



## Newsletter of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County—December 2017

### Finally, Senate to the Rescue on Taxes!

*Let me tell you how it will be  
There's one for you, nineteen for me  
Should five per cent appear too small  
Be thankful I don't take it all  
Cos I'm the taxman, yeah I'm the taxman*

—Beatles song “Taxman” (Revolver album, 1966)

Senators up on the Hill in DC finally came through with a big win for Republicans, and it was not a second too soon, given the fact that most party-base voters were ready to tar and feather the lot of ’em.

Perhaps sensing the mounting frustration over their lack of legislative accomplishment on major portions of President Trump’s agenda, Senators, in the wee hours of Saturday, December 2, 2017, passed a massive tax bill in a straight party-line vote, 51–49, that promises to cut taxes by \$1.4 trillion. Only one Republican, Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, voted against the measure, siding with Democrats in their unanimous opposition. Corker had been in favor of a “trigger” being included with the bill that would have scaled back the proposed tax cuts if the economy did not grow at the rate expected by Republicans, but this was rejected “after the Senate parliamentarian said it likely violated budget rules.”

“This is a big moment for American families and small businesses ready to turn the page on an Obama-era recovery that has been far too sluggish,” commented Sen. John Cornyn of Texas.

The U.S. House of Representatives had passed its own version of the tax package in November, and moved quickly in a 222–192 vote after Saturday’s early morning passage “to go to a conference committee with the Senate” to reconcile the two legislative bodies’ plans.

Obviously, there are differences to be worked out between the House and the Senate, since one chamber could have simply adopted the other chamber’s legislation and quickly sent it to the White House for the President to sign, but opted for the reconciliation process instead.

Here are some major features of the Senate version as reported by Fox News:

#### State and local deductions

The Senate’s tax plan would do away with most state and local tax deductions—meaning taxpayers in high-tax states would lose a write-off. This would impact mostly blue states, such as California and New York.

#### Individual mandate

The Senate’s tax plan includes a repeal of the individual mandate, the ObamaCare requirement for Americans to have health care.

The House bill does not include a repeal of the individual mandate.

Maine’s Collins broke with her party and voted against a skinny repeal of the Obama-era health care earlier this year, but for this vote she was apparently satisfied that certain amendments were included.

The Congressional Budget Office predicted that repealing the mandate could reduce federal deficits by about \$338 billion over the next 10 years. It would also increase the number of uninsured Americans by about 13 million people in that same time span.

#### Corporate tax rate

When it comes to reducing the corporate tax rate, the House and the Senate agree. Both chambers want to see the tax rate lowered to 20 percent from 35 percent—and the Senate bill did just that on Friday night.

However, the Senate measure delays the implementation for one year.

#### Child tax credit

The Senate measure drastically hikes the current per-child tax credit to \$2,000 from \$1,000.

Some Republican Senators, including Marco Rubio of Florida and Mike Lee of Utah, advocated for increasing the

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deduction. Earlier in November, Rubio criticized the House plan for not raising the credit enough.

The House plan would only raise it by \$600.

The progressive Center on Budget and Policy Priorities has criticized the Senate proposal for not helping enough low-income families despite raising the credit. Writers for the think tank argued that many families would be unable to receive the full benefits.

Ivanka Trump, the presidential daughter and adviser, has been largely involved in working with lawmakers on boosting the child tax credit.

### Standard deduction

The Senate bill increases the standard deduction level to \$12,000 for individual filers and \$24,000 for married couples. Standard deduction refers to the deduction of the amount of income Americans are taxed.

Republicans say that provision would be a net benefit for most tax filers.

Tax experts also predict that this provision would drastically decrease the number of taxpayers who would file itemized deductions as some would see a greater savings with this plan.

### Mortgage deduction

The Senate tax reform measure leaves the mortgage deduction pretty much alone, capping it at \$1 million. The Senate Finance Committee said this “incentive for home-ownership provides tax relief to current and aspiring homeowners.”

The House plan, on the other hand, would drastically reduce the cap on the popular deduction to mortgage interest to \$500,000.

### Estate tax

Republicans hope to phase out the so-called estate tax—sometimes referred to as the “death tax” by opponents—with their tax overhaul.

The federal estate tax is a tax on the transfer of property after someone’s death. That property must exceed a certain value amount for the tax to be applicable. Only the wealthiest 0.2 percent of estates owed any estate tax at last count, according to IRS data and the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

The Senate’s bill does not eliminate the tax, but it would double the exemption. On the other hand, the House version would double the exemption to \$11 million for individuals and \$22 million for couples, but would repeal the entire tax after 2023.

### Tax brackets

The Senate bill keeps the current number of personal income tax brackets, seven, though it changes the rates to 10, 12, 22, 24, 32, 35 and 38.5 percent. That last top bracket for the wealthiest earners carries a higher rate of 39.6 percent under current law.

The House bill goes further toward simplifying the tax system. It shrinks the number of brackets from seven to four, with rates of 12, 25, 35 and 39.6 percent.

No one knows what the final bill will look like yet, of course, but passing similar bills in both chambers of Congress clears a major hurdle and greatly enhances the chances for passage of the first major tax legislation in Washington, D.C. since the Reagan era of the 1980s. It also would relieve mounting frustration on the part of GOP voters throughout the country, after watching congressional efforts to repeal and replace ObamaCare earlier this year go up in flames.

—Tom Mullings

### President and Mrs. Trump Return to Palm Beach



President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump returned to Palm Beach on November 21 to spend the Thanksgiving holiday at Mar-a-Lago. They were welcomed at PBI by more than a hundred cheering supporters, who were delighted when the First Couple came over to greet them, pose for selfies, and sign memorabilia.

## Purge The Pervs

By Sid Dinerstein

November 27, 2017

**P**urge The Pervs.” You must admit it’s far more catchier and memorable than the Dems’ new slogan, “A Better Deal.” And clearly the Dems need a strategy that the public can believe in. So now, in the new Harvey Weinstein era, the Dems can finally become a pro woman’s party. This time it will be for real, honestly. This time it’s zero tolerance. And just to prove it, they’re going to say less than complimentary things about the Clintons. What more could anyone ask for?

Senator Gillibrand started it. She called out Bill Clinton. She said he should have resigned during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. Isn’t the Senator brave? Well, actually, no. She’s quite the coward. Every Dem wants to get rid of the Clintons. The Clintons carry more baggage than a freight train. And, besides, the good Senator from New York is running for President in 2020. Distance from the Clintons is essential. But what about the others? Will Senator Gillibrand demand the resignations of Senator Al Franken and Representative John “Underwear” Conyers? Will the Senator demand that James Carville apologize to Paula Jones for his “trailer park” insult? Will she demand that the DNC apologize to Special Prosecutor Ken Starr or whistleblower Linda Tripp? Not exactly, not exactly and not exactly. So what is going on here? The reality is that Senator Gillibrand has not changed her attitude towards female victims. She just figures she can pile on to the expendable Clintons while keeping the more valuable Franken and friends as allies. Not only that, but she can try to eliminate Hillary as a Primary foe knowing that Franken has eliminated himself. The good news for Senator Gillibrand? Her name recognition has never been higher. The bad news? She will never get the nomination from the Democratic Party. Every Clinton supporter sees through this thin veil of ambition. And they will repay this hypocrisy at the Presidential Primary polls.

So Senator Gillibrand is now ahead of the “fallen” Senator Franken. But being smarter than the average Republican, Senator Franken has pretty much guaranteed that he will keep his job. How? By calling for the ineffective Ethics Committee to meet, knowing that ultimately he’ll get a meaningless slap on the wrist. Every Democrat will continue to be silent. And so will most every Republican. They don’t call us the stupid party for nothing.

But the Dems think they’re serious and we’re cynical. So I say: “Take the test.” To truly become the “Purge The Pervs” party, try these: First, give Bill Clinton the Bill Cosby treatment. Get as many VOB’s (Victims Of Bill) as you can find and a team of the smartest lawyers and pierce the Statute of Limitations laws that Bill hides behind. Then

use the parallel civil suits to take away all of his money. No more free passes. And then do the same to the Kennedys. Follow that with a boycott of the *New York Times*, for printing the Gloria Steinem op ed piece, and the *Washington Post*, for hiding JFK’s serial adulterous behavior as President. That will convince the public that the Dems are serious. Anything less is just political expediency. After all, if we can blow up statues of Democrats who were on the wrong side of history one hundred fifty years ago, we can bankrupt media conglomerates who were on the wrong side of history one hundred fifty days ago.



So how did we get here? How did we go from a wink and a nod to a serious scowl when discussing the battle of the sexes; in warp speed, no less? The answer: Donald Trump. In December 2015 Hillary accused Candidate Trump of essentially being a serial womanizer. But Donald Trump is not George Bush, John McCain or Mitt Romney. Donald Trump fights back. He destroyed Hillary’s accusation, narrative and campaign with one single word: Enabler. She was toast. And then there was the second debate where Donald Trump “reunited” Bill Clinton with four VOB’s in front of the whole country; real victims with real lives and real stories. The country could look away no longer. Bill Clinton could no longer be part of polite company. Hillary Clinton could no longer blame the victims.

When the Trump era is over, the historians will battle for decades over what it meant. But, you heard it first here, nobody has done more to empower women, and disempower bullies, than Donald Trump.

