



Newsletter of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County—February 2018

Cong. Ron DeSantis Kicks Off Campaign for Governor in Boca Raton

Congressman Ron DeSantis, who represents Northeast Florida's 6th District, chose to kick off his campaign for governor in Boca Raton. On Monday, January 29, before a packed house at the Embassy Suites, Cong. DeSantis addressed a crowd of several hundred people, some of whom had traveled from as far away as Jacksonville, Miami, Daytona Beach, Melbourne, and even Tallahassee, to show their support.

Speakers at the event included Cong. Brian Mast, a fellow veteran who represents Florida's 18th Congressional District; Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, Puerto Rico's non-voting member of Congress, who described DeSantis as "a man of his word" and promised him some support from Florida's growing Puerto Rican community; and a representative of the the Republican Jewish Coalition, who praised his efforts to have Jerusalem declared to be the capitol of Israel. Especially entertaining was DeSantis' baseball coach at Yale, John Stuper, who recounted DeSantis'

pro prowess on the baseball field and described his qualities of character and leadership. Cong. DeSantis was introduced by his wife Casey, who said, "In his heart he has the strength and courage to do what he knows is right."

Cong. DeSantis spoke about his time in Congress, noting that he was particularly proud of being one of those advising Trump to recognize Jerusalem as the capitol of Israel and promising to move the U.S. embassy there. He spoke about his opposition to sanctuary cities, and described the need for immigration reform and border security. He praised the recent tax cut legislation and the progress made against ISIS, and stated that he strongly supports President Trump's efforts to "drain the swamp." He stated his support for congressional term limits.

On the state level, DeSantis praised Governor Scott's tenure, and promised to bring the "drain the swamp" mes-

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Cong. Ron DeSantis, holding his 14-month-old daughter Madison, kicked off his campaign for Governor of Florida at the Embassy Suites in Boca Raton. He was eloquently introduced by his wife Casey.

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sage to Tallahassee. He noted the need to provide alternatives to college, such as vocational and technical training, and stressed the need for citizenship education in the public schools so that students will graduate with a “sense of what it means to be an American. He promised to appoint conservative judges at all levels.

Many of those in attendance were involved in the 2016 campaign to elect Donald Trump. DeSantis received the support of President Trump, who announced via Twitter on December 22: “Congressman Ron DeSantis is a brilliant young leader, Yale and then Harvard Law, who would make a GREAT Governor of Florida. He loves our Country and is a true FIGHTER!” But he noted that a big endorsement



and a tweet from the President will not be enough to win the election, so he will need to prove to the voters that he’s got what it takes to be Governor of Florida. Florida’s Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam is also in the race for Governor, and Speaker of the Florida House Richard Corcoran is expected to announce his candidacy as well.

DeSantis, a former U.S. Navy attorney who served in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, has served three terms in the U.S. Congress and is rated by Heritage Action as the most conservative member of the Florida delegation. He has also been endorsed by talk-show hosts Sean Hannity and Mark Levin.

—Cheryl Mullings

Sid Dinerstein Honored by the Haitian Community



Congratulations to Sid Dinerstein, former Chairman of the Palm Beach County republican Party, who was honored with an award from the Haitian Education Community Association for his efforts in the Haitian community. The award was presented at the First Annual Haitian Bridges to America Dinner, held on February 3, at the Atlantis Country Club. Also receiving awards were (shown above, left to right) Mack Bernard, Marlane Jean-Baptiste, and Malachi Knowles.

Jerusalem

By Sid Dinerstein
January 25, 2018

Next year in Jerusalem. That's the last prayer at the Passover seder. For over two thousand years Jews the world over have been saying "Next year in Jerusalem." Now it is at hand. Try to imagine a world that tries to separate Catholicism from the Vatican or Islam from Mecca. That is the world the Jewish community lives in. Now matter how many people read the Bible, the Jews could not have a homeland with Jerusalem as its capital. Then came the Holocaust. The unspeakable horrors of unstoppable anti-semitism meant the world could look away no longer. Almost half the Jewish population was murdered for the crime of being Jewish. After the war hundreds of thousands of surviving Jews made their way to what was then called Palestine and is now known as Israel. The State of Israel was declared on May 8, 1948, and immediately President Truman recognized it on behalf of the United States of America. There were a few "buts" in that recognition: Jerusalem was not regarded as Israel's capital. The American embassy was built in Tel Aviv. And the United States would not sell arms to Israel even though Israel was attacked the day it declared itself a nation. Wars were fought—1948, 1967 and 1973. America has become Israel's most reliable ally and its number one arms supplier. Israel built a world class military and continues to successfully defend itself. But what about Jerusalem?

In 1995, with overwhelming bipartisan support, the United States Congress passed a resolution requiring that the American Embassy would be moved to Jerusalem. However, as foreign affairs is generally an Executive Branch domain, the resolution gave the President the option of deferring the move for another six months That is what President Clinton did. He blamed it on the "Peace Process."

The election of George W. Bush in 2000 raised hopes. Republicans had become very strong friends of Israel and less mindful of a United Nations that wore its anti-semitism on its sleeve. Four years of Bush, no embassy in Jerusalem. Then it got personal. George Bush's reelection in 2004 coincided with the end of my first two-year term as Chairman of the Republican Party of Palm Beach County. The Bush campaign manager was a fellow named Ken Mehlman, not only Jewish but a cousin of one of our local party's most active members. Ken got a post-election appointment as the Chairman of the Republican National Committee. He also keynoted one of our annual Lincoln Day fund-raising dinners. The stars were aligned. In early 2005 I got a call from Ken Mehlman's office asking if I would participate in a local meeting of Jewish Republican leaders with Ken. That was a no-brainer. About fifteen of us met around a hotel room conference table with Ken Mehlman at the head. We all knew each other. Ken opened the meeting by asking: "What can President Bush do for you?" What an honor to

be asked. The fifteen of us were of one mind. No one asked for tax cuts or immigration reform. We spoke as one when we said: "Move the embassy." What a proud moment for all of us to have an opportunity to influence a decision which, for the Jewish Community, was truly of Biblical proportions. I remained an enthusiastic Bush supporter. But it was clear he lacked the vision and the courage to answer our prayers.

President Obama came next and American-Israeli relations fell off a cliff. President Obama's dislike for Israel was so intense that on his way out of office he ended fifty years of American support of Israel in the United Nations. "Next year in Jerusalem" seemed very far away.

Donald Trump, like Bill Clinton, George Bush and Barack Obama also campaigned on "moving the embassy." But would he? The first six-month marker came and went. President Trump said he wanted to give the peace process a little time. In late 2016, after the election, I told my Chabad Rabbi that Esther (my wife) and I would sponsor a Sabbath Kiddish (breaking of bread, drinking of wine after Saturday morning services) when President Trump announced the moving of the embassy. In December 2017 it happened. President Trump made the announcement. I called my Rabbi. And then I accepted an invite to spend Christmas Eve at Mar-A-Lago, where I personally went up and thanked President Trump for this great act. On January 6, 2018 the little Chabad of Palm Beach Gardens had its biggest, most glorious Kiddish in its brief history. The Rabbi, his wife, Esther (daughter of Holocaust survivors) and I spoke. It was not a political pro-Trump event. It was a spiritual pro-Israel event. We invoked the memory of our ancestors and we spoke of our own personal pride in sponsoring this event.

Change the prayer books: "THIS year in Jerusalem."



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.

Talking Points:

Yes, There Is a Deep State

By Larry P. Horist

Deep state seems to be making itself heard.

During his presidential campaign, Donald Trump referred to it as “the swamp.” Many on the right refer to it simply as “the establishment” or more ominously “the deep state.” In recent weeks, there was a mocking reference to a “secret society.”

There is a philosophic divide on the existence of a permanent government infrastructure. Conservatives see it as a permanent power center run by a powerful but unaccountable elite. Liberals poo-poo such talk as conspiracy theories to be rejected out of hand. They see a strong elitist government as the best means to both provide for the citizenry and protect it from the common folk’s human ignobility.

In fact, there is such an unelected, unaccountable pseudo-branch of government that wields enormous power that is a natural ally to liberal big-government ideology—and therefore, for the liberal-leaning Democrat Party. It is called the bureaucracy.

Democrats portray their allies in the bureaucracy as nothing more than a bunch of hard-working Americans doing a good job without partisan or philosophical biases. This description is not only self-serving and wrong—it is intended to conceal the common interest alliance between the liberal Democrats and the hundreds of thousands of civil servants and patronage workers.

Virtually all federal employees outside the non-commissioned military are liberals. Every study shows that the vast majority of federal workers are liberal Democrats. The reasons are obvious. At every level, it is in their personal interest to increase their salaries and benefits, to expand their budgets, to build bigger staffs and to acquire more power.

It does not matter even if they were initially appointed by Republicans, are registered Republicans or vote Republican. They are mostly liberal or so-called moderate Republicans. They may embrace a pro-life position or support school choice, but they are almost never conservative in anything that limits the power and reach of the federal government.

The bureaucracy is not merely a collection of federal workers. They are a fourth branch of government—arguably the most powerful branch. Under regulatory powers, they impose many more laws (regulations) than enacted by Congress. It is not uncommon for such regulators to ignore the intent of the laws passed by Congress and signed by the White House when promulgating regulations.

Though the declared resistance of the left to the Trump presidency is unusually open, it is not new. The bureaucracy has been fighting against elected officials dedicated to reducing the scope and expense of the federal government since the Republic was founded. I saw this close up when the White House put me on temporary assignment to the Office

of Economic Opportunity shortly after the inauguration of President Nixon. The knee-jerk resistance to Nixon was telegraphed by the fact that many of the traditional photographs of the President were hung upside down in prominent locations within the offices of the OEO—some were used as dart boards. It was not just symbolism. Directives and even presidential Executive Orders were often ignored.



