

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

November 2018

President's Byline : *The Election Is Over: Now What??*



November 6, 2018 has passed. Collin County is still **RED**, but we have work to do if we are to remain red and it begins now. We can no longer be complacent and assume that Collin County or Texas will always be a red state. State Representative Jeff Leach, as head of the Victory 2018 Committee, did a fantastic job and Plano Republican Women want to thank him for all of his leadership and hard work. County Chairman George Flint chose wisely when he asked Jeff to take on this role. And Cole Moore, Gabriela Perdichizzi, and Neal Katz, CCRP Executive Director worked tirelessly during the entire election. This is the first time since I have been involved with the CCRP that the candidates and the party truly worked together and it paid off. We have to keep this momentum going and build on it because 2020 will be here before you know it. My thanks to all those members who

volunteered at CCRP Headquarters, block walked, phone banked, etc., not to mention all those envelopes we stuffed for our newly elected Congressman for Congressional District 3, Van Taylor. Congratulations to all our candidates!

Sadly, we were not able to overcome Dallas County votes to keep the Fifth District Court of Appeals in Republican hands. We must work harder in 2020 to keep the remaining Republicans on that court. These are 6-year terms.

Nationally, the Republicans won the Senate 52 to 47 (which includes 2 independents who caucus with the Democrats). There is still one Senate race to be decided: Mississippi. Cyndi Hyde-Smith, Republican, vs Mike Espy, Democrat. This was a special election because Senator, Thad Cochran, resigned and this will complete his 6-year term (he was re-elected in 2014). If Hyde-Smith wins, Republicans will have a 43 to 47 majority. The Democrats, as usual, are playing the race card accusing Hyde-Smith of being a racist and going all the way back to a photo in her high school yearbook to "prove their point." They have also taken a comment she made out of context and deemed it "racist." How this will play out in Mississippi remains to be seen. But as we have all come to know, Democrats don't run on the issues; they like to run on the politics of personal destruction (does anyone remember the Kavanaugh hearings).

The House is back in Democrat hands and it should be interesting to see how this will play out with Nancy Pelosi vs the very left of left crop of Democrat representatives that are coming in led by the infamous and uneducated Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who believes that she will be "inaugurated" in January, that there are three "chambers" of Congress and that the taxpayers should foot the bill for her apartment in Washington because she "can't afford it" since she doesn't get paid for 3 weeks. I have a news flash for you, Alexandria: that is the way the real-world works. When I first went to work for the federal government way back in 1973, I was aware that I wouldn't get paid for 3 weeks and I saved up the money so I could get an apartment in San Jose, California after moving from Jackson, Mississippi. It will be an interesting 2 years watching the House. Will Nancy be elected speaker? Will the House spend the next 2 years trying to impeach Trump? As Betty Davis said in *All about Eve*, "Fasten your seatbelts, it's going to be a bumpy ride!"

I hope each of you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and that you all will be joining us on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 for PRW's Christmas High Tea at 12:30 pm at Reflections on Spring Creek in Plano.

Catherine Gibb

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Calendar of Events

**No Board Meeting
In December**

**December Meeting
December 4th**

Special thanks to Lisa Babb for this months Presidential Trivia .

December Plano Republican Women Meeting



**Plano Republican Women invite
you to join us for
Christmas High Tea:**

DATE: Tuesday, December 4, 2017

TIME: 12:30 p.m.

PLACE: Reflections on Spring Creek, 1901
Spring Creek Parkway, Plano, Texas 7074

COST: \$27.00 (special price for PRW) please mail your check payable to PRW to Catherine Gibb, 4305 Angelina Drive, Plano, Texas. Your payment will be your RSVP as no money will be collected at the event and your check must be received by Friday, November 30, 2018.

For centuries, the English have embraced this delightful tradition. Now you can join us for this unique Christmas experience, creating memories and a new tradition for your holiday season. Christmas High Tea at Reflections is now presented by Executive Chef Jon, known for his masterful tea presentations.

CHRISTMAS HIGH TEA

Christmas High Tea begins with a cupping of seasonal tea choices

Tea is followed by a seasonal Soup du Jour like Butternut Squash, Three Mushroom Coup, Curried Soup, Curried Pumpkin or Shrimp Bisque and a colorful mixed green salad with nuts, Cranberries and hand carved tomato rose

Traditional Holiday English Tea Sandwiches including chicken salad with fresh apple chutney, cucumber dill, smoked salmon with herbed cream cheese and egg salad

Hot Spiced Wassail and fresh Gingerbread from Chef's collection of authentic century old century old recipes, and holiday scones served with lemon curd, jams and clotted cream

Christmas Petit-Fours, and other delectable Christmas cookies.

menu subject to minor changes)

November's Trivia is taken from the book "Presidential Trivia, 3rd Edition" by Richard Lederer, Ph.D. from the chapter "A Primer of Political Words". Dr. Lederer demonstrates that although the classical societies of ancient Greece and Rome have vanished, Greek and Roman thought are very much alive in the parlance of politics.

As the joke goes, the etymology of the word *politics* derives from *poly*, "many," and *tics*, which are blood-sucking parasites. In truth *politics* issues from the Greek word *politias*, "city, citizen."

PRWC - November Program Photos



Thank you Sheriff Skinner, the Deputy Handlers and the K9's of the Sheriff's Department for the demonstration of how effective the K9 unit is. Learning the ways the new Child Exploitation Unit and their zero-tolerance policy regarding child sexual predators is keeping our children safe was very insightful. The details of operation Medusa highlighted the amazing job Sheriff Skinner and his whole team are doing to make our community a safe place to raise our families. Thank them every chance you get!





