



Newsletter of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County—September 2017

Lobsterfest at the Polo Club with James O’Keefe

By Tom Mullings

On Thursday, August 17, 2017, the Republican Party of Palm Beach County held its annual Lobsterfest dinner at the Polo Club in Boca Raton. Lobsterfest is the party’s second largest annual fundraising event, and this year’s gathering of the Republican faithful turned out to be quite a success financially. The profit reaped by the party is largely due to event chair Linda Stoch and her team, who have honed this fundraising stuff into an exact science, guaranteed to fill the the county GOP’s coffers with a most pleasing sum each and every year. The place was packed with around 420 people attending, and offered something quite unique from previous years.

Usually, what is heard from the dias are red-meat speeches from county and state political leaders, and there was plenty of that this year, as always. Palm Beach County Republican Party Chairman Michael Barnett assured the receptive crowd that “Republicans are in charge and Mr. Trump, our President, in the Oval Office, is doing one heck of a job.” Speaking of the latest dust-up with the main-stream media, highly critical of the President’s response to the violence in Virginia at a white supremacist rally, the Chairman said, “He [Mr. Trump] is right to criticize both sides, where the hate’s coming from. He’s, in my mind,



Florida’s Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam

clearly condemned the hate that’s being spewed by these neo-Nazis, these Klansmen who wave the Confederate flag. I don’t know what more people could ask in the way of a response.”

Echoing the Chairman’s comments, U.S. Rep. Brian Mast (R–Palm Coast) pointed out that the President’s “both sides” comment in no way detracts from his firm condemnation of Nazis and white supremacists.

Other political leaders at Lobsterfest seemed to be on the same page with the Chairman and Congressman when commenting on the President’s response to the violence in Virginia.

Rep. Ron DeSantis, of Ponte Vedra Beach, insisted that President Trump “doesn’t have sympathy for neo-Nazis,” and Peter Feaman, Republican National Committeeman for Florida, made the point that the violence was coming from both sides in Charlottesville, stating that “There’s always two sides to every fight.”

But the person responsible for the unique nature of this year’s Republican fundraiser in Boca Raton was the



Keynote speaker James O’Keefe. Photos by Carol Porter.

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evening’s keynote speaker, James O’Keefe. O’Keefe, founder of Project Veritas and the man Keith Olberman refers to as the “worst person in the world,” stole the show from all the politicians, and dominated the evening with his presentation to those in attendance.

O’Keefe is truly an amazing individual. What he does with his Project Veritas is infiltrate and investigate left-wing groups like “ACORN, NPR, Medicaid, Planned Parenthood, labor unions . . . exposing waste, fraud, abuse and straight-up lies previously hidden from the public.”

And what’s more, he’s good at this kind of clandestine, “guerrilla” investigative reporting. Really good. At times Thursday night he had the audience in stitches. At one point he showed a film of himself disguised with a turban and an Osama bin Laden mask storming across our wide open Southern border, trying to get noticed by the border patrol without success.

Another time, he posed as the 18-year-old boyfriend of a 15-year-old pregnant girlfriend needing an abortion. They sought help from Planned Parenthood, who was only too willing to lend an illegal hand. The resulting undercover video was put on U-tube and went viral.

But my favorite was his operation to nail the wrongdoing of the folks at ACORN. O’Keefe got a good-looking female colleague of his to pose as a hooker, while he pretended to be her pimp. They entered the office in Baltimore and were given advice on how to turn their “criminal enterprise” into a “legal business.” Hilariously, O’Keefe informed the specialist at ACORN that he had a smuggling operation going that “might complicate our taxes.” The tax-savvy pimp and his hooker-girlfriend told them that he was bringing into the country “thirteen underage prostitutes-in-training from El Salvador . . . and we don’t want to put them on the books.” The ACORN folks were all too willing to help, and advised him to claim the underage girls as dependents. The whole



Left to right: Cong. Brian Mast, Cong. Ron deSantis, GOP Chairman Michael A. Barnett, and Cong. Mark Foley, emcee.

thing was videotaped and subsequently distributed far and wide so everybody could see what this sleezy outfit was really all about.

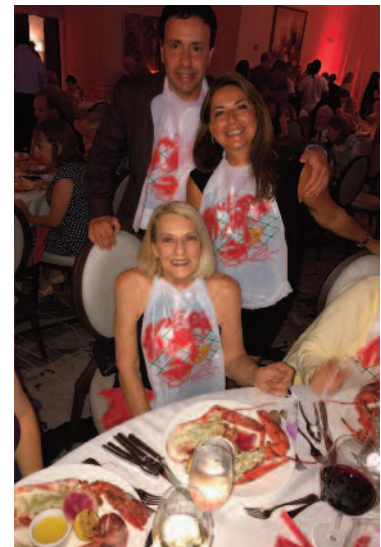
Liberal comedian John Stewart even did a bit about the Project Veritas’s ACORN sting operation on his TV show that said it all. “I’m sure ACORN has a line they won’t cross,” he commented. “Please tell me thirteen underage Salvadoran sex slaves is the line.”

Obviously, the organization had no problem with it, but it did turn out to be the end of the line for ACORN, which lost most of its funding after the airing of this amusing but sordid affair, compliments of James O’Keefe and his band of merry guerrilla journalists.

If there is anyone else in the country like O’Keefe, I certainly have not seen them. No one counterattacks the left in America as well as this guy does, and it was a real pleasure hearing him reveal some of his undercover tales at Lobsterfest on Thursday night in Boca Raton.



Pictured above: The Asian American Republicans filled five tables at Lobsterfest. Right: Table sponsor Rosemary O’Mara enjoying lobster with her family.



Charlottesville

By Sid Dinerstein

August 28, 2017



Charlottesville! A sad story with no heroes, lots of villains, three ultimate villains and numerous injured. My subtitle: A plague on both their houses. A (Liberal) media friend of mine asked if I still supported President Trump after his Charlottesville statements. I responded this way: I'm Jewish. Charlottesville was a clash of Fascists vs. Fascists. Many on both sides want me dead. A plague on both their houses.

Let's review the story. A group calling itself "Unite the Right" and consisting mostly of neo-nazis, white supremacists and KKK's wanted to conduct a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday August 12th. The supposed purpose was to argue against the destruction or removal of Confederate statues. The city denied them a permit. They hired the ACLU. They got their permit. After all, if the First Amendment doesn't allow the worst ideas to be presented we wouldn't need it. Indeed, we could go right on to the Second Amendment, where those who were denied their 1st Amendment rights would use another form of protest.

