

VOICES Magazine

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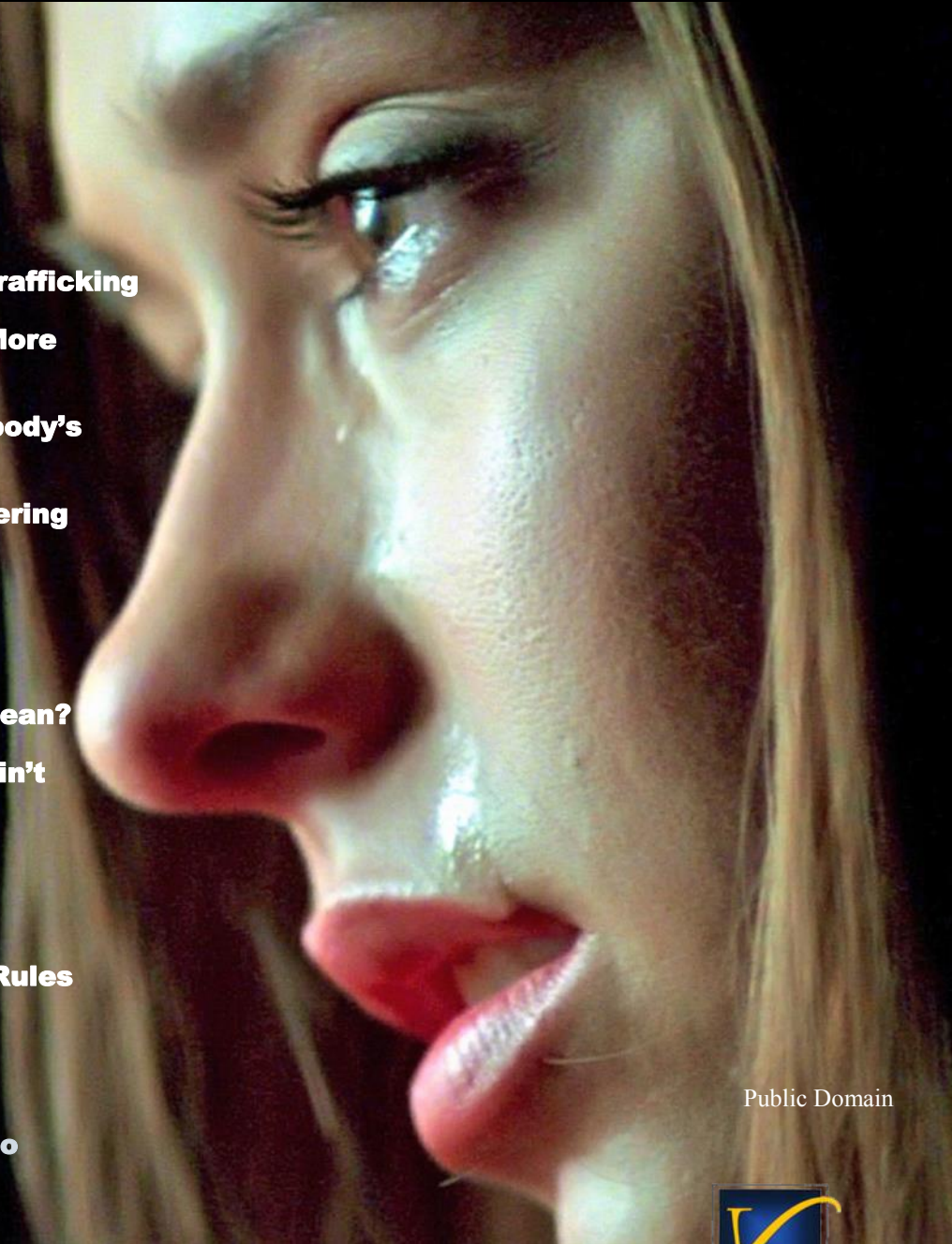
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GEORGIA FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN





Editorial

What is happening to our world?

By Sherry Roedl

I write this as the Republican National Convention is in full swing. It's only mid-July but it has already been a long, heated summer with tempers flaring on many fronts.

We are still reeling from the tragic, mass shootings in San Bernardino, California, and Orlando, Florida; the terrible assassinations of various "men in blue" whose role in our lives is for them to protect and serve—each and every one of us. Then we had the horrific murders in Nice, France, where eighty-four innocent individuals were run down by a radical Islamic "soldier." Sadly, I fear that by the time this summer issue is released, ISIS will once again rear its evil head and we will witness more horrific deaths at its hand.

What is happening to our world? My parent's generation had men like Generals Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, Douglas McArthur and President Harry Truman (whose gut-wrenching decision to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended World War II). We have President Barack Obama, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and current Secretary of State John Kerry, whose primary objective in every decision they make is to ensure the U.S. does not offend its enemies or inflict political harm to themselves!

Carly Fiorina often stated during her 2016 bid for the Republican presidential nomination that when the U.S. is not leading, the world is a far more dangerous place. The foreign policy decisions of Obama, Clinton, and Kerry have done little to quash the growth of radical Islamic terrorism. Their lead from behind, fleckless foreign policy has enabled ISIS to grow and invade our shores.

Here at home, the leadership in Washington in the Oval Office has done a poor job of calming

racial tensions. Many have espoused that Obama has actually fanned the flames of this racial unrest, being all too quick to weigh in on these matters before all the facts were known.

Lady Liberty cries for her nation to heal the wounds inflicted by the evil, radical Islamic terrorists' elements here at home and abroad. She cries for her citizens to salve the self-inflicted wounds of racial unrest stirred up by race-baiters and the likes of George Soros and the followers of Saul Alinsky whose primary goal is to divide us in order to control us. She cries for leaders who love this country to stand up to protect the liberties we have been bestowed.

Lady Liberty wants her country back—and—so do I.

—30—

INSIDE YOUR SUMMER 2016 VOICES

MAGAZINE: I hope you enjoy this issue of VOICES Magazine which deals with violence on the home front and human trafficking—yet again, more stains on the character of our nation. We are pleased to introduce you to several new contributors, one of which is Sen. John McCain's wife, Cindy McCain, who is actively involved in eradicating human trafficking. McCain spoke passionately about this subject at the National Federation of Republican Women's 2015 Biennial Convention in Phoenix. We are delighted to have her as a featured writer for our summer issue. Our own Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens weighs in on this important subject as well.

We would also like to introduce you to a recent addition to the VOICES Magazine staff, Janet Haldeman, who will have a regular column in the magazine entitled, "A Cup of Joe and Thoughts to Go." So, sit back, put your feet up, grab that "cup of Joe," and enjoy your summer issue of VOICES Magazine!

VOICES Publications

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Judy True

EDITOR of VOICES Magazine
Sherry Roedl

EDITOR of FOCUS Newsletter
Cindy Theiler

DIGITAL MEDIA EDITOR
Bobbie Frantz

POLITICAL ADVISOR
Rae Chornenky

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Content

FEATURE EDITORS
Columns Editors: Ullainee Stokes
Teen Issues Editor: Remington Youngblood

REGIONAL EDITOR
Dottie Krull

COLUMNISTS
John Padgett, Randy Evans,
JD Van Brink, Janet Haldeman

Production and Distribution

Production Director: Sherry Roedl

Layout Artist: Judy True

Copy Editor: Cindy Theiler

Distribution:
Bobbie Frantz

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VOICESmail

Managing Editor: Sherry Roedl
Digital Media Editor: Bobbie Frantz

PUBLISHER

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JD Van Brink



Georgia Federation of Republican Women

2016 — 2017

President: Barbara Hickey

770-819-8818

esatlanta@bellsouth.net

1st Vice President: Sally (Sara) Snyder

770-982-3433

asbs10@comcast.net

2nd Vice President: Joyce Hinton

404-925-2802

jdhinton2003@gmail.com

3rd Vice President: Cindy Theiler

770-509-3420

Cindy.theiler1@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Varie Rustin

478-397-1033

gfrwrustin@bellsouth.net

Treasurer: Billie Dendy

678-548-7508

dendybillie@comcast.net

Assistant Treasurer: Denise Ognio

404-597-3673

denise@futurestaffnow.com

Immediate Past President:

Ruby Robinson

912-266-0466

rrobinson6@bellsouth.net

Letter from the President

By Barbara Hickey



Dear Ladies:

The 2016 Republican National Convention exceeded all my expectations! I felt the enthusiasm the moment I arrived at the Holiday Inn Cleveland Clinic Hotel. Georgians from all over the state were laughing, sharing stories, and were ready to ensure that this was a great experience. Elephants were everywhere!

The GAGOP was prepared for us with our credentials, a busy schedule that included a welcome party at the North Coast Harbor with entertainment by Three Dog Night and the Doobie Brothers, a trip to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, the Cleveland Browns Stadium, and speakers lined up that made a great impact on us at our daily breakfast meetings and in the evening on the RNC Convention stage.

With the Monday night theme, "Make America Safe Again," we heard from the RNC Chairman Reince Priebus; Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson; RNC Co-Chair Sharon Day; NFRW President Carrie Almond; former Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour; Willie Robertson of the TV show "Duck Dynasty"; former Texas Governor Rick Perry; U.S. Senators Tom Cotton, Jeff Sessions, Ted Cruz, Marco Rubio (on video) and Joni Ernst; Lieutenant General Michael Flynn, Retired; many religious leaders with touching stories; and, Donald Trump's wife, Melania Trump, who shared her love of the United States.

On Tuesday night, the theme was "Make America Work Again" and speakers such as U.S. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, governors Chris Christie, Mary Fallin, and Scott Walker, former Republican presidential candidate Dr. Ben Carson, and our very own Newt Gingrich.

Despite the daily activities that kept us busy, we were excited about Wednesday night and the theme of "Make America First Again" with our vice-president selectee Indiana Governor Mike Pence who delivered a very positive message that the Trump-Pence team was ready to go to work to ensure that America appears strong again as "strength is all our enemies understand." Businessmen and women, Conservative radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, church leaders, and the reminder of the Apollo 11 anniversary left us determined to do whatever it takes to put our nominee Donald Trump in the White House.

Finally, we were ready for Thursday night and the theme, "Make America One Again." All through the week, we saw Republican diversity with speakers who spoke from the heart about finding that it is the Republican Party that really wants jobs for everyone, that pushes education to ensure that people meet the qualifications required for those jobs, and that respects and honors the military and public safety personnel every day.

Our nominee and his family made a great showing speaking from the heart during the week. We were tired but touched that we had found the candidate who could make all four themes a reality. He deserves our energy and commitment—so—Let's Do It Together!

Barbara

VOICES Magazine

VOICES Magazine, established in 2009, is an online, Web-based publication issued three times annually by the Georgia Federation of Republican Women. Information is compiled from resources believed to be reliable, but accuracy of information is not guaranteed.

Any written portion of this publication may be reprinted with credit given to the author and to VOICES Magazine. Articles are invited for publication. Acceptances are on a contributing basis only and are subject to editorial review.

VOICES Magazine provides a forum for a wide spectrum of opinions and permits divergent viewpoints without implying the endorsement of the Federation. Bylined articles represent opinions of the authors and not necessarily those of GFRW.

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NFRW President Carrie Almond Calls for Unity

CLEVELAND—Carrie Almond, president of the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW), called for unity in the Republican Party and encouraged everyone to "get on board" during her speech to the Republican National Convention.

"From Nebraska to New Hampshire, across Ohio, Wisconsin, and Louisiana, here's what I'm hearing. Hillary Clinton does not speak for all women," Almond said. "She doesn't speak for the women in Kennebunk, Maine, who told me, 'Get out there and tell everyone: Women support Donald Trump!'"

Almond told the convention about the NFRW's nationwide "Destination: White House" campaign bus tour, which has traveled more than 11,000 miles to 23 states since May in an effort to register women to vote and rally women behind our Republican nominee.

"This year, we're so committed to putting a Republican in the White House that for the past two months, I've traveled the country in a red, white, and blue RV, named Rosie after my grandmother," Almond said. "... We're not resting until Election Day.... Women, after all, are the ones who unify the family. And we will unify the party!"

The NFRW's video featuring Republican women leaders and Federation members was also shown during Almond's speech. A full transcript of the speech is available at www.nfrw.org/news-articles-20160718

Cleveland Moments



Photo: NFRW

NFRW President Carrie Almond with "Rosie"
[NFRW's Tour Bus] in the background



Photo: Brad Hughes



L-R: GAGOP Chairman John Padgett, GA National
Committeewoman Ginger Howard, GA National Committeeman
Randy Evans

Georgia Delegates and
Alternates to the
Republican National
Convention
Cleveland, Ohio
July 18-21, 2016



VOICE of a Millennial

By Tanner Goldsmith



Newt Gingrich and Tanner Goldsmith

Serving as the youngest member in the Georgia delegation to the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, was an extreme honor, and I cannot begin to express my gratitude to Congressional District 3 (CD 3) for affording me the opportunity to serve as an alternate delegate. Throughout the convention, I had the opportunity to meet my political heroes, see the inner workings of the political system, and witness history from a unique perspective. The week of the RNC Convention was perhaps the greatest of my short life, and my attendance gave me the opportunity to represent an under-represented Millennial demographic that is key to the future of the Republican Party.