AMERICANISM REPORT

By Lisa Babb, Americanism Chair

George Washington's Farewell Address

In September 1796, worn out by burdens of the presidency and attacks of political foes, George Washington announced his decision not to seek a third term, and began drafting his final message to his nation. Washington was also mindful of the precedent his conduct set for future presidents, and feared that if he were to die while in office, Americans would view the presidency as a lifetime appointment. Instead, he decided to step down from power, providing the standard of a two-term limit that would eventually be enshrined in the Twenty-Second Amendment to the Constitution.

This was Washington's third attempt at retirement. He first retired in 1759 when he gave up his military career and began the life of a planter at Mount Vernon. This lasted about sixteen years. In December 1783, after nine years away from home as commander in chief of the Continental army, he resigned his commission and returned to Mount Vernon. This retirement, lasted for a little over five years, ending in 1789 when he became the First President. After eight years in the presidency, Washington retired for the last time, in March 1797. Two years and nine months later, at 10:20 pm on December 14th, 1799, George Washington died at Mount Vernon.

The work of several writers is contained in the Farewell Address. James Madison first wrote a draft in 1792 when Washington had contemplated retiring after his first term. Later, retaining only the first few paragraphs of Madison's version, Alexander Hamilton conducted an extensive revision, with Washington providing the final edits. Although the language of the address follows Hamilton's style, the core ideas had been developed by Washington and Hamilton together as the new nation's leading nationalists.

Washington did not publicly deliver his Farewell Address. The address was printed in Philadelphia's *American Daily Advertiser* on September 19, 1796 under the title "*The Address of General Washington To The People of The United States on his declining of the Presidency of the United States*". The work was later named the "Farewell Address". Washington's final manuscript is at The New York Public Library. Designed to inspire and guide future generations, the address also set forth Washington's defense of his administration's record and embodied a classic statement of Federalist doctrine.

In January 1862, with the Constitution endangered by civil war, a thousand citizens of Philadelphia petitioned Congress to commemorate the forthcoming 130th anniversary of George Washington's birth by providing that "*the Farewell Address of Washington be read aloud on the morning of that day in one or the other of the Houses of Congress.*" Both houses agreed and assembled in the House of Representatives' chamber on February 22, 1862, where Secretary of the Senate John W. Forney rendered 'The Farewell Address'. The practice of reading the Farewell Address did not immediately become a tradition. The address was first read in regular legislative sessions of the Senate in 1888 and the House in 1899. (The House continued the practice until 1984.) Since 1893 the Senate has observed Washington's birthday by selecting one of its members to read the Farewell Address. The assignment alternates between members of each political party.

Washington began his 32-page handwritten address by explaining his choice not to seek a third term as president, but his principal concern was for the safety of the eight-year-old Constitution. He revealed that he had hoped to retire prior to the previous election, but refrained due to the "*critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations,*" referring to the escalation of tensions with Great Britain over its war with France. With that crisis passed, though, Washington assured the country that his leadership was no longer needed. The republic would be safe in the hands of a new president. Washington explained, "*choice and prudence invite me to quit the political scene, patriotism does not forbid it.*" Washington then expressed what he hoped could serve as guiding principles for the young country.

Washington stressed the importance of the Union that bonded all Americans together and provided for their freedom and prosperity. He reminded them that the "*independence and liberty*" the nation currently enjoyed was the result of the "*common dangers, sufferings, and successes*" they had experienced together in the American Revolution and early years of the republic. To safeguard their hard-won system of republican government in a federal union, the country had to remain united.

He cautioned against three interrelated dangers that threatened to destroy the Union: regionalism, partisanship, and foreign entanglements. His defense of national unity lay not just in abstract ideals, but also in the pragmatic reality that union brought clear advantages to every region. Union promised "*greater strength, greater resource, [and] proportionately greater security from danger*" than any state or region could enjoy alone. Washington stressed that the "*national Union*" formed the bedrock of "*collective and individual happiness*" for U.S. citizens. As he explained, "*The name of American, which belongs to you, in your national capacity, must always exalt the just pride of Patriotism, more than any appellation derived from local distinctions.*" He emphasized, "*... your union ought to be considered as a main prop of your liberty, and that the love of the one ought to endear to you the preservation of the other.*"

In particular, Washington feared that geographic identities would serve as the foundation for the development of political parties. This process had already begun with the emergence of the New England Federalists and Southern Democratic-Republicans (later the Democratic Party). In the early republic, most condemned parties as divisive, disruptive, and the tools of demagogues seeking power. "Factionalism," as contemporaries called it, encouraged the electorate to vote based on party loyalty rather than the common good. Washington feared that partisanship would lead to a "*spirit of revenge*" in

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The word *primary* descends from the Latin *primus*, "first." *Primary*, as a shortening of "primary election," is first recorded in 1861. In an *election* we "pick out" a candidate who we wish to vote for. In Latin *e* means "out" and *lectus* "pick or choose."