That attracted a counter protest, without a permit. The mayor supposedly told his police force to "stand down" and make no arrests. That had no chance. The counter protesters clearly believe in the Obama doctrine of "bring a gun to a knife fight." They brought baseball bats to a "unity" rally. The predictable happened: Clashes, finger pointing and the end of a rally before anyone had a chance to speak. The counter protesters carried the day. The Unite the Right and their First Amendment rights were silenced. Thugery beat debate.

Real people died. Heather Heyer was run down allegedly by James Alex Fields Jr. of Ohio. She deserves the thoughts and prayers of an entire nation. He deserves a trial by his peers and, if guilty, the full force of the law upon his head. (The greatest charge is second degree murder which means he's not going to fry.) Police Lt. Culler and Trooper-Pilot Bates also died when their helicopter crashed while heading towards the out-of-control rally. Close to 30 others were injured between the Fields vehicle and the rally clashes.

So how did the United States of America wind up with so many Fascists? My simplification of this issue is by referring to our two main Fascist "tribes": the David Dukes and the Al Sharptons. You may want to view them as two sides of the exact same coin. David Duke is the face of white supremacy in America. He and his followers are anti-black, anti-Jew, anti-minority and anti-everything that doesn't look and sound like them. I never met David Duke. But

I did come in contact with some of his followers. You may not know that the largest white supremacy website, Stormfront, is domiciled in Palm Beach County, where I was Republican Party Chairman. One day, young Derek Black, literally the son of Stormfront and of David Duke's ex-wife, earned a seat on my Republican Executive Committee. I found a technicality to disallow his seating. I became an immediate "celebrity" on Stormfront. They referred to me as a Jewish Supremacist. It all culminated one very early Sunday morning, around 2 AM. I received a number of calls from out-of-state David Dukers threatening me and my family. The local police came to my house. They called the local police at the callers' area. I never heard from the David Dukers again.

Then there's my Al Sharpton Connection. I grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. In 1991 the country suffered through the Crown Heights riots. "Al Sharpton led a march through Crown Heights, carrying anti-Semitic signs and an Israeli flag was burned . . . 152 police and 38 citizens were injured. 27 vehicles were destroyed and 7 stores were looted or burned" (Wikipedia). Early in the rioting, a Jewish student, Yankel Rosenbaum, was killed for the crime of "walking while Jewish." His killer was tried, acquitted and later confessed. The Al Sharpton Fascist tribe is now Black Lives Matter and the Antifa (anti-Fascists), a European-born violent group of Stalin Communists.

The upshot: A plague on both their houses. But the threat is not equal. David Duke and the Unite the Right crowd are a joke. They have no friends, no power, no ability to move their odious agenda. Al Sharpton, on the other hand, got "punished" with a television show, hundreds of visits to the Obama White House and a ranking of High Poobah within the Democratic Party.

President Trump was right. Both sides were to blame. Or as I like to say: "when it's Fascists against Fascists, I want no friends. The Democrats, I'm happy to say, prefer some Fascists over others. I can't wait until the 2018 elections.

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.

Trump—Personality versus Policies

By Larry P. Horist



Which will be the legacy of the Donald Trump Administration? Personality or policies?

My readers know that I am no fan of President Trump's pugnacious, braggadocio and combative personality. He needlessly causes problems for himself, his agenda and offers ammunition to those who have taken up the poison pen of the press.

Let me make it clear, however, I am totally a fan of his toughness in dealing the Washington, D.C. big government elitist establishment. What was first built on a geological wetland has evolved into the metaphorical political swamp—inundated with authoritarians, power mongers, money grabbers, race baiters, class warfarers, deep state bureaucrats and world class hypocrites.

Every four years, America engages in a peaceful revolution and often “overthrows” our sitting government by switching party. It is most peaceful when there is no change in the party in power or when the two parties, themselves, offer little change. It is less peaceful and more chaotic when the principles and the privileges of an embedded ruling class are being overthrown. It was the case in 1932 and 1980, two of the twentieth century's transitional elections, and it is very much what we see today.

When examining his appointments and policies, Trump has done quite well. Oh, I know the radical left is in panic mode. Their irrational and outrageous hysteria is palpable. Of course, they are the primary denizens of the swamp to be drained. They can only survive in the murky putrid waters of political progressivism, and that is losing market shares by the minute.

I can understand that sincere liberals in America may be unhappy at losing the reins of power. It is the sort of feeling we conservatives have when OUR policies are shifted to the back burner by the left wing Democratic Party or even

those in the Republican Party who see false victory or personal benefit from taking up a Democrat-lite political stance.

The obvious reason that the left in public and editorial offices so viciously attack the personality of the President and the people surrounding him is that they cannot win on their big government authoritarian policies. This was evident in the Democrat's eight-year election slide to the precipice of irrelevancy. It is currently seen in the Party's apparent failure to find a winning message going forward. They cannot because it is not the message, stupid. It's the policies.

Rather, they try to pump substance into meaningless minutia with massive misrepresentation. They falsely criticize the First Lady for wearing stiletto high heels to visit the flood area. (In fact, she wore tennis shoes upon arrival in Texas, but the left never lets facts get in the way of a good spin). Another dubious narrative is how Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner are not well received among the Washington establishment (well, duh!)—calling them isolated in the White House (whatever that means). I had even seen an alt-left blogger suggest that there was meaning in the fact that the first four letters of Ivanka's name spell a common Russian name, Ivan. I wonder what he would think of my use of Russian dressing on my salad.

Despite any personality issues one might see in Trump, they do not deserve nor justify the unhinged and extreme reporting by those on the port side of the mainstream press. I can readily admit that FOX News leans to the right. So, why is it so impossible to get liberals to admit that MSNBC not only leans to the left but wallows in the political propaganda of the extreme left? I have friends who see Rachel Maddow, Lawrence O'Donnell, Chris Matthews, Al Sharpton, Ari Melber and Stephanie Ruhle—to name a few—as legitimate journalists.

Apparently no gutter is deep enough or slimy enough to repel the likes of left wing low-lifers like television personality Keith Olbermann, who claimed that Secretary of Education would do more harm to schools than Hurricane Harvey—and calling her a mother—in yet another example of the alt-left's reliance on serial profanity in place of civil dialogue. It would appear that he is in a contest with propaganda producer Michael Moore for being the Progressive's least capable of intelligent discourse.