My efforts to be elected as an alternate delegate to the RNC stemmed from my belief that Millennial involvement in the GOP is essential to furthering conservative ideals; however, I realized that the Republican Party's image is currently out of favor with Millennials. I knew that attending the RNC would give me the opportunity to combat the media narrative portraying the Republican Party as exclusive and non-diverse. My election as an alternate delegate proved that Republicans are more than willing to embrace anyone—despite race, age, or gender—who is dedicated to advancing conservative principles.

Once I arrived at the RNC, I was awestruck as I observed the sheer magnitude of the convention and, quite frankly, it was encouraging. Tens of thousands of Republicans gathered together in order to stand together in support of the GOP. Moreover, I observed a vast array of diversity, which is in stark contrast to liberal media outlets' descriptions of the Republican Party.

During the week of the convention, I had the opportunity to personally communicate with the political leaders for whom I have the most

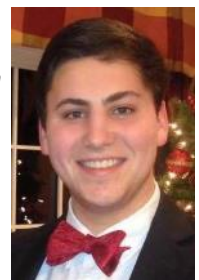
respect. At a Georgia delegation breakfast, I spoke personally with Senator David Perdue, whom I had worked for in the 2014 senatorial campaign, and he expressed his excitement for young people becoming involved in the political process. The highlight of my convention experience, however, came when I was able to meet my favorite, conservative politician—Newt Gingrich. I supported Gingrich's presidential effort in 2012 and meeting him—a Georgian who attended high school in my hometown—gave me hope in my potential to influence and shape the future direction of the Republican Party.

Upon viewing the actual convention proceedings, I became energized and dedicated to strengthening my party. Electric speeches by conservative personalities, Donald Trump's family, and Donald Trump himself, helped me understand that the Republican Party is able to candidly acknowledge America's shortcomings and propose practical conservative solutions at the same time. I believe such an approach is critical to the betterment of the United States. The RNC solidified my understanding that conservative solutions are often the best solution.

Overall, attending the Republican National Convention was an unbelievable experience that will shape the way I view politics for the rest of my life. I am forever indebted to the people of CD 3 who allowed me to witness this historical convention with a front-row seat and showed America that Republicans are not afraid to include Millennials in the political system. After attending, I can only hope that my involvement as a young alternate delegate will serve as an inspiration for other young conservatives to become involved in the political process.

Who Am I?

Tanner Goldsmith is an eighteen-year-old conservative activist who attended the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, as an alternate delegate. Goldsmith has worked on various local, state, and national campaigns, including Georgia Director of Teens for Ted Cruz. He will be attending the University of Georgia in the fall.



Reagan Club

2016



Photo: Presidential Library

Want to be a Reagan Club member for 2016? Annual dues are \$100. In addition, your local club can join the Reagan Club. If you want to learn more about Reagan Club, please contact Rosan Hall at rhall2@aol.com.

The Reagan Club was started by Emma Hinesley, a GFRW past president. Thank you to those who have joined since the first of 2016 and I hope we can count on many more to participate.

~ Contributed by Rosan Hall, Reagan Club chair

Individuals

- JoAnn Birrell
- Bobbie Frantz
- Jim Hall
- Rosan Hall
- Lydia Hallmark
- Barbara Hickey
- Jim Hickey
- Toria Morgan
- Millie Rogers
- Varie Rustin
- Sara (Sally) Snyder
- Ullainee Stokes

- Cindy Theiler
- Judy True
- Linda Williams
- Rose Wing

Clubs

- Cobb County RWC
- Gwinnett Republican Women
- Republican Women of Henry County

“...when our citizens are abused or attacked, anywhere in the world on the direct orders of a hostile regime, we will respond so long as I am in this Oval Office. Self defense is not only our right, it is our duty.”

“I warned that there should be no place on earth where terrorists can rest and train and practice their deadly skills. I meant it. I said that we would act with others if possible and alone if necessary to ensure that terrorists have no sanctuary anywhere tonight.”

“A true leader is decisive, direct, and someone who commands attention.”

~ Ronald Reagan

Together We Win



By John Padgett
GAGOP Chairman



Who Am I?

John Padgett, an entrepreneur, business owner, grassroots leader, and family man, is proud to serve as the Chairman of Georgia's Republican Party. Padgett has proudly worked in the grassroots of the Republican Party for thirty-five years, humbly serving as the Chairman of the Athens-Clarke County Republican Party four times, Chairman of the 11th and 12th Congressional District, Secretary of the Georgia Republican Party and member of the GAGOP Executive Committee. Padgett was elected to serve as Chairman of the Georgia Republican Party at the 2013 State Convention and re-elected in 2015. Above all, Padgett is a family man. Married to Mary for more than thirty years, the couple has three daughters and three grandchildren. The Padgetts are members of Highland Park Church and are proud to call the City of Athens their home.

Thousands of Georgia Republicans gathered in Augusta this summer for the 2016 GAGOP State Party Convention.

During the two-day event held at the Augusta Marriott, we heard from leaders in the Republican Party, voted on a new national committeewoman, approved resolutions, and selected delegates and alternates for the Republican National Convention in Cleveland.

Featured Speakers

The convention hall was packed for attendees to hear from Senators Johnny Isakson and David Perdue, Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, Secretary of State Brian Kemp, and members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation.

On Friday night, former Texas Governor Rick Perry served as the keynote speaker for the Victory Dinner. He encouraged convention goers to stand firm for the Second Amendment, stand boldly against efforts to undermine our religious freedoms, and stand united for Donald Trump in the presidential election.

Our New National Committeewoman

For twelve years, former captain in the U.S. Army Reserves, certified registered nurse anesthetist, and longtime Republican volunteer Linda Herren served as our National Committeewoman.

On Saturday, the convention delegates selected Ginger Howard as her replacement. Howard is a

small business owner and committed Republican activist. I am confident that she will do an amazing job representing our state at the RNC.

Resolutions Passed

After careful review by the Resolutions Committee and consideration by those gathered, delegates to the state convention voted for numerous non-binding resolutions that reinforced policy initiatives supported by the Party, acknowledged efforts of longtime volunteers, and honored those who passed away since 2015. These resolutions are available for review on our website, www.GAGOP.org.

Delegates and Alternates for the National Convention

With seventy-six delegates, Georgia is one of the largest voting blocks at the RNC. Thirty-four of the delegates were picked during the Presidential Preference Primary on March 1. The remaining forty-two at-large delegates were selected on Saturday afternoon of the convention. The slate offered by committee was approved overwhelmingly and we immediately began the process of preparing for the 2016 RNC Convention in Cleveland.

Even though we had different preferences during the primary process, we left Augusta united. "Together We Win," which served as the theme of the 2016 GAGOP State Convention, is now our motto as we work as one to win back the White House and "Make America Great Again!"



Rescue Our Failing Students

By Nathan Deal
Governor of Georgia

Since taking office, I have worked with the General Assembly to advance and implement conservative principles throughout the state government. To that end, we have overseen the creation of more than 512,000 private sector jobs since 2011, been named a top state for business, and saved millions of taxpayer dollars by maintaining our AAA bond rating. We also made great strides in reforming our criminal justice system, leading the way for other states and the federal government in this area.

In 2011, Georgia was in the midst of a criminal justice crisis. In the previous two decades, the state budget for prisons doubled to \$1 billion while the state prison population doubled to more than 256,000 inmates, many of whom were non-violent offenders. Georgia's recidivism rates were 65 percent for juvenile offenders and 30 percent for adult offenders. To address these issues, we enacted sweeping criminal justice reforms focusing on accountability courts, the juvenile justice system, and prisoner re-entry. As a result, we have saved hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars, eliminated the need for 5,000 prison beds, and decommissioned two detention centers. The success of our criminal justice reforms demonstrates that the state can and will take on tough problems in order to implement effective changes.

(Continued on next page)

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However, the ultimate criminal justice reform is education reform.

Roughly 70 percent of inmates sitting in Georgia prison cells do not have a high school diploma or a GED equivalent, and many are unable to read at an elementary school level. A school that fails to properly educate its students perpetuates cycles of poverty and increases the likelihood of incarceration. For many students, educational opportunities provide the best chance to break out of these cycles. Although the majority of the schools in the state are effective in presenting students with opportunities for achievement, we still have too many schools where students have little hope of attaining the skills they need to lead successful lives. I stand firm on the principle that every child can learn. It is our responsibility to educate and equip our students with the skills they need to succeed. For too many of them, however, the status quo is not working.

Across the state, 127 schools are considered to be “chronically failing,” meaning that they scored an “F” grade on the College and Career Ready Performance Index for three consecutive years. To address this issue, I proposed the creation of an “Opportunity School District” (OSD), which was passed by the General Assembly in 2015. If approved by voters this November, the OSD would authorize the state to temporarily intervene in chronically failing public schools and rescue the children languishing in them. It would take in no more than 20 schools per year and schools would stay in the district for no less than 5 years but no more than 10 years before returning to local control.



A school that fails to properly educate its students perpetuates cycles of poverty and increases the likelihood of incarceration. For many students, educational opportunities provide the best chance to break out of these

Solutions to turnaround failing schools have been studied across the country and intervention programs similar to OSD have already been implemented in Louisiana and Tennessee. Louisiana’s Recovery School District (RSD) has been successful in improving college admission test scores, producing better outcomes for students with disabilities and lowering racial disparities in educational milestones. For example, graduation rates at New Orleans high schools under RSD supervision were 18.3 percent higher in 2014 than they were in 2004, jumping from 54 percent to 73 percent over the course of a decade.

We can achieve similar outcomes here in Georgia, but not without your support. You can vote to rescue students from a situation of failure and give them hope for success and opportunity. You can advance conservative ideals by voting to empower educators and hold local education systems accountable. You can vote to ensure that every child in Georgia has an opportunity to succeed.

Approximately 68,000 students will start classes in a failing school this fall—about

the same number of students enrolled at the University of Georgia, Georgia Tech, and Georgia College & State University combined. This November, the solution to chronically failing schools will be on the ballot. Voting “yes” for the OSD amendment is a vote to ensure that future generations of Georgians will have the best opportunities available. We cannot afford to wait to act, nor can we continue to spend growing sums of taxpayer dollars in schools that are failing to meet obligations to their students. Georgia’s most vulnerable children deserve no less and no child in Georgia should attend a failing school.

Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court Serving Those Who Served

By Judge Reuben Green



There are a huge number of veterans who are entering the jail and state prison system. However, society would be better served by treating them in an accountability and treatment court instead of sending them to prison.

Let me provide you with a few statistics showing the need for Cobb County Veterans Court. There are 774,464 veterans in Georgia, 47,000 in Cobb County alone. Cobb County also has 4,500 active duty/reservists at Dobbins Air Reserve Base.

Unfortunately, many of these service members are returning from combat service with post-service issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and substance use disorders. These veterans are ending up in the Cobb County Adult Detention Center, or our state prisons, because their post-service issues have not been addressed and treated. The Department of Corrections reports that 5.08 percent of state prison inmates are veterans. In Cobb County, we have approximately one veteran arrested each day. Although these numbers are appalling, they are likely underreported because these numbers are based on self-reporting by the veteran. Often times veterans do not consider themselves veterans or are embarrassed or unwilling to report their veteran status.

Most of these men and women have sacrificed greatly for our country and they deserve the treatment and the benefits they have earned through their service. To that end, the Superior Court of Cobb County created a Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court on June 20, 2014. Veterans Court is similar to our other accountability courts in Cobb County: Drug Court, Mental Health Court, Family Dependency and Treatment Court, Juvenile

Drug Court, and DUI Court. However, Veterans Court is also different because it focuses on treating honorably or medically discharged veterans who have mental health and/or substance abuse issues associated with their service in the United States military.

The mission of the Veterans Court is to increase public safety by reducing recidivism; provide better alcohol and drug treatment through the Veterans Administration; provide better mental health treatment through the Veterans Administration (VA); turn tax burdens into taxpayers; and provide intensive case management and structure to the veteran participants.

Veterans Court is a minimum eighteen month-long intensive treatment court. It is a problem-solving court designed to address the veterans' roadblocks to success. For most of our veteran participants, their primary roadblocks are Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or Substance Use Disorder. Their treatment begins with the VA, where they receive about three months of treatment for these issues. We have found that the VA treatment is a good start, but not sufficient to treat either of these disorders. As a result, we have contracted with Westcare, a private treatment provider, to continue to serve these veterans' needs beyond the limited care provided by the VA.