AMERICANISM REPORT

By Lisa Babb, Americanism Chair

Continued from Page 4

which party men would not govern for the good of the people, but only to obtain and maintain their grip on power. As a result, he warned Americans to guard against would-be despots who would use parties as *"potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion."* Washington warned that Parties carried the seeds of the nation's destruction through petty factionalism, citing *"the baneful effects of the Spirit of Party."* To Washington political parties were a deep threat to the health of the nation for they allowed *"a small but artful and enterprising minority"* to *"put in the place of the delegated will of the Nation, the will of a party."*

The greatest danger to the Union, though, stemmed from the combination of factionalism and external invasion. Washington explained that partisanship *"open[ed] the door to foreign influence and corruption"* because it weakened voters' abilities to make reasoned and disinterested choices. *Rather than choosing the best men for office, the people would base decisions on "ill-founded jealousies and false alarms," and so elect those in league with foreign conspirators.* He forcefully declared, *"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence (I conjure you to believe me, fellow-citizens) the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake, since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican government."*

In foreign affairs, although he recognized the necessity of temporary associations for "extraordinary emergencies," he counseled against connections that he warned would inevitably be subversive of America's national interest. Writing as European powers embarked on a long war, each hoping to draw the U.S. to its side, Washington admonished the country *"to steer clear of permanent Alliances."* Foreign nations, he explained, could not be trusted to do anything more than pursue their own interests when entering international treaties. Rather than expect *"real favors from Nation to Nation,"* Washington called for extending foreign *"commercial relations"* that could be mutually beneficial, while maintaining *"as little political connection as possible."*

A key part of Washington's address is his strong support of the importance of religion and morality in promoting private and public happiness and in promoting the political prosperity of the nation. He argues that religious principles promote the protection of property, reputation, and life that are the foundations of justice. *"And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."*

Washington refers to religious principle as the foundation of public morality. He also argues that since the government has been created to enforce the opinion of the people, so the opinion of the people should be informed and knowledgeable. *"It is substantially true that virtue or morality is a necessary spring of popular government. The rule, indeed, extends with more or less force to every species of free government. Who that is a sincere friend to it can look with indifference upon attempts to shake the foundation of the fabric? Promote then, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge. In proportion as the structure of a government gives force to public opinion, it is essential that public opinion should be enlightened."*

Washington concluded his address with some brief musings on his legacy. Given his forty-five years of service, he hoped that his countrymen would view his past mistakes *"with indulgence"* and that history would relegate them *"to oblivion."* He closed by expressing his anticipation of a retirement in which he enjoyed the fruits of the nation's *"mutual cares, labors, and dangers"* over the last several years. That is, *"the benign influence of good laws under a free government."*

George Washington is the greatest Founding Father of our Nation. He personally fought and sacrificed his liberty, health and life in winning our freedoms and he created and bequeathed to us a country where they could always be preserved and exemplified. He left us a blueprint, full of caution and counsel warning of the pitfalls ahead. We have fallen into every trap. We will lose our Republic if we continue to ignore the danger that we face.

Washington's Farewell Address is one of the most important documents in American history and the foundation of the Federalist Party's political doctrine. The Farewell Address is not included here in its entirety, but nevertheless it **must** be read completely in its original form. It endures today as a critical founding document for issues of Union, partisanship, republicanism and nationalism.

https://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/resources/pdf/Washingtons_Farewell_Address.pdf

Campaign is very much a fighting word. The Latin *campus*, "field," is a clue that the first campaigns were conducted on battlefields. A military campaign is a series of operations mounted to achieve a particular wartime objective. A political campaign is an all-out crusade to secure the election of a candidate to office.

When he went to the Forum in Roman times, a candidate for office wore a bleached white toga to symbolize his humility, purity of motive and candor. The original Latin root, *candidatus*, meant "one who wears white," from the belief that white was the color of purity and probity. A white-clad Roman *candidatus* was accompanied by *sectatores*, followers who helped him get votes by bargaining and bribery. The Latin parent verb *candere*, "to shine, to glow," can be recognized in the English words *candid*, *candor*, *candle* and *incandescent*.

November PRWC Meeting



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Democrat Losers: Undignified and Dangerous

By David Catron, November 18, 2018

Hillary Clinton and Al Gore have a lot to answer for.

What do Al Gore, Hillary Clinton, Stacey Abrams, and Bill Nelson have in common? Each asked the voters for important positions of leadership and promptly proved themselves unworthy of those offices when the answer was “No.” It isn’t necessary, of course, to revisit Gore’s reluctant acceptance of reality or Clinton’s querulous hypocrisy. The tawdry details of those episodes are well known. But the long-term harm they wrought on the republic merits consideration. The extent of that damage was clearly demonstrated Friday, when Georgia gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams finally admitted that the laws of mathematics could not be overcome by frivolous lawsuits.

The Friday non-concession speech Abrams inflicted on the citizens of Georgia was easily one of the most disgraceful political performances of the century thus far. She grudgingly acknowledged that Brian Kemp will be the Peach State’s next governor, but went on to accuse him — without evidence — of voter suppression during his tenure as secretary of state. Even worse, her bitter diatribe included a promise to file *additional lawsuits* in order to “pursue accountability in Georgia’s elections and integrity in the process of maintaining our voting rolls.” Abrams pledged to fight mythical “mismanagement of this election and to protect future elections from unconstitutional actions.”

None of these charges have any basis in fact. In reality, the worst “crime” she accused Kemp of committing — the removal of dormant registrations from the voter rolls — has already been ruled constitutional by the Supreme Court. The real problem is no more complicated than the inability of Abrams to garner enough votes to win the election. It was obvious that the Democrat’s bid was a lost cause on Election Day. Kemp’s lead was, as Mark Steyn phrases it, “beyond the margin of lawyer.” But Abrams was still in denial when asked by a Sunday morning talking head, “Is he the legitimate governor-elect of Georgia?” Her response was utterly irresponsible. The *Daily Caller* reports:

The law, as it stands, says that he received an adequate number of votes to become the governor of Georgia. And I acknowledge the law as it stands. I am a lawyer by training and I have taken the constitutional oath to uphold the law.... What you are looking for me to say is that there was no compromise of our democracy and there should be some political compromise in the language I use and that’s not right. What’s not right is saying that something was done properly when it was not.

