiting a municipality’s ability to annex land outside its city limits – ultimately transferring this power to the people – where it belongs.

**Sunset Legislation** – Senate Bill 20 continues the functions of the Texas Medical Board, Board of Examiners of Psychologists, Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors, and Board of Social Worker Examiners until September 1, 2019.

As always, I welcome your feedback and encourage you to contact me to express your comments, questions or concerns. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your voice and advocate in the Texas House of Representatives.

For You & For Texas,



Jeff Leach  
District 67

## It's Really NOT about the Statues!!

By: Catherine Gibb

If you had told me that we would be talking about taking down Confederate and other statues that have been around for over 100 years in 2017, I would have just laughed. Yet here we are and Black Lives Matter (still don't understand why ALL lives don't seem to matter) and ANTIFA, having become best buds, are all about taking down Confederate monuments wherever they stand. Suddenly all these folks have become so "offended" by these monuments and statues that they must be destroyed.

I have actually had a course in Constitutional Law and I've read the Constitution many times and for the life of me, I simply can't find anything that says "As citizens of the United States you have the right to NEVER be offended and if you are offended, feel free to riot, destroy property and cause physical harm to anyone who should dare to offend your delicate sensibilities."

That being said, what is really going on here is a "temper tantrum" by the left and parts of the Republican Party who simply refuse to accept that Donald Trump was elected President and that their "darling" Hillary Clinton, a pathological liar and a Marxist to the core, lost. There are also those "Never Trumpers" who seem bound and determined to help destroy his presidency as well. But I believe there is even more going on here. It is my opinion that the left and its sycophants in the media are deliberately trying to divide this nation. Civil discourse appears to be a thing of the past. If you don't agree with the left, you don't have the right to speak. "Hate" speech must be shut down. But who determines what "hate" speech actually is. This is a dangerous road we are going down.

But if you want to understand why so many people have jumped on this band wagon, you need to accept the fact that we have allowed the left in this country to take over our colleges and universities where now there are courses being taught on "White Privilege" and white men are the most demonized of all. In addition to that, the history of the United States is, for the most part being taught by liberals who spread the propaganda that passes for history. A great example of this is right here at Collin College: Michael Phillips is a professor of history and he is leading the charge to take down Robert E. Lee's statue and others in Dallas. (He also led a protest against having Donald Rumsfeld speak at Collin College. And, of course, he was praised by James Ragland in the Saturday, August 26, 2017 edition of the Dallas Morning News as someone who is risking his life because he is "advocating for justice and equality." Ragland even went so far to compare him to Martin Luther King, a man I have admired since the sixties for his courageous stand against segregation and for whom I attended a prayer service for him and his family at Mississippi State University on the night of his death, April 4, 1968. And Michael Phillips is no MLK. How far we have fallen from Dr. King's dream of "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Or these words "And when this happens, and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when *all* of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: *Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!* Today Black Lives Matter and others are most definitely judging white people by the color of their skin, not the content of their character. And this rhetoric is tearing this country apart. If we want the America of Dr. King, we have to find a way to come together, but that is decidedly not what the left wants. The destruction of the American culture and the American way of life is their aim and they are being aided and abetted by academia, Hollywood and the media.

But getting back to professor Phillips. I looked him up on google and a sight came up called Rate the Professor. Keep in mind that only 32 students participated in this and 88% of those were positive, but here are a few that were favorable and a few that were not:

"He was not an objective teacher. He's a radical leftist and ranted a lot. Also, do not believe what he says about the writings in the Bible and its various theological themes. I'm not just saying this, he is very faulty and inaccurate in that area!"

"Great teacher that isn't afraid to speak his mind. Teaching the terrible truth that is not taught in high school. Emphasizing on the atrocities minorities faced and still face. He references past events that relate to current events that are going on. Some may not like him but he delivered great lengthy lectures that I was glad to listen to."

"I've always loved history but this professor is probably the best history professor I've ever had. Clearly talks about the cruel truth of American history. ..."

"Phillips is a super liberal and proud of it."