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*Sid Dinerstein served as Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County from 2002 to 2012. A leader with a passion for Republican politics, Sid leads by example, motivating teams and uniting diverse groups to achieve a common goal. With a passion for promoting charter schools, Sid was honored by Inlet Grove Community Charter High School earlier this year as “Charter School Advocate.” He authored Adults Only: For Those Who Love Their Country More Than Their Party in 2007, a book that was a finalist for the 2009 Next Generation Indie Book Awards. Sid has been married to Esther since 1967, and they have two daughters, two sons-in-law and two granddaughters.*

## Candidate Tami Donnally

By George Blumel

The Democrats' scramble to replace State Sen. Jeff Clemens—who resigned due to immoral behavior—with State Rep. Lori Berman in District 31 recalls an important political lesson.

Back in the 1970s and early 1980s, I distributed a quarterly newsletter called the TRIM Bulletin, which showed voting records of local Congress members along with the dollar amount each vote cost per citizen.

At a Rotary meeting when Rep. Paul Rogers (D-District 31) was the speaker, a bulletin was placed on each table. The audience noticed that his voting record taken from the *Congressional Record* was not at all like what he claimed in his home district speeches. He was *not* pleased. It became clear to me how powerful a tool a voting record can be in the hands of activists, as most of us are not aware of what our elected representatives are really doing in the swamp.

After the TRIM Bulletin I put that lesson to work in its successor publication, *Voices of the Florida Taxpayer*, via a column titled “By Their Votes Ye Shall Know Them.” Under this title, borrowed from Matthew 7:16, I continued to connect reps to their specific votes.

How else can you effectively evaluate a politician? You cannot count on what they say.

There are many groups that rate Congress according to their voting records but precious few that score the state legislature. In recent years Americans For Prosperity (AFP) took on the chore and it is very useful in evaluating our representatives. The quality of our reps has improved dramatically since we limited their terms in the 1990s, but there will always be those that stray. They're usually called Democrats but there are even a few in our party known as RINOs.

In 2012, AFP-FL released the Five for Florida plan which outlines five policies elected officials can address to encourage free market principles and government accountability to make Florida number one for families, businesses and entrepreneurs. The Five for Florida plan is used to develop legislative priorities on a non-partisan but conser-



Tami Donnally

vative/libertarian a/k/a conservatarian basis. Read more about the plan at [www.FIVEforFLORIDA.com](http://www.FIVEforFLORIDA.com)

Five for Florida is based economic freedom—freedom to choose how to produce, sell and use your own resources, while respecting others' rights to do the same. At its heart, an economically free government has low taxes, limited scope, low government spending, limited government regulations, protections for individual rights, and competition instead of cronyism. States with more economic freedom have higher economic growth, less debt per GDP, and lower unemployment rates than less economically free states.

AFP-FL ratings go from A+ to F. Sen. Clemens earned an “F” for each the past three years. AFP-FL also gives a percentage figure indicating how closely one votes in accordance to their Five For Florida principles. The Senator with the lowest percentage—at 25%—was Sen. Clemens.

An example of how Sen. Clemens earned his “F” is this Conversion Therapy Bill he sponsored ([HB 273](#) / [SB 578](#)) that would make it unlawful for licensed professional counselors and licensed clergy, to counsel youth struggling with their “sexual orientation and/or gender identity” to think and live consistent with their biological gender.

Another bill, Abortion Funding and Abortion Clinic Records [HB 6025](#) / [SB 1114](#) by Sen. Jeff Clemens (D) and his potential replacement Rep. Lori Berman, would have removed a prohibition against taxpayer dollars going to organizations/clinics that perform abortions.

Of course, our Republican majority wouldn't consider those bills. These demonstrate the importance of electing Republicans. Which brings us to the best possible replacement for Clemens: Tami Donnally, our Republican Executive Committee Vice Chair. The Special Election vote to replace Rep. Clemens will be held on April 30, 2018.

Rep. Lori Berman, who is being term-limited out of her seat in the House, has a record that is not much better than Clemens'. AFP-FL gives her F, D, and F for the past three years and a lowly 31% final percentage. See [AFP-FL Score-card](#) for details of Rep. Berman's votes.

While you're there, note the many 100% A+ Republicans. Those of us who know Tami have no doubt she'll be another A+ Republican—see her website:

<https://www.tamidonnally.com/>

Contact to help: <mailto:tamiforstatesenate@gmail.com>

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*George Blumel is a husband, father, grandfather; retired entrepreneur; blogger [www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com](http://www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com); political activist—for freedom with responsibility.*

## *Talking Points:* CNN, Start Telling the Truth!

*By Larry P. Horist*

CNN protests fake news, but they produce as much as anyone. While media bias is rampant, those I dub the Big Seven—CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS, NBC, the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*—are the vanguard of politically deceptive reporting. Those following my commentaries know that I am not a fan of the term “fake news.” There is a difference between making up stories out of whole cloth and using prosecutorial and editorial skills in the selection or elimination (censorship) of information; the prejudicial interpretation (analysis) of facts; claiming opinion is fact; and using grossly lopsided panels of parroting pundits to reinforce the preconceived narratives and conclusions.

CNN’s so-called expert panelists are mostly reporters from the Big Seven media giants being put forward as some sort of experts. Biased reporters interviewing biased reporters rarely produces any new information. It simply serves as an echo chamber that makes CNN’s one voice seem like a chorus. In far too many instances, they are not reporting facts, but merely gossip. The primary product of CNN is not . . . repeat, not . . . news. It is speculation of the worst kind based on wishful thinking.

In recent days, the narrative de jure is that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was about to be fired by President Trump or be quitting out of frustration and policy disagreements with the boss in the Oval Office. The reports were filled with speculative opinions and unnamed sources describing (or misdescribing) the situation in great detail. Not only was Tillerson’s departure imminent, but names of his potential successors were being bandied about by reporters who obviously had no idea what they were talking about.

After days of scurrilous speculation, both the White House and Tillerson put the kibosh on the story, with Tillerson calling the reports “laughable.” This is not the first time the CNN and others spent considerable time and space to advance a bogus story of a rift between Trump and Tillerson—nor are these flights of political fantasy limited to Tillerson.

You need to recall CNN’s speculation that Trump planned to end sanctions on Russia and to return the compound that President Obama had seized from Putin’s spies. After an extended period of speculative criticism of the President, and when it was obvious the reports were wrong, the story slipped out of the headlines like that proverbial thief in the night without so much as a correction of an apology.

Contrary to the media-driven narrative of a palsy walsy relationship between Trump and Putin, Tillerson and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley delivered scathing public statements against Putin. CNN talking heads, in what can only be described as a through-the-looking-glass interpretation, saw that statements as evidence of conflict within the administration even though the strong condemnations were the official words of the Trump administration.

You can also recall all the negative stories about Trump firing Special Counsel Robert Mueller. This was such a favored narrative that it kept popping up like weeds in the

garden. No assurances to the contrary by White House officials or the President himself put an end to these bogus reports. This type of groundless speculation also kept various stories about presidential pardons in the news.

One of the more disturbing characteristics of CNN is Chris Cuomo’s habit of recasting opinion as facts. You can hearken back to CNN’s Cuomo’s claim that voter fraud is nonexistent in America. I put that denial right up there with the late Mayor Richard J. Daley’s claiming that there was no organized crime in Chicago. (Yeah, he really denied it.) Cuomo cited an obscure study (one professor’s opinion) as factual evidence while ignoring the thousands of media reports across the nation over many recent years of actual voter fraud. Cuomo’s embarrassingly ridiculous claim comes close to legitimately earning the appellation “fake news.”

While CNN has blazed a long and wide trail of dubious news narratives based on their preconceived commitment to all things liberal and Democrat, their reporting of the proposed tax reform legislation has them deploying every trick of the trade without regard to honesty, fairness and that anachronistic standard known as journalistic ethics.

They say that the rich gain most because of the corporate tax cut. As I have reported on several occasions, corporations do not pay taxes. Taxes are an expense to the corporation and they pass that on to the consumer—and in that context, they are a regressive tax that impacts hardest on the poorest shoppers. Corporate taxes increase costs of goods and services. Lowering taxes will reduce costs because of competition . . . period.

The left alleges that the trillions of dollars that will be brought back into America from overseas will not create jobs, not be invested in capital equipment (which creates jobs) or provide economic benefits for average citizens. In making this dubious claim, Cuomo and his CNN colleagues serve less like newscasters and more ventriloquist dummies for the Democrat talking points.

They claim the money will mostly be used to give stockholders more money in the form of dividends. In fact, some money may go into dividends, but business growth will mean more hiring and capital purchases.

But, what about that money that flows to stockholders? The Bernie Sanders school of economic socialism and the opinion of CNN’s reporters parading as professional economic analysts give the impression that the word stockholder is synonymous with rich person. In fact, hundreds of millions of middle class Americans are stockholders—if not directly, they are through pension funds and mutual fund investments.



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The extra dividend dollars they receive will be spent on goods and service which will require more workers to provide. CNN and all those other reporters are either clueless as to how the economy works or they are simply lying to promote the obnoxious class warfare narrative of the Democrat Party.

The media claims that the new legislation will result in a tax increase for the middle class – a theoretical increase that is ten years in the future. This tax increase argument is served up by CNN even in the face of statistical evidence that every taxpaying American will have an actual reduction in their taxes immediately.

They claim that in 2028 the middle class will then have a big tax increase. Not only is that pure speculation, but it runs contrary to all likely outcomes in that distant future. It is possible and even more likely that the tax cuts will be extended by a future Congress, maybe even reduced further.