Whether journalism is the product of the state, as it is in left-wing governments like Russia, or the captive of an ideological extreme, it ceases to be the free press that we rightfully cherish as an important component in a truly representative republic. They lose their claim to be agents of



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freedom when they capitulate to one extreme view in a political dialectic. They take up the cudgel of the propagandist and prosecutor—shaping their reports to achieve narrow political objectives rather than to inform. They ignore every accomplishment and magnify every criticism. In tilting the news, they are as guilty of sins of omission as well as sins of commission—censoring out everything that does not advance a preconceived narrative.

Never before has a president’s fitness for office been so questioned by the media and what I like to call their “panels of parroting pundits.” Every fact is interpreted (spun) to the most extreme negative analysis. First, it was Trump’s personality. Then his policies. His fitness. And now absurdly his sanity.

They proffer the most insane (pun intended) arguments and narratives. Trump’s calling out ALL violence on ALL sides is deemed to be racist even though Democrat Governor Terry McAuliffe of Virginia did the same—as all good people should. The press continues to claim that Trump embraces such anti-social hate groups as the KKK and neo-Nazis even though he has repeatedly condemned them by name.

Though Trump was raised in Queens, educated at Whar-ton and ran a sophisticated multi-billion dollar business, he has always struck me as having the personality, or at least public persona, of a Brooklyn street fighter—a stereotypical impression I have received from so many movies and television shows. He talks tough and too often over the top. He

always seems angry and threatening. He does not display a great sense of humor. He shamelessly brags. He does not act like what we have come to expect in the style and demeanor of our presidents. We can all agree that he is not like other presidents of our personal memories. But . . . his appointments and achievements are commendable—more so if you are conservative.

If you blow away the smoke screen generated by media obsession, you will find a much more accomplished administration than we are led to believe. Granted the Republicans in Congress are having a unity problem, but that is to be expected of a party devoted to principles as opposed to the raw acquisition of power. For me, the top-down partisan unity of the Democratic Party is far more disturbing. It suggests the DNA of authoritarianism.

Larry Horist writes Tuesday and Friday commentaries for the Punching Bag Post . . . punchingbagpost.com

Larry Horist is a conservative Republican with an extensive background in 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 speaks and writes extensively on political issues and has testified before numerous legislative bodies, including the U. S. Congress. He is an award winning debater, and has lectured at such institutions as Harvard University, Northwestern University, Florida Atlantic University and Hope College. His insightful and sometimes controversial commentaries appear frequently on the editorial pages of newspapers across the nation.



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**REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY**

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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

Conservatarians Unite!

By George Blumel

Florida's free market think tank, the James Madison Institute, held a luncheon meeting in Palm Beach where the featured speaker was Charles C.W. Cooke, author of *The Conservatarians Manifesto*. As a supporter of JMI I attended and was impressed with Mr. Cooke, a writer for *National Review*, and with the idea of his book especially as I am one who has straddled both conservatism and libertarianism for most of my adult life.

The book is thoughtful giving arguments for each position where there are conflicts between them. Some of the conflicts are the social issues—abortion, gay marriage, legalization of marijuana—and defense and immigration. I've attended Libertarian Party (LP) meetings and every time I realized I was more conservative than libertarian. And many times, in meetings with conservatives I felt more libertarian. So, call me a conservatarians.

Part of the overlap is that the beliefs of each are not hard and fast as, for example, many libertarians are pro-life. Probably the most well-known libertarian politician in the U.S. is baby doctor Ron Paul who has always been staunchly pro-life, as is his son Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY). I know that, by far, conservatives are pro-life and many libertarians are as well. The lines are more sharply drawn on other issues such as gay marriage and marijuana legalization.

The crucial point is that conservatives and libertarians have much in common politically and our Republican Party is the obvious place for each to operate in to accomplish their goals. Compare the platforms of the Republican and Democratic parties for confirmation. Better yet, look at what each party *does*, which is best measured by their votes in Congress and the regulations coming down from their administrations.

What about the Libertarian Party platform? LPers are for limited constitutional government, personal liberty, free trade, non-intervention in foreign affairs, abortion and sexual preference as a personal decision and, generally, against most government involvement in our lives except where necessary to keep order and safety. Read their platform and you'll almost certainly agree with at least 80%.

Some LP donors—certainly not all—are Democrats and not because they agree with its limited government principles. They see it as an instrument to draw votes from the Republican candidates in close elections.

One example was the 2013 Virginia gubernatorial race where Democrat, long-time Clinton fundraiser, Terry McAuliffe, was opposed by staunch conservative Republican Ken Cuccinelli. The LP candidate, Robert Sarvis, got 6.5% of the vote, which presumably is what put McAuliffe over the top. Two days after Virginia voters narrowly elected McAuliffe, Libertarian National Committee Executive Director Wes Benedict declared "mission accomplished."

The spoiler Sarvis benefited from a \$300,000 media blitz from the pro-LP Purple PAC. The largest donor of the Sarvis campaign (after Sarvis himself) was the Libertarian Booster PAC. It was started by Benedict with Joe Liemandt and his wife who have ties to not only the LP but to Obama and other Democrats.



Andra Liemandt bundled \$326,000 for Obama's 2012 re-election efforts and the Liemandts alone donated \$156,700 to the Obama Victory Fund supporting Obama's campaign, the Democratic National Committee and Democratic parties in battleground states like Virginia. The Liemandts also donated about \$141,000 to the Libertarian National Committee between 2008 and 2012.

In another example, Democrat gubernatorial candidate Charlie Crist in 2014 recognized the advantage of the LP luring away libertarian voters and worked to get LP candidate Adrian Wylie in the debates to take votes from Gov. Rick Scott.

In July, I attended the libertarian-leaning FreedomFest in Las Vegas. There was a panel entitled "What will it take to win in 2018, 2020—and beyond?" where Nick Sarwark, the chairman of the Libertarian Party, ridiculed the audience that voted for Trump asking us how we could be so smart when it comes to financial concerns and so mistaken on matters of politics. He, intentionally, or not, benefited Hillary. Am I right or am I right? Sarwick's party has a better record of electing Democrats than Libertarians.

LP's Benedict said he wants LPers ". . . to run for office even when they're unlikely to win. Why? To get the public to discuss and consider libertarian principles." Yeah, right! He can't do that as a Republican?

Clearly, the LP on the ballot benefits the Democrats whose governing principles are virtually the opposite of the LP. So, why don't libertarians get in the Republican Party and help promote the principles that are closely related? Well, many do. There is the Republican Liberty Caucus where libertarian ideas are represented and have influence in the party. One of the leaders of the RLC is currently candidate for governor of Florida, Bob White. He was introduced at the last Republican Executive Committee meeting. A good man.

