

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

September 2017

President's Byline : PRW at the NFRW Convention



What a glorious time we had celebrating the signing of the Constitution Sept. 17, 1787 230 years ago in Philadelphia. The NFRW meet at the Constitution Center Friday night were we enjoyed a wonderful Buffett and mingles around the life size Bronze statues of all the Signers of the Constitution. It was truly an very inspirational evening.

Saturday was election of the new NFRW officers. We are glad for our own Jody Rushton is the new President. She will represent our Texas Values of God, Family and Country well in her two years term of office.

Saturday afternoon were many smaller workshops. I attended the very important one for our immediate attention:

1. We choose Freedom. A presentation by Holly Swanson many schools are teaching the socialist mind set. Her research is detailed in "Training for Treason-The Harmful Agenda behind Education for Sustainability" OR "Set Up & Sold Out- Find Out What Green Really Means" Order by calling [1-877-715-5481](tel:1-877-715-5481) \$20. each book plus shipping and handling. Accept: Visa, MasterCard and American Express.

2. RNC Resolution Approved August 25 2017. RESOLUTION TO MAKE ALL REGULATION PERMANENT For More Information Visit: WWW.Regulationfreedom.org

Jennifer Groysman and I were thankful to have our Plano Republican Women recognized with the Gold Achievement Award. It was our honor to represent you.

Denise Midgley
drmidgley@gmail.com

Photos from NFRW in Philadelphia



Denise Midgley with
Thomas Jefferson



Denise Midgley and Jennifer
with Gold Medal for Achievement



Benjamin Franklin craftsman.

In this issue:

Presidents Message	1
October Meeting	2
Helping Puerto Rico With Hurricane Maria	3
The Agenda of the Left Catherine Gibb	4
Political Cartoons	5
Trump's Stand at the UN Joseph Klein	6-7
PRW in Action Backing the Blue	8
Legislative Update November Election	9-11
Tax Reform Just Got Real Adam Michel	12
NFRW President Jody Rushton	13
Nick Adams in Washington L Todd Wood	14
Photos	15
Letter to the NFL Col. Jeffery A Powers	16
Guest Article Philippe Lemoine	17-18
Sponsors	19-21
Happy Birthday	22
PRW Officers	22
Member Form	23
Meeting Location	24

Calendar of Events
Board Meeting &
Coupon Cutting
By Email Notice

October Plano Republican Women Meeting



**Next PRW Meeting:
Tuesday, October 17, 2017**

PRW Membership Drive

**Guest Speaker - Rhonda Lacy
Texas Federation of Republican Women
Vice President - Membership**

Rhonda J. Lacy was born in Texas and “cut her teeth” on Republican politics as a youngster in Ohio, Oklahoma and Texas, gaining experience in campaigning for her mother’s County Chair race in Tulsa, Oklahoma, her father’s Railroad Commission race in Texas and recently her nephew’s victorious 60/40% win for City Council race in Midland. Including George W. Bush’s first Congressional race, Rhonda has literally worked in hundreds of campaigns block-walking, running phone banks, doing mail-outs all over the state of Texas and believes strongly in the Mighty Three for Republicans of 1) Recruiting Republicans, 2) Electing Republicans, 3) Sharing the good conservative Republican message.

Besides politics, Rhonda serves on the Missions Committee at First Baptist Midland, working in more than ten countries and many states, is on the board of the Ruth School in Bucharest, Romania where she once smuggled in Bibles before the fall of communism, has served on the Live On Stage Community Concerts Board and is a mentor in the GAP department at First Baptist with young singles moving into Midland, many of whom she taught previously during her 30 years as a kindergarten teacher before retiring to become a full-time Republican Rebel. Rhonda loves her country, its God-ordained Constitution, works tirelessly to educate her citizens as how to save this nation for those who come behind us and prays without ceasing for America’s return to God and Constitution.

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

Caring for America: Add a contribution to your lunch ticket to benefit [Patriot Paws](#)



PRW In Action—Making a Difference after Hurricane Maria

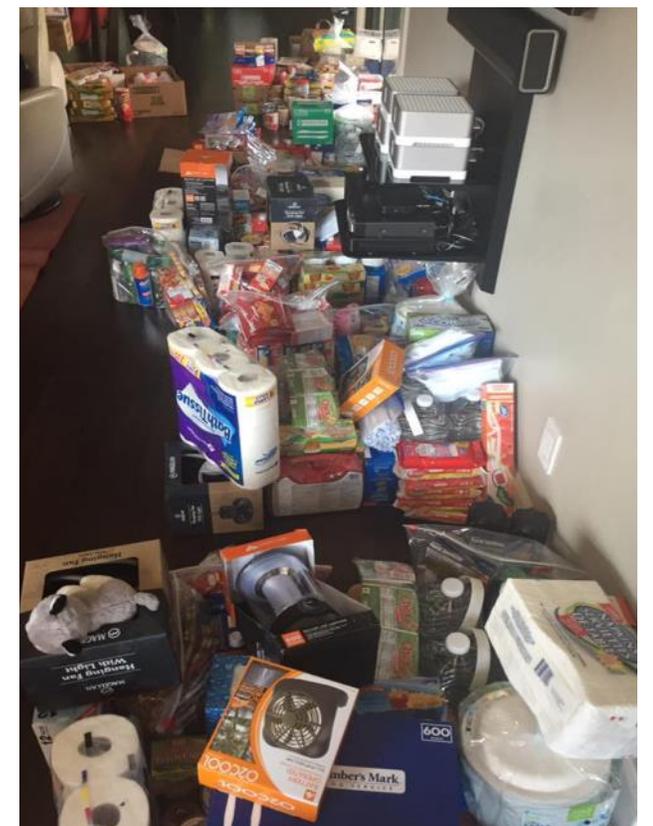
Our friends and neighbors in Puerto Rico are experiencing a time of dire need after Hurricane Maria caused devastation on the island. Right now, there is no electricity or cell service in 90% of the Island. For most areas there is no water, gasoline, fuel for generators, cell or phone service, access to food or medical services. Only a handful of the highways are passable. Now they are telling the people of Puerto Rico they will be without electricity and water for 6 months to a year.

We had the opportunity to send some supplies directly to families in Puerto Rico though a friend who works with American Airlines. The items they needed most were: water, Right now there is no electricity or cell service in most, if not all, of the Island Hand sanitizer, Baby wipes, Canned foods, Packaged foods (tuna and chicken), Diapers, Baby Tylenol, Mosquito repellent, LED Lanterns, Battery operated fans, C and D Batteries, Non-perishable milk and Fruit Cups.

A very heart felt thank you to the members of PRW, Denise Midgley, Catherine Gibb, Susan Bushey, Lynn McCoy and Associate Member Joe Cordina (and wife Patty) for the generous donations that went to buy these supplies.

Never think that your donation will not help, see what a donation of \$25 can buy in the photo top right, then see what happens when we join our donations together – photo top left, then see what happens when other friends and neighbors join in – photo bottom left and finally see what amazing things happen – photo bottom right- when we join together. We were able to fill ten 150-pound boxes with emergency supplies and ship them to Puerto Rico families in need.

Working together we can and do make a difference!



THE AGENDA OF THE LEFT

By: Catherine Gibb

To all you Colin Kaepernick wannabees, Antifa thugs, and City Councils who have removed or are considering removing “offensive” statues, you are all pawns of the left whose agenda is the destruction of the Constitution, religion (in particular, Christianity), the history of this nation and its culture.