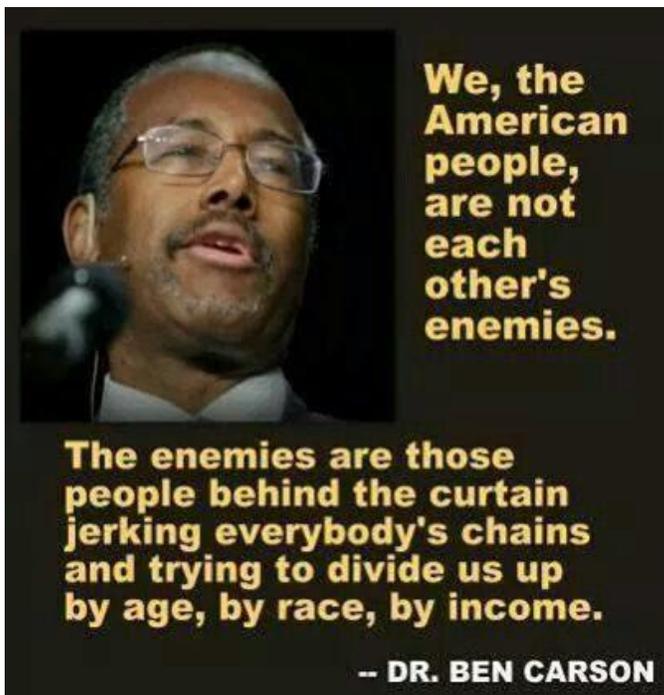
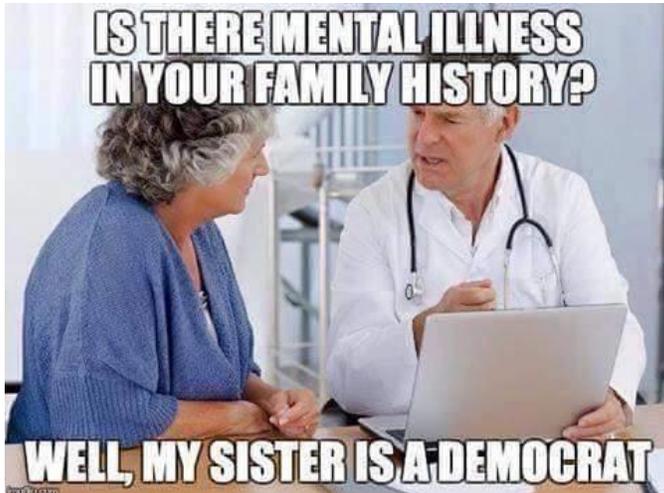
"Expect bias. Lots of it. Preaches his very liberal viewpoints and parades them out as truth. The class itself isn't bad, but if you are looking for a straight history class rather than being told how evil white people are, I'd suggest looking elsewhere."

"CONSERVATIVES BEWARE!! Even if you consider yourself slightly to the right you will be deeply frustrated by his liberal rhetoric. If [you] want a lesson in radical politics, go ahead, take this class. If you want an objective lesson in American History, do yourself a favor and look elsewhere. Nice guy though."

For further information on Michel Phillips click on this link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Phillips\\_%28historian%29](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Phillips_%28historian%29)

And you can rest assured that Professor Phillips isn't the only one, but keep in mind that he was educated at the University of Texas, receiving a degree in journalism in 1983. The left is coming after conservatives and their values from all sides and unless we stand up and aren't afraid of being demonized, they may very well succeed.

# Political Cartoons



**ANDREW JACKSON, DEMOCRAT. OWNED SLAVES.**



**MARGARET SANGER, DEMOCRAT. STARTED PLANNED PARENTHOOD TO REDUCE THE BLACK POPULATION.**



**JIM CROW LAWS? DEMOCRATS.**



**GUN CONTROL LAWS TO DISARM BLACKS? DEMOCRATS.**



**THE USE OF GHETTOS TO CONTROL VOTES? DEMOCRATS.**



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN FREED THE SLAVES. REPUBLICAN.**

**IN FACT, NOT ONE OF THE 18 REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTS IN U.S. HISTORY HAS EVER OWNED A SLAVE.**

**REPUBLICANS PUSHED THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT.**



**THE PATRIOT POST**

**YET BLACKS STILL DEFEND DEMOCRATS.**

# The Fence Test

By: Jeff Foxworthy



**You can't get any more accurate than this! This is straight forward country thinking.** By Jeff Foxworthy

Which side of the fence?