Most LP members are probably sincere in believing that they can educate voters on liberty by running as a third party. How they can believe this in the face of the decades of failed experience is beyond me. Can't they see that a

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Sheriff Joe and Double Standards

*By Alan Bergstein
August 30, 2017*

Sheriff Joe Arpaio was pardoned by President Trump after being convicted by a federal judge who found the Arizona law enforcement official guilty of being in contempt for continuing to have his officers enforce immigration laws that the Obama administration deemed illegal. That's called by the Left, "Racial Profiling." If you go after illegals, that's illegal, they say. Sheriff Joe, as he's familiarly called, is a hard liner on illegal immigration and ordered his deputies to aggressively search out and report illegal aliens to the federal government. The judge who had found him guilty, Susan Bolton, was a Bill Clinton appointee and a proponent of going easy on illegals. In other words, he was railroaded by a Leftist judge who refused to give him the right to be judged by his peers, namely a jury. She arbitrarily assumed that role. He never had a fighting chance.

And Progressive groups together with the loyal Democrat controlled media jumped all over Trump for releasing a "criminal" whom they claim deserved the punishment. The guy is now 85 years old, a Korean veteran and has been in law enforcement for over 62 years. Strange that the media and those who were shocked by the release of Arpaio never uttered a whimper of complaint when President Clinton pardoned Marc Rich, who had fled the nation and our court system after stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from investors. And not much was made of the fact that Rich's ex-wife donated nearly one half million dollars to the Clinton Library as payoff money for that action. Clearly a bribe. Nor did the Progressives flinch when Big Bill pardoned FALN terrorists who murdered Americans as a ploy to sway Puerto Rican voters to cast their ballots for his wife, then considering running for a Senate seat in NY. And not much noise was made when President Obama freed five murderous Taliban terrorists from Gitmo in exchange for an American soldier who was a deserter.

So let's get back to Sheriff Joe. The initial racial profiling suit that led to his conviction was political prosecution. The



Sheriff Joe Arpaio

judge in that case refused to recuse himself based on the fact that his brother-in-law was a partner in the law firm that represented those suing Arpaio. The decision to criminally prosecute Arpaio was taken while the DOJ was run by guess who . . . Loretta Lynch, the gal who spent a half hour with Bill Clinton on some tarmac as a result of a gazillion to one chance airport meeting "discussing family matters" while their respective super jets were spewing tons of CO2 into the air waiting for them to finish their non-political discussions.

We wish Sheriff Joe well and to live his life out in peace knowing he tried his best to protect and defend the citizens under his jurisdiction. And we pray as well that America wakes up to the threat of illegal immigration that threatens to overwhelm our cities, schools, hospitals, prisons and workplaces. Our municipalities will surely pay the same price as Europe for their stupidity in welcoming in millions of undocumented aliens.

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libertarian candidate on the Republican ticket can have far more exposure in presenting libertarian principles than as a third party?

Bottom line: the Libertarian Party benefits the Democratic Party. Why else would big-time Democrats support it in close races?

It is extremely important that conservatives and libertarians become more active in the Republican Party to influence and dominate it to avoid the kind of behavior that nom-

inal Republicans demonstrated in the Obamacare vote. The swamp will never be drained unless that happens. Libertarians can have political influence ONLY when they join and become active in the Republican Liberty Caucus of the Republican Party.

George Blumel is a husband, father, grandfather; retired entrepreneur; blogger www.posterchildrenfortermlimits.com; political activist—for freedom with responsibility.

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

By William J. Skinner

You have heard the expression “Water, Water Everywhere, but Not a Drop to Drink,” the first line in a poem by James Casey. Read it again to see how he covered the subject. In 2017 everybody in the USA is thinking about water. Many people in Florida are wondering if we will get another hurricane like the 500-mile-long event that Texas and Louisiana suffered. Many are asking about flood insurance. People on the coastal waterways began looking at their boat docks to see what a 12-foot surge would cover. Floridians on the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Rivers that drain Lake Okeechobee on the east and west were wondering if a big storm would clean out the guacamole-green toxic algae.

Several words are important when it comes to water: Quality, Availability, Safety, Containment, Run-off, Costs, Budgeting, Planning and Politics. We seem to do these in reverse order. Hurricane Harvey early damage costs are projected to almost \$200 billion over several years. Governor Rick Scott told *Palm Beach Post*’s George Bennett on August 29 that Harvey underscores the need to repair the Herbert Hoover dike around Lake O. Scott mentioned the Army Corps of Engineers’ \$930 million plan to upgrade the dike by 2025 as being too long a wait. Scott wants this done by 2022, only four years into a six-year term in the U.S. Senate if Scott can beat the nominated Democrat in 2018.

Harvey is reminding everyone of the boondoggle that Hurricane Sandy posed for the pent-up desire of several members of Congress to pile their pork projects on the bill to provide aide for Sandy victims. Holman W. Jenkins, Jr., writing in the *Wall Street Journal* on August 30, reminds us that “Two-thirds of Katrina’s damage in New Orleans was not covered by insurance. Less than half of Houston commercial buildings and homes in the waterlogged zone are covered by flood insurance.” And he added sadly, “If the U.S. were a private business, such ‘contingent’ liabilities would show up in measures of the federal debt and deficit. In Washington, they do things differently.” Then he quotes Michael Williams, a ballpark maintenance worker for the Houston Astros, as succinctly saying, “Houston floods fast. They’re doing all this construction but we still get no [storm] outlets.”

To put a finer point on water issues, think about the GL Homes offer to swap some land it owns for another parcel in the Palm Beach County Agricultural Reserve, a piece of which I live on in western Lake Worth. We did not know about the political dealings of developers and county officials over land deals until County Commissioners started to be sentenced for illegal activities concerning land. Palm Beach County gained a new reputation as “corruption county” when we reached five county and city commissioners in trouble.

I know something about water and drainage after living here for 14 years and participating in the University of Florida’s Master Gardener program since 2007. It took me five years and one new land survey to convince GL Homes to regrade my lawn. The so-called “boundary survey” was signed off with three sets of initials by civil engineers, all of whom thought it was only proper to check the elevation of the corners of the lot whereas their original grading left 10 to 12 dump truck loads of dirt to be removed to get the drainage to go down to the lake from the house. We had to wait for more storms to see if this work improved the drainage. Surveyors told me this is not an uncommon situation.