Let’s start with the current controversy over taking a knee when the Flag of the United States is displayed during the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner.” It started when Colin Kaepernick decided to sit down during a preseason game in 2016. “I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color. To me, this is bigger than football and it would be selfish on my part to look the other way. There are bodies in the street and people getting paid leave and getting away with murder”, referencing a series of events that led to the Black Lives Matter movement and adding that he would continue to protest until he feels like “[the American flag] represents what it's supposed to represent”. In the 49ers' final 2016 preseason game on September 1, 2016, Kaepernick opted to kneel during the U.S. national anthem rather than sit as he did in their previous games. He explained his decision to switch was an attempt to show more respect to former and current U.S. military members while still protesting during the anthem after having a conversation with former NFL player and U.S. military veteran Nate Boyer. (1) When the protests continued and expanded, in particular after At a political event in Alabama, President Trump said “Wouldn’t you love to see one of these NFL owners, when somebody disrespects our flag, to say, ‘Get that son of a b---- off the field right now?’”, the left went absolutely nuts, sitting over and over again that the president was demanding that the NFL owners fire these “outstanding” athletes who were only “exercising their right to freedom of speech under the First Amendment.” (I always love it when the left, who normally want the Constitution shredded suddenly “wrap” themselves in the Constitution when it suits their purposes.) While I absolutely support your right to say what you think and to protest PEACEFULLY, that’s not the issue here. Football players are EMPLOYEES of the owners of these NFL teams and are subject to their rules and the NFL rules. Some examples of NFL rules that have been enforced: Tim Tebow was fined for displaying his faith on the field, the Cowboys were not allowed to put a decal honoring the police officers who were murdered in July of 2016, and there have been numerous players fined for too much “celebration” in the end zone. What this shows is that while we all have freedom of speech, we are still subject to restrictions by an employer so long as that restriction does not violate the law. As an employee of the Federal government, I could not be involved in any way in politics while I was at work. All that being said, it was well within the purview of these owners to tell their employee players that they fully expected them to be respectful to the flag during the games. But sadly, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has chosen to support the actions of these multi-millionaire football players and thus give cover to their owners to do the same. But as with all actions, there are consequences and a great many of NFL fans are outraged at the lack of respect that some 69% of the NFL players have given to our flag and most outraged at the Baltimore Ravens and the Jacksonville Jaguars who, at the international game in London, England, knelt during the National Anthem, but stood for “God Save the Queen.” Fans are not showing up at the stadiums, not watching the teams play on television and some are burning their prized team jerseys. Direct TV is letting customers who are outraged over this to cancel “The Sunday Ticket” and giving them refunds. And they are right to do so. The NFL and so-many sports casters have decided to “politicize” football and use their time on air to bash our President and anyone who disagrees with them. I sincerely hope that the fans continue their protest. People watch football to be entertained, whether Republican or Democrat, conservative or progressive (not sure how many of them are football fans since it is a contact sport), we aren’t interested in the political opinions of the NFL, its owners, coaches or players.

If these highly paid athletes really wanted to make a difference, they would “put their money where their mouth is.” For example, Kaepernick had a net worth of \$22,000,000 in 2016. Instead of trying to make some grandstanding statement, he could have set up a foundation to help inner city children of all races. He could have mentored underprivileged children. He could have educated himself and realized that the real problem is black on black crime. (We have included a National Review article discussing this in more detail. See Page 17.)

Back to my original premise: that all these groups are pawns of the leftists. The left’s agenda is to destroy this country from within and they have, starting in the sixties, come a long way toward achieving that goal. They have taken over government run schools and have been in the process of “indoctrinating” students by teaching a slanted view of our history predicated on the premise that the United States is evil and oppressed the minorities and women throughout its existence and that the white race is responsible for all this misery. The left has gotten abortion on demand (here is another area where blacks are leading the statistics), they are in the process of destroying religion (except of course for Islam, which seems to be protected and can be taught to our students, but not the history of Christianity), and now have set out to destroy and distort history by taking down monuments, etc. This is not an accident: the left wants this country divided and angry. The left has taken over almost all forms of media: newspapers, television, movies. Etc. And the culture has become more desensitized to the point that we are not, borrow a quote from the documentary Agenda: Grinding America Down, “The Norman Rockwell America, but we are Hustler America.” And everyone is a “victim”, who thinks their “rights” are paramount and if you don’t agree, we’ll just attack you, both verbally and physically. The narrative of the left is a lie, but a lie told over and over again seems to become the truth. For the most part, the people participating in all this are just “useful idiots” who our education system has miserably failed.

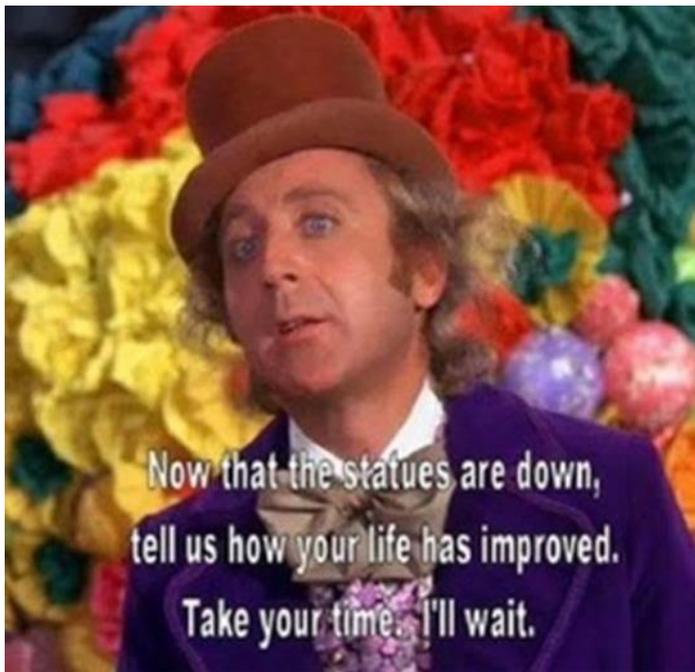
But the good news is, I believe that the silent majority in this country are awakening from their sleep and if it took spoiled rich athletes, thugs like Antifa, and those who think they can erase history by removing it then maybe this will grow into a movement which has been simmering for some time and its first “shot across the bow” was the election of Donald Trump.

Political Cartoons

AND JUST LIKE THAT



PEOPLE WERE MAD AT STATUES



Now that the statues are down,
tell us how your life has improved.
Take your time. I'll wait.



**THIS IS A MONUMENT DEDICATED TO
BUFFALO SOLDIERS, THE BLACK
REGIMENT FORMED IN 1866 THAT
SLAUGHTERED NATIVE AMERICANS.
WHAT THE HELL DO WE DO WITH
THIS ONE?**

**SO THE NAME "ROBERT LEE" FOR
A SPORTS COMMENTATOR TROUBLED YOU**



**BUT YOU WERE PERFECTLY OK WITH THE
MIDDLE NAME "HUSSEIN" FOR A PRESIDENT?
I GIVE UP!**



JERRY SCOTT/7823 Keith Temple/Book Hero Group

TRUMP'S STAND AT THE UN FOR AMERICA

A bold call for freedom and a stern warning to its enemies.

September 20, 2017

By: Joseph Klein

President Donald Trump came to the United Nations this week as the “representative of the American people,” not as the “global citizen” that Barack Obama had portrayed himself to be. To paraphrase William Shakespeare, when Obama asked his global audiences to lend him their ears, he came to bury America under a heap of apologies for its alleged past misdeeds, not to praise his home country. President Trump could not have presented a starker contrast. He praised the U.S. Constitution, called out the miserable failures of socialism and confronted the totalitarian enemies of the United States, singling out radical Islamic terrorists and the rogue authoritarian regimes of North Korea, Iran and socialist Venezuela with a moral clarity reminiscent of former President Ronald Reagan.

During his inaugural visit to UN headquarters in New York for the annual convocation of world leaders, Trump delivered two speeches and held a series of high level bilateral meetings. His first speech, delivered at an event Monday on UN reform hosted by the United States, focused on the need for significant management reform at the UN. Trump criticized the UN for its bloated bureaucracy and mismanagement, while not producing results in line with the sharp increase in the UN budget, which is disproportionately funded by the United States. However, he included in his remarks some praise for the UN’s disaster relief efforts, its feeding of the hungry and UN Secretary General António Guterres’ own UN reform initiatives.

Trump’s second speech on Tuesday, delivered on the opening day of the General Assembly’s world leaders’ debate, was much tougher in tone. It focused on his notion of “principled realism” in international relations, balancing effective multilateralism to combat problems of global concern with the primacy of national sovereignty. The U.S. president explained his “American First” principles in some detail and put the rogue nations of North Korea, Iran and Venezuela on notice that their misdeeds would have serious consequences.

A globalist appeaser is clearly no longer in the White House.

"Our government's first duty is to its people, to our citizens -- to serve their needs, to ensure their safety, to preserve their rights, and to defend their values. I will always put America first -- just like you -- as the leaders of your countries will always -- and should -- always put your countries first," the president declared. The success of the UN, he said, depends on the “independent strength” of its member states, built on each nation’s respect for the interests of its own people and for the rights of every other sovereign nation. “All responsible leaders have an obligation to serve their own citizens, and the nation-state remains the best vehicle for elevating the human condition,” he added.

America would do its fair share, continuing to “lead the world in humanitarian assistance,” the president assured the assembled dignitaries, and to shoulder the burden to protect freedom and security around the world without territorial ambitions. However, under his watch, President Trump would no longer allow the United States to be taken advantage of or enter into “a one-sided deal where the United States gets nothing in return.” This was not music to the ears of the self-important foreign leaders in attendance who have gotten used to exploiting UN globalist institutions on the US’s dime, while using forums provided by the UN to slander the United States and Israel.