The power of the early bureaucracy was initially limited by culture and policy. Presidents had hiring and firing power over Executive Branch workers—the branch of government that employs most federal workers. Most non-policy federal workers stayed on even as administrations changed. That is until President Andrew Jackson, at the encouragement of his Vice President Martin Van Buren, imposed a patronage program that earned a derogatory reputation as “the spoils system.” As bad as the Jacksonian approach may have been, at least those bygone federal employees were allied to the programs and policies of the elected President.

The American bureaucracy gained greater power under President Ulysses S. Grant and progressive big-government Democrats when they enacted the Civil Service Commission to protect federal employees from being arbitrarily replaced by the President. It was designed to cover all those non-policy jobs—typists, clerks and other office workers. It was promised that the all-important policy jobs would remain at the discretion of the President.

Through a succession of compliant liberal Presidents, civil service was expanded to senior level management position. An example of the level to which these permanent positions rise, consider the case of Andrew McCabe who recently stepped aside as the second in command of the FBI (and one-time Acting Director). Despite his high policy-making administrative position, he was protected from removal by an overreaching Civil Service law. In a normal employee relationship, McCabe might have been summarily fired, but as a civil servant that could not happen. Instead, he was allowed to “resign” but remain on the payroll until his retirement allowance reached its maximum.

IN A HEALTHY REPUBLIC, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THOSE WE ELECT HAVE THE POWER TO PURSUE THE POLICIES THAT WE THE PEOPLE HAVE CHOSEN THEM TO PURSUE. I put that sentence in all caps to

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emphasize what is dangerously wrong with a government where the bureaucracy has too much permanent power. It leads to an elitist form of government as in the extreme dictatorships like China and Russia. We have already traveled too far down that road.

The accusations against President Trump and those leveled at some individuals in the FBI leadership expose the problem. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer inadvertently alluded to the perverse power of the bureaucracy when he warned President Trump to not attack the intelligence community—correctly noting that they have endless ways to retaliate. They do, and they have.

As the party that pursues the policies of elitist authoritarianism, the modern Democratic Party can be depended upon to support the growth in size and power of the federal government—the government most distant from the influence of the commoner. The party's track record of consolidation of federal power in the hands of fewer and fewer people (mostly unelected bureaucrats), the imposition of more and more federal regulations over states, cities and the average person, and the acquisition of an increasing percentage of American wealth (today's and the future's) is beyond refutation.

Without the partisan compliance of the bureaucracy, the Democratic Party would be little more than voices in the wilderness—even with the partisan amplification of the party's spin by major components of the compliant news media.

In many ways, the problem is not Trump's crappy personality—although it has enabled the defenders of the establishment to seem more credible. It was clear in the days following the election, there would be a concerted effort by the left—Democrats, bureaucrats and journalists—to remove Trump from office. Even before his inauguration, a never Trump community formed around a full-fledged resistance. Loyal opposition was replaced by an undemocratic malignancy to reverse an election. Criticism to the point of character assassination was leveled against anyone was deemed to “normalize” Trump in any way. Objectivity was displaced by prosecutorial-style propaganda. There were crazed efforts to somehow block Trump's inauguration—first calling on electors to violate their sworn duties and then to have the Congress block inauguration. Even before those electors were able to certify the election, the call to impeach was sounded. Never before in American history did a political opposition so boldly and so openly commit to oust a duly elected President of the United States—although the pro-slave Democrats were so repulsed by the election of Abraham Lincoln that they seceded from the Union.

The role of the top officials of the FBI is disturbing. While Democrats defend the agency as apolitical with just good public servants doing their job in a professional manner. That may be true of the thousands of FBI agents and employees devoted to law enforcement, but top leaders in

every government agency have political leanings and agendas.

This is clear from the words and actions of such FBI officials as James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Peter Strzok and others. All three of them fell from grace (power) because of perceptions of biased conduct. President Trump fired Comey because he would not announce an end to an investigation of Russian collusion even as Comey assured the President that he was not under investigation and that there was no evidence of such collusion. After more than one year of intense investigation, no evidence has yet surfaced—not officially or by leaks. One should not forget that McCabe had passed that same message to then-White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus. Comey's and McCabe's assurances would seem to be a pretty good defense against the obstruction of justice charge.

While Democrats defend the right of both McCabe and Strzok to have political opinions, it was the depth of their active involvement in the political process vis-a-vis Hillary Clinton that is troublesome. McCabe's wife had received \$500,000 to run for a state Senate seat (think about that for a moment) from a major Clinton ally. Whether hyperbole or conspiracy, Strzok's text communications between him and his paramour and fellow FBI agent showed an extreme Trump bias. The fact that Strzok interviewed Hillary Clinton without putting her under oath and then changed Comey's final report to delete words that would suggest criminal culpability shows that Strzok's work was strongly influenced by a biased political agenda.

The recusal of Attorney General Jeff Sessions because of his potential role as a witness to relevant events was the proper course of action. He had little choice. But, why did James Mueller accept the job as special counsel when he, too, was a potential witness. It is significant that he was interviewed by President Trump to be the new FBI director. That conversation is extremely relevant to the President's frame of mind. While it is largely discarded by the news media, Mueller's selection of active partisan Democrats to staff his team is notable—a team that included Strzok until his partisan activities were publicly exposed. Democrats say that Mueller should be praised for doing the right thing without explaining that it was those inappropriate actions that necessitated the Strzok removal.

Claiming that President Obama ordered the surveillance (bugging) of the Trump campaign may be a bridge too far. It is clear, however, that White House operatives were using the bureaucracy to support the campaign of Hillary Clinton. If looked at separately, the actions of various individuals within the Obama White House and bureaucracy may seem benign. When seen in terms of the combined effect, there emerges a picture of political skullduggery.

One of the overarching claims of the anti-Trump forces is that the FBI is above politics. This is not true and never has been. They display political amnesia when it comes to

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the FBI under Jack Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson, when they would hold numerous private meetings with J. Edgar Hoover to discuss cases. It was at Kennedy’s behest that Hoover launched that infamous politically motivated “investigation” of Martin Luther King.

This commentary covered only bits and pieces of the larger role of the bureaucracy in maintaining its role as a permanent government force. They have all the response of a stepped-on rattlesnake when their power is threatened. As one bureaucrat bragged to me in saying “Presidents come and go. Congressmen come and go. But we are here forever.”

*Larry Horist writes Tuesday and Friday commentaries for the Punching Bag Post . . . punchingbagpost.com. This article was posted on Thursday, February 8, 2018, 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.*

Mayor Susan Haynie among Mayors Attending White House Event with President Trump

Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie was one of 109 mayors invited to the White House on Wednesday, January 24, to hear from President Donald Trump on the \$1.7 trillion infrastructure plan. “There are over 19,000 mayors in the United States, so it was an honor to be chosen to attend,” said Mayor Haynie.

The mayors gathered in the East Room and were addressed by President Trump. The President focused on the growth of the economy and working with local governments on his infrastructure plan. He praised the mayors for getting things done and pledged to shorten the approval process for large infrastructure projects from 15 years to just two years. Trump said of his administration, “We need to be on speed dial for you.”

Following the President’s remarks, his senior staff took questions. Then a surprise speaker entered the room, offering warm greetings of support. Vice President Mike Pence thanked the mayors for all they do to make America great.



Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson, Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie, Clearwater Mayor George Cretokos pose in front of President Ronald Reagan’s portrait during the Mayors Event at the White House.



SOTU: Trump Critics Feel Threatened by Good News

By George Blumel

In his State of the Union speech President Trump proudly related the accomplishments in the first year of his administration. The record number of applause moments showed that those assembled there were very enthusiastic in their appreciation of the positive progress in just one year.

Well, not everyone was happy with the roaring economy and resultant high employment. Virtually all the Democrats seemed to disapprove. Why?

I was particularly dismayed when I saw the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) failing to applaud at all, even when the president reported that African American unemployment was at the lowest rate ever recorded! As cameras panned to the CBC, they just sat. Why?

Is it because the Democrat Party wants blacks on the dole, dependent on government? Remember when President Lyndon Johnson got his War on Poverty passed he bragged that his welfare programs would keep blacks voting Democrat for 250 years.

The CBC is, by definition, racist. Yet this is generally overlooked by Congress as a whole. A notable exception was black Oklahoma Representative J.C. Watts, who famously called the group “race-hustling poverty pimps.” Because he voted as a conservative, they labeled Rep. Watts an “Uncle Tom.”

We shouldn’t have to mention the fact obvious to any honest American that the color or shade of one’s skin is not a meaningful distinction to differentiate among ourselves. Actual discrimination by race is now quite rare. Using past abuses to gain some advantage today is just a political ploy. Democrats use the “race card” for political purposes in just about any situation that has nothing to do with race. They even ludicrously call President Trump a racist. They conveniently forget the numerous awards the black community has bestowed on Donald Trump over the years. *Recall that Jesse Jackson praised Trump in 1999 for a lifetime of helping the African-American community.*

The CBC is a monolithic group of 49 members pictured [here](#) by seniority. 48 are Democrats with one Republican, Mia Love of Utah. Those in our Florida delegation are Al Lawson (FL-05), Val Demings (FL-10), Alcee Hastings (FL-20), and Frederica Wilson (FL-24). Demings and Lawson are in their first terms. Let’s look at our local Rep. Alcee Hastings who is, in many ways, representative of the group.

Congressman Alcee Lamar Hastings, born in 1936, has been in Congress since 1993. He spent ten years as a federal judge (1979–1989), but was (oh, my!) impeached and removed from office for corruption and perjury—making him a perfect candidate for Congress and the CBC. (For details, see [my blog](#) and/or [Alcee Hastings in Wikipedia](#).)

Hastings is not the only CBC member tainted by scandal over the years. In at least the last 10 years several CBC members were under investigation by the House ethics committee. Almost all of them have very low ratings from the various non-partisan scorecards like the National Taxpayers Union that rates them as Big Spenders; or Citizens Against Government Waste that calls them Hostile to Taxpayers; and the Club For Growth that tracks how members of Congress vote on economic legislation, gives both Hastings and Wilson an economy-killing 7 percent lifetime.