The complaint about the ten-year provision is itself the subject of grossly dishonest reporting. The Cuomo crowd refers to the ten-year termination without explaining that it is required . . . mandatory . . . because of the arcane rules of the Senate. The tax relief does not end because the Republicans want it to end but because to pass the bill by simple majority, they can only extend the tax cut for ten years. With the Democrats playing blocker, there can be no tax relief if it depends on a supermajority vote and Senate Minority Leader Schumer is given the opportunity to filibuster.

The reason for the ten-year limitation has been explained to the media on several occasions that I have seen and read. Yet, the Democrats and the media continue to ignore that FACT in order to leave the impression that the Republicans are willy nilly favoring the rich over the average American. It is their lie and there are sticking to it.

CNN & Co. uses the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis that suggests a \$1.3 addition to the national debt if the Republican tax plan is passed. Even though this two has been explained to the media, CNN continues to offer up the ten-year projection (opinion) of the CBO as another Cuomo fact. The CBO has not been a perfect prognosticator of the future and an accurate ten-year prediction is impossible and irresponsible.

(Seems strange that congressional Democrats should be so exercised over that dubious \$1.3 trillion increase over ten years when they supported Obama-nomics that increased the national debt by \$1.3 trillion PER YEAR.)

CNN refuses to report a significant problem with the CBO projection even though they have been told frequently. It is based on a static analysis. That means it does not take into consideration any changes in the economy over that time. They completely missed the housing bubble caused by the Affordable Housing Act that resulted in the 2008 Great Recession. Their static model failed to foresee the impact of regulations that retarded and prolonged the recovery. You need to recall that President Obama promised that his stimulus plan would have the economy growing at 6 percent in less than a year, and the CBO did not see a problem with that.

In the case of the current tax bill, the CBO's static model does not factor in economic growth. If the economy increases from the current three percent growth to a four

percent growth, that predicted trillion dollars shortfall largely disappears.

For the better part of eight years, the Washington-based liberal economists have seen a two-plus percent economic growth as the new norm. They said more than three percent was unachievable in the short run. Under Trump's pro-jobs, less taxes and few regulation policies, the economy jumped over the 3 percent mark in just a matter of months. Still, CNN continues to report the highly questionable forecast of the CBO as an unquestionable fact.

First prize for the longest running no new news story goes to CNN (on behalf of the class) for the obsessive and excessive coverage or the elusive Russian/Trump collusion narrative. Now let's be honest here. No one—not me, you are any of those palaverers of the Fourth Estate—knows the truth. There has been no concrete evidence of illegal collusion in more than a year of intense investigation by the FBI, the Justice Department, the Congress and now a Special Counsel—only one-sided speculation by the media.

Despite this FACT, CNN has spent thousands of hours of airtime and innumerable column inches creating condemnatory hypotheses and theories that border on outright slander. Even those unconnected meetings between various officials and various Russian characters within and apart from the campaign have been knitted into a series of fact-challenged sinister innuendoes.

Perhaps there was illegal collusion. Perhaps Mueller will uncover it. Perhaps people close to the President—or even the President himself—will be exposed. It is upon these perhapses that the elite east coast media has predicated their biased narrative of illegal conduct. Even if illegal collusion is proven, it provides no justification for the months of dishonest reporting. It would not prove the media to have been correct and responsible, only lucky.

Despite all this evidence, the CNN continues to lead the pack in misinforming the public by sticking to false political narratives in opposition to factual reporting—or at least giving reasonable access to those people who point to FACTS (alternative facts?) CNN purposely omits. To understand the shallowness of news in the so-called news reports, make a mental note of how many times an anchor, reporter or panelist uses the phrase “we don' know” and then goes on a prolonged speculative journey, transforming their ignorance into yet another attack on Trump, Republicans and conservatives—their three favorite targets.

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*Larry Horist writes Tuesday and Friday commentaries for the Punching Bag Post . . . punchingbagpost.com. This article was posted on Wednesday the 6th of December 2017, by Larry Horist, Feature Commentator. **Larry Horist** is a conservative activist with an extensive background in public policy and political issues. Clients of his consulting firm have included such conservative icons as Steve Forbes and Milton Friedman, and he has served as a consultant to the White House under Presidents Nixon and Reagan. He has testified as an expert witness before numerous legislative bodies, including the U. S. Congress and lectured at Harvard University, Northwestern University, Florida Atlantic University, Knox College and Hope College. An award winning debater, his insightful and sometimes controversial commentaries appear frequently on the editorial pages of newspapers across the nation. He can be reached at [lph@thomasandjoyce.com](mailto:lph@thomasandjoyce.com).*

## Jeff Sessions Hints That a Marijuana Crackdown May Be Imminent

By William J. Skinner\*

On February 27, 2017, Virginia Republican 5th District Congressman Tom Garrett introduced legislation aimed at federally decriminalizing marijuana. Garrett is a former prosecutor who says he wants justice. He says he is not pro or con marijuana.

The short title for this legislation is cited as the “Ending Federal Marijuana Prohibition Act of 2017.” If passed, this bill would take marijuana off the federal controlled substances list—joining other industries such as alcohol and tobacco.

Originally introduced by Senator Bernie Sanders in 2015, this bill fulfills a responsibility to create a level playing field across the country.

Upon introduction of this legislation, Rep. Garrett released the following statement:

“I have long believed justice that isn’t blind, isn’t justice. Statistics indicate that minor narcotics crimes disproportionately hurt areas of lower socio-economic status and what I find most troubling is that we continue to keep laws on the books that we do not enforce. Virginia is more than capable of handling its own marijuana policy, as are states such as Colorado or California.”

Garrett went on to say, “this step allows states to determine appropriate medicinal use and allows for industrial hemp growth, something that will provide a major economic boost to agricultural development in Southside Virginia. In the coming weeks, I anticipate introducing legislation aimed at growing the hemp industry in Virginia, something that is long overdue.”

In recent weeks, the Trump administration and Attorney General Jeff Sessions promised to crack down on federal marijuana crimes. During his confirmation, then-Senator Sessions pointed out that if legislators did not like this approach, they should change the laws accordingly. Garrett anticipates bipartisan support as his legislation makes its way to the appropriate committees of jurisdiction.

Hawaii Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard is serving as the lead original cosponsor on this bipartisan legislation. <https://tomgarrett.house.gov/media/press-releases/garrett-introduces-legislation-remove-marijuana-controlled-substances-list> and *Cato Audio* for November 2017 from Cato.org.

We know from visiting Mount Vernon in Virginia that George Washington and all farmers grew hemp, but not to use for smoking or medical purposes. The colonists were required to grow this to make rope for ships. Each colony had to send hemp rope back to England to allow the navy to rule the shipping lanes.

With Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the helm, you can rest assured that marijuana’s march over the next four years is going to be an uphill struggle. During Sessions time in

the Senate, Sessions was regarded as perhaps the most ardent opponent of marijuana. During a drug hearing last April, Sessions was quoted as saying “good people don’t smoke marijuana,” to aptly sum up his views on the substance. Sessions also blamed higher marijuana-related traffic fatalities as a reason not to support pot, and pointed to the lax policies of the Obama administration for creating these problems.

In late October 2017, Sessions was at it again, speaking before the National Association of Attorney’s General. Here are some quotes from his talk:

“My view is that crime does follow drugs. In the 70s and 80s, we saw so many lives destroyed by drug abuse. And I think the drugs today are more powerful, they’re more addictive, and they can destroy even more lives. Young people had their lives destroyed. I, as you know, am dubious about marijuana—as states can pass whatever laws they choose. But, I’m not sure we’re going to be a better, healthier nation if we have marijuana being sold at every corner grocery store. I just don’t think that’s going to be good for us. We’ll have to work our way through that.

Marijuana is a cure for opiate abuse? Give me a break! This is the kind of argument that’s been made out there to just—almost a desperate attempt to defend the harmlessness of marijuana of even its benefits. I doubt that’s true. Maybe science will prove I’m wrong. But at this point in time you and I have a responsibility to use our best judgment, that which we’ve learned over a period of years, and speak truth as best we can. My best view is that we don’t need to be legalizing marijuana.”

Attorney General Jeff Sessions remains no fan of the cannabis industry or its expansion. For more about these developments, see: <https://apnews.com/ad37624fcb8e485a8d57a013d48a227c> and <https://www.fool.com/investing/2017/03/12/jeff-sessions-just-spoke-candidly-about-marijuana.aspx> and <https://www.forbes.com/sites/tomangell/2017/09/20/jeff-sessions-slams-marijuana-legalization-again/#794383bb27d1>

In another Motley Fool article in November 2017, what the Attorney General thought about marijuana was highlighted by repeating the same ideas to a room of fellow attorneys general:

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<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/jeff-sessions-once-again-hints-154100916.html>

Sessions has asked U.S. Attorneys to bring the harshest charges in drug cases as they can. Right now marijuana laws are under review at the Justice Department. Attorney General Jeff Sessions warned that federal laws against marijuana still exist and could be used to crack down on state efforts to legalize the drug.

In a radio interview with Hugh Hewitt on Thursday [October 26, 2017], Sessions was hesitant to say what he and the Trump administration plan to do about states that have legalized marijuana in some way. But he indicated some step in that direction could still be taken.