Obama certainly won the popularity contest when he strutted onto the world stage year after year during his presidency to deliver his encomiums to global governance and to place the United States at the same level as all the other 192 member states of the United Nations, no matter how authoritarian they were or how little they contributed to the budget of the UN. Obama was treated like a celebrity, his speeches punctuated by frequent outbursts of rapturous applause. President Trump, on the other hand, came across during his General Assembly speech as the serious teacher, seeking to bring some sense and discipline to what he once referred to as “just a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time.” The president reminded his audience of America’s unparalleled economic and military strength, rather than apologize for it as Obama so often did in front of foreign audiences.

Of particular note, Obama used his global platform at the UN General Assembly in 2012 to shamelessly declare that “the future must not belong to those who slander the prophet of Islam.” Obama had more concern for the Islamists offended by an obscure anti-Muslim video than he did for the victims of terrorism. He refused to acknowledge the ideology that inspires and sanctions Jihad. President Trump, in contrast, used his global platform at the UN General Assembly to categorically declare that the United States “will stop radical Islamic terrorism because we cannot allow it to tear up our nation, and indeed to tear up the entire world.” The world must rally against “Islamist extremism,” he said, not wish it away or make excuses for it. In other words, the president named and labeled the ideology and movement now waging war on the Western world.

Obama praised his nuclear deal with Iran at the UN and anywhere else he thought would provide a sympathetic venue. He made sure it was endorsed in a UN Security Council resolution. President Trump called Obama’s Iran nuclear deal an “embarrassment” and “one of the worst and one-sided transactions the U.S. has ever entered into,” warning the General Assembly that “you haven’t heard the last on it, believe me.”

TRUMP'S STAND AT THE UN FOR AMERICA

A bold call for freedom and a stern warning to its enemies.

September 20, 2017

By: Joseph Klein

Continued from Page 6

He said the U.S. “cannot abide by an agreement if it provides cover for the eventual construction of a nuclear program.” While Obama tried to normalize relations with the Iranian regime, even at the expense of the aspirations of its people beaten in the streets and tortured for their dissent, Trump called Iran a “rogue state” whose chief export is violence. He stated that the United States sided with the Iranian people, not their dictatorial regime. “The entire world understands that the good people of Iran want change, and, other than the vast military power of the United States, that Iran’s people are what their leaders fear the most,” the president said.

When Obama was president, he hosted a heads-of-state discussion of a nuclear-free world at a special session of the UN Security Council. Obama mentioned the two rogue countries with dangerous nuclear ambitions, Iran and North Korea, only once during his speech, but immediately added that “[T]his is not about singling out individual nations.” However, Trump is having none of such utopian fantasies. He affirmed: “North Korea’s reckless pursuit of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles threatens the entire world with unthinkable loss of human life.” He warned the rogue regime, led by “Rocket Man” Kim Jong-un, in no uncertain terms, that it risked total destruction if it proceeded with its “suicide mission.”

Obama boasted of his diplomatic rapprochement with Cuba and shook hands with Venezuela’s late socialist dictator, Hugo Chavez. Trump criticized the “corruption and destabilizing regime” in Cuba and stated that his administration would not lift U.S. sanctions until the Cuban regime significantly changed its ways. As for the Venezuelan regime, the U.S. president noted the suffering of the Venezuelan people at the hands of a socialist dictatorship that “destroyed a prosperous nation by imposing a failed ideology that has produced poverty and misery everywhere it has been tried.”

America’s Commander-in-Chief criticized unaccountable globalist institutions that failed to keep faith with the people they were supposed to serve. Millions of people lost their jobs as a result of broken promises and gaming of the system, he said. “While America will pursue cooperation and commerce with other nations, we are renewing our commitment to the first duty of every government: the duty of our citizens,” he added.

The president believes in national sovereignty, but is not an isolationist, as his critics have unfairly charged. He spoke eloquently about the need for “proud independent nations” to “embrace their duties, seek friendship, respect others and make common cause in the greatest shared interest of all, a future of peace for the people of this wonderful earth.” He called for global resolve “to fight together, sacrifice together, and stand together for peace, for freedom, for justice, for family, for humanity, and for the almighty God who made us all.” But this means honestly confronting the evils present in our time – the authoritarian regimes who “seek to collapse the values, the systems, and alliances that prevented conflict and tilted the world toward freedom since World War II,” as well as radical Islamic terrorists who seek to spread their extremist ideology by force. “If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph,” Trump said. “When decent people and nations become bystanders to history, the forces of destruction only gather power and strength.”

The last US. President who spoke with such moral clarity on the world stage was Ronald Reagan. Just as Reagan spoke about the evils of communism, Trump used Venezuela and Cuba as living proof that the discredited ideologies of socialism and communism “only contribute to the continued suffering of the people who live under these cruel systems.” It is the height of irony that when Venezuela’s foreign minister spoke to reporters after Trump’s General Assembly speech to complain about what he called President Trump’s “racist and supremacist” rhetoric, the foreign minister said that “for a moment we didn’t know if we were listening to President Reagan in 1982 or President Trump in 2017.”

For America’s sake and the world’s sake, President Trump would do well to continue channeling Ronald Reagan and to rectify the abysmal failures of the Obama foreign policy, which shamefully betrayed millions of persecuted people worldwide, crippled America’s strength and enabled its deadliest enemies.

ABOUT JOSEPH KLEIN

Joseph Klein is a Harvard-trained lawyer and the author of *Global Deception: The UN’s Stealth Assault on America’s Freedom and Lethal Engagement: Barack Hussein Obama, the United Nations & Radical Islam*.

PRW in Action –Backing the Blue

Dallas Police Association's



Assist the Officer
FOUNDATION

Frederick E. Frazier
Chairman

Donna Krauss
Plano Republican Women's Club
P.O. Box 940461
Plano, TX 75094

Dear Donna,

On behalf of the Dallas Police Association's Assist the Office Foundation, we want to thank you for your generous donation of \$ on behalf of the Dallas Police and Dallas Area Rapid Transit Officers killed and injured on July 7, 2016. The Assist the Officer Foundation provides financial assistance to officers who are facing loss of income due to a serious injury, life-threatening illness, or other catastrophic event and immediate assistance to the families of officers in the case of a death. In 2004, the Foundation launched a first of its kind, confidential counseling service exclusively for Dallas Police Officers.

In the days, weeks, and months following the tragic events of last year, the Dallas Police Association and the Assist the Officer Foundation were overwhelmed by the vast support from members of our community and from all over the world. Our thank you to you might be belated, but please know that your support and donation meant a great deal to the Assist the Officer Foundation, which is run by active duty police officers, and did much to help officers and their families affected by the events of that day.

Thank you for your support and donation.

Gratefully,

Frederick Frazier
Chairman
Assist the Officer Foundation

FEF:jb

*The DPAs Assist the Officer Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
No goods or services were provided in exchange for this donation.
Federal EIN #75-2823567*

1412 Griffin Street East - Dallas, Texas 75215 - (214) 747-6839 - (214) 747-8194 Fax

www.atodallas.org



Legislative Report



Condensed Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments 85th Regular Session November 7, 2017, Election

Prepared by the Staff of the Texas Legislative Council

Proposition 1 (H.J.R. 21)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution.

Summary Analysis -Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, provides for a number of residence homestead exemptions from property (or “ad valorem”) taxation. Subsection (l) of Section 1-b authorizes the legislature to provide for an exemption from property taxation of a percentage of the market value of a partially disabled veteran’s residence homestead equal to the percentage of the veteran’s disability if the residence homestead was donated at “no cost” to the veteran by a charitable organization. The constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. 21 amends Subsection to authorize the legislature to expand the exemption authorized by that subsection to include a residence homestead donated to a disabled veteran by a charitable organization “for less than the market value of the residence homestead, including at no cost” to the veteran, instead of only at “no cost” to the veteran.

* **Summary of Comments** - The following comments supporting or opposing the proposed amendment reflect positions that were presented in committee proceedings, during house or senate floor debate, or in the analysis of the resolution prepared by the House Research Organization (HRO) when the resolution was considered by the House of Representatives for each of the propositions listed here.

Comments by Supporters -H.J.R. 21 would provide financial relief to disabled veterans receiving a partially donated home who may not otherwise be able to afford a home because of the tax burden on the home. Currently, a partially disabled veteran who pays part of the cost of a donated home receives no property tax exemption on the home’s taxable value, unlike a partially disabled veteran whose home has been donated to the veteran in full. H.J.R. 21 would address this inconsistency in the law and avoid the risk that such a veteran might lose a home designed specifically for the individual’s disabilities because of property tax bills that the veteran may not have the income to pay. The legislature has long recognized veterans for sacrifices they have made for this state and nation. H.J.R. 21 would continue this practice.