From its history we can conclude that the CBC is not so much a “Black” caucus as it is a Liberal Caucus—and a far left one at that. It routinely plays the “race card” to pursue its welfare state goals which are closely tied to the members’ reelection campaigns. By promising their constituents freebies from the government they are overwhelmingly retained.

Membership in the Caucus is limited to black legislators—they don’t say it but if you’re a black conservative, don’t bother. Just ask Gary Franks who was the first Republican member. He was Chairman of the Republican Party Task Force on Civil Rights that produced the 1991 Civil Rights Bill which passed by the largest plurality of any past Civil Rights Bill. He was a supporter of Clarence Thomas for the Supreme Court. He played a significant role in passing the Welfare Reform Act in 1995 that gave a new life to so many who were stuck on welfare. Yet he was much maligned by the Black Caucus.

The CBC opposes education reform such as school vouchers or teacher tenure rules which keep bad teachers in the classrooms especially in minority schools. It favors ever higher minimum wage laws that have the effect of preventing the poorly educated from getting their first job. Black youth unemployment has been up around 15%—higher in some areas—so when the Trump administration’s policies brought it down to 7percent one would have expected a happy applause from the CBC for that fact at the SOTU.

So, there you have it: Alcee Hastings and the Congressional Black Caucus. Another **convincing** argument to term limit Congress.

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

Florida Public Officials Support Secret Voter Rolls

By William J. Skinner

According to a *Tampa Bay Times* article on February 1, 2018, the Supervisor of Elections in Hillsborough County, Craig Latimer, says voter information is too accessible. Latimer and other colleagues are lobbying to stop prisoners from getting voter information by writing letters to his SOE office.

Brevard County Supervisor of Election Lori Scott is mentioned in the article as one SOE who agrees too many people get the voter rolls. Reporter Steve Bousquet mentions other people, including Republican House member Rep. Cyndi Stevenson, R-St. Johns, who filed HB-761, which plans on making name, address and birthdate of voters off limits under the Florida Sunshine Law. The companion bill in the Senate is SB-532. Stevenson told Bousquet she gets harassment calls from people all the time and she considers the contacts due to voter rolls information. Stevenson is a CPA in real life, but apparently dislikes the “public” part of CPA if she does not want calls.

Brian E. Corley, Supervisor of Elections of Pasco County, also supported the bill with a Tweet on February 1, saying: “You shouldn’t have to choose between protecting your privacy and exercising your right to vote.”

Read Bousquet’s article at: <http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/02/01/should-voter-information-be-secret-lawmakers-say-yes/>

The vote in the House on HB 761 was in the Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee of the Governmental Accountability Committee on January 30, 2018. Bousquet writes: “Those voting yes included Reps. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills; Katie Edwards-Walpole, D-Plantation; Blaise Ingoglia, R-Spring Hill; and Lawrence McClure, R-Plant City.” This can be confirmed by looking at the information on the Legislature’s website.

Readers must know that BLAISE INGOGLIA is the GOP Florida Chairman, and in this matter he voted FOR stopping citizen access to the voter rolls. Shirley Anderson is the SOE in Hernando County where Ingoglia claims to live. Why isn’t Anderson complaining to Bousquet? Did he ask?

Vicky Oakes is the SOE from St. John’s County. Why didn’t Bousquet ask Oakes what she thought about Stevenson’s HB 761? Oakes was Assistant Supervisor for 23 years when Gov. Rick Scott appointed her to the SOE job on September 6, 2011. She was elected in 2012 and 2016. Republicans in St. John outnumber Democrats more than 2 to 1. So what are Republicans thinking with this version of HB-761? Does Stevenson need some special attention? What is INGOGLIA thinking? Are they trading votes despite the disastrous outcome potential for Republicans?

Bousquet’s article says that a similar effort to pass a similar amendment failed in 2016. Can we hope the effort will fail again in 2018? Over in the Senate the Ethics and Education Committee Senators took up Sen. Lee’s companion bill, SB-532, on February 6. The bill before the committee was limited to excluding name, address and birthdate information for minors 16 up to the age of 18 years because of their supposed vulnerability as youngsters. The vote for this

bill was 7–0 in favor. Sen. Lee, the sponsor of this bill, was not present at the time the committee was ready to take up the bill, but the committee voted for the bill and marked the record showing Sen. Lee was excused from attending. One hurdle for either bill to become law is that the subject matter needs a two-thirds vote in both bodies. There are other votes before either bill gets to the floor for a two-thirds vote.

Here in Palm Beach County, we Republicans are a minority compared to Dems and the others, but our votes help to elect state-wide candidates by cancelling Dems and other votes. In the three South Florida counties, Orange County and Hillsborough County, Republicans account for more than 1,359,165 voters. We have shown it takes more than two years to get the federal or Florida courts to act to require voter roll cleaning and to correct other voting issues, so citizens must continue to have access to data to allow us to push Supervisors to follow the registration list maintenance statutes. Florida GOP leaders should be helping in this effort.

PROTECT FLORIDA REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Two Florida Congressional Districts are on the Democrats’ flip list for November—the 26th and 27th Districts in the Miami area—where Republicans Carlos Curbelo and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen now hold the seats.

A *Wall Street Journal* article by Julia Bykowicz on February 8, 2018 compares the money raised in 23 districts the Dems want to win. In the 26th where Curbelo serves, Republicans have raised more than \$1.2 million and Democrats less than a third of a million. In the 27th Republicans have raised less than \$250,000 and Democrats have about \$3.5 million. Ros-Lehtinen has indicated she will not run again and Republicans are working to fill the gap and catch up. Bykowicz did not mention the districts of Congressmen Mast or Rooney who are close to Palm Beach County as being targeted by the Dems.

The field of candidates for the 26th and 27th Districts as of February 8, 2018 at the Secretary of State’s website is:

CD 26: Bonilla, Edward F. (NPA, incumbent), Curbelo, Carlos (REP), Faas, Souraya (REP), Machat, Steven (DEM), Smith, Steve (DEM).

CD 27: Gonzalez, Kristen Rosen (DEM), Hepburn, Michael A. (DEM), Joli, Mayra (NPA), Peiro, Maria (REP), Person, Mark Anthony (DEM), Robinson, Keith J. (REP), Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana (REP, incumbent).

Watch these two groups during 2018 to learn how prepared Florida will be for the 2020 Presidential election. It would be helpful if the voter rolls were properly maintained in 2018 and 2019. By the Spring of 2020 it will be too late to do the job. How do we make sure the Supervisors of Election do this statutorily required task?

Can Palm Beach County and Broward County Republican voters rise to the occasion and beat Deutch, Hastings, or Frankel?

New Friends in the Middle East?

By Alan Bergstein, February 7, 2018

American supporters of Israel, both Christian and Jewish, sat through eight years of the Obama administration fearful that the “daylight” the former president called for in 2009 between our two democracies was continuing to dangerously increase. We all saw that he had turned our foreign policies nearly 180 degrees away from our traditional support of Israel in order to give credence to Palestinian/Muslim demands that Israel be coerced to pay territorial ransom and appease its mortal enemies. Even to the point where Jewish congresspeople shied away from condemning these moves. Their loyalty to The Party was never in doubt. They now have to put up or shut up.

In a dramatic change, the Trump administration does not view the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a major cause for the region’s instability and resulting chaos. He does not see it as vital to securing peace in the Middle East. No longer will we hear from the White House and our emissaries that this situation is the basis for the Middle East horror show. Our actions will now center around retaining an American military presence in the region, bolstering up partnerships to strengthen security and stability, seeking to end the Syrian civil war, denying Iran its nuclear and regional desires, and working towards promoting but not forcing (on Israel) an Israeli-Palestinian comprehensive peace agreement. And don’t bet on the last issue.

We will now work with regional monarchies, Jordan, Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt as well, to strengthen their political and military stability, which means keeping them up to date with their fighting capabilities and protecting them

from their common enemy, Iran. We seem to have learned from our past mistakes to work towards this end in a gradual fashion, not imposing our own values on the countries we wish to support. But, we will not throw our hands up and leave the Middle East to the bully, Iran. Obama had often hinted that he considered dealing with Asia as an easier assignment. His behavioral history from his days as an Illinois legislator was to avoid decisions, take the easy way out and merely “kick the can down the dangerous road.” And that “can” was loaded with dynamite . . . for Israel.

The Gulf countries now command a central role in our approach to that vital area. They must do their heavy lifting to help keep Iran contained, to aim for the rejection of radical Islamic ideologies, and they must keep in mind that we expect them to contribute to the American economy with back and forth trade. The Saudis, Egyptians, Jordanians and their other Muslim neighbors have to roll up their sleeves and begin openly working with the head honcho on the block, Israel, to become Allies against the Iranian Axis with whom they are now surely heading for some sort of confrontation, perhaps even outright war. They must work, plan and fight as a team. If you’re a partner, start acting like one!

American supporters of Israel and Israelis themselves can now take a deep breath knowing our country is highly concerned not only with the Jewish State’s survival but with the security and prosperity of the entire region. Cooperation among former enemies is now the name of the game. And the chief “community organizer” in that area is President Trump.



Republican Reality: We Can Win in 2018

By Paul Spain

*Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives, District 22, Florida
January 11, 2018*

Update: Hundreds of thousands of dedicated registered Republican and Independent voters are alive and well in Palm Beach and Broward Counties, Florida. However, their level of voter participation on Election Day is woefully inadequate, leaving over 50% of registered voters without congressional representation in five Southeast Florida congressional districts (Florida 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)! In other words, non-voter participation has had the effect of ceding the entire geographical territory from West Palm Beach down the coastline to the top of North Miami to Democrats and their destructive social and economic policies! That must change if Republicans are to have any chance of holding onto Florida and its 27 Electoral College votes in the 2020 presidential election!