Once the participants are stable in their recovery and treatment, the treatment team works on solving other issues like unemployment, lack of stable housing, or family counseling. We have a number of veteran participants who are pursuing college degrees through Chattahoochee Technical College or Kennesaw State University. Many obtain full-time employment while in the program.

One of the most unique aspects of the Veterans Court is the Veteran Mentor Program. Each veteran participant is paired up with a veteran from the community who serves as a mentor to the veteran participant. The veteran mentor is a battle buddy who understands the unique challenges of our returning veterans. The veteran mentor is someone who is there to help the veteran participant succeed in the program and beyond. We are always in need of veteran mentors from our community who are willing to serve in this valuable and necessary role. The requirements to become a veteran mentor are that you are an honorably discharged veteran with no criminal history and you are willing to commit to helping at least one veteran participant through the minimum eighteen-month long program.

Currently, we have approximately thirty participants in the program. We have had two graduates and we anticipate approximately five more graduating in August.

If you have questions about Cobb County Veterans Court or are a veteran or know of a veteran who would like to serve as a mentor, please contact the Veterans Court Coordinator Flynn Broady, a retired Army veteran, or Judge Reuben Green, a Marine veteran, at (770) 528-7988. If you know of a veteran involved in the criminal justice system, please suggest Veterans Court to them. It is a unique opportunity for the veteran to receive the treatment they have earned through their service.

Who Am I?

Judge Reuben Green presides over the Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court in Cobb Superior Court. Judge Green is a former enlisted United States Marine and an Honor graduate of the Emory University School of Law.

By Penny Young Nance

CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA)

What Parents Can Do As Transgender Agenda Infiltrates Public Schools



Education is one of our core issues at Concerned Women for America. Here, we take seriously God's calling to shepherd our children, to "train them up in the way they should go" (Proverbs 22:6).

Thus, I am deeply troubled by [President Barack] Obama administration's new transgender bathroom "guidance" as [outlined](#) in the "Dear Colleague" letter released by the Department of Justice and Department of Education in May. The letter embraces the transgender agenda wholesale. This not only teaches our children falsehood about God's design for them as male and female, but it threatens their physical safety by opening bathroom access to abusers. I applaud Georgia's efforts to sue the Obama administration over this overreach.

This is a national firestorm, and the outcome is unknown. Our goal as conservative women has been always to return authority to the parents to choose what is best for their kids. If these policies become

widespread in Georgia, I foresee many families with religious convictions seeking ways to withdraw from the public school system. This is indeed an option, but not the only choice. I believe there is a way to address these drastic policy changes from the inside as well. Parents who seek to teach their children gender orthodoxy can currently work within the public, homeschooling, and private school options. [However], with the way things are going, preserving the public option in the face of the transgender agenda will become harder and harder for families of faith.

[However], public school parents don't have to cede ground without a fight. Strategies such as North Carolina's traditional bathroom law or some form of single-stall school compromise could still work in some states. Obama's policies do not have the force of law and are, in fact, a gross overreach of his power.

In Georgia, we support the state's efforts to sue the Obama administration and continue religious freedom efforts and apply them to the school

system. [Georgia School] superintendent Richard Woods accurately explained: *We at the Georgia Department of Education believe the "Dear Colleague Letter" openly violates, misinterprets and moves to rewrite established U.S. law. This overreach of power by the Executive Branch of the federal government is compounded by the threat to withhold federal funds should the context of the letter not be followed.*

Besides issues of transgender bathrooms and sports teams, curriculums must also be watched carefully for changes. Concerned Women for America in Georgia is also working very hard to ensure the state health curriculum standards are not amended to include support for the trans-genderism agenda. Our state leaders have already met with the superintendent and board of education chairman to this effect. At its foundation, education is about truth. And the responsibility to teach children truth remains all the stronger in the face of falsehood. Transgenderism is about a politically

driven agenda that is sweeping the public educational system with reckless resolve. We must fight to keep public options available and accommodating to people of faith and conviction. I encourage you to email state.superintendent@doe.k12.ga.us to show support for Woods in his fight for truth.

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201605-title-ix-transgender.pdf>
<http://getschooled.blog.myaajc.com/2016/05/25/georgia-joins-lawsuit-to-overturn-obama-directive-on-transgender-school-bathrooms/>
<http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/02/us/north-carolina-lgbt-law/>
http://espn.go.com/nfl/story/_/id/15082904/georgia-gov-nathan-deal-veto-house-bill-757-aiding-atlanta-falcons-super-bowl-hopes
<http://floyd.allongeorgia.com/state-school-superintendent-issues-guidance-on-transgender-restrooms/>



Who Am I?

Penny Young Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA), is a recognized national authority on cultural, children's, and women's issues. As the CEO and President of the nation's largest public policy women's organization, Nance oversees more than 500,000 participating CWA members across the country, over 450 Prayer/Action Chapters and Home teams, 23 Young Women for America (YWA) Chapters, and 600 trained leaders, and is also the President of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) and serves as Concerned Women for America Political Action Committee (CWPAC) and serves as the principal spokesperson for all three entities.

National Committeewoman

By Ginger Howard
GA National GOP Committeewoman

My decision to run for Republican National Committeewoman was fueled by three main reasons: my love for this country, an obligation to future generations, and my commitment to truly conservative principles. I launched my campaign this past January, and then on June 4, 2016, Georgia Republicans elected me their National Committeewoman at the GOP Convention in Augusta. I will serve the state of Georgia on the Republican National Committee for a term of four years from 2016 to 2020, and I am humbled and grateful to have the opportunity to represent Georgians in this position.

Responsibilities

The Republican National Committee has three main responsibilities: to develop and promote the Republican platform, to coordinate fundraising and election strategy, and organize and run the Republican National Convention. There are 168 members (three from each state and territory), and together we make up the leadership body for the Republican Party. As Georgia's Republican National Committeewoman, my responsibilities include voting on the rules, regulations, budget, platform, and chairman of the party.

Goals

My goals as Georgia's Republican National Committeewoman are to (1) implement an effective communication model: listen, advocate, and inform, and (2) foster unity

in the Republican Party. As far as communication, I have developed a model for ensuring that I am representing Georgians well to the RNC, as well as keeping people informed about decisions made by the RNC. There are three parts to this model: listen, advocate, and inform.

Listen: I built my campaign on having one-on-one conversations with Georgians all across our state, and I will continue to go to local meetings in between the quarterly RNC gatherings. Additionally, my team is in the process of creating a space for an open forum on my website where Georgians can weigh in on what matters to them.

Advocate: During the RNC meetings, I will advocate for your values and concerns to the RNC. Furthermore, I will **vote** according to the conservative principles that Georgians hold most dear, and I will be unwavering in my commitment to you and your conservative values with each and every vote I cast.

Inform: I care that each one of you is informed and aware of the decisions being made by the RNC on your behalf, and I pledge to equip you with information through emails and meetings after RNC decisions so that every Georgian is in the loop.

Regarding my goal to foster unity, I will do my best to bring people together. We need to identify our shared concerns and



values and to focus on those, unifying conservatives on common ground. As

Georgia's Republican National Committeewoman, my hope is to help remind people that we are all on the same team of trying to protect and preserve the foundational principles of the greatest country on earth.

Who Am I?

Ginger Howard is a native of Waycross and graduate of University of Georgia. Howard boasts more than twenty-five years of involvement in the local and national political realms. She currently serves as the President of the Buckhead Republicans, a member of the Fulton County Republican Party, and a State Committee member. She is a former member of the National Republican Congressional Committee, the National Republican Senatorial Committee, and the Georgia Republican Foundation. Howard most recently served as the Georgia Chairman for former Governor Rick Perry's 2016 presidential campaign.

"It isn't so much that liberals are ignorant. It's just that they know so many things that aren't so."

~ Ronald Reagan

**By Kris
Vaughn
Executive
Director**



Georgia, like any thriving state, has its fair share of challenges. [However], we also have a growing number of extremely talented, young professionals who make their living solving problems. Why not empower our own emerging leaders to turn their attention inward and solve our own challenges? This is exactly what GeorgiaForward's Young Gamechangers program is doing.

GeorgiaForward, an independent, non-partisan organization, is focused on improving the state of Georgia. We do this in two ways: acting as a catalyst for cross-sector, statewide conversations and by bringing together young leaders from all professions to help solve some of our state's most pressing challenges. Founded in 2010, GeorgiaForward has a track record of strengthening communities, uniting our state, and creating a talent pipeline within Georgia.

In 2012, our founders saw the success that was coming from GeorgiaForward's work, including annual convenings of state leaders, and decided to build upon that foundation with an action-oriented program to foster the amazing pool of talented, young people in our state. The program they created, Young Gamechangers, went beyond networking and issue awareness; it also asked participants to help solve problems specific to a Georgia community.

Young Gamechangers is a leadership action program that brings young professionals from across the state to **one** Georgia community to grapple with some of that community's most persistent challenges. Over the course of the six-month program, participants spend time learning from local leaders, exploring the history of a community's successes and challenges, and working together to identify meaningful, ambitious solutions. The end result

is a written report and public presentation of final recommendations that are big, creative, but realistic "gamechanging solutions" to some of their most persistent challenges.

The spring 2016 program that focused on Douglasville/Douglas County was GeorgiaForward's third Young Gamechangers program and the first time the work was focused in Metro Atlanta. The forty-five participants in the spring program hailed from nearly every part of the state—Savannah to Dalton, Athens to Moultrie. The class makeup consisted of one-third of the participants being from the Douglas County area, one-third from Metro Atlanta, and one-third from Greater Georgia.

The Spring 2016 Young Gamechangers were tasked with creating big, creative, yet realistic recommendations to the following questions:

- As a growing county in the metro Atlanta region, how can the community align its arts and cultural offerings to attract and retain Generations X and Millennials?
- In light of the relocation of Highway 92, how can downtown position itself for success?
- As a suburban county in a major metropolitan area, how should Douglas County leverage its history, assets, human capital, and rural roots alongside the Atlanta region's growth and opportunity? What role should Douglas County play in Metro Atlanta's eco-system?
- What can the community do, outside of the school system, to enhance the educational opportunities of Douglas County students to prepare them for the jobs of the next century?

On June 10, the Gamechangers presented their final recommendations to the community that included short, medium, and long-term plans with proposed budgets, potential funding sources, opportunities for partnerships along with a likely timeline for implementation. Their full report can be found at georgiaforward.org/young-gamechangers.

Although GeorgiaForward does not implement the Young Gamechangers' final recommendations, we do work with the host community to advocate for and support the next steps following the presentation. In Douglasville, the local participants from the program are in the process of creating their own 501(c)3 that others in the community can join and collaborate with to prioritize the recommendations, raise funds, and implement the ideas that resonate most with the community.

For more information about GeorgiaForward and our leading program, Young Gamechangers, please find us on social media or visit us at georgiaforward.org.

Who Am I?

Kris Vaughn serves as the Executive Director of GeorgiaForward, a statewide nonprofit working to unite Georgia through strengthened young leadership focused on community and economic development. Vaughn is no stranger to GeorgiaForward and its leading program—Young Gamechangers. She was in the inaugural class of Young Gamechangers in 2012 and served as Program Director for its second class in 2013/2014.





Politics of Division Have Consequences

By Randy Evans
GA National GOP Committeeman

In 1992, President George H. W. Bush was seeking reelection. The economy [was] stagnant and showed little promise of a sustained recovery. Yet, Bush kept telling the American people that the economy was fine.

Now, the problem was that the average American could see that the economy was not fine. Virtually every American knew someone who had lost [his/her] job, or of a plant that was being shut down, or heard the news about just how bad things were. When confronted with the difference between what folks heard and what folks saw, they went with what they knew from their own life experiences.

Against that backdrop, President Bill Clinton rode a simple campaign strategy ("It's the economy stupid!") all the way to the White House. It seems most Americans are not as stupid as most political consultants and media prognosticators think they are.

In the wake of the tragedies in Louisiana, Minnesota, and Dallas, President Barack Obama reported to the American people that the country is not as divided as many people make it out to be and that good things will come from the tragedy. Yet, with each passing tragedy over the last seven years, it has become increasingly clear the strain between race relations and police departments has steadily worsened, not gotten better, culminating with the "Ferguson effect" and punctuated by the Dallas tragedy.

Politics of division, especially when those divisions are based on demographic distinctions, come with a price—a very high price. Indeed, in his farewell address, President George Washington warned it was the greatest single threat to the Republic. Divided countries turn on themselves and eventually they fall.

Contrary to the beliefs of some, it is not a Republican thing or a Democratic thing. There is plenty of blame to share for singling out and targeting groups based on demographic factors for political gain. Indeed, the very essence of gerrymandering in America today now does almost exactly that. [However], this division into the lowest common denominators dominates every aspect of politics.