Comments by Opponents -While no witnesses opposing H.J.R. 21 appeared before the legislature, the HRO analysis reports that opponents say that the legislature should focus its efforts on reducing the property tax burden for everyone rather than granting exemptions for a specific category of people, regardless of how deserving, which results in higher taxes for others.

Proposition 2 (S.J.R. 60)

The constitutional amendment to establish a lower amount for expenses that can be charged to a borrower and removing certain financing expense limitations for a home equity loan, establishing certain authorized lenders to make a home equity loan, changing certain options for the refinancing of home equity loans, changing the threshold for an advance of a home equity line of credit, and allowing home equity loans on agricultural homesteads.

Summary Analysis -The constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. 60 amends certain provisions of Section 50, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, relating to home equity loans and home equity lines of credit. The proposed amendment lowers the cap on fees that a borrower may be charged for a home equity loan but excludes certain fees from the cap. It repeals the prohibition against home equity loans on agricultural homesteads and amends the list of approved home equity loan lenders. In addition, the proposed amendment allows a home equity loan to be refinanced as a non-home equity loan if certain conditions are met. Finally, the proposed amendment repeals the restriction on making debits or advances on a home equity line of credit if the principal amount outstanding exceeds 50 percent of the fair market value of the homestead.

Comments by Supporters -The proposed amendment would modernize existing Texas law regarding home equity loans, which is based on 1997 legislation. This amendment represents the first major revision since 2003. S.J.R. 60 aims to improve access to home equity loans and allow home equity loans to be made on smaller-value properties. The amendment represents a consensus of the concerns of Realtor and lender associations, which include addressing limited access to home equity loans in rural areas, significantly increased costs at the time of origination, and high population growth from outside Texas that has created increased real estate activity. Home equity loans are used for home repairs, medical expenses, college tuition, and expenses for emergencies such as accidents and natural disasters. It is important to keep these loans available because other types of loans do not offer the same benefits and protections to homeowners. The amendment would keep the home equity market stable and lending responsible while improving consumers’ access to credit. Regarding the changes to the fee cap: S.J.R. 60 would balance consumer protection provided by the fee cap with a reasonable standard for lenders by lowering the ceiling on fees that can be charged and removing certain fees from the calculation of the cap. Excluding certain third-party charges from the fee cap is to the consumer’s advantage because it allows the consumer to shop for competitive options.

*Regarding agricultural homesteads: S.J.R. 60 would provide increased consumer choice by allowing home equity loans to be made on agricultural homesteads. Current law prohibits the use of homestead property designated for agriculture, other than dairy farming, to secure a home equity loan. An owner of such property who obtains this type of loan does so at the cost of losing the property’s agricultural designation tax status. The current restrictions impose a hardship because they make transactions too complex and discourage new buyers.

Regarding the refinancing changes: S.J.R. 60 would provide increased consumer choice by allowing the refinancing of home equity loans into non-home equity loans. Consumer protections for prospective refinance customers have been included in the form of a required statement of comparison between home equity loans and non-home equity loans. The proposed amendment would afford consumers greater access to funds for which they have been approved by repealing a restriction on home equity lines of credit that prohibits additional advances on a loan from being made under certain circumstances. The limitation of home equity loans to 80 percent of total equity is what saved the Texas market during the last recession. This rule has been retained.



Legislative Report



Condensed Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments 85th Regular Session November 7, 2017, Election

Prepared by the Staff of the Texas Legislative Council

Continued from Page 9

Comments by Opponents -S.J.R. 60 would erase constitutional protections for homeowners that were very carefully negotiated when home equity loans were first authorized. There are no significant issues with obtaining home equity loans in Texas under current law. The amendment would only make costs more onerous to borrowers.

Regarding the changes to the fee cap: -Although this change appears to benefit the consumer, the proposed amendment disguises the potential for lender fee increases. Because the amendment excludes the items that generally represent the highest up-front costs - third-party appraisals, surveys, title insurance, and title examination reports - from the calculation of the fee cap, lenders would have greater incentive to increase their own origination fees despite the two percent limit. Increasing the prospective profits from loan origination fees, regardless of the loan's expected performance, would encourage improvident lending. Lenders could later sell badly performing loans on the secondary market. Such behavior contributed to the 2007-2009 recession.

Regarding the refinancing changes: -When home equity loans were initially authorized in Texas, it was expected that homeowners would be protected from forced sales by the requirement for judicial foreclosure and because these are nonrecourse loans, which means other assets are protected. The amendment would allow conversion of a home equity loan back to a purchase money loan, which lacks these protections. Home equity loan borrowers already have the ability to refinance their loans with a new home equity loan that provides certain protections.

Proposition 3 (S.J.R. 34)

The constitutional amendment limiting the service of certain officeholders appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate after the expiration of the person's term of office.

Summary Analysis -Section 17, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, referred to as the "holdover" provision, requires that an officer within the state continue to perform the duties of office until the officer's successor is qualified for office, including after the officer's term expires. S.J.R. 34 proposes a constitutional amendment to end the requirement of continuous performance of duties for gubernatorial appointees to unpaid state offices on the last day of the first regular session of the legislature that begins after the expiration of the officer's term.

Comments by Supporters -S.J.R. 34 would address concerns that unpaid gubernatorial appointees on state boards and commissions hold over in office long after expiration of the appointees' terms and would ensure that unpaid volunteer positions are sufficiently rotated among qualified Texans. The senate prerogative for advice and consent would be preserved by placing term limits at the end of a regular legislative session on the service of appointees whose terms have expired, allowing the senate to hold confirmation hearings on replacement appointees. The amendment would provide the Office of the Governor ample time to find and appoint a willing and qualified successor after an officer's term expires.

Comments by Opponents -S.J.R. 34 could result in unfilled vacancies in important state offices if successors are not duly qualified by the deadline proposed by the amendment. The existing constitutional provision providing for the continued service of officers until their successors are duly qualified affords the Office of the Governor flexibility in finding qualified replacements for appointive offices.

Proposition 4 (S.J.R. 6)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general of a challenge to the constitutionality of a state statute and authorizing the legislature to prescribe a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional.

Summary Analysis -S.J.R. 6 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution that authorizes the legislature to require a court to provide notice to the attorney general if a party to litigation challenges the constitutionality of a state statute. The amendment authorizes the legislature to prescribe a reasonable period after the notice has been provided, which may not exceed 45 days, during which the court may not enter a judgment holding the statute unconstitutional. The resolution also proposes a temporary provision to validate an existing statute, which has been held unconstitutional, requiring a court to provide notice to the attorney general of challenges to the constitutionality of state statutes and prescribing a waiting period before the court may enter a judgment holding a statute unconstitutional.

Comments by Supporters -The proposed amendment would ensure that Texas laws could not be struck down through a constitutional challenge without the attorney general having a fair opportunity to defend the laws. S.J.R. 6 is needed to restore Section 402.010, Government Code, which protects the prerogative of the legislature by providing that if private litigants challenge the constitutionality of a state statute, the attorney general must be informed and therefore have the opportunity to intervene and defend the statute. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals determined in 2013 that it was an unconstitutional violation of the separation of powers for a court to have to notify the attorney general that the constitutionality of a state statute is being challenged. The attorney general's office already has a system for receiving notices and deciding how the office should respond to civil challenges to Texas law that works well. Under the system for civil cases, intervention is not a typical course of response because the office usually can determine if there is an interested party other than the attorney general who can maintain a defense of the statute. S.J.R. 6 would not substantially alter the state's separation of powers doctrine, restrict the ability of courts to strike down laws on constitutional grounds, or change the authority of the attorney general's office over criminal matters.

Comments by Opponents

The constitution should not be amended in a manner that may undermine the state's separation of powers doctrine. Texans should be able to pursue and receive judicial relief from unconstitutional laws without delay due to a waiting period for the attorney general to consider intervening during which a court may not enter a judgment. The constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. 6 may create confusion regarding the attorney general's role in criminal cases by requiring notice to be provided to the attorney general in such cases. Under current law, the attorney general is not authorized to represent the state in criminal cases, subject to certain exceptions. Requiring notice to be provided serves little purpose unless the prosecutor requests the attorney general's assistance in a pending case.

Continued on Page 11



Condensed Analyses of Proposed Constitutional Amendments 85th Regular Session November 7, 2017, Election

Prepared by the Staff of the Texas Legislative Council

Continued from Page 10

Proposition 5 (H.J.R. 100)

The constitutional amendment on professional sports team charitable foundations conducting charitable raffles.