Consider the Following: Hurricane Maria (September 26–October 3, 2017) will have a tremendous impact on the upcoming presidential election and 2020 Census! In terms of sheer numbers, much more than ANY successful Democrat political strategy . . . and from a purely political perspective, much greater than the Mariel Boatlift of 1980! At that time, the Mariel Boatlift brought more than 125,000 Cuban refugees to Florida—including criminals, individuals from mental hospitals, and many other undesirables—which caused a crime wave in Miami. At that time, the politicians were unprepared to handle the deluge of refugees. And once again, it appears that the Republican Party of Florida has been caught off guard politically relating to the massive number of Puerto Rican citizens (288,000 to-date) that have migrated primarily to Central Florida since the hurricane.

Latest News: Democrats are registering Puerto Ricans as potential voters in much greater numbers than Republicans, which, if the trend continues, can lead to an electoral disaster for Republican politics and elections in Florida! Keep in mind that the last governor's race in Florida was decided in favor of Republicans by just over 64,000 votes! 500,000 Puerto Rican refugees are now anticipated to resettle in Florida—many of whom are impoverished and do not speak the English language, which is a perfect match for Democrat voter registration efforts and for a complete takeover of state and national politics in Florida by Democrats! In addition, Puerto Rican officials in Puerto Rico and the U.S. continue to criticize President Trump and have now added Governor Scott to the list, adding that the recent Republican initiated tax cuts will hurt Puerto Ricans! Democrats never stop their negative comments and political obstructionism, even in times of national emergency!



Current Congressional Representation in Florida: U.S. House of Representatives (16 Republicans, 11 Democrats), U.S. Senators (1 Republican, 1 Democrat). The only real Republican congressional stronghold in Florida among major cities is Jacksonville! Democrats now control congressional House seats in key cities such as Tampa, North Miami, Orlando, Tallahassee, West Palm Beach, and Ft. Lauderdale. The City of Miami is also slowly becoming more Democrat leaning, which is not good news for South Florida Republicans in Congress.

Call to Action: Local Republican clubs, the RPOF, our congressional representatives, Republican voters, and independent voters MUST re-double their efforts to register and vote. We must cover key voting precincts with more volunteers, especially on election day, focus our efforts on getting out the vote at election time, contribute financially to ALL Republican candidates, advertise more aggressively in predominantly Democrat newspapers and cable TV, conduct a comprehensive social media campaign to spread our message, AND FOCUS ON HELPING ALL REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES WIN THEIR RESPECTIVE ELECTIONS BY MAKING SURE THAT LOCAL CLUBS IN KEY VOTING AREAS OF THE STATE HAVE FEDERAL REGISTRATIONS! **Democrats present a consistent and comprehensive ballot for voters, with ALL candidates (federal, state, local) listed for election displayed on a single voter card!** In many places, Republicans DO NOT provide that option, leaving many voters confused and uninformed on election day!

Now is the time to act! The future of our state and our nation is at stake! **Let's ALL Work Together to "Make America Great Again!"**

—Paul Spain

Endorsed by Citizens for Trump, Florida



News from State Rep. Bill Hager, District 89: Session Update—Week 5

February 9—Today marks the end of the fifth week of the 2018 Legislative Session. In an effort to keep you up to date I want to share with you information on a few issues of importance this week.

HB 1069: Substance Abuse Services

The opioid crisis has been a relentless menace in our community and tackling it has been my highest priority while I have been serving in the Florida House. HB 1069 will make it harder for unscrupulous operators to thrive and this week it passed it's second committee stop. It now has one more committee before reaching the House Floor. You can read more about it in this article by News4Jax.

2018 House Budget

In the past month, members of the Appropriations Committee and Subcommittees have been crafting a budget for our state that is efficient while providing essential services for our residents and state resources. Unlike other states, Florida is committed to passing a balanced budget. Not only are we fiscally responsible but we have made sure to put away billions for a rainy day. See the highlights from the budget we just voted on below.

Key Features:

Opioid Crisis: \$50 million is provided to help end the opioid epidemic plaguing our communities.

Hurricane Relief: \$230 million in support for recovery from Hurricane Irma.

Reserves: \$3.5 billion is put into reserves to ensure the Legislature fulfills it's constitutional duty of maintaining a stable and fiscally sound state.

K-12 Funding: 517.5 million in new spending to increase per student funding by \$100.

FL Job Growth Grant Funding: \$85 million is allocated to help attract new jobs for Florida's workforce.



Herbert Hoover Dike: Provides \$50 million for transfer to the South Florida Water Management District to expedite repairs of the Herbert Hoover Dike.

Beach Restoration Projects: Provides \$54.5 Million for financial assistance to local governments and special taxing authorities for beach and dune restoration, nourishment, and inlet management. Provides \$25 million for beach recover projects for damages from Hurricane Irma.

Justice Appropriations

For the past two years I have had the honor to be chair of the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. We have worked hard to maintain a high performing but low cost criminal justice system.

The Justice budget focuses on public safety and focuses on health and mental health treatment in Corrections in response to litigation.

Generators: Provides \$1.5 million to match federal grant funds to purchase and install generators at Certified Domestic Violence Centers.

Price Gouging Hotline: Provides \$300,000 and five positions to address Citizen Services and Price Gouging Hotline ongoing workload.

Maintenance: Provides \$15 million nonrecurring General Revenue funds for facility and maintenance projects statewide in Corrections and Juvenile Justice.

I will continue to keep you up-to-date with newsletters letting you know about bills under consideration and any new laws that are passed. As always, it is my honor to serve you in the Florida House. If ever I may be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would also invite you to follow me on Twitter or Facebook for the most up-to-date information on the 2018 Legislative Session.

Balloon Ban at Beaches, New Golf Entertainment Center and More . . .

By Steven Abrams

Palm Beach County Commissioner, District 4

The county's Parks and Recreation Department recently prohibited balloons at any of the 11 Palm Beach County beaches from Boca Raton to Jupiter. The focus is to protect sea turtles that nest on our beaches. The balloons that end up in the ocean resemble jellyfish, which the sea turtles eat. Recently, the Loggerhead Marinelife Center in Juno Beach has found deflated balloons and other marine debris in the stomachs of hatched sea turtles that have died.

The new rule only applies to 11 county beaches. In South County they include South Inlet Park in Boca Raton, Gulfstream Park and Ocean Inlet Park in Ocean Ridge. Violating Palm Beach County Park rules can carry a fine of up to \$500. Please enjoy your visit to our beautiful beaches but leave the balloons at home!

Look What's Coming Near PBIA

It's no surprise that Palm Beach International Airport (PBIA) was recently voted ninth best airport in the United States by the prestigious Travel & Leisure magazine and ranked fifth medium airport by J.D. Power 2017 North America Airport Satisfaction Study.

These awards are not new to PBIA! The airport was the fourth Happiest Airport based on a Fox News Travel survey in 2015 and the sixth Best Airport by Best and Worst Airports in America with Conde Nast Traveler's Readers' Choice Awards 2016 and Best Airport in the US—Trip Advisor 2016, just to name a few.

Coming soon is Drive Shack, a golf entertainment center, to be located at 1600 Belvedere Road (the airport's former cell phone waiting lot). The 12-acre site is being leased by the county to Drive Shack which plans to build a three-story, 61,000-square-foot building that will house 96 hitting bays with room for six players. In addition to physical and virtual targets, there will be technology that analyzes individual swings and trajectory for scoring purposes.

The center will also include a rooftop terrace for having refreshments and socializing and a meeting space for private events. In addition to the income generated by the lease, the project is expected to create 150 to 250 construction jobs and 300 to 250 permanent full- and part-time jobs.

Don't forget to check out the new cell phone waiting lot at the Travel Plaza (southwest corner of Belvedere Road and Florida Mango) where you can get your car washed, fill up the tank, visit Dunkin Donuts or the 7-11 store which features real-time flight information boards.

Update on Hurricane Irma—Response and Aftermath

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, seven county non-profits coordinated to provide more than \$700,000 to over

60 organizations—covering the cost of everything from roof repairs to mental health services. They continue to meet in anticipation of future disasters. To see who they are, click: <http://www.yourcommunityfoundation.org/index.cfm>.

The Solid Waste Authority of Palm Beach County completed its cleanup efforts from Hurricane Irma, which made landfall on September 10, 2017. The final cleanup efforts of nearly 3 million cubic yards of vegetation at an estimated cost of approximately \$33.3 million finished mid-November ahead of schedule as a result of increased collection sites. The 3 million cubic yards of debris collected is equivalent to filling up the Empire State Building! Most of the debris was turned into mulch for use on farmland in western Palm Beach County due to Irma.

Shortly after the hurricane hit, the Board of County Commissioners approved a \$35.5 million loan for the SWA to cover the cleanup expenses. The county expects to receive reimbursement from FEMA of approximately \$31.2 million sometime within the next 12 to 18 months. No increase in the solid waste fee were imposed on unincorporated county homeowners by the SWA.

BCC Briefs

At the December 19, 2017, Board of County Commissioners meeting, the board took the following action:

Conversion therapy—adopted an ordinance banning the practice of conversion therapy on minors. The intent is to protect the physical and psychological well-being of minors, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or questioning (LGBTQ) youth, from exposure to the serious harms and risks caused by conversion therapy by licensed providers. The ordinance will be applicable in unincorporated areas of Palm Beach County and in all municipalities that have not adopted an ordinance in conflict.

Disparity study—received the Palm Beach County Disparity Study revised final draft report and recommendations of Mason Tillman Associates, Ltd. (MTA), and agreed to defer taking any further action until the January 23, 2018, BCC meeting to allow for adequate review of the summary memorandum/review of the Palm Beach County Disparity Study by Franklin M. Lee of Tydings & Rosenberg, LLP. Staff was directed to extend the MTA contract period for an additional 90 days from the expiration date of the existing contract with potential travel-related expenses required by the county.