Sadly, Abrams was not the only Democrat whose weekend “concession” was less than dignified. Sunday, Florida Senator Bill Nelson finally gave in to the facts but insinuated that his loss of the Senate seat he has occupied for 18 years was somehow caused by election malfeasance on the part of his Republican opponent. The Sunshine State’s governor, Rick Scott, emerged victorious from the election and two laborious recounts during which Democrat election officials like Brenda Snipes of Broward County oscillated between illegal manipulation of ballots and breathtaking incompetence. And in the midst of all this chicanery and chaos, Nelson accused *Scott* of skullduggery:

It’s obvious that Scott cannot oversee this process in a fair and impartial way.... And, thus, he should remove himself from any role in the recount process so the people can have confidence in the integrity of the election. Given his efforts to undermine the votes of Floridians, this is the only way that we can ensure that the people’s votes are protected.... The reason he’s doing these things is obvious: He’s worried when all the votes are counted, he’ll lose the election.

Nelson’s Sunday concession began on a more dignified note, and it would have been fine if he had confined his comments to the text of this [Tweet](#). Unfortunately, he included a video wherein he descended into the kind of demagoguery and innuendo that characterized the tirade quoted above: “There’s been a gathering darkness in our politics in recent years. My hope today can be found in the words of John F. Kennedy, who said civility can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future.” He failed to note that the sainted JFK was not averse to a little vote fraud himself.

For Democrats like Nelson, the Kennedy era represents the good old days when Republicans were disinclined to draw attention to Democrat fraud. When, for example, Kennedy “won” the 1960 presidential election with a little extra help from corrupt Illinois and Texas Democrats, the Republican who actually received the most *legitimate* votes refused to contest his loss because it would have undermined voter confidence in the system. That gentleman, his name was Nixon, was by no means perfect. He did, however, understand that some things are more important than winning or losing.

This is more than one can say about Stacey Abrams or Bill Nelson, who would have the voters believe that a malevolent miasma of corruption pervades our polity and is being exploited by Donald Trump and his deplorable supporters to rob us of our “rights.” This irrational worldview can be traced back to Hillary Clinton’s “vast right-wing conspiracy” and Al Gore’s ravings in the aftermath of the 2000 election. It’s the source of the left’s shrill demands that we eliminate the Electoral College, dilute the influence of the Senate, and meddle with the structure of the Supreme Court.

This is the platform of a moribund party awash in dark money yet bereft of genuine ideas for improving the lives of average Americans. And, if gaining power over all three branches of government requires destroying the credibility of our electoral process, the Democrats are for it. Not one called for Abrams to stop accusing Brian Kemp — without evidence — of voter suppression. Not one asked Bill Nelson to stop accusing Rick Scott — without evidence — of meddling with the Florida ballot count. Not one gives a damn about dignity or democracy. All they care about is power — and that is dangerous.

David Catron is a health care consultant and frequent contributor to The American Spectator. You can follow him on Twitter at [@Catronicus](#).

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Legislative Report

SAM JOHNSON JOURNAL: THE FINAL EDITION



To the good folks of the Third District of Texas:

With Christmas fast approaching, I would like to take this time before the holidays to say a few words of gratitude as well as offer a farewell as your Congressman.

As Texans, we are a blessed to live in the *best state* in the *greatest nation in the world*. And I believe we are also uniquely blessed to call the Third District of Texas “home.” We have great schools and a thriving, business-friendly economy, both of which contribute to our cities frequently being named some of the top places to live in the country. But it is the *people* of the Third District who create this successful environment. The close-knit community of this area is what drew my wife, Shirley, and me to move here prior to my second deployment in Vietnam. And when I was shot down during a combat mission in 1966 and taken captive by the North Vietnamese, this community was there for Shirley and our three children. What’s more, when I came home after nearly seven years as a Prisoner of War (POW) in the infamous Hanoi Hilton, the Third District welcomed me back with open arms. I will be eternally grateful to this community for their love and support during that most difficult time, which is why it is one of the highest honors of my life to give back to the Third District by representing you in Washington, D.C.



As some folks may know, the reason I decided to serve in Congress is because of a promise I made while I was a POW. You see, a lot of us POWs weren’t happy with our government. But we made a promise that when we got back, we would stop griping about it. Instead, we would work to fix it.

Looking back, I’m proud to say I kept that promise.

Close to home, I’ve had the privilege of accomplishing a number of important initiatives for our community. One recent highlight for me includes working on water supply issues to ensure North Texas has enough clean water to meet our growing population. It was an uphill battle to get the permit and break ground this spring on the Lower Bois d’Arc Lake – a reservoir that will prevent a predicted water shortage in North Texas – but with hard work, it happened!

Also on the local front, I was honored to work jointly with Congressman Jeb Hensarling to get the Wright Amendment repealed, which unfairly punished consumers flying out of Dallas Love Field. And on behalf of North Texas’ rapidly growing veterans’ population, I was also proud to play a leading role in getting a VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Plano.