Many hoped the election of the first African-American president in U.S. history would have created the atmosphere for healing and coming together—at least beyond the issue of race. [However], no one actually believes race relations are better today than when Obama first took office. Instead, most Americans would agree race relations have gotten worse.

Segregating African-Americans into a reliable voting group that needed to be periodically motivated by hitting emotional hot buttons, or by fanning the flames when racially charged situations occurred, has not lent itself to healing from past afflictions. Instead, it has in many respects only deepened the scars of pain and division from the past, making reconciliation all the more difficult if not, in some cases, impossible.

Solving the underlying causes of social pain rather than politically profiting from them means focusing on healing wounds, not reinforcing long-held [biases] for hate and division. And that is hard work.

In South Carolina where the attack was as vicious and senseless as any, Governor Nikki Haley and the people of South Carolina proved they could rise above their differences and find peace and forgiveness. It did mean symbols of hatred had to be retired to the annals of history as opposed to elevated to the doorsteps of government. South Carolina proved it could be done. Of course, not all of the problems in South Carolina were eliminated overnight. [However], big first steps were taken toward turning hostility into change—change necessary for compassion and forgiveness. Unfortunately, little of that has followed in the aftermath of Ferguson and similar tragedies.

Constant focus on that which makes us different makes coming together all the more difficult. E Pluribus Unum translated means "out of many, one." Unfortunately, the politics of division has created exactly the opposite—out of one, many.

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When a fan reads a sports page, he or she does not see the race, religion, orientation, national origin, etc., of a Major League Baseball player's batting average. Instead, he or she sees a batting average free from all demographic differences.

Meritocracies operate that way. They focus the attention on winning or excelling as opposed to the many other distractions irrelevant to the outcome. That singular focus on winning or being the best has been what many Americans have lost.

As Americans try to sort through the recent tragedies, they face now the prospect of yet more candidates intent on dividing the country based on gender or religion. If the first female president does for gender relations what the first African-American president has done for race relations, the country could be in for even tougher times ahead. And if religion becomes a basis for division rather than unity, then the very foundations of the Constitution will be put to the test.

American unity—not party unity, or gender unity, or religious unity, or racial unity—is the ticket for restoring some sense of the Founding Fathers' purpose in the Declaration of Independence. The American Dream reflects a unifying vision—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans.

There will always be struggles. [Nevertheless], what made America great was facing them together—as one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Fighting each other as opposed to against each other is the path to a better and stronger America.

Who Am I?

Randy Evans, a partner with Dentons, a multinational law firm, served as outside counsel to the speakers of the 104th-109th Congresses of the United States as well as senators, members of Congress, and elected officials in Georgia. He is a member of the board of the Newt Gingrich Companies. A frequent lecturer and author on subjects of professional liability and ethics, government ethics and politics, Evans is also Georgia's National GOP Committeeman.



Statistics

Did you know . . . ?

- Cops killed nearly twice as many whites as blacks in 2015.
- Fifty percent of the victims of fatal police shootings were white, while 26 percent were black.
- Blacks were charged with 62 percent of robberies, 57 percent of murders, and 45 percent of assaults in the 75 biggest counties in the U.S., despite only comprising roughly 15 percent of the population of those counties.
- Blacks commit 75 percent of all shootings, 70 percent of all robberies and 68 percent of all violent crime in New York City, even though they consist of 23 percent of the city's population.

[Source: 5 Statistics You need to Know About Cops Killing Blacks. <http://www.dailywire.com/news/7264/5-statistics-you-need-know-about-cops-killing-aaron-bandler>. July 7, 2016]



What do these items have in common?

All are inanimate. All are tools. All require a human hand. All can kill.

Sex Trafficking in Georgia

By Cindy Theiler
3rd Vice President of GFRW
and Editor of FOCUS
Newsletter



Public Domain

In case you haven't heard, sex trafficking in Georgia is big business. If that fact surprises you, then it's definitely time you learned more about this topic and what can be done to help the children negatively impacted by this business.

Almost 500 girls are exploited in metro Atlanta each month. And while metro Atlanta is a popular locale for this business, sex trafficking of minors is not just happening there, according to Kelly Davie, of Wellspring Living, a non-profit organization in Georgia that assists girls and women (ages 12-30) who are trafficking survivors and mentors other organizations throughout the United States. More than half of Georgia's 159 counties have reported trafficking of victims under the age of 18. Additionally, almost half of all these trafficking victims are children under the age of 18, too.

So how can you make a positive difference in the lives of these children who have suffered abuse from this industry and help to reduce this sex trafficking business?

- Pledge to vote YES and support the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund. In addition to voting for our next president in November, Georgians will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of children who have been exploited by sex trafficking. Georgia voters will have a chance to approve a constitutional amendment that dedicates a funding source to provide safe housing and rehabilitation services for child victims of sex trafficking. Money for this fund will come from several sources including assets seized from those individuals convicted of sex trafficking. To financially help or promote awareness for this campaign, see [SafeHarborYES](#) or visit [increase campaign awareness](#).
- Volunteer at or donate to organizations, such as [Wellspring Living](#), to support the victims of sex trafficking. You can also donate to and/or shop at Wellspring Treasures retail stores in metro Atlanta to help fund that organization's programs and services.

- Spread awareness for the "Make It Zero" movement. Mary Frances Bowley, Wellspring's founder and president, wrote a book called [Make It Zero](#) to bring awareness to sex trafficking, and how to make a positive difference, including eliminating the factors that can cause it.
- Help to eliminate childhood vulnerability by encouraging and affirming the young women in your life. Tell them about their great potential on a regular basis so that they are less likely to seek validation elsewhere. "When we correct the factors that keep children at risk, we can make a difference in the lives of those children and the adults they'll grow up to be," according to Bowley in her new book. When children don't have validation in their lives, they are more likely to be coerced into trafficking, Davie said. Approximately 90 percent of runaways become part of the sex trade industry; many are lured within 48 hours of leaving home.

The harsh reality of the high volume of sex trafficking in our state is due primarily to the large number of conventions, number of interstate highways, size and proximity of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and the number of affluent males who are purchasing sex north of I-285, Davie said.

"Human trafficking is a monstrous and devastating crime that steals lives and degrades our nation," said Attorney General Loretta Lynch following a nationwide sex trafficking [sting](#) last fall that included the metro Atlanta area.

In Georgia, everyone's lives should matter. That's why even one trafficked is far too many. It's up to all of us to help make it zero.

For more information on this subject, please read *A League of Dangerous Women*, a book that chronicles the true stories of women who have found new lives after living through troubled ones, and *The White Umbrella*—both by Bowley.

Our children are at RISK!

By Sam Olens
Georgia Attorney General



Public Domain

Prior to serving as your attorney general, I was familiar with Cobb County's Child Abuse Center, SafePath, and the loss and tragedy all communities sustain from the abuse of our most vulnerable residents.

As attorney general, I have discovered that our children are at heightened risk due to sex trafficking. Our children are bought and sold each day throughout our state through:

- 1) organized criminal activity aided by social media;
- 2) false advertising for modeling, acting and/or dancing; and,
- 3) seduction or coercion.

My office, with great assistance from the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, the Georgia State Patrol, and local law enforcement, along with several non-profit groups, goes around the state educating our law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges, school counselors, social workers, and healthcare providers, as well as the general community. We have a responsibility to protect our most vulnerable and speak up for those who have no voice.

Children are at risk for sex trafficking due to: (1) previous abuse, (2) run-away from home, (3) mental health problems, drug or alcohol abuse; and (4) having a parent with substance abuse and/or active in prostitution.

The children are viewed by organized criminals as a "renewable resource," as they can be trafficked each and every day. It has been reported that [more than] 100,000 children are trafficked each year in our country, with the average age of entry for sex trafficking being 12—14.

Often, the victims require medical referrals for drug rehabilitation, behavioral health assessments/treatment, testing for infections, OB/GYN care, and significant counseling.

Signs of trafficking include:

- habitual truancy;
- unexplained physical trauma;
- traveling with an unrelated older person;
- branding [tattoos] on their body;
- possessing prepaid credit cards or hotel keys; and,
- dressing inappropriately.

In addition to mandated reporters, residents should contact the Division of Family & Children Services [855-GA-CHILD] and Georgia Cares [844-8GA-DMST] if you suspect a child is being trafficked.

Additionally, we work with Rep. Chuck Efstration and Sen. Renee Unterman each legislative session to strengthen our law. This past Session, HB 770 was signed by the governor to improve the necessary investigations and provide enhanced penalties for crimes involving victims with developmental disabilities.

A constitutional amendment will be on the ballot this November to establish a Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund to fund care and services for victims of sex trafficking.

Finally, we must stop the demand. Buyers must serve long jail sentences just like sellers! Men have a crucial role in solving this crisis. Women are not property. We have started a new public relations campaign with the help of StreetGrace and BBDO. To view the PSA, please review <https://vimeo.com/166203816>. For more information on sex trafficking, please see <http://law.ga.gov/human-trafficking>.

Legislation Regarding Human Trafficking



Public Domain

By Rae Chornenky

NFRW Past President
January 2012—December 2013

During the last NFRW term (2014-2015), the National Federation of Republican Women Legislation and Research Committee targeted legislation regarding human trafficking.

Many NFRW clubs and state federations have invited speakers and experts on the issue of human trafficking both in their respective localities and nation-wide. The Bureau of Justice Assistance within the U. S. Department of Justice reveals that human trafficking is one of the most profitable endeavors of organized crime networks and is the fastest growing. It is a crime of frighteningly increasing proportions.

United Nations statistics show a minimum of 100,000 children are estimated to enter into the sex trade in the United States each year. At least 300,000 youth are at risk right now in this country and the average age of entry into trafficking is thirteen to fourteen years old.

A trafficker can make \$150,000 to \$200,000 per child per year and, on average, has four to six youth at a time.

Youth are forced to prostitute on the streets, in hotels, and at truck stops to meet nightly monetary quotas imposed by their captors. Young girls are forced to sell sex by knocking on cab doors at truck stops. Sex trafficking commonly occurs in online escort services, residential brothels, and brothels disguised as massage businesses or spas. The Internet enables children to be prostituted through online advertisements, making it easier than ever for trafficking to cross state lines.

Traffickers know how to appeal to children in troubled situations, who are in foster care or

who border on living in poverty—or even well-off young girls who are lacking in self-esteem or are in troubled homes. These youth are particularly vulnerable and traffickers ingratiate themselves with them by showering them with attention, care, and resources.

Just last year, when FBI agents fanned out across the country in an effort to rescue child sex trafficking, they pulled minors as young as eleven from hotel rooms, truck stops, and homes. Among the 168 juveniles recovered were children who were never reported missing in the first place. In some cases, children involved in sex trafficking leave their homes to meet their pimps for work and return before their absence is noticed.

Two primary factors are driving the spread of human trafficking: high profits and low risk. [However], always remember, human trafficking is a market-driven criminal activity. People out there are lining up for and paying for this human tragedy.

Many anti-human trafficking bills were passed by the House in 2014 but the Democratic-held Senate refused to pass any of them.

Introduced in January 2015 by Republican Senator John Cornyn, the Senate Majority Whip, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 imposed a \$5,000 fine on those convicted of human trafficking, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation of children. There were ten Democrat and sixteen Republican co-sponsors of the bill, making it a truly bipartisan effort.

The bill established the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund to award grants to groups to combat human trafficking, enhance investigation

and prosecution of trafficking crimes, and provides services for victims of trafficking and child pornography. It established residential treatment facilities for juveniles subjected to trafficking and assisted law enforcement and other entities in rescuing and restoring the lives of trafficking victims. Now funds will be made available at the national level for entities to successfully investigate and prosecute trafficking and provide rehabilitation services to victims of slave trade.

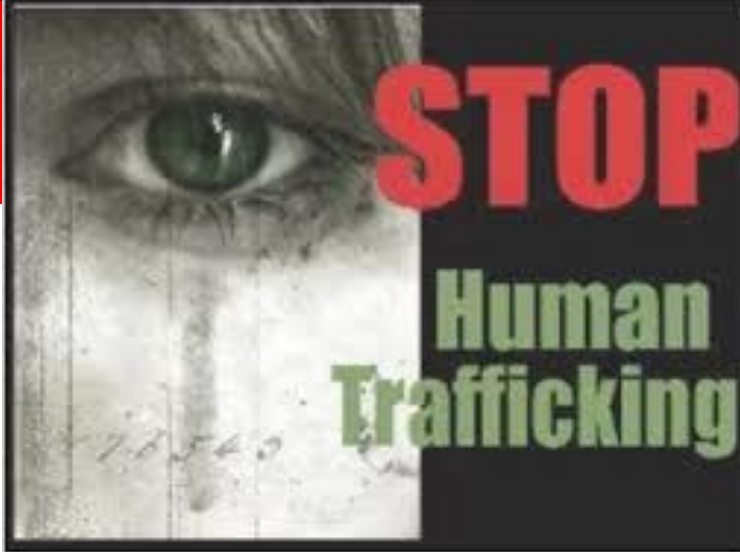
Advocates in states across the country continue to support legislation to strengthen existing human trafficking laws and revise laws as they pertain to treatment of victims. For more information, see polarisproject.org.