Urgent care—adopted a resolution approving the issuance of up to \$10 million in revenue bonds by the Michigan

Steven Abrams—continued on next page

Steven Abrams—continued from previous page

Finance Authority for acquisition, construction, improvement and equipping of two Trinity Health Corp. facilities in Boca Raton: Holy Cross West Boca Urgent Care and Imaging Center on State Road 7 and Holy Cross East Boca Urgent Care and Imaging Center on South Federal Highway. No county funds, its taxing power, faith or credit are involved.

Jupiter Medial Center—adopted a resolution approving the issuance of up to \$75 million in Palm Beach County Health Facilities Authority revenue bonds to finance the acquisition of land and the acquisition, construction and installation of improvements, facilities and equipment for healthcare facilities on the main campus of Jupiter Medical Center. No county funds, its taxing power, faith or credit are involved.

Village of Valor—adopted a resolution approving the issuance of up to \$17 million by the Palm Beach County Health Facilities Authority to finance the costs associated with acquiring, constructing and equipping Village of Valor, a 157-unit multifamily rental housing facility to be located at 2431, 2441, 2559 and 2650 2nd Avenue North in Lake Worth and Palm Springs. No county funds, its taxing power, faith or credit are involved.

McMurrain Farms—approved a third amendment to an interlocal agreement with the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) for the county’s purchase of the district’s 60.6 percent interest in the McMurrain Farms property in the Ag Reserve. The county and the district jointly own the 571-acre property. The county will pay a total of \$8,926,380 in three installments of \$2,975,460, each time acquiring one-third of the district’s holding. The first installment is due March 31, 2018. SFWMD will continue to manage property until all installments have been paid.

SHIP—approved an award of \$567,500 in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funds to the Richmond Group of Florida Inc. following an RFP process. The county’s Department of Housing and Economic Sustainability (HES) issued the RFP, making \$700,000 in SHIP funds available for a Local Government Areas of Opportunity Funding

(LGAOF) grant contribution to multifamily housing developers seeking tax credits from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation 9 Percent Housing Credits Program. These are state funds that require no local match.

Conservation easement—approved an assignment of conservation easement to the village of Palm Springs over a 1.28-acre preserve area within a parcel known as the New Light Fellowship Church. The parcel was annexed into the village in 2014, but was never developed. As the county no longer has regulatory authority, it is appropriate to transfer the conservation easement to the village.

Fire prevention codes—approved updated Palm Beach County local amendments to the statewide minimum fire safety code, known as the Florida Fire Prevention Code. Some of the recommended changes to the local amendments include increasing fees for plan review and inspections.

Building codes—approved an ordinance adopting county amendments to the Florida Building Code for turf and landscape irrigation systems, and repealing and re-adopting an updated FBC 6th Edition (2017) Appendix F of the FBC-Plumbing volume regulating new irrigation systems, which will help to conserve water and protect the public water supply.

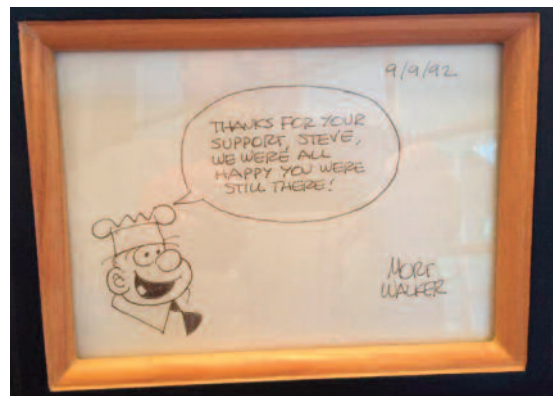
Roads—approved a joint participation agreement and with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) in the amount of \$5.385 million to reimburse for staff time and land acquisition and management costs associated with maintaining mitigation areas in the Loxahatchee Slough, Pond Cypress, and Pine Glades natural areas consistent with the management practices of the Natural Areas Program and in accordance with the state and federal permits for the SR-7 Extension. The board also approved the annual update to the county’s five-year road program.

Water main—confirmed a special assessment for installation of a potable water main to serve 12 residential properties on 52nd Court North in The Acreage and authorized a work order with Johnson-Davis Inc. in the amount of \$116,480.

If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact my office at 561-355-2204 or email at sabrams@pbcgov.org.

A Note from Commissioner Abrams on the Passing of Mort Walker, January 28

Mort Walker, the creator of Beetle Bailey, has died at 94. Mort was the driving force behind the International Museum of Cartoon Art, which was located in Mizner Park in the 1990s. He was one of the most delightful people I have ever worked with and penned this thank you note to me after the City Council approved the project. (I was about to run for the Legislature at the time, which is the reference in the note. It passed on a 3-2 vote, which veteran Council watchers will recall was the norm in those days.) RIP Mort.



Trump Out-Trumps Them All

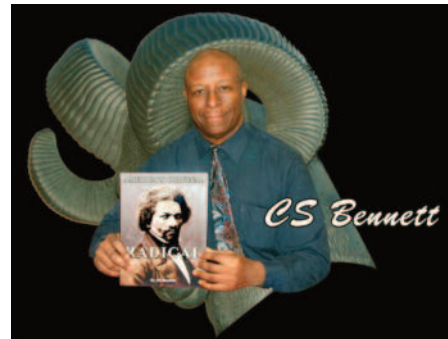
By CS Bennett

In the business world, Donald Trump was known to be savvy, cunning, confident, fearless, ambitious, determined, and frankly, unapologetic about it all. He was also highly intelligent and well-educated. He attended the Wharton School of Business, the prestigious business school at the University of Pennsylvania. The left-wing media have gone out of their way to imply that Trump never distinguished himself while in Philadelphia, as if being at the top of the class is the sole measure of one's success. Many successful people never finished at the top of their class. In fact, many of them never attended college, and some who did, never finished college, like Microsoft founder Bill Gates, when he was enrolled as a student.

By now, most Americans know that the left-wing media is out to get Trump, and the Republicans, along with the Establishment on both sides of the aisles, are attacking him relentlessly. But Trump is a fighter and is not easily intimidated. And there lies the reason why he resonates with conservatives and like-minded independents. These are epic times and epic changes are happening right before our eyes. Before Trump, we felt helpless and powerless to do anything about it. We had a Republican Congress that had no clue what it meant to be an opposition party (when defending our rights and freedoms and our Constitution) and thought that compromising with Democrats, who were out to destroy them, was taking the high road.

In epic times like these we needed epic people, not compromisers the likes of Neville Chamberlain of England, and Jimmy Carter and Barack Obama of America, to step up to the plate and hit a home run for the American people. We needed someone who would champion our cause and stand up for America, not apologize to the world for it. That is why we supported, rallied around, and voted for Donald Trump, who had proven in the business world that he was not afraid to stand his ground. As president, he has not been afraid to stand toe to toe with liberals, much like the 1860s Radical Republicans did in their time. In the eyes of conservatives, Donald Trump is a hero. He came onto the political scene out of nowhere, and was given no chance of winning by the mainstream media. He was often mocked, belittled, and berated by their all-knowing Sunday morning pundits, and constantly caricatured by their ever-so-biased media.

Americans love their heroes. We love people who are courageous, and most of all, daring. That is why we celebrate film stars like Clint Eastwood, Charleston Heston, Bruce



Lee, Robert Mitchum, Sidney Poitier, Charles Bronson, Yul Brenner, Humphrey Bogart, Glenn Ford and Steve Reeves. That is why we admire women such as Amelia Earhart, Rosa Parks, Harriet Tubman, Clara Barton, Barbara Jordon, Coretta Scott King, Ruby Bridges and Helen Keller. There are those who say that Mitt Romney would have made a good president, but he was far too nice; and John McCain, well, he was far too brash and overconfident. Besides, neither one of them were true conservatives. They were both Establishment RINOs and that is why they lost. They never believed in, never supported, never subscribed to, and often neglected, the core base of the Republican Party (which are conservatives). Instead, they went after the independent vote. You can go after the independent vote, but you had better have your core constituency onboard to win.

Politicians have made numerous promises, when campaigning, and when they got into office, did the opposite. Voters grew tired of that overplayed deception. So, they turned to an all-American businessman and patriot named Donald Trump, who had a track record of winning and growing his businesses. And now, America is winning again, and Americans are prospering again. And you know what? Republicans in Congress are beginning to learn from Trump how to fight back and stand strong. Yes, those spineless Republicans have now grown a backbone. All they needed was for someone to show them how to stand tall. You know, there just might be a lesson to be learned here. For sure, the world is taking note. . . .

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.

American Humane's Pups4Patriots Event in Manalapan

By Lois Pope

[Editor's Note—On January 25, 2018, I picked up US Navy submarine veteran, Steve Laine and his friend, Denise Falabella, at his beautiful home on the ocean in Boca Raton and drove to the plush Eau Palm Beach in Manalapan to attend American Humane's Pups4Patriots dinner. American Humane is an organization that, among many other projects, rescues shelter dogs, pays for their training, and then gives them to veterans who need help. As a scout dog handler who served in the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade in the Vietnam War, the evening affair had special meaning for me. In only a few minutes at the dinner, American Humane raised over \$175,000 from those in attendance! I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the leaders of this wonderful organization for inviting me to their gala dinner and graciously waiving the \$350 cost of a ticket to attend. For me, it was a magical night filled with joy and tearful "mystic chords of memory" of war and the loyal canine comrade-in-arms I left behind.]

Every day 184 veterans are diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress and tragically, 20 take their own lives. At the same time 670,000 beautiful dogs are euthanized in the nation's shelters each year. To help save America's vets and America's pets, more than 300 people, including 150 retired military warriors and their families, a three-star General, a Rear Admiral, and country star and veterans advocate Naomi Judd joined me and American Humane, the coun-

try's first national humane organization, to support the organization's new "Shelter to Service" program.

Through Pope's "Shelter to Service" program, part of American Humane's Lois Pope LIFE Center for Military Affairs, American Humane rescues abandoned shelter animals and trains them to become lifesaving service dogs for veterans with Post-Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), using the first national standards ever developed for these types of service animals.