If you ever wondered which side of the fence you sit on, this is a great test!

If a Republican doesn't like guns, he doesn't buy one.

If a Democrat doesn't like guns, he wants all guns outlawed.

===== =

If a Republican is a vegetarian, he doesn't eat meat.

If a Democrat is a vegetarian, he wants all meat products banned for everyone.

===== =

If a Republican is homosexual, he quietly leads his life.

If a Democrat is homosexual, he demands legislated respect.

===== =

If a Republican is down-and-out, he thinks about how to better his situation.

If a Democrat is down-and-out he wonders who is going to take care of him.

===== =

If a Republican doesn't like a talk show host, he switches channels.

A Democrat demands that those they don't like be shut down.

===== =

If a Republican is a non-believer, he doesn't go to church.

A Democrat non-believer wants any mention of God and religion silenced.

===== =

If a Republican decides he needs health care, he goes about shopping for it, or may choose a job that provides it.

If a Democrat decides he needs health care, he demands that the rest of us pay for his.

===== =

If a Republican is unhappy with an election, he grumbles and goes to work the next day.

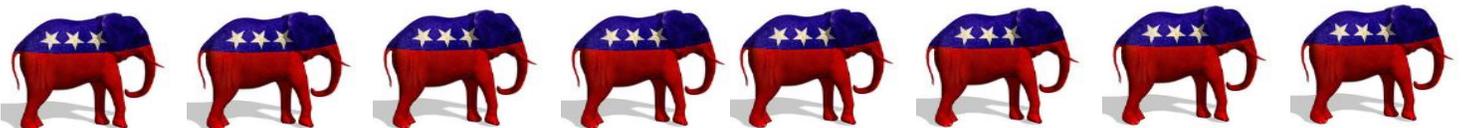
If a Democrat is unhappy with an election, he burns down a Starbucks, throws rocks at cops and takes two-weeks off for therapy.

===== =

If a Republican reads this, he'll forward it so his friends can have a good laugh.

A Democrat will delete it because he's "offended."

*Well, I forwarded it*



## The Truth About HB 1774

By: Senator Larry Taylor

One of the worst aspects of natural disasters and emergency responses is misinformation distributed by folks preying on consumers and the general public. Some trial lawyers in Texas have hoodwinked media outlets into circulating false information about how to handle insurance claims and the impact of House Bill 1774.

First and foremost, HB 1774 does not change the insurance claims process. A person making a claim with her insurance company after September 1, 2017 will go through the same process as a person making a claim before September 1, 2017.

The new law will not apply to most claims or lawsuits arising from Harvey because most of the policyholders' claims will be for damage caused by flooding. These claims will be made under the federal flood insurance program and governed by federal law. The new law will not apply to lawsuits pursued against the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association (TWIA), which is subject to an entirely different statute governing post-disaster lawsuits. TWIA provides insurance for many people affected by Harvey directly on the coast.

The new law applies to a lawsuit that is filed against an insurance company by a policyholder when the policyholder's insurance claim is not timely paid or is underpaid, or when the insurance company acts in bad faith in dealing with the policyholder's claim.

Lawsuits are the exception, not the rule. The vast majority of Texans will go through the regular insurance claims process without needing to file a lawsuit.

Even under HB 1774, Texans continue to have the strongest consumer protections in the nation against insurance companies. This includes the full recovery of amounts owed under an insurance policy, plus penalty interest, court costs, and attorney fees. Additionally, if the insurance company acts fraudulently or in bad faith, Texans may recover triple the amount of their actual damages, which is unchanged by the new statute.