As a 29-year Air Force veteran who represents a large, active veteran community, it has also been my privilege to support our servicemen and women – past and present – in Congress. I have voted to ensure our troops have the funding and equipment they need to successfully complete their mission, and I’ve voted to ensure our veterans receive the quality care and support they need when they return home. As a POW, I have also continually worked to see that all American service members who are Missing in Action (MIA) or otherwise unaccounted for are not forgotten. Just this year, the late Senator John McCain and I introduced bipartisan resolutions in the House and Senate calling for an intensified effort to fully account for our MIAs. I’m pleased to say the House passed my resolution unanimously, 411-0.



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Take the political expression “to throw one’s hat in the ring.” The phrase probably derives from the custom of tossing one’s hat into the boxing ring to signal the acceptance of a pugilist’s challenge. Once the hat is thrown, the candidates engage in political infighting and slug it out with their opponents.

Legislative Report

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Because it is important to honor the sacrifices of our veterans and pass along to future generations the truth that “Freedom is not free,” I am proud I was able to get legislation signed into law to create the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial, which opened in 2014. Additional efforts of mine to honor our veterans include getting legislation signed into law to award America’s “Fighter Aces” the Congressional Gold Medal (presented in 2015) as well as legislation signed into law to allow for a Wall of Remembrance to be added to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This Wall would list the names of all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who gave their lives in support of freedom during the Korean War. It would also list the number of all American POWs and MIAs from the Korean War. Notably, this Wall of Remembrance will be entirely privately funded. No taxpayer dollars would be spent on this addition!



Finally, as Chairman of the Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, it has been a top priority of mine to ensure that Social Security is put on a sustainable, long-term path forward so that future generations can rely on this vital program just like seniors do today. I have also worked to address waste, fraud, and abuse in the disability program as well as supported legislation so our teachers, firefighters, and police officers are treated just like all other workers when it comes to Social Security.



One of the accomplishments I am most proud of as Chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee is legislation I had signed into law to prevent identity theft by better protecting Americans’ Social Security Numbers (SSNs). Specifically, this law ends the use of SSNs on Medicare cards. And in case you missed the news, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services started issuing new cards this April!



While there are many legislative victories I was proud to accomplish on behalf of the Third District, I consider local constituent services to be just as important. It has been an honor to serve you in a variety of ways, whether through:

- Annual programs like my Congressional Veterans Commendation (CVC) Ceremony, Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC), Congressional Art Competition, or Valentines for Veterans;
- Outreach programs like the “Badges of Honor” medal event, the “Honor our Stars and Stripes” U.S. flag retirement program, or the U.S. Service Academy nominations program – which allowed me the opportunity to nominate hundreds of students to a service academy; or
- Assistance with federal agencies on issues such as VA or Social Security benefits.

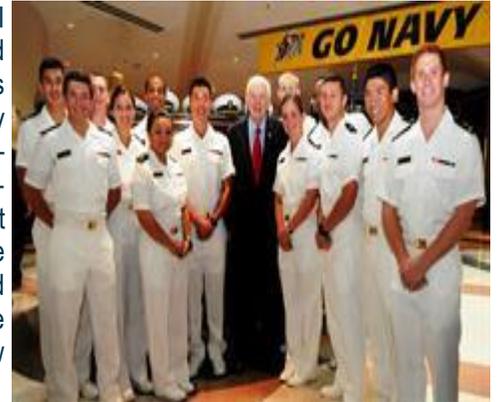


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Before I close, I want to again say how grateful I am to have had the privilege of serving you and our Third District community these past 27 years in Congress. It is my hope and prayer that any legacy I leave behind be one of service. A legacy of service is not something that happens overnight. It is something that is built and fostered. It requires commitment. But one person can make a positive difference in the lives of those around them. So I encourage you to take stock of the talents God has blessed you with and see how you can best serve others.



On that note, I wish you and yours an early Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! I look forward to being home in Texas full-time and seeing you around the Third District.

God bless you, God bless Texas, and God bless America. I salute you all.

Sam Johnson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

We know that candidates are *ambitious*; it's also worth knowing that ambition developed from the Latin *ambitionem*, "a going about," from the going about of candidates for office in ancient Rome.

2 Problems Democrats Face After Election Wins

Cal Thomas, November 9, 2018

We are about to find out whether Democrats meant it when they lamented the loss of civility in Washington.

Having won the majority in the House of Representatives in Tuesday's election, will they cooperate with Republicans and "reach across the aisle," or will they pander to their base, which wants President Donald Trump's blood?

Guess which scenario I'm betting on?

Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., who will likely head the Financial Services Committee, has promised to seek revenge on the banks, which she notes loaned money to people in the '90s so they could buy houses they couldn't afford. When the banks foreclosed, she says, some of her constituents became homeless.

Waters seems to have forgotten that the subprime mortgage crisis began during the Clinton administration. As Investor Business Daily noted in an April 15, 2015, editorial:

The evidence is overwhelming that Clinton was the architect of the financial disaster that wiped out trillions of dollars in household wealth. Under his National Homeownership Strategy, Clinton took more than 100 executive actions to pry bank lending windows wide open.

Through executive order, he marshaled 10 federal agencies under a little-known task force to enforce new 'flexible' mortgage underwriting guidelines to boost low-income and minority homeownership.

Waters also has repeatedly stated she wants the president impeached. She is not alone.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., who will likely chair the House Judiciary Committee, boasted during the campaign of his qualifications to lead impeachment hearings. Nadler has hinted, and a few of his colleagues have done more than hint, that newly installed Justice Brett Kavanaugh should be subject to more investigations over alleged charges that he sexually assaulted women three decades ago.

That is unlikely to happen since one Kavanaugh accuser admitted to lying about being attacked to "grab attention" and there is no corroborating evidence from any of his other accusers, and soon-to-be Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has said she would not push to impeach Kavanaugh.