We are working to address two of the greatest humanitarian crises in our nation. Helping America's veterans and rescuing shelter animals are top priorities for the Lois Pope LIFE Center for Military Affairs, and we hope to begin turning the tide for those in greatest need through our "Shelter to Service" program. I urge every American to support this lifesaving program.

American Humane raised funds for the program during its sold-out, star-studded "Pups4Patriots" event at the Eau Palm in Manalapan, Florida on January 25. The organization presented graduating veteran/service dog teams, who were given their diplomas by Joseph P. DiSalvo, Lieutenant General, United States Army and Military Deputy Commander, United States Southern Command and Thomas Kearney, Rear Admiral USN (Ret.) to the cheers of 150 veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East and their families.



Photo by Capehart Photography

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

Republican Federated Women of South Florida Hosted Five Candidates on January 25



Tami Donnally, Vice Chair of the Palm Beach County Republican Party, and candidate for the Florida Senate, District 31

On Thursday, January 25, before a full house at the Boca Country Club, the Republican Federated Women of South Florida were pleased to present five outstanding local candidates. Also among the guests were **Maricel Cobitz**, President of the Federated Republican Women of North Dade and District Representation for the Florida Federation of Republican Women, and **Inez Yimoc**, Vice President of the Federated Republican Women of North Dade.

Tami Donnally, Vice Chair of the Palm Beach County Republican Party, spoke about her campaign for election to the Florida Senate, District 31. She pointed out that although the district has a majority Democrat registration, the outcome of the election will depend largely on turnout, and emphasized that if she is able to get out her voters, she can win. Two of her main issues are school choice and the opioid crisis.

Boca Raton Mayor **Susan Haynie** discussed her campaign for Palm Beach County Commission District 4, to replace Commissioner **Steven Abrams**, who is term-limited from running again. She spoke about the issues facing Boca Raton, and mentioned her trip the previous day to the White House, where Vice President Pence and President Trump met with 109 mayors to unveil the Administration’s infrastructure plans.

Boca Raton Deputy Mayor **Jeremy Rodgers**, who is running for re-election to the Boca Raton City Council, addressed some of the issues facing the city, and emphasized his interest in keeping development at a manageable level while attracting strong technical and medical research to the community.

Armand Grossman, a candidate for Boca Raton City Council, discussed his involvement with the community since he moved to Boca Raton in 1965. He spoke about being part of the inaugural class at Florida Atlantic University, and how he has helped guide the University through its development over the years.

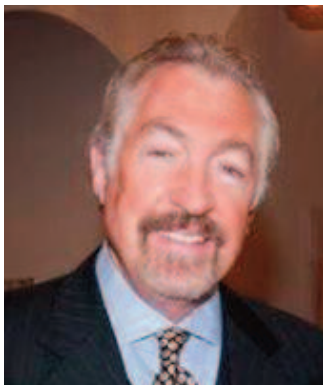
Last, but certainly not least, we heard from **Peggy Gossett-Seidman**, who is a candidate for Commissioner of Highland Beach. A newcomer to politics, she talked about how she felt it was time to become involved in the leadership of the community, and to help guide it in the right direction.

Tami Donnally’s race is a Special Election, being held on April 10 to replace Jeff Clemens, who resigned after admitting to an extramarital affair with a lobbyist. Tami will face Democrat Lori Berman. The municipal elections for Boca Raton and Highland Beach will be held on Tuesday, March 13. The primary election for County Commission is August 28, and the general election will be November 6.

The next meeting of the Republican Federated Women of South Florida will be held on Wednesday, February 28, at the Boca Country Club. For information about the club, please contact Rosemary O’Mara at rosemaryo625@aol.com.



Left to right: Boca Raton Mayor Susan Haynie, Boca Raton City Councilman Jeremy Rodgers, and Margi Henschien, founder of America Connected.



Armand Grossman, candidate for Boca Raton City Council



Peggy Gossett-Seidman, candidate for Highland Beach City Council



Maricel Cobitz, President of the Federated Republican Women of North Dade, and FRWND Vice President Inez Yimoc.

News from the Republican Clubs of Palm Beach County

Starla Brown at January Luncheon of the Republican Club of the Palm Beaches

By RCPB, January 28, 2018

Our first meeting of the new year featured Starla Brown, Grassroots Director, Americans for Prosperity Florida.

If you haven't been involved with AFP lately, it was interesting to learn of the variety of their projects, over and above the core mission of getting out the vote.

Of particular interest to Starla is free speech on campus. Having just completed an event on this topic at FAU, AFP is supporting HB909 this session, which would end "free speech zones" on Florida campuses. While many would expect that the entire country is a "free speech zone," unfortunately the liberal stalwarts who run our universities have relegated objectionable views (such as conservative thought) to small pens in out-of-the-way places (such as next to dumpsters). HB909 would stop the practice, but the bill made it out of its first committee by only a two-vote margin (out of 12) and has two more committee hurdles before it can get to the floor.

Among other projects by AFP and their 501(c)(3) subsidiary AFP Foundation is the Libre Initiative, which advances the principles and values of economic freedom to empower the U.S. Hispanic community, primarily by offering English classes with a dose of policy.

Others are the Concerned Veterans for America (CVA)—which aims to preserve the freedom and prosperity veterans and their families fought and sacrificed to defend, and Generation Opportunity—an outreach to millennials. Starla related that millennials she works with live in a virtual bubble through social media, only seeing people and ideas that are like minded.



Starla Brown



Maryann Connors

To keep up with the bills in Tallahassee that AFP is supporting (or opposing), check out the Florida Billboard.

Accompanying Starla was AFP's local Field Director, Maryann Connors.

Also present was Derek Schwartz, candidate for CD21, the Lois Frankel seat. Derek lives in Boynton Beach and is a Boca attorney who specializes in tax law, and is a self-described "America First" Trumpster. We expect to hear more about Derek in the months to come.

Tami Donnally, candidate for Florida Senate District 31, was represented by Paula Prudente.

Please join us next month, February 28, for a 2018 election update with PBCGOP Executive Director Ryan Hnatiuk.

Kings Point Republican Club Met on January 3

Our January 3rd meeting ushering in the New Year was a big success. **Bill Hartnett**, our club Treasurer, led us in the Pledge of Allegiance; **Paul Koppleman**, accompanied by **Fran Lemon** on the piano, gave a rousing rendition of our National Anthem with the Club singing along. The campaign manager for congressional candidacy of **Kurt Jetta** told us of his background and qualifications to run against incumbent Lois Frankel in the Florida 21st Congressional District right here in Kings Point. Our guest speaker **Edward J. Bender** described with a PowerPoint presentation what the "Florida Convention of States" is all about, and the pathways to amend our Constitution under Article 5. There were many comments and questions from our club members. Club President **Paul Tocker** read our

Mission Statement and introduced our newly elected club officers and steering committee. Bill Hartnett conducted the raffle for the \$25 Publix gift card and five pocket Constitutions donated by **Ira Geiger**. A good time was had by all.

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

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

Letter to the Editor

State of the Union Democrat Boycott

At least five Democrat members in the House of Representatives have been kind enough to give up their seats at the upcoming State of the Union address on January 30, 2018. There will be no problem filling those seats, as the President has the authority to invite whoever he wants as guests. Accordingly, the empty-seat photo-op strategy employed by former President Obama in his last State of the Union will backfire big league on this dim-witted boycott.

There are no designated seating rules for a Joint Session of Congress. Most Americans are unaware that it is a “first come first served” policy, where members of the House and Senate scramble like school children in a cafeteria vying for

position and reserving spots for friends. Traditionally, members of the Senate get the front rows. But after that, it’s a free for all.

Plenty of time remains for congressional Republican candidates challenging Democrat incumbents to seek a White House invitation to grab one of these choice floor seats.

Tom Vaughn
Republican Committeeman
Precinct 4024
561-374-2069

Seminar in Boca Raton: Iran’s Middle-East Strategy

My wife and I attended this event at the Boca West Country Club on January 28, 2018, hosted by the Citizens for National Security, and it was well worth the effort. We went to hear the “presenter,” James F. Jeffrey, give his views on what the theocratic Iranian regime was doing and why in that region of the world that is so vital to America’s strategic interests, and his qualifications to do so are beyond reproach.

According to his bio, Mr. Jeffrey, former Ambassador to Iraq and Turkey, retired from the Foreign Service with the rank of Career Ambassador in 2012. At present, Ambassador Jeffrey is the Phillip Solondz distinguished visiting fellow at The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Prior to his service as Ambassador in Ankara (2008–2010) and Baghdad (2010–2012), he served as Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor in the George W. Bush Administration.

The following are Ambassador Jeffrey’s views of developments in the Middle East and growing Iranian regional encroachment:

The United States has led an international coalition to success in the conventional war against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. Meanwhile, Iran, aided by Russia, has turned the tide in the Syrian Civil War decisively in favor of the criminal Assad regime. Finally, President Trump announced a new Iran policy October 13.

Yet the region is less secure, and the U.S.-led regional security order more endangered, than any time since 1979. The reason is that while one threat, Sunni Islamic terror, has been temporarily defeated in Syria and Iraq, and contained elsewhere, the more strategic threat, Iran, is growing rap-

idly, to some degree abetted by Russia. These two threats are organically linked; Iran benefits from ungoverned territories overrun by terrorists, from Yemen to Syria, and justifies its aggression as counter terrorism. Meanwhile, when America fails to contain Iran, Sunni populations embrace groups like ISIS and al Qaeda for self-protection.

President Trump’s October 13 policy announcement on Iran, despite much mention of the Iran JCPOA nuclear deal, wisely set the first American priority as countering Iran’s destabilizing activity throughout the region. Along with the President’s commitment to a Palestinian-Israeli accord, and the fight against al Qaeda, Taliban and ISIS terrorists throughout the region, we have the outlines of a new regional policy, built on our success against ISIS, based on local partners, diplomatic mobilization and limited but decisive military power. Yet, so far that policy has not spelled out how, specifically, we will contain Iran, nor reassured our regional partners.