Summary Analysis -Section 47(d-1), Article III, Texas Constitution, currently authorizes the legislature to permit a professional sports team charitable foundation to conduct a charitable raffle at games hosted at the home venue of the professional sports team associated with the foundation, but only if the foundation existed on January 1, 2016. The constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. 100 removes the temporal limitation of this provision. In addition, the amendment defines "professional sports team" to include a team organized in this state that is a member of one of the professional sports organizations listed in the amendment, a person hosting a motorsports racing team event sanctioned by a nationally recognized motorsports racing association at certain venues, an organization hosting a professional golf association event, or any other professional sports team defined by law.

Comments by Supporters -By expanding the number of professional sports team charitable foundations eligible to hold charitable raffles at home games, H.J.R. 100 and its implementing legislation, H.B. 3125, would provide opportunities for charitable revenue to be brought to more areas of the state, such as rural and suburban communities. Charitable raffles help disadvantaged youth across Texas and also have the potential to help nonprofit and other charitable organizations that have programming geared toward helping cancer research and victims of domestic abuse. Charitable raffles held under the current authorization have been successful in raising large amounts of money for charitable purposes without abusing the process. The amendment would not remove existing safeguards that protect against improperly conducted raffles.

Comments by Opponents -The existing constitutional limitation that allows only foundations in operation on January 1, 2016, to operate charitable raffles was established to protect against the creation of new entities solely to take advantage of charitable raffles. H.J.R. 100 would expand gambling in Texas by encouraging less well-established professional sports teams to set up charitable foundations to conduct raffles and may prompt other groups to seek similar authorization to conduct charitable gaming.

Proposition 6 (S.J.R. 1)

The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of all or part of the market value of the residence homestead of the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Summary Analysis -Section 1-b, Article VIII, Texas Constitution, governs residence homestead exemptions from property (or "ad valorem") taxation. The constitutional amendment proposed by S.J.R. 1 amends Section 1-b by adding Subsections (o) and (p). Proposed Subsection (o) authorizes the legislature to provide the surviving spouse of a first responder who is killed or fatally injured in the line of duty a property tax exemption for all or part of the market value of the surviving spouse's residence homestead if the surviving spouse has not remarried since the death of the first responder. Proposed Subsection (p) authorizes the legislature to provide for a surviving spouse who receives an exemption under proposed Subsection (o) to receive an exemption from property taxation on the surviving spouse's subsequently qualified residence homestead in an amount equal to the dollar amount of the exemption for the former homestead under proposed Subsection (o) in the last year in which the surviving spouse received the exemption for the former homestead, if the surviving spouse has not remarried. The proposed amendment applies only to property taxes imposed for a tax year beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

Comments by Supporters -S.J.R. 1 would help ensure that families of fallen first responders, who have already suffered devastating loss in service to their communities, do not face the loss of their home because of the property tax burden, particularly following the death of a first responder who is likely to have been a breadwinner for the family. The amendment would extend to surviving spouses of first responders the same well-deserved property tax exemption given to surviving spouses of disabled veterans and members of the armed services killed in action, and would continue the legislature's long-standing practice of addressing the hardships faced by families of fallen first responders.

Comments by Opponents -While no witnesses opposing S.J.R. 1 appeared before the legislature, the HRO analysis reports that opponents say that the legislature should focus its efforts on reducing the property tax burden for everyone rather than granting exemptions for a specific category of people, regardless of how deserving, which results in higher taxes for others.

Proposition 7 (H.J.R. 37)

The constitutional amendment relating to legislative authority to permit credit unions and other financial institutions to award prizes by lot to promote savings.

Summary Analysis -The constitutional amendment proposed by H.J.R. 37 specifies that the constitutional provision requiring the legislature to pass laws prohibiting most lotteries and gift enterprises, which includes most forms of gambling, in Texas does not prohibit the legislature from authorizing credit unions and other financial institutions to promote savings by awarding prizes to one or more of the credit union's or financial institution's depositors selected by lot.

Comments by Supporters -Savings incentives such as savings promotion raffles offering cash prizes to savers are needed in Texas because more than one-third of Texas households lack a savings account, and about half do not have a three-month emergency fund. H.J.R. 37 would provide an incentive for individuals, including low-income individuals, to open savings accounts with banks and credit unions instead of relying on more expensive alternative financial services such as consumer loans or on payday lenders and title lenders for which fewer regulations exist. Depositors' money is not at risk because prizes are paid from the bank's marketing fund. Prize-linked savings accounts are not gambling because there is no payment or consideration. A number of other states that have adopted legislation allowing prize-linked savings accounts have seen a substantial increase in consumer savings and new accounts as a result. Some banks that offer prize-linked savings accounts may have the opportunity to receive additional credit under the federal Community Reinvestment Act for providing services that encourage savings. Offering prize-linked savings accounts would be attractive to banks because it could encourage new business. The amendment would resolve any questions about the constitutionality of a statute that authorizes savings promotion prizes, such as the enabling legislation, H.B. 471.

Comments by Opponents -H.J.R. 37 would provide unfair favoritism to traditional financial institutions by authorizing the only noncharitable raffle allowed in Texas for the benefit of only one industry. The amendment is not necessary under the Texas Constitution, which only prohibits lotteries that require a form of payment or

Tax Reform Just Got Real. Why the GOP Tax Plan Is Great News for America.

By: Adam Michel, September 27, 2017 The Daily Signal

Bold tax reform got a big boost on Wednesday.

Leaders in the House, the Senate, and the White House have all agreed on a tax outline, meaning a true update to our broken tax system could be imminent.

First, the GOP tax plan framework would lower taxes for individual Americans. It would double the standard deduction for individuals and thereby expand the zero-percent bracket, and it would create three income tax brackets (down from seven): 12, 25, and 35 percent, respectively.

Most simply, this will allow all Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money in their pockets.

Importantly, the plan goes a long way toward fixing our business tax system, which makes it hard for U.S. businesses to invest in new equipment and new factories. Slow investment caused by our high and distortionary taxes has limited American job creation and slowed wage growth.

This isn't some hidden truth known only to economists. Almost 80 percent of Americans understand that high corporate taxes lead to lower wages and encourage corporations to do business outside of the U.S.

The proposed new 20 percent corporate tax rate would mean a raise for hardworking Americans.

To maximize its benefits, tax reform must include permanent full expensing. This would allow companies to write off the cost of investments they make in their own workplace immediately, such as the cost of office space needed to hire additional workers.

Right now, the proposal grants five years of expensing, but that can easily be expanded at little additional cost. This simple change, if made permanent, could grow the economy by more than 5 percent over 10 years. Without full expensing, the current system will continue to keep the cost of investing artificially high, thus discouraging business expansion. The benefits of expensing are not just for large corporations. All businesses can take advantage of expensing, big and small. Permanent expensing must be a primary component of any tax reform plan that emphasizes economic growth and job creation.

The new proposal also includes a territorial business tax system. This would put American businesses on a level playing field with their foreign competitors and finally bring overseas profits back to the U.S.

As reform moves forward, focus will also turn to the more contentious reforms, some of which we cannot forget.

For years, politicians have called for getting rid of "special interest tax breaks" and "closing loopholes." That sounds good in theory, but as soon as Congress gets specific, K Street lobbyists will swarm Capitol Hill to protect their favorite handouts.

One of the most important reforms in this vein is to eliminate the state and local tax deduction.

This provision benefits only a minority of taxpayers and creates a federal subsidy for expansions of government at the state level. This forces people in low-tax states to subsidize big-government states like California, Illinois, and New York.

The state and local tax deduction is both bad policy and unfair.

The tax code should not be used to pick winners and losers. The final tax package should eliminate unjustified tax subsidies that benefit politically favored industries, such as the myriad tax breaks for wind

farms, solar panels, and nuclear electricity production.

There are countless other examples of preferences that need to go: the research and development tax credit, education tax credits, and the exclusion for municipal bond interest, the deduction for U.S. production activities, and the credit for low-income housing investments, to name just a few.

The president has already indicated that he would like to keep some of these provisions—but updating the tax code for the 21st century requires more than just cutting taxes.

True reform will include structural reforms like allowing permanent full expensing and rooting out all the accumulated carve-outs for special interests wholesale—not just the tax subsidies that are easy to get rid of.

Lastly, the GOP tax outline includes a new lower pass-through business rate of 25 percent for businesses that pay taxes through the individual tax code, repeal of the estate tax or "death tax," and repeal of the corporate and individual alternative minimum taxes to simplify the tax system.

Each of these additional reforms should strengthen support for tax reform and add an additional boost to the economy.