Democrats have at least two problems.

The first is they have no ideas that will do a better job on the economy and jobs than the Trump administration. "Experts" said it was a pipe dream to think economic growth could exceed 3 percent, as candidate Trump promised during the 2016 campaign. It has.

Former President Barack Obama said some manufacturing jobs were lost forever. Trump promised to bring them back, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported in February 2018 that, over the past year, manufacturing had added 224,000 jobs.

According to an advance estimate by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, real gross domestic product increased 3.5 percent in the third quarter of 2018, down slightly from the 4.2 percent increase in the second quarter.

Democrats' second problem is that they will see the election as a mandate and will be tempted to overreach, as Republicans did after winning a House majority in 1994.

Democrats, however, should be cautious. Many of the seats they won in Republican-leaning districts will be vulnerable in 2020. The question is whether Democrats will be able to resist the hardcore left in their party that wants to pay back Trump for beating Hillary Clinton.

Don't expect much civility in Washington, and don't look for major media—which is as much an arm of the Democratic Party as Fox News is for the Republican Party—to find fault with any demonstration of incivility by any Democrat.

Instead of seizing the moment, Democrats are likely to be seized by the moment.

And what about Trump? Will he tone down his rhetoric, as he suggested in a recent interview that he has already done? Will that make a difference in future Republican prospects?

Between now and the next election gridlock, no comity between the parties is the likely scenario.

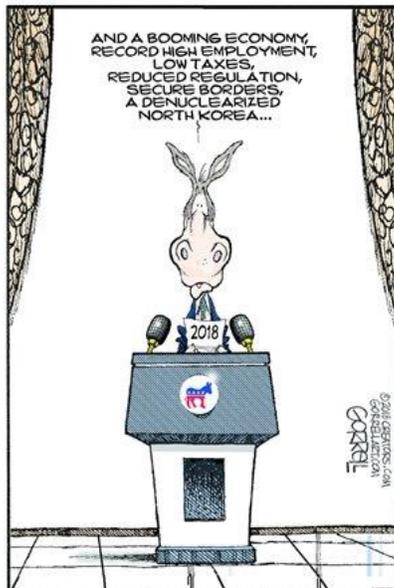
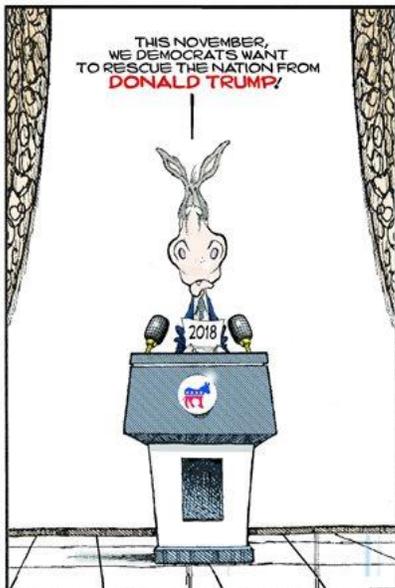
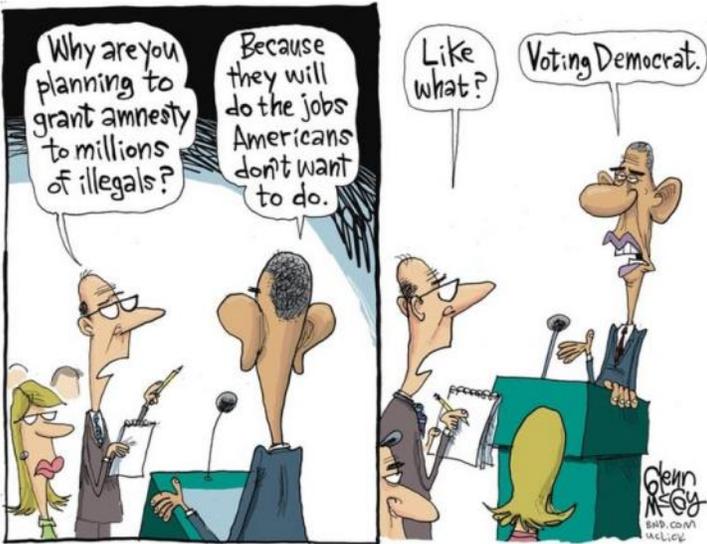
Welcome again to a divided government representing a divided nation.

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Cal Thomas is a syndicated columnist, author, broadcaster, and speaker with access to world leaders, U.S. presidents, celebrities, educators, and countless other notables. He has authored 12 books, including his latest, "What Works: Common Sense Solutions for a Stronger America." Readers can email him at tcaeditors@tribpub.com

Presidents always have running mates. This too is a horse racing term and derives from the practice of one owner or one stable running two horses in a race, the slower one included to pace the star. The pacesetter was known as the star's running mate. The phrase has been around for more than a century, but its use to define a vice president was coined by Woodrow Wilson. At the Democratic Convention in 1912 the presidential nomination went to Wilson on the 46th ballot after a terrific brawl. Governor Wilson of New Jersey announced that his vice presidential choice would be another governor, Thomas Marshall, adding, "And I feel honored by having him as my running mate." Wilson's turn of phrase brought the house down

Political Cartoons



When we speak of "the ship of state," we are being more accurate etymologically than we know. The Greek word *kybema* meant "to direct a ship." The Romans borrowed the word as *guberno*, and ultimately it crossed the English Channel as *governor*, originally a steersman. That's why the noun is *governor* and the adjective *gubernatorial*.