Who Am I?

Rae Lynne Chornenky of Arizona is proud to be a native of Phoenix, where she lives with her husband. A loyal Arizona State University (ASU) alum, Chornenky earned a bachelor's degree (graduating magna cum laude), master's degree in counseling, and juris doctorate, all from ASU. She has practiced law for thirty years and owns her own business, making her sensitive to the issues of running a corporation. Chornenky retired from the superior court bench in 1995 and went on to serve as a legislative attorney for an Arizona cabinet-level agency, drafting extensive legislation and successfully lobbying state budget issues, laws, and regulatory acts. She has been named one of the most influential women by the Junior League of Phoenix and was selected as a fellow in the ASU Leadership Policy Program.



Sex Trafficking and Abortion -- More Linked Than You Think



By Penny Young Nance

CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA)

When conservatives think of abortion and sex trafficking, they think of two separate human rights problems. And indeed, each issue does deserve individual attention. [However], many don't think about the obvious tie between the two. Sex trafficking victims are often victims of abortions of the worst kind—full of coercion and even medical danger.

Logically, women who are trapped in sex trafficking, being pimped out for money against their will, are often going to get pregnant. Their pimps, or their own desperation, could then easily lead to an abortion, adding one trauma to another. The abortion then enables the abuse to continue with more ease.

A report by Laura Lederer and Christopher Wetzel [1] on health consequences for sex trafficking victims highlights the health concerns related to sex trafficking, including abortion. It was published by the Loyola University Chicago School of Law based on an extensive study of victims which included their personal stories about the dark lives they are forced to live.

"I got pregnant six times and had six abortions during this time," a survivor explains, "Several of them were from a doctor who was a client—he did them 'back door'—I came in the back door after hours and paid him off the books. This kept my name off any records...I think he felt like he was helping. At least one of my abortions was from Planned Parenthood because they didn't ask any questions. But they were expensive and on the street you didn't want to pay \$250, \$300, or more. So you went 'back door' where the charge was more like \$150. I had so much scar tissue from these abortions because there was no follow-up and in a couple of cases I had bad infections,

so bad that I eventually lost my fallopian tubes [and had to have a hysterectomy]."

Is this the kind of women's healthcare our society is tolerating?! In another heartbreaking survey response, a woman answered the question, "Was the abortion of your own volition or forced upon you?" Her answer speaks volumes: "Experienced both—lack of options to raise a baby."

Can anyone say that this woman's abortion empowered her? It is certainly not "a woman's choice" to be a victim of this sub-par medical treatment and sexual abuse. The majority of people across a wide political and ideological spectrum are against sex trafficking and against coerced abortion, so why is no one discussing this link?

Concerned Women for America is working with like-minded organizations to bring this issue to the foreground. In Georgia, our CWA leaders continue to advocate for legislation that focuses on *demand* and not against abused women. For without demand, prostitution and trafficking do not exist. We applaud the Georgia attorney general's work in this area, including broadening the definition of coercion and allowing victim compensation measures.[2] We hope these policies will be strengthened in the years to come.

[1] Laura J. Lederer and Christopher A. Wetzel. Beazley Institute for Health Law and Policy. *Annals of Health Law*. Volume 23, Issue 1, Winter 2014. The Health Policy and Law Review of Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

[2] <http://law.ga.gov/human-trafficking>

Who Am I?

Penny Young Nance, CEO and President of Concerned Women for America (CWA), is a recognized national authority on cultural, children's, and women's issues. As the CEO and President of the nation's largest public policy women's organization, Nance oversees more than 500,000 participating CWA members across the country, over 450 Prayer/Action Chapters and Home teams, twenty-three Young Women for America (YWA) Chapters, and 600 trained leaders. Nance is also the president of Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee (CWALAC) and serves as Concerned Women for America Political Action Committee (CWPAC) and serves as the principal spokesperson for all three entities.



Combating Trafficking is Everybody's Business

By Rep. Chris Smith (NJ)
U.S. House of Representatives

In January of 2000, I received actionable information that eight Ukrainian women were being exploited by sex traffickers in two bars in Montenegro. The women had been lured there with promises of legitimate work, then forced into prostitution. One desperate victim, however, called her mother for help using the phone of a man exploiting her.

When informed, I immediately called the prime minister of Montenegro, Filip Vujanovic, who personally ordered an immediate raid on the bar. As a result, seven of the eight women were rescued and returned to their families in Ukraine.

Combating modern-day slavery is everybody's business. We are all in this together—each equipped to do our part.

I authored the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)—to combat sex and labor trafficking in the United States and globally.

The TVPA launched a bold strategy that included sheltering, political asylum, and other protections for the victims; long jail sentences and asset confiscation for the traffickers; and, tough sanctions for governments that failed to meet minimum standards prescribed in the TVPA.

The TVPA also funds the toll-free National Human Trafficking Hotline [(888) 373-7888] [that] connects victims, or those concerned about potential victims, with assistance and rescue if needed.

Through legislation, I have updated the TVPA to include procurement reform to terminate U.S. government contracts to businesses that are found to be complicit in human trafficking. A further strengthening of those safeguards was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act. Businesses and individuals who contract with the U.S. government will be penalized if they purchase commercial sex or take any listed action that enslaves the worker.

Some of the best reforms that we have pushed on the federal level have been inspired by states,

NGOs [non-government organizations], and individuals who saw a problem, had an idea, and developed best practices.

For instance, we knew that traffickers moved hundreds of thousands of victims across borders each year. The NGO Airline Ambassadors—whose members are mostly flight attendants—came to me and said that they were seeing human trafficking victims on their commercial flights all the time, but needed help in getting the airline industry to train flight attendants to see and report trafficking.

Working with Airline Ambassadors and the Department of Homeland Security, we were able to launch the Blue Lightning Program, which is on its way to becoming the new industry standard for fighting human trafficking through the airline industry. Delta, especially, has taken a lead on the issue. You, too, can watch for and report suspected trafficking on airlines. Airline Ambassadors developed the TIP Line App for just this purpose.

I have also worked with the hotel industry to develop trafficking victim identification training.

Carlson hotels, Radisson, and others have been industry leaders. There is a new app now too for helping law enforcement identify hotels where exploitation is taking place. Law enforcement find images of girls for sale online, but need clues as to which hotel is being used by the trafficker. The TraffickCam App allows you to upload photos of your hotel rooms and send them to the national database, where law enforcement can match those photos with images posted online—and rescue the victims.

Those of you who have ridden public transportation are probably aware of the security campaign encouraging everyone: "If you see something, say something." The same applies to human trafficking.

Learn the signs of human trafficking, and if something does not look right to you, pay attention, get more information, call the trafficking hotline, and risk being wrong. You may be right—and save a life. Combating trafficking is everybody's business.

Who Am I?

Rep. Chris Smith (R-Hamilton, N.J.) is currently in his 18th term in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving residents in the Fourth Congressional District of New Jersey. Smith is a senior member on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and chairs the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organization Subcommittee. He is Chairman and the highest ranking House member on both the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. Smith also served as "Special Representative" on Human Trafficking for the OSCE [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe] Parliamentary Assembly.



Human Trafficking: A Legislative Victory!

Senate Bill 178, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, was signed on May 29, 2015, by President Barack Obama after passing both the House and the Senate.

Sponsors:

House

Ted Poe (R-TX)
Joyce Beatty (D-OH)
Kay Granger (R-TX)
Karen Bass (D-CA)
Kevin Cramer (R-ND)
Lynn Jenkins (R-KS)

Senate

John Cornyn (R-TX)
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Mark Kirk (R-IL)
Rob Portman (R-OH)
Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)
Kelly Ayotte (R-NH)

Highlights:

- For every person convicted of a human trafficking crime, there is a \$5,000 assessment per offense that goes into the Domestic Trafficking Victims' Fund with revenues going to grants to the states for use in combating human trafficking and providing assistance to victims.
- Any property used in a human trafficking fine is forfeited and proceeds are used to provide restitution to victims.
- A number of grants are set up:
 - * To develop, improve or expand domestic human trafficking deterrence programs;
 - * To fund efforts of victims of rape which resulted in the conception of a child, seek termination of parental rights against the rapist;
 - * To fund public safety-oriented and community policing efforts;
 - * To set up a national communication system to assist victims of every forms of trafficking;
 - * To train health care professionals to recognize the signs of human trafficking;
 - * That provide preferences to states that treat minors being trafficked as victims instead of criminals.
- Expanded the definition of child abuse to include human trafficking.
- Expanded the investigatory authority of Department Of Justice to intercept communications involving trafficking.
- Made buyers of exploitive child prostitution equally as culpable as sellers.
- Classified producers of child pornography as traffickers and classified sex trafficking crimes as violent crimes.
- Expanded victims' rights, including providing physical and mental health services, and housing to victims.
- Increased training for DOJ personnel, court officials, law enforcement, ambassadors and station chiefs going to foreign countries—all to help recognize human trafficking situations.
- Increased reporting requirements on missing children.
- Made advertising sex with minors a crime.
- Required a database be set up to catalogue victims' services (hotlines, advocates, foster parents, crime survivors, etc.).
- Extended statute of limitations against perpetrators to ten years after the victim reaches [age] eighteen.
- Set up a Cyber Crimes Unit to assist Immigration and Customs Enforcement in investigating cyber-related human trafficking crimes.
- Increased prison time to at least ten years per offence for anyone who knowingly transports individuals with the intent of forcing that person to engage in criminal sexual activity.
- Made victims eligible for Job Corp participation without having [to adhere to] income requirements.
- Any members of the military convicted of sex crimes against minors will be put on sex offender registry.
- Authorized U.S. Marshall service to assist in locating missing children.
- Set up a national strategy for combatting human trafficking.
- Required training with periodic refresher courses for TSA agents, Customs agents, and Border Patrol agents that will detect, deter, and disrupt human trafficking.

By Cindy H. McCain

It's Time: Next Steps on Countering Human Trafficking



Photo: Public Domain



I am encouraged by the groundswell of people actively working to fight human trafficking over the last few years. Federal, state, and local

governments, NCOs [non-government organizations], the private sector, and the media are all working to raise awareness, prosecute offenders and effectively assist victims. Organizations like the National Federation of Republican Women are taking a stand against human trafficking and using unique platforms to increase awareness and fight this heinous crime.

I believe we must delve deeper to understand why trafficking continues to affect so many people domestically and internationally. Profit estimates for traffickers are astounding. Illegal networks are connected: guns, drugs, human beings—you can sell drugs or a gun once, but can sell a child over and over and over again. It's time to follow the money, make selling human beings less lucrative, and increase penalties and the risk of getting caught for traffickers.

It is time to address some of the underlying causes of trafficking and spend time on education and prevention among vulnerable

youth. We must address the early sexualization of young girls including poor role models in pop culture and the glamorization of the sex industry. It is not legally possible for a minor to choose prostitution, as anyone under 18 who is bought for sex is by definition a victim of sex trafficking. We know the average age of entry into trafficking is eleven to fourteen. Those children who reach their eighteenth birthday in such a dangerous life are without viable alternatives or proper education. We need to look beneath the surface of adults caught in prostitution and deconstruct the idea of a "willing prostitute." This is not a victimless crime.

It is time to address the "boys will be boys" culture and the idea that men are entitled to sex. Money does not buy consent and buyers need to be held accountable. We are seeing national examples of this attitude regarding women as objects not only in trafficking, but in countless campus rape and domestic violence cases where the defense cries entitlement and assumes consent from drugged or unconscious victims. Society has come to think that pimping is cool and it's [okay] for kids to refer to each other as "hoes."

It is time to end the idea that "trafficking doesn't happen here." It is not only poor communities or big cities, traffickers can reach every child with a cell phone and Internet connection. We desperately need to protect all of our children especially the most

vulnerable—those within the child welfare system where trafficking is exceptionally high.

The McCain Institute for International Leadership has submitted suggested language to the platform committees of both political parties regarding human trafficking. I am hopeful that both parties will address the need for comprehensive human trafficking awareness training for health care workers, school administrators, social workers, law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, and public defenders to help them correctly identify trafficked victims and know where to get help for them; change the way we talk about trafficking—there is "No Such Thing" as a child prostitute; promote education and training on prevention for all of our youth. Increase funding for national and international efforts to counter trafficking, including integrating anti-trafficking efforts into wider U.S. foreign assistance programs and measures to ensure tax dollars don't support human slavery but rather leverage access to U.S. markets to free people.