When we discovered grass, trees and bushes dying from drowning in water, we knew the drainage could be made better. This caused us to learn more about Soil and Water Conservation, the geology of the Florida sandbar, what is going on at the University of Florida and other research efforts concerning water. We have had rains during the past few years and in 2017 during which the Lake Worth Drainage District tells homeowners their associations may not empty the drainage lakes around the homes, since the whole system is designed to fill up our lakes and our streets to allow the water to be moved from the west of US 441 to the ocean before we drain it from our streets. I have had to call a tow truck to get my car out of the development where I live.

Filling up the Agricultural Reserve with more GL Homes or other homes will only make the drainage worse. The School Board may need more high schools in the future, but they admit they have no data to prove this yet. What good is a new high school if it is flooded because the rain does not drain off properly?

There is much about water that everyone should know. What follows are a few words about water quality according to a University of Florida expert, Lisa Krinsky. “Water quality is the measure of the biological, physical and chemical characteristics of water and its suitability for certain uses,” said Lisa Krinsky, one of five water-focused regional specialized agents (RSAs) with the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Extension.

“Water quality can measure suitability for human needs, such as for drinking water, or for environmental suitability—how well the water can support life and healthy ecosystems,” said Krinsky, who covers twelve South Florida counties from Brevard to Miami-Dade. Water quality is a top concern for residents in South Florida, she said.



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“As a Water RSA, I deal with water quality issues on a daily basis,” Krimsky said. “One of my primary areas of focus is coastal water quality and algal blooms. I work with partners to identify local watershed impacts and develop UF/IFAS Extension programs to address and minimize these nutrient inputs.”

If that sounds complicated, it’s because water touches so many aspects of our lives. “Water impacts every part of our daily lives, and water quality can have economic, social, environmental and human health effects,” Krimsky said. “Beyond the broad spectrum of human needs, healthy water quality is essential for functioning ecosystems and biodiversity, and it supports Florida’s vibrant tourism, agriculture, real-estate and fishery industries.”

Individual homeowners, even those who don’t live near the ocean, can also take steps to protect water quality, Krim-

sky said. “There is a misconception that if you can’t see the water then you can’t be having an impact,” she said. Everyone plays a part in protecting water quality and reducing pollution, no matter their location or lifestyle, Krimsky explained.

“One of the simplest things you can do is ensure the proper disposal of household goods and trash. These products vary widely and may include kitchen fats and oils, pharmaceuticals, cleaning chemicals, paints, car oil. Around your home, you can take steps to minimize storm water runoff and follow environmentally sustainable and Florida Friend Landscaping practices,” Krimsky said.

To learn more about how UF/IFAS is helping protect water in Florida, visit water.ifas.ufl.edu.

Source: of Krimsky/Grenrock info is:

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/news/2017/08/23/uf-expert-communities-residents-can-protect-water-quality/> or Samantha Grenrock, 352-294-3307, grenrosa@ufl.edu

MORT’s meanderings

When is a collision at sea not a collision but, a ‘Ramming’?

I am beside myself, agonizing in a combination of disbelief and super-sized irritation at the so-called reportage of the recent spate of disastrous “accidental impacts” between U. S. Navy vessels and commercial vessels on the high seas.

News accounts written by people who don’t understand the difference between a Navy ship “colliding” with an oil tanker—and a Navy ship being rammed broadside by an oil tanker—give a false impression of the facts. When a Navy ship has a huge indentation at the waterline on its starboard side amidship that was made by the prow of an oil tanker—it wasn’t a collision, it was a “Ramming.”

When this kind of thing happened 100 years ago, at night in a dense fog, prior to the preponderance of modern-day advancements in high-tech electronic collision-avoidance and communications equipment found today aboard every ocean-going vessel, that would be one thing. But, in this high-tech era, when four such events occur within a few months, all involving U.S. Navy ships of the line that are being manned by supposedly well-trained Naval officers and sailors—something has gone wrong—very, very wrong. *Really wrong.*

Our Navy was intentionally down-graded and criminally-neglected under the former administration that was micro-managed by then-President Barack Obama. It was no secret that he openly despised our Armed Forces and all things military. Our once-great Navy was starved for the money required to fund necessary personnel training, the replenishment of armament, support, goods and services. The readiness and efficiency of our Navy, our first line of defense, has been so devastated that it will take huge amounts of money and many months to repair and restore our ships, hardware and systems, to adequately train and support the entire sea-going fleet of the United States Navy. President Trump fully “gets it.” He has started the process rolling. The leadership in the Congress had better get on the stick and do its job to make it happen.

MORT KUFF © 6-24-2017

Yes, They Are Coming After George & Thomas

By CS Bennett

The Founding Fathers, individually, were imperfect people, but together their insight and their combined quest for a new type of government, one for the people and by the people, was nothing short of perfect in its concept. As America's first military leader and military hero, George Washington represents all that has made this country what it has become today, which is the most powerful, and most economically wealthy, country in the history of the modern world. In under two hundred years of its founding, America became a military juggernaut and a beacon of freedom to the oppressed and enslaved the world over.

Yes, slavery reared its ugly head in America, and other injustices, as well, on behalf of bad men in the South, and those in the North wielding political power, whose policies persecuted various groups of people, to include Blacks, Asians, Irish and Native Americans. When it was formed, the country was fragile and compromises had to be made so that the United States could remain a united country. Though many of the Founding Fathers owned slaves, it did not mean they agreed with this system, which many of them inherited.

Slaves were considered property, and treated as property, and it was going to take some time to rid the country of this abomination, and the framers understood this. So, they enshrined within the Constitution a process, or mechanism, known as amending the Constitution, as a means of righting the wrongs that existed at the time this nation was formed. Thomas Jefferson was troubled, and conflicted, by slavery, as well. At some point in his life, he became sympathetic to the plight of slaves. Some believe it came after one of his slaves was brutally beaten to death by one of his overseers.

The question is, were Jefferson and Washington racists? In the original draft of our Declaration of Independence (which was a formal list of grievances against the King of England explaining why we decided to become an independent nation free from the control and influence of England and her King), Jefferson wrote and gave notice to England that the colonies were intent on doing away with slavery which had been allowed to take root under the king's rule. The passage, however, was edited out by request of the delegates from South Carolina and Georgia. Jefferson remained upset about this removal of the condemnation of slavery right up until his death. Doesn't sound like a racist to me, just a man torn apart by what existed, at the time, and what probably should not have existed.

Of the thirteen states who voted on this measure in the original draft, eleven voted to do away with the institution of slavery in America. In other words, the same Founding Fathers, the same slave owners we revile and demean and treat with disdain today out of ignorance, were willing, ready, and prepared to abolish slavery back then. But two southern states managed to block its passage. Still, there remains controversy surrounding Jefferson and why he did



not free his slaves when he became president, although he did free some of them before his death.