“I do not believe there’s any argument [that] because a state legalizes marijuana, that the federal law against marijuana is no longer in existence,” Sessions said. “I do believe that the federal laws clearly are in effect in all 50 states and we will do our best to enforce the laws as we are required to do so.”

The use, possession, sale, cultivation and transportation of marijuana is illegal under U.S. federal law, as it is classified as a Schedule I substance. But in 2013, Deputy Attorney General James Cole wrote a memo that said marijuana businesses would not be prosecuted under federal law so long as they comply with state law.

That memo, dubbed the Cole memo, has paved the way for the legalization of marijuana nationwide. Seven states and the District of Columbia have the most expansive recreational marijuana legalization laws, and dozens of other states also have some legalization law.

Hewitt argued that a lot of the states are “simply breaking the law.”

“And a lot of money is being made and banked. One RICO prosecution of one producer and the banks that service them would shut this all down. Is such a prosecution going to happen?” Hewitt said, asking if one major drug operation is coming to “chill all of this.” RICO—Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act—is a federal law that is designed to combat organized crime.

“I don’t know that one prosecution would be quite as effective as that,” Sessions said. “I can’t comment on the existence of an investigation at this time. . . . You’re making a suggestion. I hear it.”

In April, Sessions directed the department’s Task Force on Crime Reduction and Public Safety to re-evaluate the fed-

eral government’s approach to marijuana, among other and justice issues. Though the task force did not agree with Sessions’ tough stance against marijuana, activists are still bracing for some sort of change.

In September, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein said the Justice Department is still reviewing the Cole memo.

“We are reviewing that policy. We haven’t changed it, but we are reviewing it. We’re looking at the states that have legalized or decriminalized marijuana, trying to evaluate what the impact is,” Rosenstein said at an appearance at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

“And I think there is some pretty significant evidence that marijuana turns out to be more harmful than a lot of people anticipated, and it’s more difficult to regulate than I think was contemplated ideally by some of those states.”

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/jeff-sessions-federal-laws-still-exist-in-states-that-legalized-marijuana/article/2638690>

The medical use argument for marijuana is still not meeting prescription drug standards or over-the-counter drug labeling or safety standards. It will require a multimillion dollar fund to research whether marijuana is safe or effective for any medical purpose.

On September 13, 2017, in the midst of these events, Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) introduced the Marijuana Effective Drug Study Act of 2017, or MEDS Act, to improve the process for conducting scientific research on marijuana as a safe and effective medical treatment. In introducing this legislation, Senator Hatch was joined by Senator Schatz (D-HI) and cosponsors Senator Chris Coons (D-DE), Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO), and Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC).

Attorney General Jeff Sessions responded to Sen. Hatch at the Judiciary Committee Hearing on October 17, 2017 stating that a marijuana supply system is working now with a single supplier of marijuana. But there are now 26 applications for permits to grow marijuana for medicinal use. Sessions said any grower has to be supervised by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the DEA and Department of Justice are reviewing these applications. Sessions said he did not think we needed 26 more suppliers. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5-LxXciRmg>

No wonder the Congress cannot pass a repeal of Obamacare or enact tax reform. A large number are concerning themselves with sexual harassment and marijuana. What have we become?

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\*During the years 1965 through 1970, Skinner was Manager of Consumer Protection at SK&F Labs, where he helped others develop many drug abuse education programs and publications to assist in the last public health crisis implicating illegal drug use across the country. Note that in those years the Internet was not available and you would have to spend days in Washington, D.C. to know this much about what is going on.



## Gubernatorial Candidate, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam Comes to Palm Beach County for Breakfast

On November 17, 2017, Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam appeared at the Griddle in Boca Raton for a breakfast reception with Palm Beach County Republican Party leaders and activists. The event, billed as an “Up and Adam Breakfast,” was an attempt to reach out for support to like-minded conservatives in South Florida in the commissioner’s recently-launched campaign to be our next governor, replacing outgoing incumbent Governor Rick Scott. Gov. Scott, who is termed out, is widely expected to run for the Senate seat presently occupied by Democrat Bill Nelson.

Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie welcomed Commissioner Putnam to the city and introduced him to those attending the breakfast meeting.

Although it’s still quite early in the 2018 gubernatorial race, Commissioner Putnam already has to be considered a strong contender. He’s been here many times and is widely respected by Republican voters in Palm Beach County. Part of his appeal is his gifted speaking ability, which was on display for all to see at the morning breakfast in Boca.

In his address, he emphasized his long-held belief, expressed many times on the stump around the state, that if governing leaders “help small business” in their economic policies, “big business will take care of itself.” “Businesses don’t start big, they start small,” he said. “People come to Florida for the weather but stay because of the business climate.”

Another theme he stressed in his talk was that emphasis should be placed on providing “kids with vocational training rather than expecting them all to go to college,” and he has a point that is popular among conservative Republicans. Not all children are cut out for college, and plenty of wonderful, lucrative vocational jobs are needed for those who want to avail themselves of the opportunities.

Current state policy makes it very difficult for nurses and medics coming out of the United States military into civilian life to enter Florida’s workforce without having to jump through hoops, and Commissioner Putnam said that as governor he would seek to end such practices.

Another area of concern for voters that the gubernatorial candidate addressed was in the state’s educational system. With passionate conviction he gave his belief that Florida’s school system “should not come between kids and their parents.” To illustrate, he related a personal story about a child in his own family, the essence of which was that the teachers at the public school in which his son attended were teaching him things, while at the same time, directing him not to tell his parents. Clearly, the commissioner will find fertile ground for support among Republican voters with



hot-button issues like this, since only Democrats would favor such onerous encroachment on authority that obviously should be left to parents of school-age children.

Commissioner Putnam is obviously a great admirer of Rick Scott and what he has done for the state during the past seven years in office, and one interesting fact he gave spoke volumes about the differences between what has been accomplished in recent years in our red state as compared to a blue state in the northeast. New York and Florida have approximately the same size population, but New York’s budget is twice that of Florida!

In addition to Mayor Haynie, other political leaders attending the breakfast included current and former PBC GOP Chairmen Mike Barnett and Tom Sliney, State Committeeman Joe Budd, PBCRP Secretary Cheryl Mullings, PBCRP Executive Director Ryan Hnatiuk, Boca Raton Councilman Jeremy Rogers, GOP parliamentarian David Shiner, and PBC Asian Republicans President John Deng.

Come what may in the 2018 race to be the next governor of the state of Florida, Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, with all his charisma, man-of-the-soil roots and well thought-out positions on issues of concern to voters, will be a formidable candidate with a good chance to go all the way and replace Gov. Rick Scott. Other candidates will, no doubt, throw their hats in the contest for the top spot in the state, but no matter who they are, it seems a certainty that they will find “Putnam Power” to be quite an obstacle to overcome.

## Our First Lady and Christmas at the White House

They've got to be kidding! I'm referring to the Dems' media-darlings, of course, who recently looked us all in the eye and insisted with straight faces that Melania Trump's efforts at decorating the White House for the holidays was a failure. They also castigated her for her choice of clothing at the unveiling as well.

Now, I'm 70 years old, and getting a little on in years, but I ain't dead yet and my eyes haven't completely failed me! I mean no disrespect, but the First Lady of the United States would look good in burlap bag, and anybody who doesn't think so needs to exit the fashion-judging business pronto! As for the Christmas decorations at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. in DC, they are beautiful and tastefully done. Have a look at some of them in the picture below and judge for yourselves.

So this is the kind of style and grace Melania Trump has brought to the people's house in our nation's capital that received so much criticism.

Now let's compare her efforts with those of her predecessor, Michelle Obama. The former First Lady took it upon herself to decide what our kids should eat in public schools. Now as anyone knows, trying to get your kids to eat nutritionally well-balanced meals is a good thing, but only when directed by parents, not the powers that be in Washington, D.C. So that begs the question, how is it that the obvious elegance, style and grace brought to the White House by First Lady Melania Trump engenders so much mindless criticism by the fourth estate, while disturbing attempts by Michelle Obama to mandate from our nation's capital what



Veterans advocates Frank and Andrea Plescia visited the White House earlier this month.

our children should eat in school is ignored? LIBERAL MEDIA BIAS ANYONE!

—Tom Mullings



First Lady Melania Trump at the White House in her "atrocious" dress and surrounded by some of the positively tasteless Christmas decorations she chose, as reported by the mainstream media!

## The New Coalition in the Middle East

*By Alan Bergstein, December 6, 2017*

Thanks to former President Barak Obama's positive relationship with the terrorists ruling Iran and his bungling of the crisis generated by ISIS, the landscape of the Middle East has changed in Israel's favor. This was not exactly what Obama had expected when he gave the green light to the Mullahs to build a nuclear bomb and to continue with their Koran inspired promises to demolish Israel with its first assembled weapon. Iran, in its typical untrustworthy fashion, then focused its nuclear backed hostility toward Egypt and Saudi Arabia as well. Nor did Obama's obstinate refusal to destroy the ISIS threat sit well with the these Muslim countries who view this Islamist terrorist group as a menace to their rule.

Israel sits in a vulnerable geographical position and since its birth nearly 70 years ago, their Arab neighbors were viewed and actually acted as hostile. Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates have now (we hope) seen the light of reality. They seem to understand that they are in the same boat as Israel. They now view Iran as a common threat to their very existence. Arabia, is currently fighting Iranian forces and its surrogates in their southern border with Yemen. And Iran has placed the cross hairs on Mecca and Medina militarily. Forget about Sunni hatred against Shia and vice versa. Muslims have always fought against one another, no matter what sect they belonged to,

for natural resources and most of all, for power. Loyalty is secondary to dominance.