Tax reform that follows the outline we heard from the president and Congress on Wednesday can truly make America great again by unleashing higher wages, more jobs, and untold opportunity.

Adam Michel focuses on tax policy and the federal budget as a policy analyst in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

Congratulations to Jody Rushton - NFRW President

By NFRW Communications



PHILADELPHIA – Delegates to the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW) 39th Biennial Convention elected Jody Rushton of Plano, Texas, to serve as president for 2018-2019, during its convention held Sept. 14-17 in Philadelphia.

Rushton has been a respected force in Republican circles for three decades, dating back to her position as western states coordinator for the Reagan-Bush campaign in 1984. She succeeds NFRW President Carrie Almond of Chillicothe, Mo., who served as NFRW president during the 2016-2017 biennium.

The Republican Party of Texas recently awarded Rushton the first Susan B. Anthony Leadership Award for her work building Rising Stars among Texas Republican women throughout the state. Rushton also was awarded the Collin County Republican Party's John McVeigh Award in 2015 for outstanding service and dedication to the Republican Party. The McAllen, Texas, native has served as president of Conner Harrington Republican Women's Club and president of the Texas Federation of Republican Women.

The newly-elected Executive Committee of the National Federation of Republican Women is excited to build on the organization's foundation of leadership over the next two years, Rushton said. "We are grateful and humbled to reach out to women all around this great country," she continued. "We are proud of our past, and committed to our future. We are united in our goals and stronger as we move forward together."

NFRW officers elected on Sept. 16 are:

PRESIDENT Jody Rushton, Texas, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT Michelle Buckwalter-Schurman, Illinois, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT Eileen Sobjack, Washington, 3RD VICE PRESIDENT Julie Harris, Arkansas, 4TH VICE PRESIDENT Ann Schockett, New York, SECRETARY Frances Taylor, Alabama, REASURER Vanessa LaFranco, New Jersey

Three members-at-large to the Executive Committee will be elected by the NFRW Board of Directors on Sept. 17.

"The women of the NFRW join me in congratulating Jody and the new administration and have the utmost confidence they will continue to lead our organization into a bright future," Almond said.

Founded in 1938, the National Federation of Republican Women is the largest and most influential Republican women's group in the nation, proudly representing the party that first made it possible for women to vote in the U.S. The NFRW works to increase the effectiveness and relevance of women in the cause of good government. Our mission remains to recruit and elect Republican candidates, promote the principles of the Republican Party, educate the public, and inform the media.





Finally, someone seriously targeted cultural Marxism in our schools—it takes an immigrant

ANALYSIS/OPINION:

As Lincoln famously said, the greatest threat America will face will come from within.

I had the distinct privilege of attending a very special event Monday morning on the set of “Fox & Friends” in Manhattan. The launch of the Foundation for Liberty and American Greatness (FLAG) and its Student’s Constitution was met with much fanfare, jubilation, and a big sigh of relief from millions of Americans who are tired of the country being blamed for everything in our educational system.

Nick Adams, who has only been a citizen of the United States for a year, after spending years and a lot of money to immigrate the legal way, has single-handedly sparked an educational revolution in this great country. Sometimes, it takes an immigrant to see what Americans are blind to seeing — that the values and founding principles of this amazing nation are under attack, and even more importantly, need to be defended.

Having faced many challenges in his own life, including cancer, and being attacked by the leftist establishment in Australia, Mr. Adams has jumped into his newfound life’s work with a vengeance. His passion and excitement about his new country are contagious.

Mr. Adams is most definitely doing something about it.

Already having conducted over 65 nationally televised interviews on his project, Mr. Adams has already moved the needle. FLAG is about making sure our young people understand those principles, value them, and continue to cherish them. The vision statement of the foundation states: “FLAG will first develop the nation’s most comprehensive and widespread civic educational program to be executed inside America’s K-12 classrooms. ... FLAG also seeks to create an organic, far-reaching digital presence that counters anti-American rhetoric with positive, factual messaging.”

The group also plans to conduct thousands of on-site visits to U.S. classrooms and schools to evangelize the American Dream. The new Student’s Constitution is the first of its kind and teaches our founding principles to young people in language they can understand.

“You should see the eyes of these young Americans grow wider when I tell them they have won the lottery of life to be born in this great country...,” said Mr. Adams, speaking to a group of supporters flown in from all over the country the night before the launch.

In a letter from the founder in the foundation’s materials, Mr. Adams writes, “I started FLAG because I couldn’t sit back any longer and watch my country fall apart. In 2016, I went from lifelong admirer and frequent visitor, to immigrant and legal citizen of the United States. I came to this country because I’ve always been inspired by the American Dream and the idea that only here, the impossible becomes possible.”

In this academic year, FLAG plans to distribute 100,000 Student’s Constitution booklets in all 50 states. FLAG plans on reaching 15,000 students directly in the classroom through school visits. Growing its digital presence, a digital library of materials, a huge social media presence, recruiting an army of volunteers, and training young people to spread the word, are additional goals.

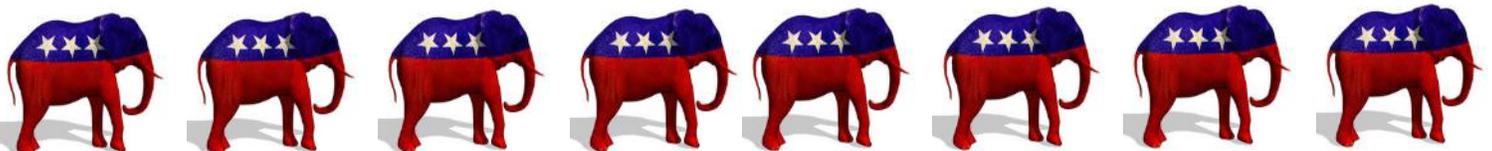
Mr. Adams thinks big.

However, he needs your help. Information can be found on FlagUSA.org.

Speaking with Mr. Adams after he had just given away his personal email address to millions of Americans on “Fox & Friends,” he showed me his phone as the emails began pouring in, reaching 1,600 in a period of seconds.

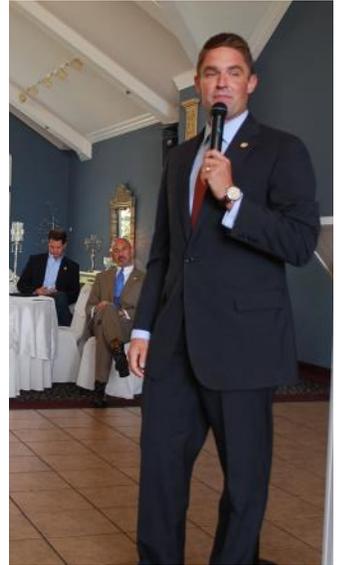
It seems millions of frustrated Americans agree with him.

This article appeared originally in The Washington Times.



Photos from September Legislative Update

We had a wonderful Legislative update at the September meeting from Senator Van Taylor, Representative Scott Sanford, Representative Matt Shaheen and Representative Jeff Leach.



Letter to the NFL Commissioner

By: Col. Jeffery A Powers USMC—(RET)

To the NFL commissioner

Commissioner, I've been a season pass holder at Yankee Stadium, Yale Bowl and Giants Stadium. I missed the '90-'91 season because I was with a battalion of Marines in Desert Storm. 14 of my wonderful Marines returned home with the American Flag draped across their lifeless bodies. My last conversation with one of them, Sgt Garrett Mongrella, was about how our Giants were going to the Super Bowl. He never got to see it.

Many friends, Marines, and Special Forces Soldiers who worked with or for me through the years returned home with the American Flag draped over their coffins.

Now I watch multi-millionaire athletes who never did anything in their lives but play a game, disrespect what brave Americans fought and died for. They are essentially spitting in the faces and on the graves of real men, men who have actually done something for this country beside playing with a ball and believing they're something special! They're not! My Marines and Soldiers were!

You are complicit in this!

You'll fine players for large and small infractions but you lack the moral courage and respect for our nation and the fallen to put an immediate stop to this.

Yes, I know, it's their 1st Amendment right to behave in such a despicable manner. What would happen if they came out and disrespected you or the refs publicly?

I observed a player getting a personal foul for twerking in the end zone after scoring. I guess that's much worse than disrespecting the flag and our National Anthem. Hmmmmm, isn't it his 1st Amendment right to express himself like an idiot in the end zone?

Why is taunting not allowed yet taunting America is OK? You fine players for wearing 9-11 commemorative shoes yet you allow scum on the sidelines to sit, kneel or pump their pathetic fist in the air. They are so deprived with their multi-million dollar contracts for playing a freaking game! You condone it all by your refusal to act. You're just as bad and disgusting as they are. I hope Americans boycott any sponsor who supports that rabble you call the NFL. I hope they turn off the TV when any team that allowed this disrespect to occur, without consequence, on the sidelines. I applaud those who have not.