Washington never freed any of his slaves while alive, but placed in his will that they be freed and educated as well. Sadly, his wife, Martha, failed to honor his wishes. People across America held conflicting views of slavery, and she was one of them. Few in government could escape slavery's dark and shameful shadow. These men were the products of their times. Having acknowledged this, should we denounce them now and remove their statues and historic significance and prominence in America's folklore?

As our first president under the United States Constitution, for there were eight other presidents before him under the *Articles of the Confederation*, George Washington was the only president elected unanimously in our history. He was so revered that in the War of 1812, when the British marched into Washington, DC, and torched the White House, First Lady Dolley Madison directed that a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Washington be removed to protect it from falling into the hands of the British. He was that popular. To this day, Washington has remained the face and symbol of the United States of America. It is no surprise that he is one of the most hated men to those on the left.

We must understand that leftists have never embraced America's founding, its principles, and its founders. They believe our country was evil and self-serving from the onset. They believe this country was made on the backs of the poor and downtrodden. They despise capitalism. So, their mission is to destroy America and rebuild it in the image they have in mind. To do this, they must first denigrate, demonize, and delegitimize, the Founding Fathers. Do this and you do likewise with the republic they formed, they reason. It is happening now and this is a movement we must stop. As television character Barney Fife used to say: "By God, we have to nip this in the bud." If we do not, America, the land of the free, will no longer be free. Frankly, it will no longer exist.

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.

Liberal Democrat Out-Argued at Vizcaya Debate

For those of you who did not attend the debate on Monday, August 21, between progressive Democrat Rabbi Barry Silver and our own Larry Horist, former Reagan consultant and long-time conservative columnist for this newsletter, you truly missed something special. As reported in these pages in a previous issue, I've seen Rabbi Silver debate before, but this night he was a markedly subdued man, and it was Larry doing the subduing.

I've long known that Larry was an excellent writer, but I had no idea that he was such an effective debater. Last night he rose to the occasion for country, party and the conservative cause, at times leaving his opponent at a loss for words and making him look like the fool he is. Larry was the only adult on the stage, consistently staking out well-reasoned positions about issues and policy, which the Rabbi ignored, choosing instead to hurl baseless, non-stop insults at President Trump and his supporters.

Surprisingly, the largely Democrat audience was respectful and to their credit did not interrupt the out-numbered Mr. Horist when it was his turn to speak, unlike the raucous crowd at Century Village during a previous debate. Still, while respectful and well behaved, it was amazing how a room full of highly-educated Democrats could support the Rabbi's never-ending Trump taunts without noticing that he was dodging the issues and policies that Larry was repeatedly making a solid case for.

My favorite part of the debate involved a technique Larry used to reveal how much conservatives in the country and a surprisingly large number of Democrats had in common. In rapid succession he would state the conservative position on an issue and ask who in the largely Democrat audience disagreed with this view. For example, Larry

would ask: "How many of you think that we should not try to get other NATO nations to pay their fair share of alliance expenses as they'd previously agreed to do?" Or: "Who disagrees with the policy to deport illegal criminal aliens back to their countries of origin?" On issue after issue, Mr. Horist demonstrated that Dems in the audience were much more in tune with conservative positions on issues than they realized. I'd be surprised if this technique changed many minds among Dems attending the debate, but it was a very powerful tool for showing how they are uninformed and misled by the decidedly biased liberal media from which they get their news.

On at least two occasions during the debate, Rabbi Silver declined to use additional minutes that were allotted to him, something I've never seen him do in previous events, and I believe I know why. Clearly, Mr. Horist was much more effective in arguing the issues and policy, something that became more and more apparent as time went by, and I suspect the Rabbi was feeling the heat. On substance, Silver, relying exclusively on the emotional response of his supporters, was being out-argued, and he knew it.

This debate was a mismatch between a superb debater who stuck to the issues and challenges facing the nation and an opponent who did not. At one point, Mr. Horist defended the president by pointing out that he often "says something extreme, [and] acts more moderately . . . [but] what he does is most important." In a nutshell, what Mr. Trump is doing in terms of running the country is choosing "substance over style." Unlike his emotion-driven opponent in the debate at Vizcaya in Delray Beach on August 21, so did Larry Horist, and the outcome was not even close.

—Tom Mullings

MORT's Meanderings

QUESTION FOR AMERICA'S CONSUMERS OF 'THE NEWS':

Which of these news anchor geniuses who second-guess, criticize and snap at President Trump's heels, would you prefer to be **the** one who makes the decisions about our national security, the economy and the one who holds your future and the future of these United States in his or her palm?

WOLF BLITZER * DAVID AXELROD * DON LEMON * CHRIS CUOMO * ERIN BURNETT * ANDERSON COOPER * JIM ACOSTA * ED SCHULTZ * BRIAN WILLIAMS * RACHEL MADDOW * JERALDO RIVERA * JUAN WILLIAMS * KEITH OLBERMAN * JON STEWART * CHRIS MATHEWS * LAWRENCE O'DONNELL * WHOOP! GOLDBERG * BILL MAHER * JOE SCARBOROUGH * TO NAME JUST A FEW*

If you can't name at least one of these people who live on TV and in your face 24/7—then why in hell would you place any faith whatever, in what they have to say about anything? To a person, they are all "Know-it-alls" who have convinced themselves that they have all the answers or at the very least, know far more than the President of the United States.

MORT KUFF © 9-2-2017

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

Republican Club of the Palm Beaches August Lunch Featured County Commissioner Steven Abrams

By Fred Scheibl, August 23, 2017

August speaker **Commissioner Steven Abrams** gave us a county update, and some musings on the events of the day today at the Airport Holiday Inn.

As a term-limited Commissioner with 15 months remaining, he described the difficulty in seeking higher office for any Republican in Palm Beach County. After a successful challenge by the League of Women Voters after the 2012 redistricting, in which coastal and inland districts (aligned with unique and different interests) were forced into two east/west districts with significant Democrat majorities, we are left with CD-21 (Lois Frankel's D+17 district) and CD-22 (Ted Deutch's D+14 district which is mostly in Broward). There is also Alcee Hasting's minority interest district (CD-20 which is D+49) and northern CD-18 (R+3) which is already held by a Republican—Brian Mast.

Steven joked that Ted Deutch told him how his district had improved—with the Broward area he now has three “Century Villages” and two “King’s Points”—areas where Republicans are an endangered species.