The only advantage to filing a claim before Sept 1 is that IF the insurance is slow to pay or underpays, their penalty interest will be a floating rate between 10-20%, rather than a stagnant rate of 18%. Lawyers may worry about that change in rate, but you shouldn't. It doesn't impact your coverage.

The primary purpose of the new statute is to require written notice of a dispute before a lawsuit is filed (so that the insurance company can adequately address the claim before a lawsuit is even needed). If a lawsuit is filed, it would happen months or years after the initial claim was made with the insurance company. Nothing in the new law passed by the Legislature earlier this year requires that the initial insurance claim be made in writing or by a specific date.

So, why was the law passed? To discourage the feeding frenzy by lawyers and contractors following natural events occurring in Texas over the past several years. These unscrupulous actors are taking advantage of you and, as a result, risk out-of-state insurance adjusters refusing to come work in Texas following a massive disaster like Harvey -- a risk that will delay your ability to get back on your feet following this horrendous storm.

Please don't fall for this scare tactic. If you are where you can make a claim, call your insurance company. If you are without internet or phone -- or, as many of your neighbors -- even a home, please ignore the hype.

## **Tearing down Confederate memorials serves no sensible purpose, says William Murchison**

In these very – I mean *very* -- weird times of ours, few phenomena appear weirder than what I would describe as the mania for pulling down or otherwise removing memorials to dead Confederates. New Orleans has done it. My own University of Texas has done it. Dallas now talks of doing it, as my respected onetime colleague at The News, James Ragland, informs us.

I feel the urgent need to inquire of the iconoclasts, the breakers of images: Why? To what purpose? With what sensible aim in view?

The reply generally comes through clenched teeth: Hmmmph! On account of slavery, isn't that clear enough? The promoters commonly think it is. Why, these unconscionable rebels – Jeff Davis, Robert E. Lee, John B. Hood, and so on – betrayed their country and fought to preserve slavery. Their images defile and deface the American community, sowing disharmony, perpetuating racism.

I find it's generally a waste of time to interpose between Lee's grave, bearded image and the wreckers' wrath any information respecting the old general's meritorious character and, equally to the point, his postwar commitment to healing the nation's self-inflicted injuries. (During the war, his name for the soldiers of the North was always "those people.") The statue wreckers are seldom interested in the kind of historical detail that schools used to impart about the war itself: with due attention paid to the diligent measures required over many years to heal the gaping, bleeding wounds of war.

Let's go back to where we started. What are we trying to do here? We're out, are we to heal by destroying and displacing, thereby rekindling divisive passions? What an odd conceit – that we should forcibly replace old pieties with new ones, and expect thanks for it! I am sorry to inform the wreckers that, as we say in the South, that ole dog won't hunt.

I can appreciate, as I think everyone must, that 1) the abolition of slavery represented an enormous gain for civilization, that 2) the sooner blacks and whites learn to function as a united people the better for America, and that 3) the modern South teems with folk – Vietnamese, Cubans, Chinese, Mexicans, Californians -- who wouldn't know "Dixie" from a Mesopotamian funeral chant.

I am not in favor of, as many seem to be, re-fighting a war that ended 152 years ago. I am for continuing to absorb the experience of all the country went through then, and forging even a larger unity than existed before this statue nonsense arose.

The whole enterprise of taking down statuary to appease the ideological passions of a talkative handful is...silly. I cannot think of a better word for it. It's ridiculous: unworthy of a mature and sensible people.

Once the statues are down, what have you got besides some suddenly vacant pedestals? Well – not moral unity, that's for sure. You've made a lot of people mad who weren't previously mad at you. You've called into question your intellectual bona fides by twisting historical facts to fit a manufactured, and distorted, narrative. To espouse a silly cause is to run the risk of becoming known as silly.