I am encouraged, but there is so much more to be done and I applaud the NFRW for joining me in the fight.

Who Am I?

Cindy Lou Hensley McCain is an American businesswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian, and the wife of United States Senator and 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain of Arizona. She co-chairs the Arizona Governor's Council on human trafficking and is on the McCain Institutes' Human Trafficking Advisory Council.

Terror at home: What does it mean?

By Randy Evans
National GOP Committeeman



Radical Islamic terrorist attacks have once again made their way across the oceans to the United States of America. The brutality of the attacks at Pulse, a gay night club in Orlando, Florida, once again shocked the conscience of Americans at home and pretty much everyone else throughout the world.

Needless to say, the impact of the attack on the 2016 presidential election will be direct and immediate. Already, both presidential candidates as well as President Barack Obama have weighed in with their solutions to the threat of radical Islamic terrorists spreading their evil like a metastasized cancer throughout the world.

When all Americans—regardless of their race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation—can no longer feel safe here, voters react, and more often than not they react at the ballot box. As these attacks get closer and closer to home with terrorists targeting “soft” targets, it is an understatement to say these attacks will be a major issue in this year’s elections.

Like everything political, there will be no shortage of explanations and policies or people to blame. It is the nature of politics. Democrats will undoubtedly point to President George W. Bush and the Iraq war for destabilizing the Middle East—as if the Middle East has ever been stable. Of course, it will be a tricky dance for former New York Senator Hillary Clinton, who voted for that war.

Republicans will be equally quick to point to Obama’s premature withdrawal from Iraq and his refusal to acknowledge and respond to the radical Islamic terrorist threat as a matter of national security. For the American people who died in Orlando, San Bernardino, Boston, Fort Hood and New York City, it was not climate change that brought an end to their lives; it was radical Islamic terrorists.

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There was a time when moments of national crisis and mourning would bring Americans together. After September 11, 2001, there were no Republicans or Democrats; there were just Americans, mourning the loss of so many and resolved to bring the killers to justice wherever they were.

[However], the politics of division have taken such a firm hold in the United States today that such unity has become all but impossible. Unity among all Americans has become one more unfortunate casualty of the times. It is the inevitable consequence of constantly focusing on the differences within the United States rather than what Americans have in common.

When terrorists attacked Paris, the world seemingly came together for a moment of unity to defy the terrorists and signal a coming together. Yet, as world leaders locked arms, neither the president nor the vice president of the United States were anywhere to be found. It gave new meaning to “leading from behind.”

And so, Americans yet again mourn the murder of fellow Americans by a radical Islamic terrorist hidden in Florida whose only focus was killing Americans. Meanwhile, every American must now focus on [his/her] own vulnerability and the constant challenges all free civilized societies, especially the United States of America, face.

Contrary to the continued proclamations by Obama, this is not about guns or the right to bear arms. As the 20013 Boston Marathon proved, guns are not the only modus operandi when radical Islamic terrorists are intent on killing innocent civilians. Whether they use a blade for beheadings, a bomb for crowds, or a gun for shootings, the aim of the radical Islamic terrorists is to produce terror and they will use any weapon that can accomplish that goal.

Unity among all Americans has become one more unfortunate casualty of the times. It is the inevitable consequence of constantly focusing on the differences within the United States rather than what Americans have in common.

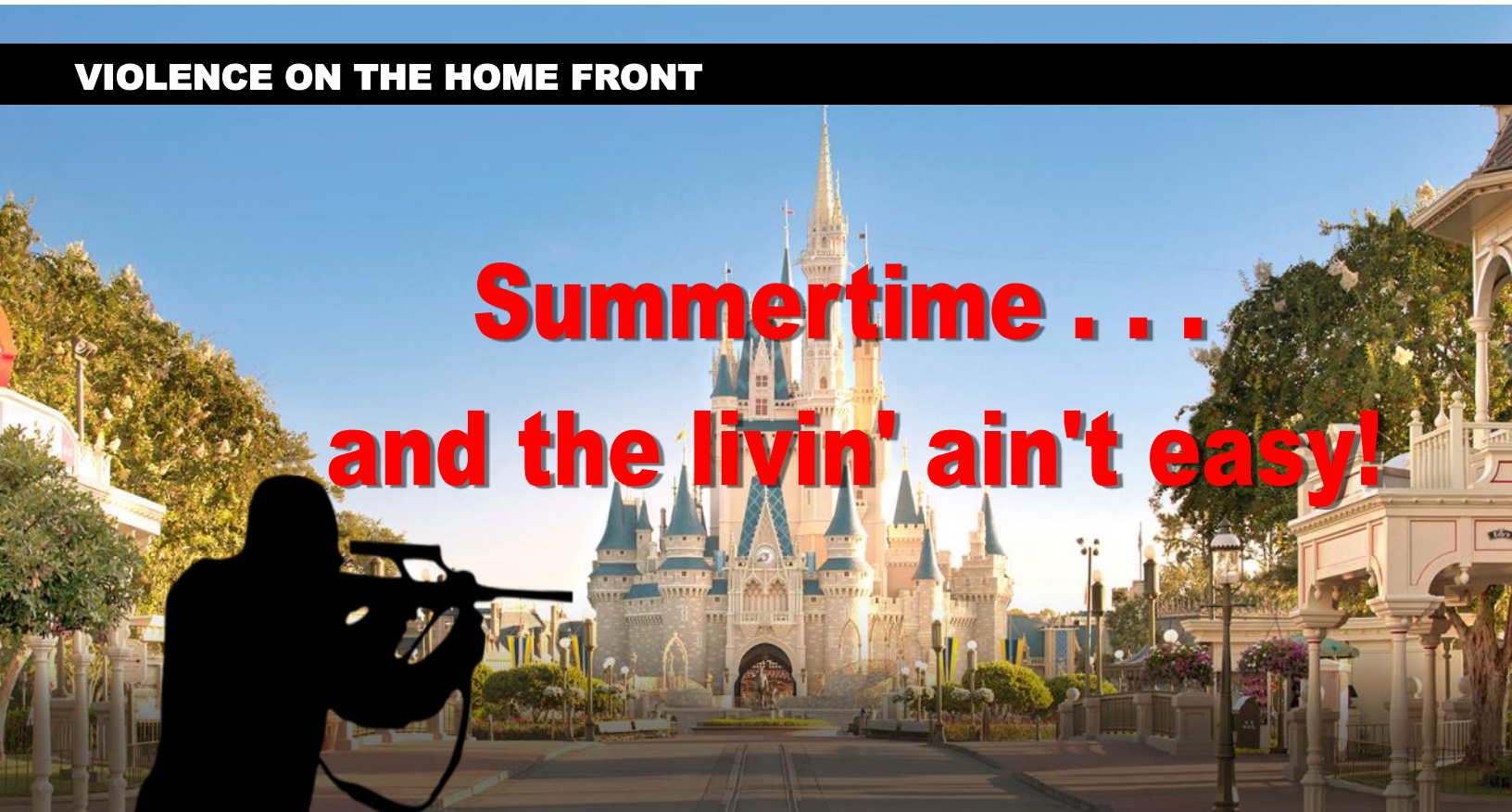
Yet, the terror attack in Orlando does reflect a meaningful shift in the way many Americans now see the war on terror. It is neither a Democratic nor Republican issue. Certainly, the national Democratic Party has prided itself on promoting and advancing the rights of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. Indeed, it has been one of the cornerstones of [its] 2016 presidential election strategy. [However], no one can deny that this administration’s refusal to call these murderers radical Islamic terrorists is difficult to reconcile with its unfailing efforts to court the LGBT communities. Both Sharia law and the Islamic faith not only condone, but also demand the most severe consequences for people who fall within these groups. The refusal to connect the dots makes protecting all Americans much more difficult.

Reading the stories of the victims of the Orlando attack will be difficult and painful. For everyone with an ounce of humanity, it will be hard to digest. Americans will respond.

This is why the Evans Report continues to report on the transformative nature of this election cycle. Make no mistake, traditional notions about what motivates American voters is now in an accelerating state of flux and change. The Orlando attacks punctuate that change.

[Consequently], this election will not be about the issues that have dominated the presidential election cycles of the last two decades. It will be about whether this country is a nation coming together or a country being torn apart.

Only time will tell. Meanwhile, the hopes and prayers of all Americans remain focused on the victims and their families for the losses they have suffered and for the United States of America to come together again as one nation laser-focused on defeating the radical Islamic terrorists.



Summertime . . . and the livin' ain't easy!

By Judy True
Editor-in-Chief

Breaking news. Newscasters start our mornings off with a litany of reports of violence. Local news recaptures local events, branching out to hot spots around the state, the nation, and abroad. Murders, rioting, rapes, neighborhood shootings, terrorism, ISIS, home invasions, and carjackings at the local mall. You name it! It happens! Many listeners are appalled while others blasely excuse the violence saying, “Oh, it’s the news stations trying to outdo one another”—or— “The newer technology enables better coverage and reporting.” Perhaps so, but underlying questions continue to nag— Is our society becoming more violent? Has violence, terrorism, and civil disobedience become a defining political issue for elections? Are we losing our sense of humanity and understanding of one another?

The months of June and July 2016 were hot, both temperature wise and in the number of violent events occurring. The tragedy of the loss of life in Orlando, Florida, has been heart-rending. Orlando events shocked us with the loss of young singer Christina Grimmie, followed by 49 deaths in a nightclub terrorist rampage, and then the heartbreaking story of a toddler grabbed by an alligator. The image of bloody streets became our image of Orlando, rather than that of Disney World full of fun-loving families and young people enjoying one of America’s finest vacation spots. Orlando was followed by one astonishing event after another:

- The murder of policemen in Dallas, Texas, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana;
- Nationwide protests against the police;
- Thousands of Atlanta demonstrators demanding to make black lives matter; and,
- The horror of the truck massacre in Nice, France

Laments run the gamut from what to do about homegrown terrorists, to revisiting the violence of street gangs over recent summers, to hoodlums raiding stores while other stores burn, to the need for tighter immigration policies, to police shootings, and whether or not we need more gun control. Unlike George Gershwin’s song, “Summertime, and the Livin’ is Easy,” our livin’ hasn’t been easy. Conversations about rioters, civil disobedience, and homegrown terrorists fight to over-shadow presidential year political maneuvering. And—we struggle to understand what has been happening.

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To whom should we listen? Where do we find the “understanding”? Are the talking heads actually “saying” anything? Have the bloggers found real answers or do they just enjoy arguing? Seems everyone has something to say for his/her own, personal sound-bite—from the professorial explanations of the president of the U.S. on down. Yet, their comments offer nothing new from what was said after last summer’s riots and violence and the events before that. **Have today’s rants and commentary shown that we’ve learned anything about homegrown terrorism, police hatred, and acts of civil disobedience gone bad?**

With so much rhetoric flying, I too felt the urge to say something. [However], say what? That I am horrified? Yes! Saddened? Yes! Frustrated? Yes! [However], what can I personally contribute to the discussion?

Rather than jumping on a band wagon or responding to the temptation to be another “talking head,” I’ve been reminding myself to seek more information. Read, think, study—look for an understanding of what is happening based on factual information. Look for statistics comparing the number of incidents today with those of past years. Google for more information about what is happening. I urge the same for you. Find explanations and a rationale *you* can live with, a “do it yourself theme” to guide you and give you hope as you seek to learn something from each new event.

Look for writers, columnists, and commentators who pose provocative, thoughtful comments about how we as a society and individuals can view random acts of terror and violence.

- *We need a lot more serious thinking about the present and a lot less time and energy spent on the past. . . . If the past is out of our hands, what is in our hands today are the present and the future—and both have big challenges. Whatever policies or*

practices we consider need to be judged by their actual consequences, not by their rhetoric. (Thomas Sowell, Creators Syndicate, 7.14.2015)

- *It’s a hard task to strain to understand each other. It’s easiest to hunker in isolation, surrounded only by those who think, blog, and tweet similar thoughts. . . . We have to somehow learn to listen to each other, discern commonalities, and act accordingly.* (Andre Jackson, editorial editor, *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, 5.3.2015).
- *The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend.* (Abraham Lincoln)

If none of the above messages resonated with you, find one that makes sense to you and that you can share with others. Know your own thoughts well before you allow yourself to get roped into aimless discussions. Stay calm and join conversations seeking answers rather than those pushing one person’s or one group’s agenda.

I started this article thinking I **should** have something to say. Instead, I found my message was not so much to say something pithy as to encourage you (myself included) to read, think, study, ponder, and read some more.

