

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

September 2026

President's Byline



Dear PRW & Patriotic Friends,

On September 11, 2026, our nation will solemnly observe the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks that forever changed America. Although a quarter of a century has passed, the images, heartbreak, and extraordinary acts of courage from that day remain deeply etched in our national memory.

We remember the nearly 3,000 innocent lives lost at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and aboard Flight 93. We honor the firefighters, police officers, emergency personnel, members of our military, K-9 heroes, and everyday Americans who ran toward danger to help others. Their courage reflected the very best of our nation.

We also remember what happened in the days that followed. Americans stood together—not as Republicans or Democrats, but as neighbors, friends, and fellow citizens. We flew our flags, filled our churches, supported our first responders, and prayed for grieving families. In one of our darkest moments, the strength, compassion, and unity of the American spirit shone brightly.

Twenty-five years later, a new generation has grown up with no personal memory of that day. It is now our responsibility to share the stories, preserve the history, and teach them about the tremendous price of freedom. We must ensure that September 11 never becomes merely a date in a textbook, but remains a lasting reminder of the lives lost, the heroes who answered the call, and the values we must continue to defend.

As we mark this significant anniversary, may we pause to remember, pray for the families who still carry the pain of that terrible day, and express our gratitude to those who continue to protect and serve our communities and our country.

May we also recommit ourselves to the unity and resolve that carried America through the days following September 11. Our nation is strongest when we stand together with faith, courage, and an unwavering love of country.

Twenty-five years later.

Never Forget.

Blessings,

Kathy Ward

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

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Calendar of Events

Next Board Meeting
October 6, 2026, 11:30
Niki's Restaurant
West Plano

Next General Meeting
September 15, 2026, 11:30
Saltgrass - East Plano



PRW September Meeting



Judge Brook Fulks
470th District Court



Judge Christine Nowak
493rd District Court

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

September 15, 2026

August's speaker will be
Honorable Brook Fulks and the
Honorable Christine Nowak.

Plano Republican Women are to have two of Collin County's District Judges as our speakers for our September 15th meeting: the Honorable Brook Fulks and the Honorable Christine Nowak.

Brook Fulks is Judge of the 470th Judicial District Court in Collin County, Texas, where she presides over family-law matters and brings substantial experience in family law to her judicial role. She is board certified in family law and is recognized for her practical understanding of the complex legal and personal issues that arise in family litigation. Before taking the bench, Judge Fulks developed a distinguished family-law practice, including experience with significant matters before the Dallas Courts of Appeals and the Texas Supreme Court. She also served as an adjunct faculty member for Baylor Law School's Family Law Boot Camp, sharing her knowledge and trial experience with the next generation of lawyers. Her background as both a practitioner and a judge gives her a valuable perspective on advocacy, judicial decision-making, and the challenges facing families and professionals involved in high-conflict litigation.

Judge Fulks has been active in the legal community and has held leadership roles with the Collin County Bar Association, including past service as its president and co-chair of its Trial Academy. She also served as president of the Collin County Child Protective Services Board and has served on multiple State Bar of Texas committees. Current memberships include the Curt B. Henderson Inn of Court, the Collin County Women Lawyers Association, and the Texas Bar College. Her professional and community service reflects a longstanding commitment to the legal profession and to improving the administration of justice.

Judge Fulks earned a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from LeTourneau University, a Master of Science in Psychology from Abilene Christian University, and her Juris Doctor from Baylor Law School. Her academic background in psychology, combined with her extensive family-law experience and service on the bench, provides a particularly relevant foundation for thoughtful consideration of the legal, relational, and practical dimensions of family disputes.

Christine Nowak is the Judge of the 493rd Judicial District Court in Collin County, Texas, with extensive experience as a federal magistrate judge and commercial litigator.

Christine Nowak earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting with honors from Texas A&M University, where she was actively involved in the Student Government Association and received the Buck Weirus Spirit Award for outstanding contributions to student life. She then attended Baylor Law School, earning her Juris Doctor with honors, serving as an Associate Editor of the Baylor Law Review, and joining the Order of the Barristers.

Nowak began her legal career at K&L Gates, LLP (formerly Hughes Luce), focusing on commercial litigation and trying her first jury cases. She later joined Dykema Gossett PLLC, rising to partner in her first year of eligibility and serving as the hiring and recruiting partner for the Dallas office. During her private practice, she specialized in complex business and commercial disputes, advising businesses and employers in both state and federal courts.

PRW September Meeting

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In 2015, Nowak was appointed United States Magistrate Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman Division, where she served for eight years. During her federal tenure, she presided over thousands of civil and criminal matters, conducted hundreds of settlement conferences and mediations, and oversaw numerous jury trials. On October 3, 2023, she was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to the 493rd Judicial District Court in Collin County, the county's newest court, where she currently presides over civil and family cases. She won election to continue in this role in the November 5, 2024, general election, with her term ending December 31, 2028.

Christine Nowak is married to Judge Tom Nowak, who serves on the 366th District Court in Collin County. They have two children and reside in Collin County, Texas.