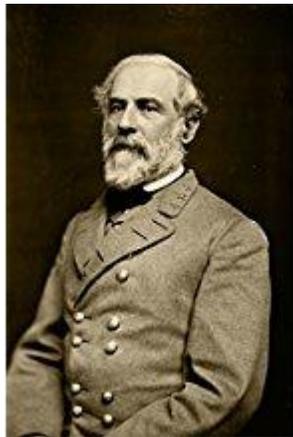
The matter goes still further. So Dallas goes along with unhorsing Gen. Lee, right there in the park bearing his name (which name, of course, has to be changed to something appropriately anodyne). Yet that's hardly the logical end. The revolution is hungry. We have to wipe out school names, street names, fort names redolent of the late Confederacy. And not just the Confederacy. The American slaveocracy was large; it was powerful. Among its members: George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, with their large monuments and even larger legacies. What makes Robert E. Lee a likelier target than the Father of Our Country?

This business of digging up the dead and exhibiting their shortcomings has no predictable end. Today's heroes and heroines become fair game for great-grandkids: topics for future ridicule and disrespect. Seldom in our history – alas -- has the counsel to look before you leap seemed more relevant, or more ignored than right now.

*William Murchison is a writer in Dallas and this column was written for the Dallas Morning News and published in Viewpoints in the Saturday, July 29, 2017 edition*

# Who Could Unite America?

By: William Murchison



**William Murchison** says that, ironically, it's the man whose statue divides us: Robert E. Lee

A historic human habit of which most are occasionally guilty is that of getting tied in knots over philosophical questions as hard to understand in origin as to disentangle in practice. Assuming they ever get successfully get disentangled.

Dallas' growing brawl over the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park comes to mind.

Hardly a passer-by had complained or even taken much notice of the Lee statue or its fitness to go on commanding, as it has since 1936, a verdant slope leading down to Turtle Creek Boulevard. Now in recent days, everybody has an opinion of the statue: monument to heroism and bravery or hideous moral pollutant.

History, In Whittaker Chambers' phrase, hit many of us like a freight train. It was vital, we suddenly learned, to pronounce sentence on the late commander of the Army of Northern Virginia, Confederate States of America. Should we cart away the statue of a traitor and pro-slavery agitator? Or could we leave the dead to bury the dead? No strategy of an in-between nature would do, apparently. The mayor of Dallas said a civic task force would address the issue. Cities elsewhere in the South wrestled with related questions. In Charlottesville, Va., as we know to our sorrow, the quarrel has cost three lives.

The nub of the question, as I say, is the role we as a community assign Robert Edward Lee, years after his death – not on the battlefield but as an occupant of the presidency of Washington College in Lexington, Va.—today's Washington and Lee University (for shorthand, W & L). Lee's primary fame rests, obviously, upon his much praised by military strategists – of the Army of Northern Virginia, in which role he either, depending on your perspective helped thwart the extinction of slavery or with personal dignity and humanity defended his native state, Virginia.

I am not in the mood to argue here for or against either of those positions. I am in a mood, rather to suggest something novel about Gen. Lee. To wit, he was a model, in life and action, for resolution of the anxieties that presently beset both sides in a brouhaha Marse Robert (as his soldiers called him) would have loathed with all his gentlemanly, and intensely Christian, being. He would have wished for us, I think, to train our gaze on matters higher than revenge or vindication. He would have asked – I infer – what is this all about? Have we nothing better to do as Americans? Would that not be a more fruitful matter for consideration?

He was an American. That is a point today's disputants tend to neglect. He loved America. He served her in uniform – long before the succession crisis, our great national tragedy, unsurpassed for the suffering it caused, brought about the parting of friends and the sundering of ideals.

At war's end, he wished nothing more and nothing less than to bind the terrible wounds caused by four years of bloody conflict. He knew what had gone wrong. He wished that things might be right again for a united American people.

"Lee the warrior", writes his preeminent biographer, Douglas Southall Freeman, "became Lee the conciliator. With less than five months from the time he had said he would rather die a thousand deaths than go to General Grant [at Appomattox Court House, to surrender] he was telling Southern men to regard the United States of America as their country, and to labor for peace and harmony and better understanding. Seldom had a famous man so completely reversed himself in so brief a time, and never more sincerely."

Said Lee himself: The disputed questions of past years "having been decided against us, it is the part of wisdom to acquiesce in the result, and of candor to recognize the fact." To a veteran of Mosby's Rangers, on Channing Smith, he said: "Channing, go home, all you boys who fought with me and help build up the shattered fortunes of our state."