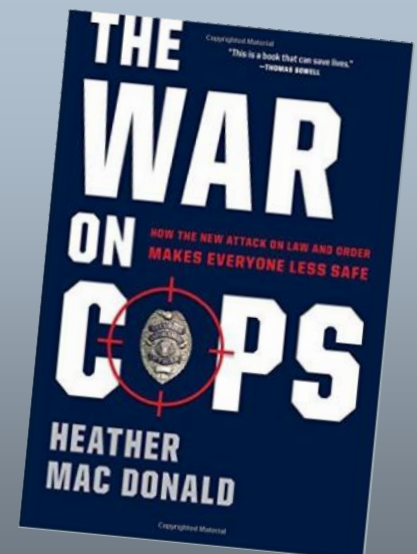
Alexander Pope (1709) was right . . . “A *little* learning is a dangerous thing.” Society’s current problems with violence will not be solved by over-simplifying solutions but through a better understanding of causation.

Become informed. Look for what causes the disenchantment leading many to depend on violence in order to be heard. Understanding causes can lead to a thoughtful and sane selection of solutions.

Zero in on this and we may have more productive conversations.

The War on Cops

Violent crime has been rising sharply in many American cities after two decades of decline. Homicides jumped nearly 17 percent in 2015 in the largest 50 cities, the biggest one-year increase since 1993. The reason is what Heather Mac Donald first identified nationally as the “Ferguson effect”: Since the 2014 police shooting death of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, officers have been backing away from proactive policing, and criminals are becoming emboldened. This book is a call for a more honest and informed debate about policing, crime, and race.



Don't get distracted!

By Lynn Hartung

2nd Vice President of NFRW

Like many of our members, I have been appalled by the level of anger and intimidation as well as the violence America has experienced during the 2015-2016 presidential campaigns and primaries. Daily we have watched as political gatherings have turned into battlegrounds with escalating violence; protests have targeted political candidates; police have arrived in riot gear – all resulting in arrests and physical injuries. These displays of “civil disobedience”, as some would glorify them, cannot help but discourage some of us.

So in this political season that none of us could have imagined, what can we do?

The members of the NFRW have a responsibility to not only support our party and its candidates, but to support and build America. We are Republicans. We believe in the American dream; a heritage of constitutionally guaranteed freedoms; and that our hard work will help all Americans achieve success.

Let's do what we do best. We are the NFRW—we work to win elections. All of this turmoil shouldn't distract us from the hundreds of down ticket races we need to fight for and WIN: the school boards, city councils, and the races for sheriffs, judges, and legislators. To ensure that we hold the Senate majority and, thereby, keep the Supreme Court from being packed with more liberal judges, we must hold our existing seats.

If we each do nothing more than bring one person to the polls who might not have voted, one person to help us with all the down ticket races, we will help to make a difference in our beloved country.

And let's put a face on being Republican. We are not the one percent that the Party is “reported” to be, those who have no empathy or compassion for others and whose only responsibility is to make money for themselves. I'm not any of those things, and I am a proud Republican!

There are so many methods to show who we are. As we educate our members and friends about our Federation's important legislative initiatives, such as stopping sex trafficking, offering treatment to the mentally ill, and helping our communities, we are showing that we deeply care about these and other issues.

Our donations of time, effort, and money give our communities and residents a “hands up.” Every time we donate to military members and their families and veterans' organizations, we show them that we honor their service and their contributions to our nation. Every hour and dollar contributed to our thousands of Caring for America projects is proof that we care about the people in our communities and that we DO want to help those in need. Every book we donate to schools and libraries shows our commitment to building literacy in the country we love.

We are the NFRW. We have the ability to make a difference, not with anger or threats or violence but with hope, caring, and faith in our American political system.

Who Am I?

Lynne Hartung was elected NFRW 2nd vice president at the 38th Biennial Convention in Phoenix and took office in January 2016. During the 2014-2015 term, Hartung served as NFRW treasurer and adviser to the Leadership Development and Technology committees. She worked on the NFRW Membership Committee for several years, serving as chairman in 2013. Hartung served the Nevada Federation as president in 2010-2011 and as treasurer in 2013.



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We have the ability to make a difference, not with anger or threats or violence but with hope, caring, and faith in our American political system.

Look for a Sheepdog!

The debate over gun control and the Second Amendment is an issue we have talked about for as long as I can remember. On the left side of the political spectrum, you have a group of people who would like to see the Second Amendment repealed. They won't come out and say it outright, but it's there if you read between the lines. The battle cry is always, "Background check—background checks—background checks." Well, here's a headline for you: Background checks are already conducted, both locally and federally. The databases available to licensing authorities are as extensive as can be found in the modern, free world. The right to own a firearm, like any right given to us by the Constitution, should be respected and cherished.

The slow erosion of our rights over the last few decades has been just that, slow. So slow that one day we realized we exist in an environment that celebrates political correctness over individualism. This is especially true when a mass shooting occurs and the media, politicians, and assorted sycophants begin to expound about a subject they know little about. That is the crux of the liberal argument. Even when you provide facts to the contrary, a liberal will continue to cling to this idea that guns are bad, bad, bad. And, if there were no guns, then there would be no crime! If you dare to continue the debate with them, you will be labeled a right wing nut who has no heart. (I've actually had anti-gun people tell me I didn't care about the victims of a mass shooting. How ridiculous, how arrogant, how typical.)

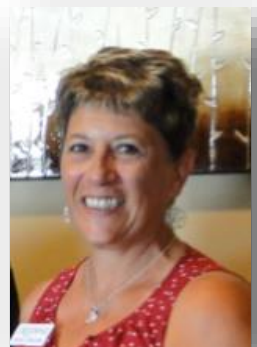
We live in a world that is broken into two parts: sheepdogs and sheep. The sheepdogs among us protect the sheep from violence and harm. The sheep shield their eyes—sometimes even close them—and say, "It won't happen here; we don't need guns." Well, if given the choice between standing with a sheepdog or amongst the sheep, which would you choose? Ask your family and friends who they would choose? Whom would you have them choose? I know the answer and so do you. You can kid yourself, but you know.

During the last several years, law enforcement has come under attack at a rate not seen since the 1970s. As I'm writing this article I'm watching coverage of the ambush attack on police in Dallas. Ambushed while they provided safe passage for those that chose to protest the very people protecting them. Whether you agree or disagree with the protest, the fact of the matter is they have the right to peaceably assemble. This style of attack will become more prevalent if our leaders continue to encourage malcontents to do their thing with impunity. We've seen cities burn, police maligned, innocent people shot, and in some cases killed. My solution is simple: arm yourself while you can. Don't listen to the sheep. If you can't be a sheepdog, then at least get behind the sheepdog. I will protect you—it's what sheepdogs do. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**By Dawn
Charette
Retired Chief
Of Police**

Who Am I?

Dawn M. Charette is a retired Chief of Police from Massachusetts. She and her husband, a retired correctional officer, relocated to Gainesville, Georgia, three years ago. They have one son, a decorated Marine veteran, and one grandson who is the light of their life.



Commentary: What other gun rules could have stopped killer?

By George Parry
with permission of the author
(originally printed in the
Philadelphia Inquirer)

In the wake of the Orlando nightclub atrocity, President [Barack] Obama has admonished us to "do some soul-searching" about how "easy" it is in this country to obtain firearms. Just so. But if we are to do an honest examination of conscience, we must begin with the facts.

Omar Mateen, the Orlando jihadist, slaughtered his victims with a Sig Sauer MCX rifle, an AR-15-style rifle, and a Glock handgun. Contrary to mainstream media hysteria, neither is a machine gun, a category of weapon that has been illegal to purchase or possess since 1934. Each is, instead, a semi-automatic firearm, i.e., one pull of the trigger fires but a single round of ammunition.

From that standpoint, as a matter of substance as opposed to cosmetics, the Sig Sauer MCX is not different from the millions of semiautomatic rifles that Americans have owned and possessed since the early 1900s. While the Sig Sauer may look like a military-grade machine gun, it is not. Think of it as a Volkswagen Beetle dressed up to look like a Maserati.

This is not to deny that Mateen was able to cause tremendous mayhem using these semiautomatic weapons. They are most certainly dangerous implements capable of spreading death and carnage. [However], they are no more dangerous than any other semiautomatic gun.

Commercial sales of firearms are regulated by federal and state law. A firearms vendor must hold a license issued by the federal government and must—in conjunction with federal law enforcement authorities—conduct a background check of anyone attempting to purchase a gun.

A purchaser must verify in writing and under penalty of law that, among other things, he is not under criminal indictment; a convicted criminal; a fugitive from justice; a drug addict or user of controlled substances; an adjudicated mental defective; a former inmate of a mental institution; someone who was dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces; or subject to a court order restraining him from stalking, harassing, or threatening his child or "intimate partner." He must also verify under oath that he has never been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, has never renounced his U.S. citizenship, and is not an illegal alien.

All of the foregoing sworn information is then checked against the FBI's records. If the purchaser is cleared by the FBI, then the sale may be completed. The seller, however, may also decline to make the sale for any reason up to and including the purchaser's looks, behavior, or demeanor.

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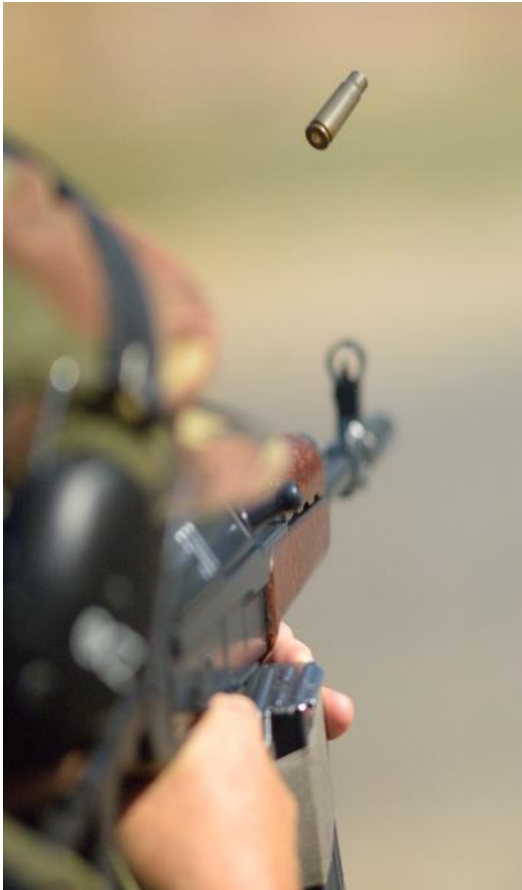


Photo: Public Domain

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Moreover, in the Orlando case, Mateen held a concealed-weapons license issued by the state of Florida. To obtain that, he had to be fingerprinted and photographed and undergo a background investigation by Florida authorities. Also, in a bit of stomach-churning irony, he was required by Florida to undergo firearm safety training. Since he purchased his handgun in Palm Beach County, he was subject to a five-day waiting period before he could take delivery.

Finally, Mateen was a security officer employed by a private firm that holds contracts with the Department of Homeland Security. Presumably, his employer took additional measures to determine Mateen's fitness for duty and possession of a weapon, but, as of publication, the nature and extent of that vetting have not been made public.

In light of these facts, it is fair to ask what further safeguards, procedures, or restrictions on the purchase, ownership, or possession of firearms would have prevented the Orlando carnage. For example, advocates of what they call "common sense gun control" argue that anyone on a terrorist watch list should not be permitted to legally buy a gun. Fair enough, but would such a prohibition be effective? Or would a determined terrorist such as Mateen simply resort to using a straw purchaser, a practice that has been used successfully by felons, drug users, wife beaters, and others to evade existing legal restrictions?

Should we follow Europe's example of banning possession of firearms by civilians? If so, isn't it fair to ask how the Paris jihadis were able to gun down and murder 129 infidels and wound another 368 at the Bataclan nightclub in November?

Putting aside the mandate of the Second Amendment, we must recognize that there are ninety million law-abiding Americans who legally possess an estimated 300 million firearms and who pose no demonstrable threat to their fellow citizens. Are they to be turned into outlaws by legislative or executive fiat? And are these newly minted criminals then to be stripped of their weapons? If so, how would that be done? By force of arms?

If even a fraction of that ninety million were to resist confiscation of their weapons, does the government have the police, military, judicial, and penal resources to search, disarm, arrest, prosecute, and punish that vast legion of otherwise law-abiding citizens? Would the law-enforcement establishment willingly undertake such punitive actions? We have already seen substantial numbers of gun owners in Connecticut and New York

openly defy hastily enacted anti-gun laws imposed in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Faced with other more pressing threats to public order, police and sheriffs' departments in those states have wisely elected not to risk the mayhem that could very well result if they attempted to arrest and disarm defiant gun owners.

And even if the government somehow managed to confiscate all 300 million legally-owned firearms, what about the untold and uncounted millions of firearms already in the hands of criminals? So far, law enforcement has been unable to effectively prevent the possession and use of guns by our domestic criminal class. Should we expect a different result when dealing with bloodthirsty jihadis hell-bent on mass murder?