Israel has for years been the unseen protector of Egypt, Jordan and Arabia. Its security forces have protected the leaders of these nations by exposing the threats to their lives and it's been rumored that its clandestine IDF forces have even wiped out those who would have undermined those nations' security. Israel is now involved working with Egypt to eliminate the ISIS forces that have partial control of the Sinai. "The enemy of my enemy is now my friend," is the slogan when it comes to the newly formed alliances against Iran and ISIS in this crazy region. It is hoped that these Arab Muslims finally come to the realization that Israel is the only trustworthy nation in this area of hatred and backstabbing. Perhaps they understand that the Jewish State can be helpful to them in ways other than militarily in the future. Israeli encouragement and modern resources can uplift these third world nations to prosperity by assisting them to utilize the brainpower of their young through modern education so that they can compete in the world of commerce as modern, forward looking and democratic nations. Israel could be the guiding light to them. All they have to do to grow and survive is to face reality and give up their age old Koran inspired hatred of anything Jewish. Perhaps that miracle is in sight. And if so, thank you Barak Obama.

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## Justice Denied

*By Alan Bergstein, December 6, 2017*

Our judicial system was rear ended twice in the past couple of weeks by two mind boggling jury decisions that will surely endanger the future safety and security of all Americans. One case involved the trial of Abu Khattalah, the "on scene commander" of the terrorist attacks in Benghazi that killed four Americans. You recall that incident, the outcome of which was described by Hillary as, "What difference does it make?" A civilian jury in D.C. found Abu "not guilty" on the four murder counts but "guilty" of other minor charges relating to the attack. This guy should have been judged by a military tribunal in Guantanamo where he was being held since 2014 but President Obama and his buddy, Attorney General Eric Holder, made the decision to have him tried stateside by a civilian jury thereby affording this murderer the protection of our Constitution which he did not legally have. Their intent was to treat terrorists as ordinary criminals who rob 7-11's. A gift to all terrorists. Had Donald Trump not won the '16 election, Obama's normal operating procedures that called for all terrorists captured on foreign soil to be read the Miranda statement, given legal counsel paid for with our taxes, tried under our constitutional laws giving their attorneys the right to subpoena secret military policies and have undercover agents tes-

tify in open court, thereby putting their lives at risk would have been continued. We hope that scenario is never repeated.

The second case had a San Francisco jury stunningly acquit an illegal alien of killing Kate Steinle two years ago. Actually, the jury was aided and abetted by that city's lunatic "Sanctuary City Politics" which permitted Jose Inez Garcia Zarate to walk around freely although he was a repeated felon and was deported five times but kept bouncing back into our country with impunity. It was an open and shut case. The problem was that the prosecution in this case was composed of civil servants, district attorneys in the employ of San Francisco who basically "threw the case" in order to remain in the good graces of the city officials who would have the power of promotion or stagnation over their careers. How could they possibly strive to convict this "undocumented hero" of the people of SF and get away with it? In a sense, Kate Steinle did not have a chance of getting justice in that courtroom. The lunatic Sanctuary City policies as practiced today, will result in the murder of our helpless citizens over and over again as long as the Progressives rule over them and offer illegals the right to commit crimes with impunity that make those neighborhoods unlivable.

## Which Party Supported Women's Rights?

By CS Bennett

President Woodrow Wilson (D) is credited, largely by those on the Left, for championing the rights of women. They boast that it was during Wilson's presidency that women's rights were passed. And that is true. Since that time, up to the present, the Left has carried on as if they held the moral high ground on women's rights, as well as civil rights for Blacks. They have successfully portrayed the Republican Party as the oppressors of women, as they were allegedly the oppressors of Blacks, none of which was ever true.

Despite Obama's effort to concoct the fictional Republican "war on women," the reality is that their own history refutes this. It was President Wilson, and the Democrats, who gave lukewarm support for women's suffrage, although Wilson paid lip service to suffragists' demands during political campaigns. This was borne out on the morning of August 28 when Wilson, and his wife, rode out of the White House gates and passed by a massive group of angry protestors.

By now, the suffragists had become increasingly disruptive and brandished anti-World War I slogans on their placards in addition to pleas for the vote. After a violent scuffle that evening, many of the women were arrested and thrown in jail. Some of the jailed suffragists went on a hunger strike and had to be force-fed by their captors.

Wilson, appalled by the hunger strikes and worried about negative publicity, capitulated and finally agreed to a suffrage amendment in January 1918. Two years later, toward the end of Wilson's second presidential term, Congress passed the 19th Amendment, officially giving women the right to vote.

But there is more to this story. What is not told is the Republican Party's role in all of this. GOP's support of women's rights goes back to its founding in 1854. That all-out battle began in 1878, when a California Republican named A.A. Sargent introduced the 19th Amendment, only to see it voted down by a Democrat-controlled Congress. It finally ended four decades later, when the Republicans won landslide victories in the House and the Senate, giving them the power to pass the amendment despite continued oppo-



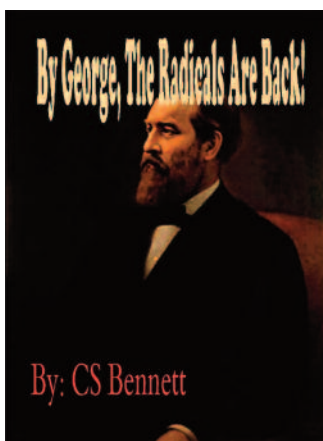
sition from most elected Democrats—including President Woodrow Wilson.

The bottom line is this: for all the talk by the Left about their side possibly losing the moral high ground on the issue of "women's rights," thanks largely to the sex scandals of lately, history has shown that the Democrats never held the high ground in this area, nor in the arena of civil rights when it came to Blacks. Why the Republicans fail to use this knowledge to enlighten those on the left, who are uninformed, is ludicrous and can almost be cited as criminal negligence on their part.

The fact remains, Republican leadership, on whole, are not informed themselves, about their party's proud history. Is it any wonder they never share it with others? We have a major midterm election coming up next year. If anything, we need to use everything we have in our arsenal to defeat the liberals. We have a history of taking the moral high ground in such matters, and we ought to let the nation know that.

In my highly popular book, *By George, The Radicals Are Back!*, I return to present times, historic figures from our glorious past, all who helped to forge this great republic. Returning to Washington, they confront our congressional leaders and educate them on what the Founding Fathers intended for America. I also bring back leaders of the largely forgotten Radical Republicans of the 1860s. These were Republicans who stood toe to toe with the Democrats and stared them down. It was the Radical Republicans who kept the pressure on Lincoln to pass the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments.

If you know a Republican leader who needs to become more fired up, about our U.S. Constitution and our Bill of Rights, this is the book that will enlighten him or her. The leaders I bring back speak with the authority of the same deep convictions they held when they presided over this great republic, in their day. This book is more than a reading experience, it is a profound life-changing experience. . . .



*Curtis S. Bennett is an author, a national conservative talk radio co-host, and a columnist. He is a decorated Gulf War veteran and serves as Vice Chairman of the Putnam County Republican Executive Committee.*

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

Judeo-Christian Republican Club Welcomes Allen West

Dear Friends,

What a great morning to wake up to after last night's great event. The Judeo-Christian Republican Club of Palm Beach County commemorated Pearl Harbor Day, and as well celebrated this nation's history and freedoms with our beloved guest, Allen West. With a packed auditorium of nearly 400, we opened with 35 veterans, led by WWII Navy vet, Mort Kuff, who packed on the stage, pledging to the flag. Florence Teich, with her Broadway experience, belted out the Star Spangled Banner, followed by WWII submariner Steve Laine, with our traditional prayer. We are a group loyal to G-d and Country.

Allen gave us his straight-from-the-hip views on the move of our Embassy to Jerusalem and the need to drain the D.C. swamp of its dangerous inhabitants, both Democrat and Republican. His talk, flavored with humor and insight into every area—be it taxes, the poor education of our

youth, elections, both Biblical and American history—gave us an opportunity to see daylight through the haze of the corruption, criminality and the contamination of our political system.

To have missed Allen's chat with us was to have lost the opportunity to hear one of America's outstanding leaders at his best. We hope he can bless us with his presence in the future. We wish him health and success and perhaps a Presidential Cabinet office where he truly belongs. We thank Allen West for blessing us with his visit. We have no greater friend than he.

—Alan Bergstein
President, Judeo-Christian Republican Club
December 8, 2017



Drawing done by Mort Kuff, part of a framed tribute presented to the area's former Congressman Allen West at the meeting of the Judeo-Christian Republican Club on December 7.



## News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

### Congressman Brian Mast Visits the November Veteran's Event of the Republican Club of the Palm Beaches

*By Fred Scheibl, November 19, 2017*

In our annual salute to veterans, of which there are quite a few among the club members, Army Veteran and Congressman Brian Mast recapped his first year in the House representing CD18.

Brian was introduced by Sid Dinerstein, who pointed out that although Brian's seat has been targeted by the national Democrats mainly because of the narrow (R+4) district demographics, with popular State Attorney Dave Aronberg likely sitting it out the seat is not that much at risk if we all give Brian our support.

Club President Fran Hancock echoed that theme, pointing out that although some club members live outside the district, Brian is still "our" Congressman since he is the only Republican representing any district in Palm Beach County. As such, we should give him our support, our time and our money as he runs for re-election in 2018.