When the redistricting for county offices was in the planning stages, he looked into expanding his District 4 north

into Palm Beach (it now ends at South Palm Beach). (“At least he would get invited to better parties.”) Unfortunately, districts have to be contiguous and the minority interest District 7 needed a piece of the island to connect Riviera Beach and WPB sections to Boynton and Delray.

With reference to the unpleasantness surrounding the Mar-a-Lago bookings that have involved local pols, Steven said the County Commission tries to stay out of the “ideological” issues that churn in Tallahassee and Washington, and focus on the “pothole” issues—public safety, economic prosperity and quality of life.

In these areas, he described some ongoing projects—a golf development coming to non-aviation airport land, the shooting range being built on SFWMD land at Mecca Farms, and issues surrounding western development like the GL Homes projects and Minto's “Town of Westlake.”

He also pitched his idea to realize a \$15M savings in the budget (over several years), by NOT buying the SFWMD land in the Ag reserve that has been offered and which staff wants the county to purchase. He would rather see it sold to farming families and kept zoned for agriculture.

Kings Point Republican Club Holds August and September Meetings

Our August 6th meeting was a big success. **Colonel Arthur De Ruve** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Gloria Hausman** sang “America the Beautiful” accompanied by **Fran Lemon** on the piano. **Colonel De Ruve** then gave a inspiring tribute to “Old Glory” and to those things for which it stands, **Jonathan Winson**, our club vice president, gave a nice talk about our club. There was great participation from the audience. Some of the topics were the recent debate between **Alan Bergstein** and Rabbi Barry Silver, and the professional NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick who is looking for an NFL position. President **Paul Tocker** reminded us that Lobsterfest at the Polo Club was fast approaching on Thursday, August 17, and that a table was reserved for our club. **Sue Suna** won our \$25 gift card and donated it back to the club.

Our September 6th meeting was a big success. **Colonel Arthur De Ruve** led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and **Violet Darling** sang “God Bless America” *a capella*. It was our first ever “Open Mic Night.” We had seven speakers, leading off with **Bob White**, a candidate for Governor of Florida. Bob was excellent, and impressed us with his knowledge of the issues. To learn more about Bob, go to his web site bobforflorida.com. Next was **Gloria Hauseman**, who entertained us with standup comedy about politics and the world of senior dating. Gloria left us doubled up in

laughter. Next was **Wilma Cohen**, who told us about our December 6th special event at 7 pm at the Monaco Clubhouse. Our next speaker, **Howard Krizer**, sparked much debate as his topic was taking down monuments. Our next speaker was Club Vice President **Jonathan Winson**, who spoke about the accomplishments of our President Donald Trump. Jonathan drew much applause. Our next speaker was our Club Treasurer **Bill Hartnett**, who spoke about DACA and illegal immigration. Bill was very enlightening. Our last speaker was **Lateresa Jones**, a candidate for the U.S. Senate from Florida. Lateresa was such a dynamic speaker that we asked her back next month when she will have more time. We concluded the meeting with the raffle of the \$25 Publix gift card and five pocket Constitutions donated by Colonel De Ruve. A good time was had by all.

We hope to see you all at our next meeting on Wednesday, October 4th, at 7 PM in the “Social Room” of the main Clubhouse, by the East End Café. Don't forget, everyone will have a free chance to win a \$25 Publix gift card. We don't charge dues and there is no admission charge. We do accept and appreciate donations. Please remember that we meet the first Wednesday of each month.

Paul Tocker—President (561) 235-0840
Jonathan Winson—Vice President (561) 600-0416

Hiroshima 72 Years Later

By Margi Henschien

After riding the Bullet Train for four hours from Tokyo to Hiroshima, I did not know what to expect.
But 72 years later, and was I surprised!!

We all know that Hiroshima and Nagasaki were destroyed in August 1945 after the explosion of atomic bombs. However, we know very little about the progress made by the people of that land during the past 72 years.



Hiroshima—72 years later



Detroit—72 years After Hiroshima



What has caused more long term destruction—the A-bomb, or government welfare programs created to buy the votes of those who want someone to take care of them? Japan does not have a welfare system. It does have: “Work for it or do without.”

1. You cannot legislate the poor into prosperity by legislating the wealthy out of prosperity.
2. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving.
3. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else.
4. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it!
5. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that is the beginning of the end of any nation.

And the food? We ate dinner at a restaurant called “New York New York” and the food was amazing!

Book Review

***Physics for Future Presidents: The Science Behind the Headlines*, by Richard A. Muller. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, 2008. Softcover, 380 pp.**

This book was quite good and really would be useful for presidents of the United States. The author, Richard A. Muller, is more than qualified to do so. He's professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley, and a past winner of the MacArthur Fellowship, called the "Genius Award."

Most presidents are not scientists, but they need not be to quickly master the lessons taught by the professor. The subjects he covers: terrorism, counterterrorism, energy, satellites, and global warming, etc., are not reviewed in a comprehensive manner, but every president has much on his plate and cannot be an expert in all fields. A general knowledge of the physics of these topics is all that he or she needs to help in making scientifically informed decisions, and Professor Muller provides it.

Think about it for a second. It obviously helps for a president to understand something of the relevant physics behind, "what happened at the World Trade Center," biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, intercontinental ballistic missiles, radioactivity, reactors, nuclear waste, and the energy sector of our economy upon which so much depends. The author gives our future leaders a primer on the physics of all these subjects in easy to understand prose and without the foundational mathematics that backs it up.

He begins with terrorism and as he says, it's a good place to begin because of "its immediacy and because it draws us right into the subject of energy." Along the way he dispels some myths, like the ridiculous notion that the Towers went down in the 9/11 attack because of an internal explosion that is being covered up. With physics, Professor Muller demonstrates why it's illogical to believe that.

Another interesting thing the author does, again by teaching the physics of various modes of terrorist attack upon our homeland, is to show why forcing al Qaeda to use

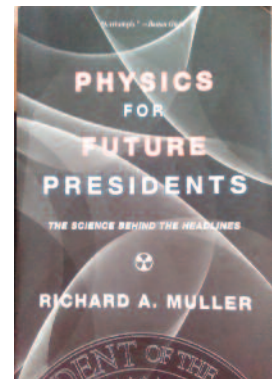
suicide bombers is a desirable thing to do. Why? Take a good look at the people who volunteer to do this kind of insane mission. Not exactly rocket scientists, are they? But that's a good thing, and that's one of the main reasons why most of them are getting caught and major attacks are being thwarted.