But Iran, enabled by Russia, does have a detailed plan for the region; the Prime Minister Hariri fiasco in Lebanon, death of former Yemenese President Saleh, missile attacks on Riyadh, threats to Israel out of Syria and Lebanon, and the crushing of the Iraqi Kurdish independence effort, all bear Iran’s fingerprints directly or indirectly. And absent a detailed game plan made in Washington, and successes implementing it, our partners are “winging it” in uncoordinated ways, which Iran then exploits to further expand its gains. The risk is great that one or another such incident will explode into a regional conflict, if we do not quickly coordinate with partners and explain our plan to contain Iran.

—Tom Mullings

Book Review

***Driven Beyond Success: The True Story That Proves Anyone Can Achieve Anything*, by Edward Primoff. Telemachus Press, 2014. 262 pp.**

Discovering this book was such a delightful surprise. Mrs. Sue Primoff sent me an email inviting me to review her husband's book for this newsletter, and in retrospect I'm most grateful that she did. It's a wonderful book telling a quintessentially American tale about a common man rising to dizzy heights through determination and hard work.

Some of us are born with silver spoons in our mouths, while most come into this world with one, two, or even three strikes against us, and what we do after that determines who we are. As far as I can see, Mr. Edward Primoff arrived on the American scene with four strikes, but still rose phoenix-like from unimagineably humble beginnings and disadvantages to become a man for all of us to admire and the wisest of us to seek to emulate. And that is his purpose in writing this book—to demonstrate that in America, "anyone can achieve anything" as long as they want it bad enough and work hard to obtain their goals.

Mr. Primoff graduated from high school with the reading and writing ability of a child in early grade school. Early on in adulthood he could only read at the rate of 11 words per minute. He had an acute form of dyslexia and could only see parts of words. Imagine trying to go through school like that. Back then no one knew what was wrong with him. Kids made fun of him and bullied him and teachers punished him, derided and ridiculed him in front of his classmates. He was born in 1943 with what doctors then called an "upside down stomach," developed an eating disorder, and continued to gain weight until he weighed over 400 pounds. Dangerous, experimental surgery eventually solved his weight problem, but he wound up with life-threatening health problems that seemed to guarantee an early death.

Still, by adulthood he had some things going for him—a burning desire to succeed and a willingness to work hard. At

age 21 a girl broke up with him telling him he "aimed too high." Fortunately, he learned that he had the ability to sell. He had a job in a laundromat and when he gave it up to sell real estate his father chastised him with the admonition, "These people are professionals." But along with his fierce determination and hard work ethic, Mr. Primoff had something else going for him that was most responsible for propelling upward in life—"an absolute fear of failing and having no place else to turn."

He was good at selling real estate and eventually began purchasing properties, securing his first loan that he would have not been able to obtain if Dodd-Frank had been the law of the land at the time. In 1980 he began purchasing gold and silver, and eventually was earning \$100,000 a day. By 1981 he was worth 7 figures!

Then he went to his high school reunion and the zipper of his pants broke, and as he tried to maneuver his way out of the place with a program held in front of his crotch, a girl approached and said "Ed Primoff, you can't leave without saying hello to me." [!]

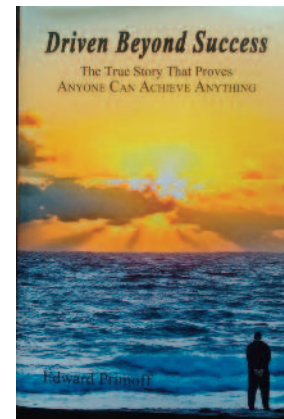
Working seven days a week, he branched out into the jewelry and lending businesses, eventually making loans of tens of millions of dollars, and worked with the FBI helping them to catch jewel thieves.

When Bill Clinton became President, he "made [Mr. Primoff's] blood boil" when he said that "business people should pay more taxes because "they won the lottery of life."

By the mid 1990s his net worth was in the low eight figures. He thought he had earned the right to "take it easy," so he tried his hand at farming but could not make a living at it, so he rebuilt his commercial lending business.

In 2000 he and his wife got involved in the presidential election, were invited to the White House by President Bush, and were offered jobs there—Ed as a driver for cabinet members and Mrs. Primoff at the White House Social Office. Mr. Primoff, exercising his life-long love of photography, also became a White House photographer, taking over 65,000 pictures, a few of which are included with this review. One day, on September 11, 2001, Mrs. Primoff made a frantic call to her husband, informing him that the country was under attack by terrorists and all had been warned to flee the White House.

The Primoff's had met many famous people while at the White House and become good friends with attorney Bar-



Edward Primoff at the White House.

Driven Beyond Success—continued on next page

Driven Beyond Success—continued from previous page

bara Olson, who tragically was a passenger on the Pentagon plane on that most terrible of days. In the book, Mr. Primoff writes that at her “memorial service it was said that Barbara loved country music and her favorite song was “The Dance,” by Garth Brooks. “Who could ever expect that the lyrics in the song she loved so much, would apply so poignantly in a way no one could have ever imagined.” He “sealed in plastic a few verses from that song [and carries] it with him to this day” as a tribute to Barbara and a “reminder of how much we all lost that day.” This is a wonderful song, but hard to listen to without shedding a tear for Barbara. Here are the lyrics Mr. Primoff carries with him:

Look back on the memory of
 The dance we shared ‘neath the stars above
 For a moment all the world was right
 How could I have known that you would ever say goodbye
 And how now I’m glad I didn’t know
 The way it all would end, the way it all would go
 Our lives are better left to chance
 I could have missed the pain
 But I’d have had to miss the dance.

Mr. Primoff spoke eloquently about the wholesome decency of the Bush family. “They never acted as if their position made them any more important than anyone else,” he said, and then quoted family matriarch Barbara Bush: “The person who treats you nice, but doesn’t treat the waitress nice is not a nice person.”

In the book Mr. Primoff was particularly vocal about the way “the liberal lapdog media unfairly blamed President Bush” for the financial crisis of 2008, and lays the blame for our “economic downturn on liberals who took control of both houses of Congress” in 2006 and “believed that every American who wanted a home should be entitled to buy it. . . . It was them who instituted the insane policy of issuing and guaranteeing loans to millions of people who couldn’t afford to make their payments.”

In closing, the author professes his great love of the country that allowed him to reach such lofty heights of success, despite such seemingly insurmountable handicaps, and offers



The favorite photo of President George W. Bush taken by Ed Primoff.



Barbara Olson. Photo taken by Ed Primoff.

his book as a token of appreciation and in the hopes of helping to inspire others to follow in his footsteps. He writes in the book (published in 2014): “America has had many downturns in the past but always came back stronger than ever and I have little doubt that this time we will as well. As one of my closest friends Don Messenger said recently before passing away, ‘We are on the side of the angels.’”

So are you, Mr. Primoff, so are you. Read his book and find out why.

—Tom Mullings



Ed Primoff with First Dog Barney.



Ed and Sue Primoff celebrating Christmas at the White House.

Book Review

The Mohammad Code by Howard Bloom:

How a Desert Prophet Brought You ISIS, al Qaeda, and Boko Haram

A Book Review by William J. Skinner

Readers of my blogs will know I have been following the voluminous literature on The Prophet since the September 11th bombing of the World Trade Center in New York City. For you who are now beginning to become interested in the “problems” we face, I recommend where to find several good resources below. At the time September 11th happened I was in my law office in Rockville, Maryland, near the County Circuit Court, working on some documents with a TV on above my corner desk. I watched in amazement and yelled at other lawyers in our shared quarters to turn and look at the TV. President George W. Bush was contacted at a Florida school, barely into his first year in office. The government wheels slowly turned, and we sent the CIA and troops to Afghanistan with bipartisan support, based on intelligence reports from many U.S. and foreign agencies, and back to Iraq where we had been before under President George H.W. Bush. We have been there since.

The Halloween truck trick on the Manhattan bicycle trail in 2017 that killed eight and injured 11 innocents reminds us all of the “problems” we all face for the rest of our lives. This time intelligence was collected quickly and within 24 hours, the Acting U.S. Attorney in New York filed legal documents charging the perpetrator with terrorist crimes.

President George W. Bush has called Islam a religion of peace. Politicians argued about troop levels. We tried nation building and building coalitions. During eight years of President Obama we were apologetic, groveling, and sometimes supportive of the terrorists’ goals. The Obama administration would not call the various actions of murder by guns, knives, and bombs being done by people in the name of Allah what it really was—Islamic Terror. Obama officials recommended we change our language by forbidding use of certain words. Obama people added many Muslims to the deep state throughout government. Until Donald Trump was elected president, we seemed politically correct and indecisive about what to do. Trump was barely sworn into office and has changed the prospects for doing something about the terrorism.

Bloom has written several books—*Global Brain* and *The Lucifer Principle*, for example. This one is not copyrighted because he wants readers to use it to spread the word. I am one of those who believe others should know what Bloom knows. In 295 pages backed up by 1925 endnotes, Bloom has given us some resources to help us become aware of the seriousness of our recently discovered challenges. If we are late in learning about these details, I guess it is because we are asleep or lazy, or we are depending on our elected offi-

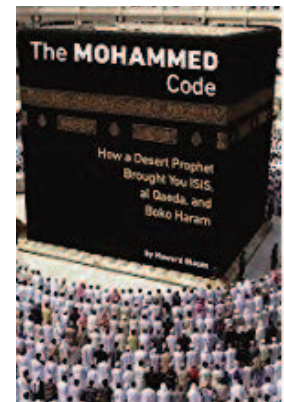
cial to make all of the effort. We do not have enough time to ignore this situation based on what I have learned by reading all of those books and reports listed in my blog.