Brian's remarks addressed some of the questions he was asked before the meeting got started.

A common question was "is Washington really as awful as it sounds?" The answer is somewhat mixed. One of his pet peeves about many of those that inhabit that swamp is the total disingenuousness of his colleagues. It is hard to fathom how someone can call you vile names while in front of the cameras, then come by later and act as if they are your friend seeking support for their pet legislation. Not the way real people behave.

Brian was hopeful for passage of tax reform this year, and he was one of the needed votes for it to pass the House this past Thursday. What will happen in the Senate (where hundreds of bills have gone to die) is anybody's guess, but the House has done their part. The House bill will be good for people in district 18—statistics indicate that currently only 30% itemize, and the new standard deduction will drop



that to 5–10 percent. What the left is spinning about tax cuts only for the rich is very misleading. Pointing out that the amount of taxes that are levied in each bracket is declining for all earners, tax reduction is real.

He spoke of his work on VA Legislation, and the fact that through his efforts, he now has a Congressional Office right in the West Palm Beach Medical Center. He encouraged veterans with problems with the system to drop by his office and seek his assistance. He also hoped that other representatives throughout the country choose to do the same and get offices at their local VA hospitals.

In the Q&A session that followed, he was asked what we could do to help. "Bring your friends to the townhalls" he said. That is the way to create new activists when they witness the rhetoric on the left and how he stands up to it.

At the conclusion of the meeting, members voted on the slate of officers for 2018 who will be installed at the December 6 lunch featuring Dimensional Harmony. They are President Fran Hancock, Vice President Fred Scheibl, Secretary Claire Anderson Jones, and Treasurer Bette Anne Starkey.

### The Republican Federated Women of South Florida Honored Veterans at their November Meeting

The Republican Federated Women of South Florida honored veterans at their November 16 meeting at the Boca Country Club. Guest speaker **Col. Arthur DeRuve** (U.S. Army, ret.) delivered a brief history of American armed forces since the founding of our nation. Veterans in attendance were called to the front and singled out for special praise for serving our nation. Pictured are (left to right): Tony McAlister, Arthur de Ruve, Celeste Ellich, Andrew Lloyd von Gelt, Aan Bergstein, Tony diPerna, Tom Mullings, Howard Behren, and Steve Laine. For information about the club, please contact Rosemary O'Mara at [rosemaryo625@aol.com](mailto:rosemaryo625@aol.com).



**Letters**

**What a Blessing!**

In this period of the year we can reflect more than usual. And what has been coming through loud and clear is HOW BLESSED WE ARE to have the RPOF leadership that Michael Barnett demonstrates. The many groups with such OUTSTANDING offerings for growing the circle of Americans who want to see America benefitting from the Big Agenda sooner rather than later—and perhaps never if not for the leadership of Michael and his superb team.

Each month’s newsletter lists outstanding offerings for the fortunate folk who get this newsletter. So in this issue I recommend highly passing on the newsletter to many who are not Republicans—and not ever before interested in mak-

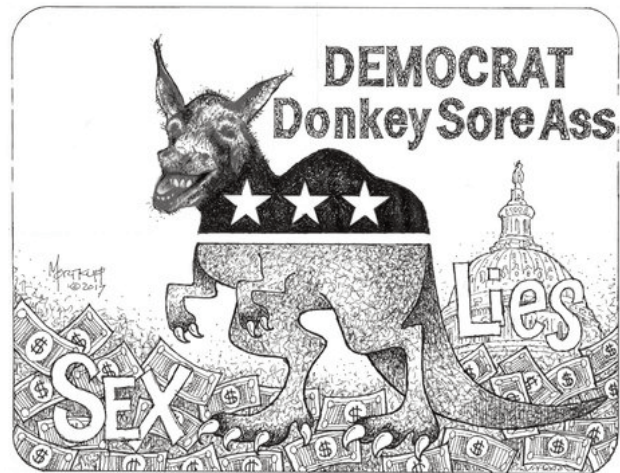
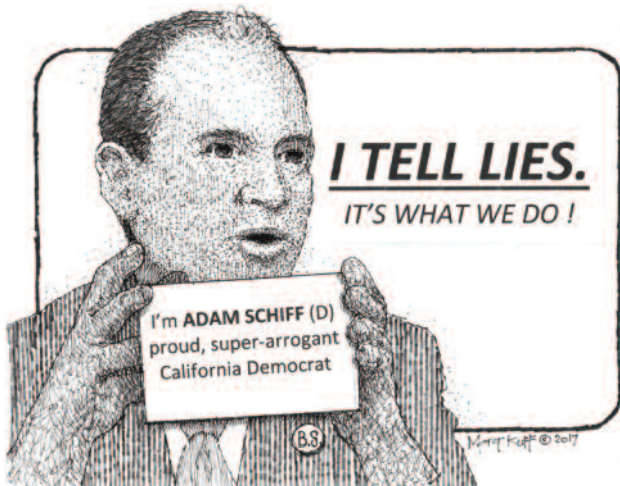
ing America better or stronger. Most are interested now because of the thrilling leadership at work.

So get registered as desiring to attend the events and pass the newsletter on. Many would travel long distances for the opportunities to hear the presentations and engage in the activities. Growing the RPOF is key to winning in 2018. Michael has opened the doors wide for growing the party and winning big in '18 and '20.

God bless those who are doing the great organizing of the splendid monthly programs for the various groups /part of the RPOF. God bless you and keep up the great work.

—Annie and Tom Otto  
Gainesville, FL

**Mort’s Meanderings**



**MORT KUFF**

Artist, Journalist, Photographer—MORT contributes to our newsletter from his MORTZART STUDIO in Boynton Beach. We never know what he will be sending but, for sure it will be humorous or—sharply political or—simply something to make you scratch your head.

We invite your comments; MORT says, “Bring it on.”

**Book Review**

***God, Locke, and Liberty: The Struggle for Religious Freedom in the West*, by Joseph Loconte. (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014). Softcover, 261 pp.**

The author of *God, Locke, and Liberty*, John Loconte, is associate professor of history at The King’s College in New York City. His book, published in 2014, is timely, coming during an era of religious ferment in which radical, totalitarian, Islamist zealots are trying to impose their religious beliefs on all of mankind.

John Locke himself was born at a time of religious zealotry when intolerance ruled the body politic of the world in which he lived. In one of his most famous tracts, *A Letter Concerning Toleration, 1689*, he said, “No peace and security, no, not so much as common friendship, can ever be established or preserved amongst men, as long as this opinion prevails . . . that religion is to be propagated by force of arms.”

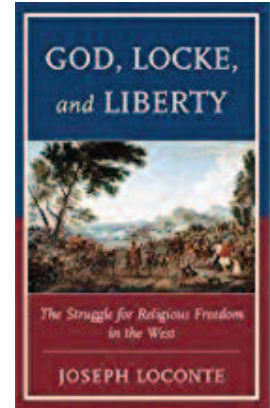
Political philosopher John Locke was a foundational giant in the edifice of American liberty. Jefferson and most of the Founding Fathers of our Republic revered him, and his ideas are incorporated into the Constitution of the United States. As Mr. Loconte says in his book, with regard to much of “the Arab and Muslim worlds, sectarian zeal may help to topple dictatorships, but it appears less effective at writing constitutions that safeguard individual liberties.” Just like in Locke’s time, “violence instigated by religious belief continues to disrupt the social order and undermine political regimes.” Christianity was in need of reform at one time and it got it, thanks to “the Enlightenment and its secularizing forces [that] solved the political-religious problem.” Men like John Locke, with his belief in the need for

toleration, helped show the way into the future, and the world of Islam today is in dire need of the same kind of enlightened reform. Locke’s *Letter of Toleration* “ranks as the most important defense of religious liberty in the Western tradition. Like no thinker before him, [he] imagine[d] a more generous approach to Christian faith—modeled on the teaching and example of Jesus—could help construct a common citizenship for people of all faiths.”

At the heart of John Locke’s philosophy was a basic understanding of what was at the root of intolerant religious zealots of his age and ours as well—“a lust for power.” The lessons he teaches in his writings are timeless; such as “legitimate political authority is rooted in the consent of the governed.” His thinking represented an “admixture of liberal political theory with a reinterpretation of gospel morality: A political doctrine of consent supported by a theology of divine mercy and human agency.”

*Two Treatises on Government* is the most famous of Locke’s writings dealing with ideas such as “natural rights,” but Mr. Loconte’s concentration on his less researched *A Letter Concerning Toleration* takes the scholarly study of this great thinker in a welcomed new direction. I would recommend not only *God, Locke and Liberty*, but Locke’s *Letter* as well to all who seek greater understanding of our Republic’s founding.

—Tom Mullings



RICK SCOTT

**RICK SCOTT.**

I first became aware of Rick Scott when I listened to him speak at one of the events on the campaign trail, in his successful quest to become Governor of Florida. I was impressed by his direct, sincere manner. No cut & paste politics. He wasn't talking about Rick Scott; he was talking about his dedication to developing the best possible future for the State of Florida.

From the moment he swore the oath as Governor, he has proven to be the Energizer Bunny in promoting jobs for Floridians by bringing new industry and business to this State. And he hasn't slowed down in this effort, not even slightly.

His round-the-clock display of exceptional leadership during the disastrous Hurricane Irma was an unparalleled tour de force that launched him to the forefront of the nation's Governors.