Legends and heroes do NOT wear shoulder pads. They wear body armor and carry rifles. They make minimum TYPE wage and spend months and years away from their families. They don't do it for an hour on Sunday. They do it 24/7 often with lead, not footballs, coming in their direction. They watch their brothers carted off in pieces not on a gurney to get their knee iced. They don't even have ice! Many don't have legs or arms. Some wear blue and risk their lives daily on the streets of America. They wear fire helmets and go upstairs into the fire rather than down to safety. On 9-11, hundreds vanished. They are the heroes.

I hope that your high paid protesting pretty boys and you look in that mirror when you shave tomorrow and see what you really are, legends in your own minds. You need to hit the road and take those worms with you!

Time to change the channel.

Col Jeffrey A Powers USMC-(ret)

Note: TruthorFiction.com confirmed that Col. Powers was the author of this letter.

Police Violence against Black Men Is Rare

By: Philippe Lemoine , Sept 18, 2017

And the media narrative to the contrary is damaging.

A few days ago, former police officer Jason Stockley, who is white, was acquitted of first-degree murder; he had fatally shot Anthony Lamar Smith, who was black, in 2011. Protests started in St. Louis, where the shooting took place and Stockley was judged, immediately after the verdict was announced. Although they were initially peaceful, they soon turned violent, and dozens of protesters were arrested while several police officers were injured. Since the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, just outside St. Louis, in 2014, this has become a familiar pattern. This article is not about whether Stockley should have been acquitted. Instead, I want to talk about the underlying narrative regarding the prevalence of police brutality against black men in the U.S., which is largely undisputed in the media.

According to this narrative, black men are constantly harassed by the police and routinely brutalized with impunity, even when they have done nothing wrong, and there is an “epidemic of police shootings of unarmed black men.” Even high-profile black celebrities often claim to be afraid of the police because the same thing might happen to them. Police brutality, or at least the possibility that one might become a victim of such violence, is supposed to be part of the experience of a typical black man in the U.S. Events such as the death of Brown in Ferguson are presented as proof that black men are never safe from the police. This narrative is false. In reality, a randomly selected black man is overwhelmingly unlikely to be victim of police violence — and though white men experience such violence even less often, the disparity is consistent with the racial gap in violent crime, suggesting that the role of racial bias is small. The media’s acceptance of the false narrative poisons the relations between law enforcement and black communities throughout the country and results in violent protests that destroy property and sometimes even claim lives. Perhaps even more importantly, the narrative distracts from far more serious problems that black Americans face.

Let’s start with the question of fatal violence. Last year, according to the Washington Post’s tally, just 16 unarmed black men, out of a population of more than 20 million, were killed by the police. The year before, the number was 36. These figures are likely close to the number of black men struck by lightning in a given year, considering that happens to about 300 Americans annually and black men are 7 percent of the population. And they include cases where the shooting was justified, even if the person killed was unarmed. Of course, police killings are not the result of a force of nature, and I’m not claiming these are morally equivalent. But the comparison illustrates that these killings are incredibly rare, and that it’s completely misleading to talk about an “epidemic” of them. You don’t hear people talk about an epidemic of lightning strikes and claim they are afraid to go outside because of it. Liberals often make the same comparison when they argue that it’s completely irrational to fear that you might become a victim of terrorism. One might retort that, while it may be rare for a black man to be killed by the police, black men are still constantly stopped and routinely brutalized by the police, even if they don’t die from it. However, even this weaker claim is false. It just isn’t true that black men are kicked, punched, etc., on a regular basis by the police. — ADVERTISEMENT — In order to show that, I’m going to use data from the Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS), which, as its name suggests, provides detailed information about contacts between the police and the public. It’s conducted on a regular basis by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and is based on a nationally representative sample of more than 70,000 U.S. residents age 16 or older. Respondents are asked whether they had a contact with the police during the past 12 months; if they say they did, they answer a battery of questions about the nature of their last contact, including any use of force. Since the respondents also provide their age, race, gender, etc., we can use this survey to calculate the prevalence of police violence for various demographic groups. The numbers in this piece are from my own analysis of the data, the details and code for which I provide here, but they are consistent with a 2015 report compiled by the BJS itself to the extent the two overlap. It’s not true that black men are constantly stopped by the police for no reason. First, despite what the narrative claims, it’s not true that black men are constantly stopped by the police for no reason. Indeed, black men are less likely than white men to have contact with the police in any given year, though this includes situations where the respondent called the cops himself: 17.5 percent versus 20.7 percent. Similarly, a black man has on average only 0.32 contacts with the police in any given year, compared with 0.35 contacts for a white man. It’s true that black men are overrepresented among people who have many contacts with the police, but not by much. Only 1.5 percent of black men have more than three contacts with the police in any given year, whereas 1.2 percent of white men do. If we look at how often the police use physical force against men of different races, we find that there is indeed a racial disparity, but that this experience is rare across the board. Only 0.6 percent of black men experience physical force by the police in any given year, while approximately 0.2 percent of white men do. To be fair, these are probably slight undercounts, because the survey does not allow us to identify people who did not experience physical force during their most recent contact but did experience such force during a previous contact in the same year. Further, physical force as defined by the PPCS includes relatively mild forms of violence such as pushing and grabbing. Actual injuries by the police are so rare that one cannot estimate them very precisely even in a survey as big as the PPCS, but the available data suggest that only 0.08 percent of black men are injured by the police each year, approximately the same

Police Violence against Black Men Is Rare

By: Philippe Lemoine , Sept 18, 2017

Continued from Page 17

rate as for white men. A black man is about 44 times as likely to suffer a traffic-related injury, according to the National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey. Moreover, keep in mind that these tallies of police violence include violence that is legally justified. Now, it's true that there are significant differences in the rates at which men of different races experience police violence — 0.6 percent is triple 0.2 percent. However, although people often equate racial disparities with bias, this inference is fallacious, as can be seen through an analogy with gender: Men are vastly more likely to experience police violence than women are, but while bias may explain part of this disparity, nobody doubts that most of it has to do with the fact that men are on average far more violent than women. Similarly, if black men commit violent crimes at much higher rates than white men, that might have a lot to do with the disparity in the use of force by the police. This is evident in the National Crime Victimization Survey, another survey of the public conducted by the BJS. Interviewers ask respondents if they have been the victim of a crime in the past 12 months; if they have, respondents provide information about the nature of the incidents, including the race and ethnicity of the offenders. This makes it possible to measure racial differences in crime rates without relying on data from the criminal-justice system, in which racial bias could lead to higher rates of arrest and conviction for black men even if they commit violence at the same rate. Racial bias is unlikely to explain a very large part of the discrepancy. NCVS data from 2015, the most recent year available, suggest that black men are three times as likely to commit violent crimes as white men. To the extent that cops are more likely to use force against people who commit violent crimes, which they surely are, this could easily explain the disparities we have observed in the rates at which the police use force. That's not to say that bias plays no role; I'm sure it does play one. But it's unlikely to explain a very large part of the discrepancy. Some might say that, instead of consulting statistics like these, we should defer to black Americans' own perceptions of how the police treat them. As various polls have demonstrated, black people are much more likely than white people to think that police violence against minorities is very common. But the issue cannot be settled this way. Since individuals have direct knowledge of what happened to them personally, you can trust them about that. But when it comes to larger social phenomena, people's beliefs are influenced by far more than just their personal experience, including the media. The far more compelling fact is that, if you draw a representative sample of the population and ask each black man in that sample whether a police officer has used physical force against him in the past year, you find that it's extremely rare. On many issues, liberals have no problem recognizing this problem. For instance, there is a cottage industry of articles deploring the fact that, although crime has fallen spectacularly in the U.S. since the 1990s, most Americans believe it has increased. Liberals are absolutely right to point out this misperception, but if people of any color can be wrong about this, there is no reason to think black people can't be wrong about the prevalence of police violence against minorities.

Phpe Lemoine is a Ph.D. candidate in philosophy at Cornell University.

Read more at: <http://www.nationalreview.com/article/451466/police-violence-against-black-men-rare-heres-what-data-actually-sayilip>



Really American



SANDRA BULLOCK DONATED \$1 MILLION DOLLARS TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE HARVEY!

"THERE ARE NO POLITICS IN EIGHT FEET OF WATER. THERE ARE HUMAN BEINGS IN EIGHT FEET OF WATER."

IF YOU APPRECIATE HER FOR STEPPING UP, COMMENT YES & SHARE!