But my favorite part of the book is when the author takes on Al Gore and the global warming crowd and puts them in their place with physics, exposing their distortions, cherry-picking of data, alarmism, and confusing the public about the difference between global warming and man-made global warming.

Another amusing part of the book is the section on electric cars. By teaching the science, he shows how "the cost savings are illusory." Electric cars require high-performance batteries, which are very expensive and have to be replaced relatively often. Conservatives aren't killing the electric automobiles, batteries are.

Other myths and distortions get knocked down in this book as well. Want to recycle? Only the rich can afford it. Like solar panels on your roof? Great, it only will take you 22 years to break even on what it will cost you. Don't like the fact that forests are being burned down, putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere? Guess what happens if you don't burn them? They rot, and that puts greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Call it a slow burn. Concerned about the fact that Antarctica is losing 36 cubic miles of ice a year? Guess what happens when it snows there? It replaces the ice.

This book is good, but not just for presidents. It's good for you and me too. Read it and have a good time laughing at Al Gore.



Editor’s Postscript

**The Real Danger in the North Korean Threat
and What We Should Do About It**

By Tom Mullings

In one respect, there is nothing new in the latest North Korean provocation. They’ve been provoking us for decades. During the Johnson Administration they snatched our intelligence ship *Pueblo* from international waters and incarcerated and tormented the crew for over a year. In later years they shot down one of our intelligence planes also in international airspace, and slaughtered with axes unarmed American soldiers in the DMZ who were there to prune a tree. The list of provocations over the years goes on and on and extends to our ally in South Korea as well. At one point, North Korean assassins came very close to eliminating the senior leadership of the South Korean government at an international gathering in Burma.

But today’s provocations are different and much more ominous. Today the North Koreans are not just saber rattling, but nuclear saber rattling, which is both infinitely more dangerous and destabilizing for not just us, but the whole world.

Here’s why. North Korea’s nuclear weapons and missile programs have advanced rapidly as of late. Reportedly, they now possess the capability to deliver a thermonuclear weapon (hydrogen bomb) anywhere in the United States in less than thirty minutes from launch. If true, that’s a game changer. To make matters worse, they have launched an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) over Japan. This is not the first time they have launched missiles over the Japanese home islands, but with the miniaturization of ther-

monuclear warheads, this activity has become a whole lot more serious. Imagine, if you will, the Russians or Chinese launching an ICBM over the lower 48 anytime they felt like it. To be sure, they frequently send up intelligence-gathering satellites that over fly and spy on our country as do we over theirs, but no nuclear power has engaged in the reckless behavior of launching ICBMs at another country. Only North Korea has done that under the direction of their 32-year-old really great dear leader, Kim-Jong-Un.



How did we arrive at such a sad state of affairs you might ask? A fair question and here’s a fair answer—decades of failed diplomacy and “kicking the North Korean can down the road.” For many years we’ve been offering carrots while brandishing no sticks, and the Kim family business unhappily known as North Korea has responded with a never-ending stream of lies and broken agreements, while simultaneously engaging in a clandestine march toward thermonuclear weapons and the systems to deliver them anywhere in the world. Now they have them and they are brandishing

Korea—continued on next page



Korea—continued from previous page

them in the most dangerous way imaginable. The most dangerous country in the world now possesses the world's most dangerous weapons, and **we are but one step away from the nightmarish scenario in which they start selling them to the highest bidder** [emphasis mine]. The question for all of us now is what are we going to do about it?

One laughable suggestion comes from the senior security advisor to President Obama, Susan Rice, who thinks we should essentially do nothing, relying instead on the deterrence value of our formidable nuclear arsenal, reasoning that since it worked against the Soviets, it will work against the North Koreans too. A typical bit of strategic thinking from a naïve progressive with her head far up in the clouds. Meanwhile down here on planet earth, a more sensible appreciation for the lessons learned from our failed policy requires a more muscular approach. You're probably thinking that the thrust of this article is leading to a need for military action, and you wouldn't be wrong in such a suspicion of my assessment of the situation; but, happily, the United States has not quite exhausted its options for a more peaceful solution to the crisis on the Korean peninsula.

There is indeed one last arrow in our diplomatic quiver that could still produce the kind of results our country seeks without resort to military action. Recently, Treasury Secretary, Steven Mnuchin, hinted as much on *Fox News Sunday* with Chris Wallace when he said: "I'm going to draft a sanctions package to send to the President for his strong consideration, that **anybody** [emphasis mine] who wants to do trade or business with North Korea would be prevented from doing trade or business with us." This, for the first time, seems to be aimed at China who provides 80 percent of North Korean needs. If so, this is the one thing that has always had the best chance of pressuring the Kim Regime to give up their nukes, and it is well worth trying, short of the military option no one wants to use.

But if it fails, and I wholeheartedly agree with John Bolton who thinks it will, then the military option should be brought to bear, and not just a "measured, limited strike, but an overwhelming response that sends a seismic signal around the world to other rogue, nuclear wannabes that the United States will tolerate no such blatant threats to our security and that of our allies.

Make no mistake about what has happened here and what is at stake. The President of the United States has laid down a red line to the North Korean regime in answer to their threats against our territory of Guam when he warned such threats in the future would be met "with fire and fury, the likes of which the world has never known." After a couple of days with no response from North Korea, Mr. Trump, perhaps overeager to see positive results from his stern warning, said, "I respect the fact that I believe [Kim Jong-Un] has started to respect us." The North Koreans promptly answered his pre-mature praise by firing several short-range missiles, launching an ICBM over Japan and setting off an apparent underground hydrogen bomb. If Mr. Trump does not respond with robust sanctions that include China, or if he does and then shies away from effective military action if those draconian sanctions fail, he will be no better than his feckless predecessors over the past 24 years, who have kicked the North Korean can down the road and led us to where we are now. If he does that, the only ones cheering will be Susan Rice, her clueless, progressive colleagues in the Democratic Party, and a fat little megalomaniac with bad hair from the Peoples [Un]Democratic Republic of North Korea.

Do the right thing, Mr. President. Be the leader we all believe you to be in this time of peril.

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.

Mort's Meanderings



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
to COUNT BASIE
AUGUST 21, 1904
from YOUR MOST ARDENT FAN.
MORT KUFF 8-21-2017

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COUNT BASIE. This is my second tribute today. However, there aren't enough tributes available to properly celebrate the birthday of my main man of music. Thanks Count, for all the fabulous big band music you have given us, "In a Mellow Tone."

MORT KUFF © 8-21-2017



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.

X	()		
Signature of Candidate	Telephone Number	Email Address	
Address	City	State	ZIP Code

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