None of which has the choking odor of bitter-end opposition to reality. Lee had lost; the South had lost. The moral and philosophical consideration that had precipitated his resignation from the U. S. Army to follow Virginia into exile, had lost. There was nothing to be done about it, save to rebuild.

The question hangs over discussions of Lee's merits like a funeral pall. Why, as a colonel in the U.S. Army, and a former commander at West Point, did he elect for service in the army of a country newly come into existence? Why indeed? A century and a half later, the habit of regarding the Confederacy as an essentially stupid, and possibly hateful, enterprise feeds our perceptions of Lee's decision. The America of our early decades was not a business corporation, run from the top downward, but a collection of supposedly sovereign states that had entered the Union under their own steam and, save in the largest matters, stood out from each other.

Lee had opposed succession, but Virginia, his native state, had decided against him. The slogans and shibboleths of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century are of no application in exegesis of his non-21<sup>st</sup> century motives. "He held that in her succession," Freeman writes, "Virginia carried him with her."

Yet once back inside the Union he busied himself at the urgent business of healing. Offered the presidency of tiny, war-ravaged Washington College, he devised and carried out a program aimed at the intellectual and moral revival of Southern youth, the class hit hardest and laid lowest by the war.

He deemed it "the duty of every citizen, in the present condition of the Country, to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony." Here was his chance, tellingly, to put theory into practice. And so he did.

The temper of the times, our times, elevates the slavery/civil rights issue to supremacy as a public consideration, hence as impeachment of Robert E. Lee – notwithstanding that the government of the Union moved against slavery only after two years of horrifying combat. I think moral one-upmanship – in this case, we got there before you did! – a questionable mode of argument, not least concerning events of a century and a half ago.

# Who Could Unite America?

By: William Murchison

Lee himself, Virginia aristocrat as he was no slave taskmaster, he was a soldier of the United States. Just before the war, he received in trust from his late father-in-law's estate 196 slaves designated, under the terms of the will, for emancipation. Which objective, despite the distractions of command, Lee faithfully achieved at the end of 1862. A New York newspaper report from the same time period accusing Lee of stripping and personally beating a woman runaway slave deserves the same credence as might a tale of Barack Obama's endowing the Richard B. Spencer Chair of Confederate History at Yale. Fake News.

Concerning the sin of slavery, we have Lee's own words. "So far from engaging in a war to perpetuate slavery," he wrote in 1869, "I am rejoiced that slavery is abolished. I believe it will be greatly for the interests of the South."

Four years prior to Fort Sumter he had called slavery "a moral and political evil in any country," according to Charles Bracelen Flood's book *Lee: The Last Years*.

Anti-Lee bloggers delight in denying Lee the moral credit a white Southerner in his time and place might be owed for such forceful sentiments. They would prefer, perhaps, he had made his home a stop on the Under-ground Railroad. But then he would have been someone other than Robert E. Lee. The gift of applying contemporary moral insights to long-ago problems and vexations seems to be widely, painfully distributed in our time.

So, to the Lee Park statue and its prospects, in a day very different from the one that saw the bronze statue rise over Lee Park, more different still from the day Robert E. Lee sought with every fiber of personal force and intellect to advance the reconciliation of South and North.

He was never one for theory along. The general himself said he never "saw the day" when he failed to pray for "the people of the North." In 1865, amid the strange new silence of the guns, he knelt at church near a black man who presented himself for Communion.

Douglas Southhall Freeman tells the story of how, "When neighborhood youth set upon a juvenile 'Yankee' whom they caught alone in the street in front of Lee's home, the general told off the assailants and whisked the frightened lad into his own home. On another level of witnesses, a mob in Lexington attempting to lynch an accused horse thief suddenly recognized in its midst the figure of Gen. Robert E. Lee, going from one knot of men to the next, urging the law be allowed to take its course. Off, in the end, went the thief to an 18-year prison sentence."