I enjoyed doing this pen-portrait of a shipmate who served as I did, in the U. S. Navy.

MORT KUFF © 2017



## Book Review

***The Soul of the First Amendment*, by Floyd Abrams. (Yale University Press, 2017), ISBN: 978-0-300-19088-5.**

The author, Floyd Abrams, is a lawyer who has specialized in constitutional law, especially the First Amendment. A graduate of Cornell University and Yale Law School, he was 81 years old last July and is still working at Cahill Gordon & Reindel. Known for several First Amendment cases, he litigated the Pentagon Papers case and participated in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* as counsel to Senator Mitch McConnell, just to name a couple of well-known cases. He has taught as a visiting lecturer at Yale and Columbia Law Schools. The book with index is only 145 pages divided in six parts. It reads like a friendly conversation with an experienced lawyer.

*Citizens United*<sup>1</sup> was the case in which the U.S. Supreme Court on January 21, 2010, ruled (5–4) that laws preventing corporations and unions from using general treasury funds for independent electioneering communications violate the First Amendment’s guarantee of freedom of speech. Abrams is still following the case, as proven by his opinion editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* on October 17, 2017 showing the top 20 donors to super PACs in 2015–2016 citing the Center for Responsive Politics for the amounts contributed. But I digress.

The book index covers proper names and case names, but no volume and page court citations, which is a plus and minus for different reasons. This is one reason I describe the book as a conversation. If you know all of the cases inside out, you can easily follow the conversation. I give you a few citations to whet your appetite for more. But if you have never read the cases or read them too long ago to remember details, you will need to do some research.

If one describes the “soul” of the First Amendment as the nexus or beginnings of the idea, James Madison, when he was finally persuaded that there must be a Bill of Rights in order to get votes for the adoption of the Constitution, note that he submitted his first draft of the First Amendment to the House stating, “The people shall not be deprived or abridged of their right to speak, to write, or to publish their sentiments; and the freedom of the press, as one of the great bulwarks of liberty, shall be inviolable” (p. 9). But the writers decided to start the First Amendment with “Congress shall make no law. . . .” Thus, the Supreme Court has always held that the First Amendment only applies to governmental suppression, not to private suppression.

Abrams says, “The strict limits on governmental authority over religion, speech, and press was the central purpose of the First Amendment. It is what the First Amendment is about” (p. 11). Following this, Abrams quotes how Justices have described the meaning from early to more modern times. But arguments against this interpretation are begin-

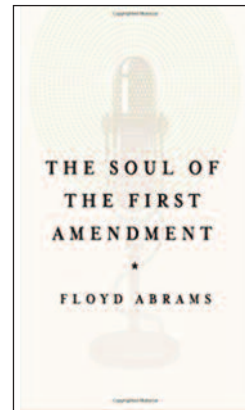
ning to arise. In *Hill v. Colorado* (2010),<sup>2</sup> the Court in a 6–3 decision upheld the constitutionality of a statute prohibiting a person from “knowingly approach” within 8 feet another person, without her consent, to engage in “oral protest, education, or counseling.” The Court based this on what the Court characterized as the “privacy interest in avoiding unwanted communication” or what Justice Brandeis has called the “right to be let alone.” Justices Scalia and Thomas pointed out in the dissent that Colorado did not even make this argument in the case. However, a unanimous vote in *McCullen v. Coakley*<sup>3</sup> in 2014 overruled *Hill v. Colorado*. Sources of these new liberal interpretations of the Constitution are discussed in Part I.

In Part II, Abrams asks what if the First Amendment had not been included. He lists cases on multiple issues. Abrams asks, “What if the First Amendment has been phrased differently?” and he gives some responses based on decisions in other countries, naming Eritrea, North Korea, Canada, Belgium, England, Poland, German, India, and others all of which consider other reasons not to allow certain speech. Abrams seems to say that given what is going on elsewhere, Americans ought to be glad the Founders adopted the language they did, but he adds the future will present more opportunities for argument about why the Founders were wrong.

Abrams explains on p. 43 that “An apt comparison is the American reaction to a spate of incendiary assertions by Donald Trump in the course of his campaign for the presidency, ranging from denunciations of Mexicans (‘They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.’) to repeated proposals to bar all Muslims from entering the United States for an unspecified time period. There was much criticism of those incendiary and inherently racist statements. But it was never suggested that such language was or could have been deemed criminal in the United States, as it could well have been in many European nations.”

Readers might want to consider the current NFL players’ protests during the National Anthem and what all of these other countries’ constitutions, laws and legal practices would allow.

Part III starts off pointing out that American courts followed English court law on obscenity as set forth in *Regina v. Hicklin* decided in 1868. The U.S. Supreme Court had not cited the First Amendment in an obscenity case until 1957,



*Book Review—continued from previous page*

when it rejected *Hicklin* on the ground that its test “might well encompass materials legitimately addressing sexual behavior,” Abrams says. Lawsuits concerning sex are still with us.

Rejection of English cases governing expression on First Amendment grounds began in 1941 when the Supreme Court rejected the 1907 case pertaining to Denver having home rule by amending the Colorado constitution, *Patterson v. Colorado*. Abrams cites the Wake Forest Law School professor Michael Kent Curtis as summarizing the case as “a stolen election in which the state supreme court functioned as an accessory.” The case was centered on a Denver newspaper editorial by Thomas Patterson. The Colorado Supreme Court held Patterson in contempt for saying that the Colorado Supreme Court found home rule government so “unrepublican” that it cannot be tolerated in Colorado. Today, Colorado is not so Republican.

When the case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote the opinion that said truth was irrelevant. What mattered was the First Amendment existed to protect against prior restraint of speech, not to the punishment that may be given for the speech. By 1941, Holmes was no longer on the court and may have even changed his mind about the final decision.

In *Bridges v. California*<sup>4</sup> the highest court rejected *Patterson* and the English law in a 5–4 decision written by Justice Hugo Black. The English case law had no application as “No purpose in ratifying the Bill of Rights was clearer than that of securing for the people of the United States much greater freedom of religion, expression, assembly, and petition than the people of Great Britain had ever enjoyed.” Justice Frankfurter wrote the dissent extolling the virtues of English law. This marked the expansion of American First Amendment law.

In Part IV, Abrams discusses how Europe now allows countries in the EU to suppress truthful information in support of the “right to be forgotten” which is information now determined to be “inadequate, irrelevant, or no longer relevant.” Europe uses a different definition for hate speech than we do in the U.S., which accounts for President Trump misunderstanding an issue he recently tweeted about, caus-

ing Mrs. May to be upset. And there is more here you need to understand in this category.

In Part V, use of money to participate in the political process is reviewed. Abrams points out that some of the political ads we use in the U.S. can be charged as crimes. The executive director of an anti-abortion organization was convicted twice of such a violation and then again, convicted for spending \$7.00 (seven dollars) in his third conviction. This got the perpetrator the opportunity to appeal to the European Court of Human Rights which held these convictions were okay as they helped assure equality between candidates. There are many other cases discussed in the next 33 pages.

Part VI has 24 pages of discussion of cases and considerations dealing with the question of when and what can be published. The Pentagon Papers case<sup>5</sup> (the papers were 3,000 pages of text and 4,000 pages of documents) starts this section. It is about a Top Secret study of the Vietnam War done for Defense Secretary McNamara. Dan Ellsberg leaked it to the *New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. Each paper had to decide what and whether to print any of it. This part of the discussion is necessary to understand the rights of newspapers and the duty of government to protect secret documents. The cases of Edward Snowden and Julian Assange are also discussed.

All of this is background for understanding what the courts might do in cases dealing with crimes concerning the violation of statutes designed to protect our secrets today. The book demonstrates how the Founders anticipated some of these issues that the courts are now handling. We should be pleased that we have a long-lasting Constitution that still guides us to keep the power of government in the hands of the people and out of the hands of kings, supreme leaders, dictators, strong men, prophets, leakers, and mullahs.

—William J. Skinner

#### Notes

1. 558 U.S. 310 (2010)
2. 530 U.S. 703 (2000)
3. 134 S. Ct. 2518 (2014)
4. 314 U.S. 252 (1941)
5. *New York Times Co. v. United States*, (*per curiam*) 403 U.S. 713 (1971)

## Editor's Postscript

### Special Counsel Mueller's Investigation of Trump/Russian Collusion Needs to be Shut Down Now!

*By Tom Mullings*

Mounting revelations of rampant partisanship and wrongdoing have made it abundantly clear that the seven-month-old Robert Mueller investigation of Trump/Russian collusion should be shut down immediately. These people are out to get the President any way they can and the corrupt liberal bias of Mueller and his never-Trumper crusaders has become more than a little obvious. Consider the following:

According to an email released by Judicial Watch, Mueller's top "pit bull," Andrew Weisman, gushed to former acting Attorney General Sally Yates that "I was so proud of you. And in awe. Thank you so much. All my deepest respect," for refusing to defend President Trump's travel ban order back in January. This travel ban of targeted nations was obviously within the President's constitutional prerogatives, as approved by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 7-2 decision this week.

Mounting evidence reveals Mueller to be as much a disgrace and Democrat partisan hack as his buddy James Comey was. Mueller was appointed Special Counsel by Rod Rosenstein after AG Jeff Sessions recused himself in the Russian probe. This came after both Sessions and Rosenstein advised the President to fire FBI Director Comey over his inappropriate actions during the 2016 Hillary Clinton email investigations. By the way, Mueller and Comey have been very close for years and have been referred to as "brothers in arms."