These are but some of the questions that must be answered. To ignore them is to engage in magical thinking whereby the very real threats posed by armed terrorists and criminals can be defeated by simply passing a law.

If only life were that neat and easy.

Who Am I?

Lloyd George Parry was selected *Outstanding Prosecutor, Pennsylvania District Attorneys' Association, 1983*. He has also authored: *"Development of Circumstantial Evidence in Arson for Profit Cases," Battelle Institute's Arson Enforcement Manual, 1980*. Parry served the university community as

Adjunct Professor of Criminal Justice for Temple University, 1980-1982; as Instructor for the Pennsylvania State Police Academy on Law of Electronic Surveillance, 1978-1982; as a Lecturer for the National College of District Attorneys, 1980. He was Special Attorney, Organized Crime and Racketeering Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Buffalo, N.Y., 1972-1978; an Assistant District Attorney, Philadelphia, 1978-1983; a Special Prosecutor: Blair County and Cambria County, 1979-1989; and a Legal Affairs Correspondent, KYW-TV, Philadelphia, 1985-1992.
<https://media.licdn.com/media/p/3/005/046/17a/38d7317.jpg>



"We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions."

~ Ronald Reagan



A Cup of Joe and Thoughts to Go

By Janet F. Haldeman

Getting Rid of the Eeyore in You

Is this political climate making you feel like Eeyore from *Winnie the Pooh*? Do you find yourself saying in a low and deep pitched voice “oh me, oh my” and sighing heavily when you turn on the television? Do scenes of Americans yelling at each other, carrying signs, and other forms of anger and violence leave you feeling troubled?

Well, you are not alone.

So sit back, pour a second cup of coffee, and give me sixty seconds to offer a different picture—not of a sky with gloom and doom rain clouds but one that has a small ray of light cutting through the dark clouds.

Before I go any further, I have to preface this by saying there have been times when citizens used First Amendment rights to turn civil disobedience into a reason to carry out criminal acts and senseless violence. As a result, Americans died needlessly or were seriously harmed. In no way do I think that is excusable or justified.

I admit the dark clouds are very dark. Why all the hate? Why all the anger? We have lost our ability to look for and find common ground.

As Americans, we are allowed to engage in protests and civil disobedience. We have a tendency to think today’s discord is worse than in the past; that civil disobedience and protests are worse; and, they are destroying our country.

Yet, the real truth is our country has always dealt with tensions that inspired protests and

anger—as those tensions dealt with the need for change.

After all, it was a founding father, Thomas Jefferson, who said, “If a law is unjust a man is not only right to disobey it, he has an obligation to do so.”

Change and discord were also present during the Civil War era. Can you imagine the dinner conversations where family members were pitted against each other?

I personally cringe when I watch newsreels from the 1960s showing pictures of the civil rights movement and Americans fighting fellow Americans.

Fast forward . . . here we are today and the pictures seem all too familiar.

Yet, the timeless truth is discord and protests have always played a role in our heritage and have helped to make us a stronger nation.

That said, change does not come easily. It is painful and messy. But being willing to strive for change is one of our country’s strengths. We do not try to stay static; we do not settle for the status quo, but we constantly strive for change.

To understand the greatness of this, look at other cultures that do not allow change or protests. For example, Middle Eastern countries have laws hundreds of years old such as allowing the stoning of women who commit adultery. Think about the severity of their laws. Protests are not tolerated in Middle Eastern countries and their culture and values reflect such.

Our laws and culture have changed over the years and in many cases, they have changed for the better. Protests and civil disobedience have often played a role in these changes.

We are blessed to live in a country where you can fight for change; where you can disagree; and, where civil disobedience has made and will continue to make a difference.

So, the next time the news comes on and you have to watch the grittiness and tensions arising from conflicting opinions and value—before your Eeyore side comes to life and negative words come tumbling out of your mouth—take a few moments to be grateful for a country that allows public expressions of personal beliefs—that allows its citizens to strive toward change—even when it is messy and painful.

Who Am I?

Janet F. Haldeman is a longtime Georgia resident and author of the blog “Faith and Courage: The Joys of an Ordinary Life” which contains inspirational stories to brighten your corner of the world. (<https://janetfhaldeman.com/>) She spends her time writing, playing with her grandchildren, and trying to live her life with her faith, joy, and courage intact.



by Pat Morrell-Donnelly

June 9, 2016

UNITY . . . our "mantra"

*Unity our "mantra"
Unity our aim
Unity November eight
Presidential victory claim.*

*Take back the White House
Where Lincoln and Reagan resided
Proud again of our country
By the Constitution "guided."*

*Stop "Crooked Hillary"
The Supreme Court save
No "Left Wing" majority
In this land of the free and brave.*

*The land of our forefathers
Individual liberty our gift
Saluting the Red, White, and Blue
Giving our heart a lift.*

*Moving past Obama days
His executive actions repeal
From his "Warped Ideology"
Our nation now must heal.*

*Enough of failed policies
Enough illegal invasion*

*Enough massive government
No matter "Political Persuasion."*

*Four more years of Obama
Our country cannot afford
More on welfare and food stamps
"Free stuff" on refugees "poured."*

*Saving religious liberty
Our Party must "unify"
United with determination
It's either "Do or Die."*

*Fix the broken tax code
The slow economy fix
Fix broken health care
Annihilate ISIS in the mix.*

*Together board the "Trump Train"
The trip of victory ride
Praying for a successful journey
And the "Turning of the Tide."*

*Then plan a celebration
Conservatism's last chance
Pull the lever for Trump
And "Do the Victory Dance."*

Who Am I?

Pat Morrell-Donnelly worked as a realtor/broker in the Bay Area/East Bay, California, for more than fifty-one years. She relocated to Georgia in 2007 and attended Habersham Republican Party meetings. Morrell-Donnelly published her first book, *The Climb Up Life's Mountain*, in 2009. She published five books in eight years. In addition to her books, Morrell-Donnelly has written more than 1,600 poems. She is married to Alan (Don) Donnelly.



Dulany Dawson Woodward

A Frequent Contributor to VOICES Magazine

VOICES Magazine recently lost a faithful reader and contributor in the passing of Dulany Woodward. Her Facebook page reports the following:

Dulany Dawson Woodward, 74, passed away May 9, 2016, in Richardson, Texas, after a brief illness.

Woodward, daughter of the late Edwin and Lee Dawson and sister of Win Dawson, grew up in Shawnee, Oklahoma. She graduated from Shawnee High School in 1960 and earned a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Oklahoma State University. She always had an interest in civic affairs, even enjoying a stint at the *Shawnee News Star*.

With her marriage to Tom Woodward in 1971, their blended family include five children: Wendy Woodward, Maudie Boyd (deceased), Tom Woodward II, and Gardner Woodward from Tom's previous marriage, and Dulany's son Dawson Woodward from her previous marriage.

For many years, Woodward helped manage her husband's architectural firm and sculpture business. After retirement, they

moved to Buena Vista, Colorado, where they traveled together to many art shows and galleries promoting Tom's wood sculpture until his passing. Woodward then focused on political interests and worked tirelessly for several years in the Colorado Federation of Republican Women—eventually serving a term as president for which she was nominated for the Reagan Award. "Patriotism, service, and leadership were instilled in me from every aspect of my life, and my innate desire to work for the good of this country."

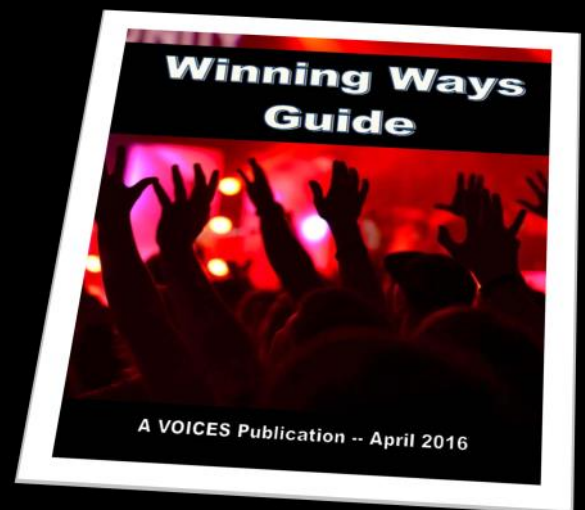
Woodward was a frequent contributor to *VOICES Magazine*, a faithful reader, and a source of encouragement to *VOICES* staff members. We will miss our friend and colleague.



Save your copy of the Winning Ways Guide

VOICES Publications brings to you *The Winning Ways Guide*, created for veteran grassroots campaigners as a *refresher* resource and for novice volunteers as a tutorial. Its purpose is to educate and empower Republican women to ensure that qualified Republicans—men and women—get elected to public office. We hope you will share the tools provided in this guide with your Republican sisters throughout Georgia and across the nation.

The *Winning Ways Guide* is a compilation of articles contributed to *VOICES Magazine* over the past several years by various authors. Our vision for this guide is that it will be a living document. As trends change, the guide will be updated so that its users will have the most up-to-date information and tips available to them in their efforts to elect Republicans to public office.



Go to www.gfrw.org. At the bottom of the opening welcome screen, click on the picture of the *Winning Ways Guide*.

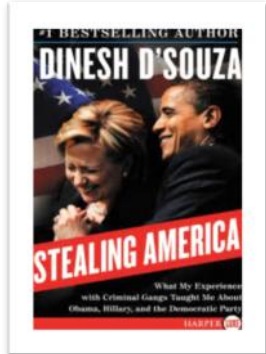


BOOK NOOK

By JD Van Brink



STEALING AMERICA



Movie now showing
in theaters



Introduction – When *New York Times* best-selling author and filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza wanted to help Wendy Long, a friend he had known since his college days at Dartmouth who in 2012 was running for the U.S. Senate from New York, he violated campaign finance laws by reimbursing two friends who each gave Long \$10,000. He pleaded guilty, paid a \$30,000 fine, and was sentenced to five years of probation and eight months of overnight detention at the San Diego Confinement Center. This began his journey into understanding the philosophical nature of crime and the criminal, racist history of the Democratic Party, resulting in his November 2014 book, *Stealing America: What My Experience with Criminal Gangs Taught Me about Obama, Hillary, and the Democratic Party*, and his July 2016 companion documentary film, *Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party*.

Content – The book begins with an emotional synopsis of the events that led up to his conviction, sentencing, and detention. His experiences within the detention facility are then woven throughout the rest of the book to illustrate various concepts. He confesses that while he had originally thought progressives were misguided and disinterested, he now realizes that they “advance the interests of a powerful and grasping class of people” and makes a forthright defense of America's constitutional republic and free market capitalism. He gives a detailed analysis of the four progressive scams (history for profit, inequality, you didn't build that, and Lucky Luciano) which alone are worth the price of the book. He provides a biographical history and psychoanalysis of Saul Alinsky, the intellectual and inspirational “Godfather” to Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. While he still maintains his theory that Barack Obama is motivated by anti-colonialism, he claims that Hillary Clinton is worse than Alinsky and Obama because her motivation is power and personal gain. Perhaps the funniest part of the book (and movie) is the reaction he gets from his fellow detainees when he tells them what he did to “deserve” his detention. They laugh in hysterical disbelief, especially since several of them had long

histories of violent crime. So, what did D'Souza learn from his experience and research? First, his punishment was excessive when compared to other people who had committed similar crimes. Also, whether it is against persons or property, all crime is stealing. In addition, “religious conservatives are the most generous people in America, and secular liberals are the least generous.” No surprise there...

Conclusion – As with most books of this genre that I read, “Stealing America” is long on describing problems and short on offering solutions. However, if Judge Richard Berman, who sentenced D'Souza, wanted to teach him a lesson and shut him up, then he got more than he bargained for on the former and totally missed the mark on the latter. If anything, D'Souza's standing in the conservative movement was greatly enhanced, resulting in him gaining even more opportunities to speak his mind and influence people, public policy, and elections. While those of us in the broader individual liberty movement often decry the federal government's abuse of power by exceeding Constitutional authority, or by not enforcing the law, perhaps the most insidious abuse is selective, discriminatory enforcement of the law. It is reassuring to know that, at least in the case of D'Souza, his story has a happy ending and, pun intended, it would be a crime if it did not have a positive impact on the 2016 election this November.

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Who Am I?

John David (JD) Van Brink earned his MBA from Tennessee Technological University. He has worked at Olin Corporation, EDS, General Motors, IBM, Barclay's American Bank, Duke Power, and The Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO). Van Brink now works as a software developer at one of the largest credit card processing companies in the world, Total System Services (TSYS), in Kennesaw, GA. Also, he is the Chairman of the Georgia Tea Party™ and The Simple Tax. Van Brink enjoys reading books on a variety of topics including history, economics, politics, and philosophy.