In the last ten years, I have learned that many people on \$500 to \$1000 cellphones do not read far beyond the first screen. Attachments to emails are infrequently opened. Researchers are writing articles about how these cellphones train the mind to ignore details. So I am going to limit what I say in this review to a 20-page chapter in the book entitled: “Tomorrow’s Goal: Seizing the Empire of Roman” (pp. 171–190), in which the goals of basic, original Islam is to make Islam the sole governing organization of the world, and the “Empire of Rome” is revealed to be the United States. This is explained in some detail. Get the 2016 book. Read this chapter and realize that nearly two years have passed since the book came out. Maybe you can recognize what has happened in those months.

The chapter starts by reviewing the growth of and actions of Muslims in Holland, Germany, Belgium, and France, and how pro-Palestinian groups have successfully infiltrated movements like Black Lives Matter in the United States. Bloom explains the violence in France is not all due to social sins of poverty, oppression, unemployment and humiliation, since Muslim unemployment was 30 percent. One sympathetic group tested employers and found that if a person has a name of northern African origin, regular Frenchmen and women were five times as likely to be hired as those with the northern African names.

French Muslim leaders issued a fatwa against violence, misquoting Quran 2:190 into a peaceful meaning which it is not, says Bloom. The actual quote in 2:190 is “Fight in the cause of Allah who fight you but do not transgress limits; for Allah loveth not transgressors.” The next sentence is “And slay them wherever you catch them and turn them out from where they have turned you out.” Bloom says this is a warning to obey your military leaders, not an order for peace. The use of this involves “guile,” dishonesty and surprise. Muhammad summed it up when he said “war is deceit.”

Bloom discusses one after the other—CAIR, shoe bomber Richard Reid, and then B. Rahman who helped organize Islamic groups to create rampage and riots, all to establish opportunities to establish world rule . . . a global caliphate. Bloom says a global caliphate is not just a Muslim-basher’s fantasy; it is part of the Muslim plan.



The Mohammad Code—continued on next page

The Mohammad Code—continued from previous page

Bloom mentions that Walid Shoebat, a Palestinian appearing on the Philadelphia-based TV show *your Morning on CN8* in 2006, was asked why the son of Arab aristocrats would turn to violence. Shoebat answered, “My grandfather was good friends with Mohammad Amin al-Husanyi, the grand mufti of Jerusalem. He was called the Fuehrer of the Muslim world.” Bloom then writes that the grand mufti met with Adolph Hitler, corresponded with him frequently, lived for four years in Berlin as a guest of the Nazi government, and was given seven luxurious Berlin residences, a chauffeured Mercedes, a weekly stipend of \$10,000, and a lavish food allowance so he could woo other Muslim leaders to the Nazi cause.”

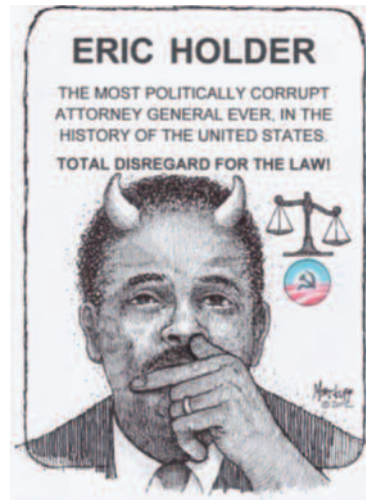
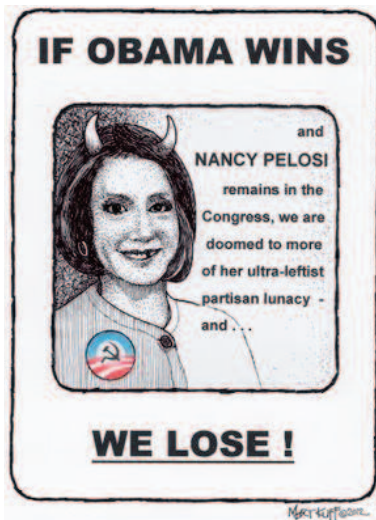
At p. 180, Bloom states: “Since Islam is a political and military structure disguised as a religion, this means the world will be ruled by just one leader, a caliph, using just one law code, shariah.”

At p. 186, the book goes on: “One expert from inside the Muslim world, Saudi professor Nasser Bin Sueiman Al-Omar, the man behind the website www.almoslim.net, offers the following evaluation:

America is collapsing from within . . . Islam is advancing according to a steady plan, to the point that tens of thousands of Muslims have joined the American army and Islam is the second largest religion in America. Today, America is defeated. I have no doubt, not even for a minute, that America is on its way to destruction.

You can see why this book is important and why it may be shunned by many. But I hope you will take the time to read Bloom’s detailed summary of life-saving facts and connections. Your life could depend on it. Look for my book list in the blog “Timelines of Christianity and Islam” found at: <http://bill-skinner.blogspot.com>.

MORT’S MEANDERINGS



I’m shocked! Shocked, do you hear me? SHOCKED!!

It has recently been brought to my attention by an ever-alert media that on more than one occasion, the former self-adoring, iconic President of the United States, **BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA**, has intentionally lied to the gullible citizens of this nation. Once again, I’m shocked.

The shocking news that **President Saint Obama**, *The Innocent*, was behind the illicit maneuvering of the angelic **Hillary Clinton** all the while she was using our Department of State as her own personal cash cow—and lied about it. *Shocking*. Who would ever have guessed that?

And later, **Saint Obama** blatantly lied about his total separation, from any knowledge or involvement with the activities of the former incompetent NY Senator; the former First Lady of former President & Degenerate-in-Chief ‘Bill’ Clinton; the former corrupt Secty of State; and then the faux Democrat candidate for the Presidency—the go-to incompetent, the thick-thighed, lazy-assed, self-adoring **Hillary Rodham Clinton**. Are you as shocked as I am? *Really?*

The **Islamo Narcissist-in-Chief Obama** lied each and every time he opened his mouth **before, during and after** his eight-year reign of anti-American terrorism and treason as **President Neglect of the United States**.

He was indoctrinated early-on as a radical Muslim. A large part of his M.O. was following the teachings of that Islamic technique-of-choice known as, **Taqiyya: It is the practice of deception and is fundamental to mainstream Islam. Got it?**

MORT KUFF © 2-9-2018

Editor's Postscript

**Trump/Russian Fusion, Collusion, Delusion, Conclusion
Part II**

By Tom Mullings

Forgive me for complaining, but all this Trump/Russian collusion stuff has got my head spinning so fast that I think I'm in danger of self-decapitation by uncontrollable angular momentum, and just between us, I think those donkeys on the other side of the political aisle have got something to do with it. After all, for over a year, beginning with former head donkey, Hillary Clinton in the presidential debates in 2016, they've been claiming that pachyderm herd leader, Donald Trump, had gone rogue and was colluding with the Russians to steal the election. Day after day, month after month they've screamed it, from the rooftops, hilltops, even the mountaintops, on C[Clinton]NN, MSLSD, the *New York Slimes*, the *Washington Compost*, the *Palm Beach Putz*, you name it. But, unfortunately for the donkeys, something happened along the way, something dreadful, something so frighteningly unexpected that it made it inevitable that their Trump/Russian collusion narrative was destined for some serious revisions. Somehow, the rogue bull elephant leader of the pachyderms won the election! "How could that be!" cried the donkeys. "We need an investigation by a Special Counsel to bring to an end that rogue elephant's rampage which has prevented the people's choice from becoming president and undermined the very foundations of our democracy!"

And they got one too, when Attorney General Sessions recused himself and his second in command, Rod Rosenstein, took over the matter and appointed Mr. Mueller, with

his newborn babe-pure reputation for integrity, to head a so-called independent probe. Well, maybe Mr. Mueller does have a sterling rep and maybe he's doing his best to serve his country now in an honorable, non-political fashion in its time of need. I know he did just that, long ago in the Vietnam War, and I sincerely hope he's doing his utmost now to rise to the occasion again. But I have serious doubts, given the growing body of facts we've learned as of late about what was behind all this Trump/Russian collusion business. Here's just some of what we apparently know as of now:



- Former British MI-6 agent, Christopher Steele went to the FBI "as a paid political operative, hired by Fusion GPS, as a sub-contractor for Hillary Clinton's campaign" with opposition research obtained from Russian sources!
- This bought and paid for "opposition research" was taken to a secret FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) court judge and presented as evidence to obtain a legal warrant in order to spy on the Donald Trump cam-

Editor's Postscript—continued on next page



Editor's Postscript—continued from previous page

paign, which just happened to be the Clinton campaign's opponent in last year's presidential election!!

- When this "opposition research" was presented to the Judge, the magistrate was only told, in a footnote, that the info may have had some "political motivation," but the fact that it was paid for by Hillary Clinton was not revealed!!!

In a recent issue of this newsletter I expressed the opinion that the Mueller investigation of Trump/Russian collusion should be shut down and a new special prosecutor should be appointed to investigate Hillary/Russian collusion instead. A new national poll conducted between Feb. 2 and Feb. 5 suggests that for the first time a majority of the American public agree that we need a new special prosecutor for just such an investigation.

Now I love and am proud of our Federal Bureau of Investigation, and always will feel that way, but how can we possibly want to continue the Mueller investigation given what we now know about Steele, Hillary, Fusion

GPS, Comey, the FBI's Peter Strzok and his FBI lover Lisa Page, etc. etc., *ad nauseam*?!!!!

This fictional Trump/Russian Fusion, collusion, delusion, illusion soap opera has gone on long enough and we need to stop it now, if for no other reason than to slow down the speed of the independent angular momentum of the shiny, balding globe north of my neck which has just now overtaken that of the blue/green globe below my feet!!!!

Alas, it now seems very likely that the pachyderms are off the hook, much to the chagrin of the donkeys, who, through their own arrogance, abuse of power and the rule of law, have apparently taken their place—but what do you expect from a bunch of braying asses!!!!!!

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.



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***REPUBLICAN PARTY OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY***

February 2018 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.

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



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