Mueller's conflict of interest extends back years. During the Obama Administration he did nothing while the sale of 20 percent of America's uranium deposits to Russia was approved by Hillary Clinton and others. Bill and Hillary made millions during this UraniumOne scandal that surrendered much of our country's A-bomb making material to Russian control, and the FBI had "serious evidence of Russ-

ian bribery linked to the UraniumOne sale, as well as a confidential informant who was providing proof of the illicit deal," but Mueller did nothing about it.

At least 9 of the 16 lawyers that Mueller appointed to his investigation donated to Democrats, but not one of the 16 donated to the Trump campaign or any of the other Republican candidates seeking the presidency!

Then there's Peter Strzok, reportedly a member of Mueller's team of so-called high-integrity, unbiased investigators who signed the document that started the entire Russian probe. This guy is a card-carrying Clinton supporter and never-Trumper who seems to have had a hand in everything. He oversaw the FBI interview with Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn. He was fired by Mueller last summer for sending "anti-Trump text messages" to his FBI-lawyer girlfriend, Lisa Page, who—surprise, surprise—was also on Mueller's non-partisan team before leaving!! In addition, Strzok participated in the interview with Hillary Clinton during her email investigation, in which she was not put under oath and the interview was not recorded!! This guy was also present for interviews with top Clinton aides Huma Abedin and Cheryl Mills, in which they claimed they didn't know about her private server. Later emails showed that they were lying. So why were they spared the charge of lying to the FBI while Gen. Flynn was charged?

Strzok was also the man responsible for changing the language in James Comey's extraordinary memo exonerating Hillary, from "grossly negligent" to "extreme carelessness" which let her off the legal hook! As has been confirmed, the exoneration was written before the investigation was concluded! So the fix was in!! Hillary and company were being shielded from prosecution and Peter Strzok's role is now being reviewed by the Office of the Inspector General!!

"Strzok's involvement" at the heart of this sorry tale of injustice "extends to the anti-Trump, fake-news, Russian propaganda dossier that used current and former Russian government sources to smear then-candidate Trump with salacious lies, influence the election, and mislead the Amer-



*Special Counsel Mueller—continued on next page*

*Special Counsel Mueller—continued from previous page*

ican people with all this Trump/Russian fusion, collusion, delusion nonsense. That contrived dossier was “bought and paid for” by Hillary Clinton and the DNC, that former DNC Chair Donna Brazille has recently said she was running.

Last but not least, according to press reports, “Strzok is the key figure in the FISA surveillance of a Trump associate on the campaign!

Some high-minded, non-partisan, truth-seeking investigation that Mueller and his gang are running at our expense. So far it’s cost taxpayers a cool \$7 million.

Meanwhile the merchants of fake news keep up their dishonest propaganda. “Trump’s Russia defense in disarray,” screamed the CNN website headline yesterday, when in fact it’s Mueller’s bogus investigation that is imploding. Early

on, President Trump called this investigation a “witch-hunt.” Given what we are learning about the people running it, it’s impossible to characterize it any other way. Mueller and his gang should be put out of business ASAP and Sessions should un-recuse himself and appoint a new Special Prosecutor to investigate the investigators themselves, including high FBI officials, former Obama officials, Hillary Clinton, and her campaign team. This farcical “stealth coup” from the left has gone on long enough.

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*Tom Mullings is a decorated Army infantry combat veteran of the Vietnam War, who served as a scout dog handler with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He was one of the three original incorporators of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, and is a long-time Republican Executive Committeeman from precinct 5154 in Palm Beach County.*



Patriotic decorations done with painted Florida shells. Photo submitted by Charlene Reiff.



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- Tami Donnally, Vice Chair**
- Cheryl Mullings, Secretary**
- Jane Pike, Treasurer**
- Joe Budd, State Committeeman**
- Cindy Tindell, State Committeewoman**
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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

December 2017 issue of the Newsletter, published monthly by the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The views and conclusions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editorial staff, REC Board of Directors, or the Palm Beach County Republican Executive Committee. Letters to the editor are welcomed but should be no longer than 500 words and may be edited for length and content. All submissions are property of their respective authors and may not be reproduced without prior permission of the author. Any comments, questions, or other feedback should be directed to [tommullings@comcast.net](mailto:tommullings@comcast.net).

**Mission Statement**

The Republican Party of Palm Beach County is committed to promoting Republican ideals and principles; recruiting and electing qualified candidates for public office; developing a grassroots organization that will motivate the electorate to vote; and raising the funds necessary to complete these objectives.

[www.palmbeach.gop](http://www.palmbeach.gop)



# Republican Executive Committee Membership Application

The Republican Executive Committee (also known as the REC) is the governing body of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The REC elects the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Party. Members of the REC also approve the Party's constitution; Rules, Policies & Procedures; and budget.

Members of the Republican Executive Committee represent the registered Republicans who live in their precinct. They serve as the Party's liaison to the Republicans in their precinct. REC members are expected to maintain contact with the Republicans living in your precinct and to keep them informed as to what is going on in the Republican Party. This can be done through E-mail or other means like regular mail, phone calls and walking your precinct. The REC is the basis for our grassroots efforts and we rely on REC Members to organize and develop their precincts, recruit new volunteers, recruit candidates to fill vacancies on the REC, find sign locations for Republican candidates, register new Republican voters and work to get out the Republican vote in their precincts during elections. The role of committeeman or committeewoman is essential to Republican Party's and our candidates' success in Palm Beach County.

## REC Committeeman & Committeewoman Duties and Responsibilities

1. Expected to donate financially to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County
2. Attend REC Meetings
3. Organize your precinct and carry out the policies and programs of the Party within your precinct. Active participation in the various programs of the Party is expected.
4. Serve on a Party Committee.
5. Develop a presence in the broader community by joining a Republican Club; serving on a local board or committee; or monitoring local media for relevant material.

**ALL APPLICANTS FOR THE REC MUST BE A REGISTERED REPUBLICAN IN PALM BEACH COUNTY. PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REC APPLICATION FORM AND RETURN IT ALONG WITH A PHOTO COPY OF THE FRONT OF YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION CARD. ANY APPLICATION RECEIVED WITHOUT A COPY OF THE APPLICANT'S VOTER REGISTRATION CARD WILL NOT BE PROCESSED. THE DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTING REC APPLICATIONS IS 11:00 AM, 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE REC MEETING.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

I am applying for the position of:



Committeeman



Committeewoman

Please return your REC Application to the Republican Party of Palm Beach County Headquarters,  
1555 Palm Beach Lakes Blvd., Suite 210, West Palm Beach 33401 or fax (561) 686-1898. Phone (561) 686-1616



## Republican Party of Florida Party Loyalty Oath

I, \_\_\_\_\_, swear and/or affirm that during my term of  
**(Name of Member – Please write clearly)**

office I will not actively, publicly, or financially support the election of any candidate seeking election against:

- (1) The Republican Party's nominee in a partisan unitary, general, or special election that includes a Republican nominee; or
- (2) A registered Republican in a non-partisan election except that this provision does not apply to judicial races under Chapter 105, Florida Statutes.

I further swear or affirm that, in a contested Republican primary election, I will not support the nomination of one Republican candidate over another in my capacity as a Republican County Executive Committee member unless the Party has voted to endorse under RPOF Rule 8. This provision does not preclude me from supporting in any manner my personal Republican candidate of choice in a contested Republican primary election, provided I do not express such support with public reference to my title or office within the Republican Party of Florida.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
County/Precinct #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Office: \_\_\_\_\_

**(State Committeeman, State Committeewoman; Precinct Committeeman, Precinct Committeewoman;  
Alt. Precinct Committeeman, Alt. Precinct Committeewoman)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address, as it appears on voter registration

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

**CANDIDATE OATH -  
PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND  
COMMITTEEWOMEN**

**OFFICE USE ONLY**

**OATH OF CANDIDATE** (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I, \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WISH IT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT \* -- NAME MAY NOT BE CHANGED AFTER THE END OF QUALIFYING)

am a candidate for the office of Precinct Committeeman Committeewoman Precinct Number \_\_\_\_\_,

I am a qualified elector of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Florida; I am qualified under the Constitution and the Laws of Florida to hold the office to which I desire to be nominated or elected; and I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Florida.

Candidate's Florida Voter Registration Number (located on your voter information card): \_\_\_\_\_

\* Please print name phonetically on the line below as you wish it to be pronounced on the audio ballot for persons with disabilities (see instructions on page 2 of this form):

**STATEMENT OF PARTY** (Section 99.021, Florida Statutes)

I am a member of the \_\_\_\_\_ Party; I have not been a registered member of any other political party for 365 days before the beginning of qualifying preceding the general election for which I seek to qualify; and I have paid the assessment levied against me, if any, as a candidate for said office by the executive committee of the political party, of which I am a member.

<b>X</b>	( )		
<b>Signature of Candidate</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	
<b>Address</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>ZIP Code</b>

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**COUNTY OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me this** \_\_\_\_\_ **day of** \_\_\_\_\_, **20** \_\_\_\_\_.

Personally Known: \_\_\_\_\_ or

Produced Identification: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Identification Produced:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of Notary Public**  
Print, Type, or Stamp Commissioned Name of Notary Public

\_\_\_\_\_