Image Credit: lifeandstylemag.com Changes: cropped, resized, images overlaid. Original: <http://bit.ly/2vfhiqf>



The next time you see these sponsors —shake their hand.

September 2017

Paid Political Advertising PRW



Sam Johnson
U.S. CONGRESS

P.O. Box 860096 Phone (972) 424-9573
Plano, Texas 75086-0096 Fax (972) 422-4797
www.SamJohnsonforCongress.com




Geraldine "Tincy" Miller
State Board of Education
Member, District 12

1100 Providence Tower West/LB#11 972/419-4000 (OFFICE)
5001 Spring Valley Road 214/522-1610 (HOME)
Dallas, Texas 75244-3910 214/522-8560 (FAX)
Gtincc@aol.com

THANK YOU PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN!



REPUBLICAN
Van Taylor
for Texas Senate

- Smaller Government
- Lower Taxes
- Secure Our Border
- Stop Obamacare
- Pro-Family

www.VanTaylor.com



JEFF LEACH
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 67

P.O. Box 2910 • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
512-463-0544 • 512-463-9974 (FAX)
JEFF.LEACH@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US




Scott Sanford
State Representative
District 70




JODIE LAUBENBERG
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 89

206 N. MURPHY ROAD P.O. BOX 2910
MURPHY, TX 75094 AUSTIN, TX 78768
972.424.6810 512.463.0186
FAX: 512.463.5896
JODIE.LAUBENBERG@HOUSE.STATE.TX.US



DAVID EVANS
JUSTICE
FIFTH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS

GEO. L. ALLEN SR. COURTS BLD 214-991-0659
600 COMMERCE ST., SUITE 200 DAVID@JUSTICE.DAVIDEVANS.COM
DALLAS, TX 75202-4658




Honorable John Roach, Jr.
296th District Court
2100 Bloomdale Road, Ste. 20012
McKinney, TX 75071



Judge Barnett Walker
County Court at Law No. 2

2100 Bloomdale Road, Suite 10344 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-3820 • Metro (972) 424-1460 Ext. 3820 • Fax (972) 548-3828
Email: bwalker@co.collin.tx.us • www.collincountytx.gov




JUDGE DAVID RIPPEL
County Court at Law No. 4

1800 N. Graves St., Suite 160 • McKinney, Texas 75069
(972) 548-3840 • Metro (972) 424-1460 Ext. 3840 • Fax (972) 548-3844
Email: drippel@co.collin.tx.us • www.collincountytx.gov



Keith Self
County Judge

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(469) 586-7156 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4623
Email: keith.self@collincountytx.gov



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

2300 Bloomdale Road, Suite 4192, McKinney, TX 75071
Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4626 • Cell (214) 471-3126
Email cdwilliams@collincountytx.gov

Chris Hill
County Commissioner, Texas Conservative.



Duncan Webb
Commissioner, Precinct 4

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-4631 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4631
jdwebb@collincountytx.gov • www.collincountytx.gov

The next time you see these sponsors —shake their hand.
September 2017

Paid Political Advertising PRW




Greg Willis
Criminal District Attorney
Collin County

2100 Bloomdale Rd., Ste. 100
McKinney, TX 75071
972-548-4323 — 972-424-1460



JIM SKINNER
SHERIFF

Collin County Sheriff's Office
4300 Community Avenue
McKinney, Texas 75071
972.547.5100 Office
972.547.5303 Fax

sheriffskinner@collincountytx.gov
www.collincountytx.gov/sheriff




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

920 E. Park Blvd., Suite 210 • Plano, Texas 75074
Office: (972) 881-3051
Fax: (972) 881-3098
jpayton@co.collin.tx.us • www.collincountytx.gov



George Flint
Chairman

8416 Stacy Road, Suite 100
McKinney, Texas 75070
(972) 540-5985
george@collincountygop.org



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



PHILLIP HUFFINES
FOR TEXAS SENATE

Putting The People
Of Texas First

www.philliphuffines.com | phillip@philliphuffines.com

PATRIOT MOBILE



Finally, a cell phone company that supports conservative causes, while providing excellent coverage at competitive prices.

Call **877-367-7524** or look us up at **patriotmobile.com** to sign up today or get more information.



Matt Shaheen
County Commissioner
Precinct 1

2300 Bloomdale Rd., Suite 4192 • McKinney, Texas 75071
(972) 548-4676 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4676 • Fax (972) 548-4699
Email: mshaheen@collincountytx.gov
www.mattshaheen.com



Anthony Ricciardelli
for Plano City Council, Place 2

Anthony@AnthonyforPlano.com
www.AnthonyforPlano.com
6009 W. Parker, P.O. Box #149-364
Plano, Texas 75093
972-345-8730

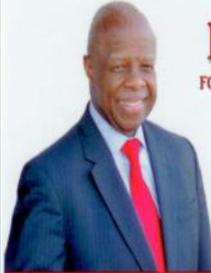
Pol. adv. paid for by Anthony Ricciardelli for Plano, Pat Greer, Treasurer, 6009 W. Parker, #149-364, Plano, TX 75093



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



FRED MOSES
FOR COLLIN COLLEGE TRUSTEE
PLACE 1

(972) 345-1965
FRED@MOSES4TRUSTEE.COM
WWW.MOSES4TRUSTEE.COM

Successful Businessman • Respected Community Leader • Dedicated Volunteer

FEI-FEI CATHERINE FANG, CPA
Certified Public Accountant

方菲菲 會計師
CATHY FANG C.P.A.

6300 Stonewood Dr. Suite 308
Plano, TX 75024

email: fcfang@hotmail.com
Tel: (972) 769-8588
Fax: (972) 769-0788



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
(972) 548-4136 • Metro (972) 424-1460, Ext. 4136 • Fax (972) 547-5731
Email: skemp@collincountytx.gov • www.collincountytx.gov

Keep Texas Red!

The next time you see these sponsors —shake their hand.

September 2017

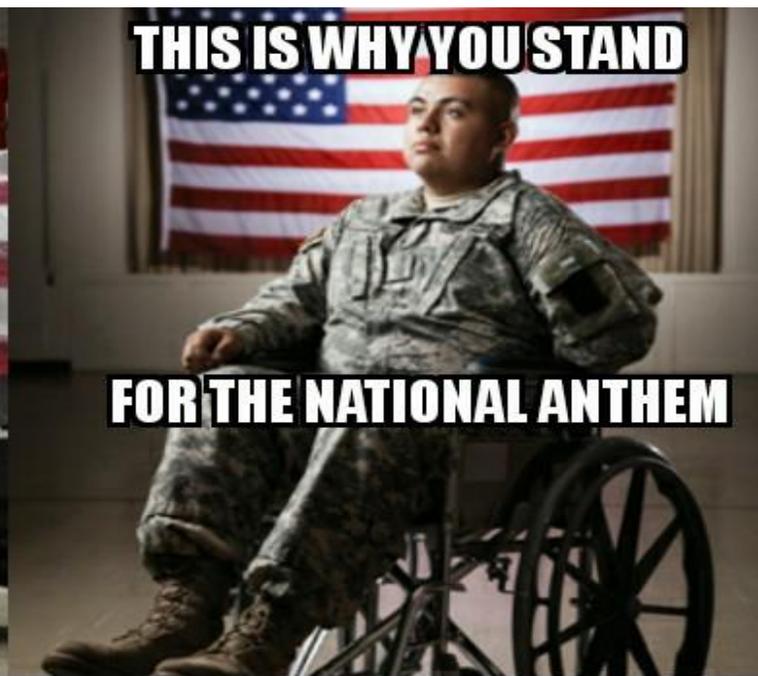
Paid Political Advertising PRW



Judge Chuck Ruckel
Justice Court
Precinct 3, Place 1

920 E. Park Blvd., Suite 220
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.



Officers and Birthdays

PRW OFFICERS for 2017

Denise Midgley, President972-596-8126

Jennifer Groysman, 1st. VP Programs...972-473-7292

Catherine Gibb, 2nd. VP Membership.....972-578-0704

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

Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary972-895-0213

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



October Birthdays

PRW Members

Teresa Sperandeo 10/2

Linda Arquilla 10/6

Diane Freeman 10/7

Debbie Hollingshead 10/8

Denise Voss 10/17

Genny Brunette Allen 10/24

Associate Members & Sponsors

Scott Sanford 10/3

Piper McCraw 10/8

Kay Baird 10/9

Candy Noble 10/10

Sam Johnson 10/11

Joe Cordina 10/12

Dan Wilson 10/18

Derek Baker 10/19

Tom Harrison 10/22

Mark Greer 10/27

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

-Dinesh D'Souza





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