How deeply does the American community of 2017 desire reconciliation? As much as the bloodied veterans of the war themselves did – back when, in Shelby Foote's words, "the victors acknowledged that the Confederates fought bravely for a cause they thought was just and the losers agreed it was probably best for all concerned that the Union be preserved." That much? That deep the instinct for renewed peace and affection?

Present signs afford scant comfort. Marches, banners, threats. And those deaths. To what end? That we might be again as we were on the moral destitution of 1865: divided, self-alienated, angry at shadows?

The bronze man who rides at Lee Park – for now at least – knew the horror of fraternal war, and still he reached out his hand to the former enemy. Why remove an image of reconciliation in our unreconciled time?

William Murchison wrote this column for the Dallas Morning News Sunday, August 20, 2017 Edition of the "Points" section. It is reprinted here with his permission.



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**JUDGE DAVID RIPPEL**  
County Court at Law No. 4

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**Keith Self**  
County Judge

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071  
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**Susan Fletcher**  
CONSERVATIVE  
REPUBLICAN  
Collin County Commissioner Pct. 1

s Fletcher@collincountytx.gov Jack Hatchell Administration Building  
972.548.4676 office 2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192  
972.567.4162 personal cell McKinney, TX 75071




**Cheryl Williams**  
Commissioner, Precinct 2

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**Chris Hill**  
County Commissioner, Texas Conservative.



**Duncan Webb**  
Commissioner, Precinct 4

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071  
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**Greg Willis**  
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Collin County

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**JIM SKINNER**  
2016 Candidate for  
Collin County Sheriff

P.O. Box 863  
McKinney, Texas 75070 214.762.8700  
jim@skinnerforsheriff.com SkinnerForSheriff.com

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**Judge John E. Payton**  
Justice Court Precinct 3, Place 2

920 E. Park Blvd., Suite 210 • Plano, Texas 75074  
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**THE FLINT FIRM, P.C.**  
GEORGE B. FLINT  
Attorney and Counselor at Law  
Mediator

16970 DALLAS PARKWAY SUITE 550 DALLAS, TEXAS 75248 972.424.4004 972.509.4805 george@flintpc.com



City of Plano  
1520 Avenue K Suite 300 Plano, TX 75074

P.O. Box 860358 Plano, TX 75086-0358

Tel: 972.941.7107 Cell: 469.344.6835 Fax: 972.423.9587 ronkelley@plano.gov plano.gov

**Ron Kelley**  
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem  
Place 5



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**Anthony Ricciardelli**  
for Plano City Council, Place 2

[Anthony@AnthonyforPlano.com](mailto:Anthony@AnthonyforPlano.com)  
[www.AnthonyforPlano.com](http://www.AnthonyforPlano.com)  
6009 W. Parker, P.O. Box #149-364  
Plano, Texas 75093  
972-345-8730

Pol. adv. paid for by Anthony Ricciardelli for Plano, Pat Greer, Treasurer, 6009 W. Parker, #149-364, Plano, TX 75093



**Rick Smith**  
Elect - Plano City Council Place 8

Rick For Plano  
P.O. Box 261194  
Plano, TX 75026  
214-707-4575

"The Neighborhood Candidate"  
[rick@rickforplano.org](http://rick@rickforplano.org)



**FRED MOSES**  
FOR COLLIN COLLEGE TRUSTEE  
PLACE 1

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[FRED@MOSES4TRUSTEE.COM](mailto:FRED@MOSES4TRUSTEE.COM)  
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**FEI-FEI CATHERINE FANG, CPA**  
Certified Public Accountant

方菲菲 會計師  
CATHY FANG C.P.A.

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**ANGELA TUCKER**  
JUDGE  
199TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 10030 • McKinney, Texas 75071  
(972) 548-4415 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4415



**Judge Jay A. Bender**  
County Court at Law

62100 Bloomdale Road  
Suite 30354  
McKinney, TX 75071



**STACEY KEMP**  
COUNTY CLERK

2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 2104 • McKinney, Texas 75071  
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**Keep Texas Red!**

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August 2017

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**Judge Chuck Ruckel**  
Justice Court  
Precinct 3, Place 1

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Sub Courthouse, Plano, Texas 75074  
(972) 881-3001 • Fax (972) 881-3157  
Email: cruckel@co.collin.tx.us • www.collincountytx.gov

“Angel Flight” is the call sign for a USAF C-130, carrying a fallen hero on board. Their “salute” with flares looks like an angel with wings.