7 of the Most Epic Midterm Elections in American History

By Fred Lucas, November 5, 2018

President Donald Trump isn't on the ballot, but will face the biggest electoral test of his presidency so far during Tuesday's midterm election—one that may well end in repudiation or vindication.

History is not on any president's side in a midterm election. Since 1862, the president's party on average loses 32 House seats and more than two Senate seats in a midterm. And in the 47 midterms since 1826, the president's party lost seats in 41 of them. Several scenarios could play out. The opposition party could gain what President Barack Obama called a "shellacking" when Republicans won 63 House seats in 2010. It could be a rare victory for the president's party—which occurred only three times in the past 100 years: 1934, 1998, and 2002. Another likelihood is somewhere in between, such as in 1962 and 1990, when the president's party suffered only modest losses.

Here's a look at the shellackings, triumphs, and could've-been-worse midterm outcomes that helps put the 2018 contests into perspective.

1. 1826 and the First Blue Wave

The public had a bad taste in its mouth from the deadlocked 1824 presidential election. Because no candidate had a majority of electoral votes, the election went to the House of Representatives.

House Speaker Henry Clay threw his support behind John Quincy Adams in his victory over Andrew Jackson. Jackson and his supporters called it a "corrupt bargain" when Adams named Clay his secretary of state.

New factions were born, replacing the old Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties. Adams, son of the nation's second president, represented the National Republicans; Jackson supporters called themselves Democrats.

Jackson's political forces targeted House members who voted for Adams in the House showdown but whose constituents voted for Jackson—making 1826 a referendum on 1824.

In 1826, Democrats won 113-100 majority in the House and also took a majority in the Senate, which at the time was not directly elected.

2. Republicans' First Victory in 1858

President James Buchanan's Democratic Party was divided over the issue of slavery, even as Buchanan backed the new state of Kansas having a pro-slavery constitution.

This made room for the infant, anti-slavery Republican Party to win a plurality in the House of Representatives—enough to take control.

The American Party and the Whigs had nearly collapsed, but still managed to elect some members in 1858. Although Republicans were four seats shy of a majority, they formed a governing coalition.

This would be the last midterm congressional election before the Civil War. One famous Republican lost that year.

Though U.S. senators were not directly elected at the time, Senate candidates campaigned and state legislative races served as proxy Senate elections.

This was the year when a former one-term House member, Republican Abraham Lincoln, gained national prominence for his failed Senate bid against the incumbent Democrat, Stephen Douglas.

The race gained national attention largely because Douglas was widely presumed to be the Democrats' next presidential nominee, and he was.

Lincoln and Douglas would face one another in a 1860 rematch for the presidency, with a different result.

3. The 1874 Democratic Comeback

After the Civil War, the Democratic Party was identified as the party of the vanquished Confederacy, making it largely a regional party in the South.

To rub it in, Republicans conducted what came to be called the "bloody shirt campaign," reminding voters that maybe not every Democrat was a rebel but every rebel was a Democrat.

Nearly a decade after the end of the war, this blot began to fade as Democratic congressional candidates won even in northern states.

The GOP controlled two-thirds of Congress after Ulysses S. Grant's landslide re-election as president in 1872. The Democrats were so beleaguered that they cross-endorsed Liberal Republican nominee Horace Greeley in 1872 instead of fielding their own candidate. The Liberal Republican Party was a splinter party of Republicans who were unsatisfied with Grant policies.

However, the public was growing frustrated with corruption in the Grant administration and fatigued by Reconstruction in the South. Northerners wondered why federal troops still had to remain in southern states. Making matters worse for Republicans was the Economic Panic of 1873.

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Horses and horse racing are dominant animal metaphors that gallop through political life. One of the earliest of equine metaphors is "dark horse." The figure refers to a political candidate who is nominated unexpectedly, usually as a result of compromise between two factions in a party. American dark horse candidates who became presidents include James Polk in 1844, Franklin Pierce in 1852, Rutherford B. Hayes in 1876, James Garfield in 1880 and Warren G. Harding in 1920.

7 of the Most Epic Midterm Elections in American History

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In the 1874 midterm, Republicans lost an astonishing 96 seats in the House of Representatives as Democrats took 168 seats, Republicans held 108, and independents held 14. Independents won some House races, but Democrats won most. Republicans retained control of the Senate.

After the disputed presidential election of 1876 between Republican Rutherford B. Hayes and Democrat Samuel Tilden, the House majority had enough clout to force a compromise on the deadlocked result and push a Republican administration to end Reconstruction.

4. Republicans' Record Gains of 1894

In 1892, conservative Democrat Grover Cleveland was the first president re-elected to nonconsecutive terms. But that second term included an economic downturn in 1893 and a major coal strike.

Two decades after being trounced in 1874, Republicans more than made up for their losses, winning 116 House seats and five Senate seats. Smithsonian magazine called it "the biggest wipeout on record."

Democrats lost seats in their southern strongholds of Alabama, Texas, Tennessee, and North Carolina when Republican and Populist parties in those states agreed to endorse the same candidate. Two years later, Republican William McKinley would follow up on the momentum to win the presidency.

5. The 1946 Republican Revival

After the Great Depression, the Republicans were basically seen as the party of former President Herbert Hoover, losing routinely to Democrats backing popular President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal initiatives.

After Roosevelt's death in 1945, Vice President Harry Truman seemed like a weak replacement, despite presiding over final victory in World War II.