## Collin GOP Labor Day Rally



### Join us for the Collin GOP Labor Day Rally!

This family-friendly event is for all to come enjoy. We'll have free food, free entertainment, and best of all, FUN! Bring your friends and neighbors to this great event.

**Saturday, September 2 at 4 PM - 7 PM**

**Hope Park Frisco**

**8000 McKinney Road, Frisco Texas 75033**

## Officers and Birthdays

### PRW OFFICERS for 2017

**Denise Midgley, President .....972-596-8126**

**Jennifer Groysman, 1<sup>st</sup>. VP Programs...972-473-7292**

**Catherine Gibb, 2<sup>nd</sup>. VP Membership.....972-578-0704**

**Anne Logan, Recording Secretary.....972-675-8112**

**Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary .....972-895-0213**

**Lynn McCoy, Treasurer.....972-596-0206**



“The paradox of liberal tolerance is that it extends to Marxists, transsexuals, and Islamic radicals- but not to conservatives or Christians”

-Dinesh D'Souza



### August & September Birthdays

#### PRW Members

**Saney Prenzi 8/1**

**Sue Cravy 8/7**

**Mazzie Moses 8/7**

**Janet Rawe 8/9**

**Maggie Armstrong 8/15**

**Karin Stedman 8/28**

**Linda Waddell 8/28**

**Kathy Bass 9/1**

**Colleen O'Connor 9/3**

**Vickie Palmer 9/4**

**Ginny Sturm 9/11**

**Elaine Smith 9/26**

#### Associate Members & Sponsors

**Van Taylor 8/1**

**Susan Fletcher 8/4**

**Linda Block 8/6**

**Geraldine Miller 8/8**

**Rick Smith 8/28**

**Shelly Sanford 8/29**

**Lance Baxter 9/3**

**David Waddill 9/7**

**Dixie Jeffers 9/10**

**Jill Willis 9/16**

**Ellen Skinner 9/24**



Please mail this form with your check made payable to PRW:

Plano Republican Women  
P. O. Box 940461  
Plano, Texas 75094

CORPORATE CHECKS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

**PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP/SPONSOR FORM**

**Year: 2017**

**Memberships:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$30 Full Active Single Membership
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Full Active Membership with Spouse
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Associate Membership - for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs

**Sponsors:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 Platinum: Business card ad in Directory & Newsletter; PRW Webpage image w/link to your website & associate membership\* for your spouse
  - \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Gold: Newsletter Ad, PRW Webpage image w/link to your website & spouse associate membership\*
  - \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Silver: Ad in the Newsletter & listing on the Website OR Webpage image w/link to your website
  - \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Bronze: Ad in the Membership Directory/listing on the Website
- \*if your spouse is not a member of another TFRW club, she can be a member of PRW

**Additional (Optional):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1 TFRW Scholarship Donation
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$8.00 Magnetic PRW Name Tag
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$4 Mail Delivery of the annual PRW Membership Directory

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide the information to be included in the PRW Membership Directory**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip code + 4

Phone numbers: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct# \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Email\* \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email is used for newsletters and other PRW announcements

**The information requested below is required by the Texas Ethics Commission:**

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_ **Employer** \_\_\_\_\_



Plano Republican Women  
P.O. Box 940461  
Plano, TX 75094



## **Plano Republican Women**

**meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month  
(except June, July & December)**

**Reflections on Spring Creek**

**1901 East Spring Creek Parkway**

**just 1½ blocks east of Central Expressway in Plano**

**11:15 am check-in**

**11:30 am meeting, lunch and program**

**Lunch is \$20 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.**

**You do not have to have lunch to attend,**

**But please RSVP to**

**[rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org)**