The postwar economy began to lag, and the Cold War with the Soviet Union became the central issue. Republicans pushed the slogan "Had Enough?" They won 56 House seats and 13 Senate seats. The GOP hadn't held both Houses since 1928.

The new majority proved a good foil for Truman to run against in 1948, as he lambasted the "do nothing" Congress on his way to a surprise victory over Republican Thomas Dewey.

6. 1974 Watergate Babies

The Democrats already had a congressional majority in 1974. But after Republican Richard Nixon resigned the presidency and three months into the presidency of his former vice president, Gerald Ford, the GOP was demolished in Congress.

The combination of Ford's pardoning of Nixon and an energy crisis bolstered Democrats to gain 49 House seats for a two-thirds majority, and to gain four Senate seats.

"In 1974, after Watergate, was one of the big ones," Gary Rose, chairman of the political science department at Sacred Heart University, told The Daily Signal. "There was a distaste for President Nixon, and what the Republicans did with Watergate."

The newly elected Democrats were known as "[Watergate babies](#)." Because many of the new Democrats were northern liberals, it moved the trajectory of the party away from the southern moderates who had held most of committee chairmanships.

7. The Gingrich Revolution of 1994

President Bill Clinton, elected in 1992, was immediately under scrutiny because of scandals such as the one surrounding the Whitewater real estate development in Arkansas.

Clinton raised taxes, but failed to get a health care bill through Congress. He accomplished the acceptance of gays in the military with his "Don't ask, don't tell" policy—not a popular move at the time.

"Clinton took a hit in 1994," Rose said. "The Clinton presidency was adrift in 1994."

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Or take the expression "to carry the torch for someone." During the 19th century, a dedicated follower showed support for a political candidate by carrying a torch in an evening campaign parade. A fellow who carried a torch in such a rally didn't care who knew that he was wholeheartedly behind his candidate. Later the term was applied to someone publicly (and obsessively) in love.

The vote is really a "vow" or "wish." This is the precise meaning of the Latin *votum*.

7 of the Most Epic Midterm Elections in American History

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Continued from Page 14 With this backdrop, Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., and other GOP members introduced the “Contract with America,” which included initiatives to return the country to fiscal responsibility.

For the first time since 1952, Republicans won both houses of Congress, capturing 53 House seats and seven Senate seats. Gingrich became speaker of the House.

Clinton moved decisively to the center after losing Congress, declaring that “the era of big government is over” in his 1996 State of the Union address en route to a re-election victory over Republican nominee Bob Dole that November.

Recent ‘Wave’ Elections

President George W. Bush’s second midterm was far more disappointing than his first, as Democrats recaptured the House and Senate for the first time in 12 years.

Democrats picked up 31 seats in the House to make Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., the first female speaker of the House. In the Senate, Republicans lost six seats; two independents who caucused with Democrats gave the party a 51-vote majority.

Pelosi’s speakership lasted only four years. After Democrat Barack Obama’s victory in the 2008 presidential race, the tea party movement erupted and Republicans recaptured the House, winning 63 seats. Although Democrats held the Senate, Republicans picked up six seats.

“Obama wasn’t loathed, but the tea party movement felt the country was moving in a direction it didn’t want to go, with a big health care bill, expanding the role of government, more spending and in the middle of a recession,” said Rose, of Sacred Heart University. “And, you can’t discount, for some, there was a backlash against the first African-American president.”

Obama won re-election in 2012, but Republicans came back in the 2014 midterm to win nine Senate seats and take the majority. The GOP also won 13 more House seats.

Not So Bad

On three occasions in the last century, a president’s party actually gained seats in Congress. This happened with Democrat Franklin Roosevelt in 1934, Democrat Bill Clinton in 1998, and Republican George W. Bush in 2002.

But some elections are neither a bloodbath nor a victory for the president.

In the 1960 race for president, Democrat John F. Kennedy squeaked by to victory in a close race against Republican Richard Nixon.

Chicanery was widely suspected. But, in time, Kennedy became popular for his handling of the Cuban missile crisis.

In the 1962 midterm elections, Republicans picked up just four seats in the House and three in the Senate. Kennedy still had a Democratic majority when he was assassinated in November 1963 during a political trip to Texas.

In 1988, George H.W. Bush won a landslide victory to succeed fellow Republican Ronald Reagan as president, but it didn’t carry over to the midterms. Still, it wasn’t a horrible outcome, given the history of midterms.

Democrats won eight House seats and just one Senate seat in 1990. This made little difference, as the party already controlled both chambers of Congress.

Fred Lucas is the White House correspondent for The Daily Signal and co-host of "The Right Side of History" podcast. [Send an email to Fred.](#)

One more metaphor that was originally literal attaches to bandwagons, high wagons large enough to hold a band of musicians. Early bandwagons were horse-drawn through the streets in order to publicize an upcoming event. Political candidates would ride a bandwagon through a town, and those who wished to show their support would “hop [or climb] on the bandwagon” and ride with the candidate and his blaring band.

Presidential jockeying for position gets out of the gate earlier and earlier with each campaign. It remains to be seen whether the next presidential contest will turn out to be a runaway or a real horse race. Will a dark horse give a frontrunner a run for his or her money. Will an old warhorse and his running mate, saddled with various problems be shoo-ins or lame ducks?

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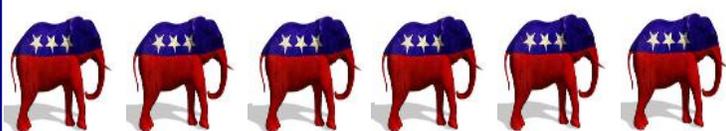
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