Location: Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival.

Lunch will be salad, entree with vegetable, and tea.

[RSVP here to pay with credit card](#)

Please note: all Online Credit Card Payments include a processing fee.

To RSVP send an email to: <https://planorepublicanwomen.org/>.

Include your name in your email and specify whether you will/will not be having lunch.

PRW August Photos



Legacy Preparatory Charter School



**LEGACY PREPARATORY
CHARTER ACADEMY**
Mesquite West

Legacy Preparatory Charter School Superintendent & fellow PRW member the Hon. Staci Weaver needs school supplies for her students. Please see the following list and bring a few items to our meeting on September 15th if you are able. These students are in need and this would truly be a gift to them.

<https://4.files.edl.io/e6b0/06/24/25/145112-93e2f111-18a7-4128-8290-0fc0e8d7fa27.pdf>

PreK		Kinder	
ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
Plastic Pencil Box	1	Personal Headphones	1
Primary Pencils (Chunky)	8	Scissors (Blunt)	2
Glue Sticks	8	Pink Bevel Erasers (3 ct)	2
Fiskar Scissors (Round)	1	Broad Tip Markers (8 ct)	2
Copy Paper	3	Crayons (16 ct)	2
Hand Sanitizer	3	Chunky Pencils (4 ct)	2
Storage Bags (Sandwich)	1	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Storage Bags (Gallon)	2	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Spiral Notebook	1	Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Primary Journal (w/ Picture)	2	Zip-Lock Bags (Gallon)	1
Folders w/ Brads & Pockets	2	Primary Story Composition Notebook	3
Personal Headphones (over the ear)	1	Dry Erase Markers (4 ct)	2
Crayons	4	Tissue	2
Play Dough	2	Hand Sanitizer (8 oz)	2
Tissue Box	2	Baby Wipes	2
Disinfecting Wipes	3	Clear Pencil Box (Sterilite)	1
Baby Wipes	4	Clear Glue	1
Set of Extra Clothes	1	Colored Pencils (12 ct)	1
Velcro Shoes	1	Zip-Lock Bags (sandwich)	1
3 Section Nap Mat (4 Section is acceptable)	1	Disinfecting Wipes	1
Dry Erase Markers (4 count)	2	Play-Dough	2
3-inch Binder (white)	1	Copy Paper	1
Small Throw Blanket (40x30 in no larger than 60x50)	1	Card Stock (white)	1

Legacy Preparatory Charter School



**LEGACY PREPARATORY
CHARTER ACADEMY**
Mesquite West

School Supplies List

****CLEAR BACKPACKS ONLY** **NO WIRELESS AIRPODS or EARBUDS****

1st Grade		2nd Grade	
ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
Personal Headphones	1	Personal Headphones	1
Scissors (blunt)	1	Hand Sanitizer	2
Pink Erasers (3ct)	1	Disinfecting Wipes	3
No. 2 Pencils (24 ct)	2	Baby Wipes	2
Markers (broad tip) (8ct)	2	Tissue Box	3
Crayons (24 ct)	2	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Blue - Plastic Folder with Pockets/Brads	2	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Zip Lock Bags (Gallon) (100ct)	1	Wide Ruled Black Composition Notebook (100ct)	6
Primary Story Composition Notebook	2	No. 2 Pencils (24 ct)	3
Copy Paper	1	Pink Erasers (3 count)	1
Dry Erase Markers (colored) (4ct)	1	Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	4
Clear Plastic Pencil Box (Sterilite)	1	Broad Tip Markers (8 ct)	2
Tissue	3	Crayons (16 ct)	2
Washable Glue Sticks (6ct)	1	Colored Pencils (12 ct)	2
Colored Pencils (12ct)	1	Dry Erase Markers (4 ct)	2
Sandwich Plastic Bags Double Zipper (100 ct)	1	Copy Paper	2
Elmer's Liquid School Glue - Clear (4 oz)	1	Clear Sheet Protectors (pack)	1
Disinfecting Wipes	1	Construction Paper	1
Hand Sanitizer	1	Manila Paper	1
Composition Notebook (100 sheets)	1	Scissors	1
3x5 Ruled White Index Cards (100 ct)	1	Sandwich-sized zipper bags (box)	1
		Gallon-sized zipper bags (box)	1
		Glue Bottle	2

Legacy Preparatory Charter School



**LEGACY PREPARATORY
CHARTER ACADEMY**
— Mesquite West —

School Supplies List

****CLEAR BACKPACKS ONLY** **NO WIRELESS AIRPODS or EARBUDS****

3rd Grade		4th Grade		5th Grade	
ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
Personal Headphones	1	\$15 for Cell Phone Case (if you child brings a cell phone to school)	-	\$15 for Cell Phone Case (if you child brings a cell phone to school)	-
Scissors (Blunt)	1	Personal Headphones	1	Personal Headphones	1
Glue Sticks	3	Pencil Bag W/Clear Window & Grommets	1	Pencil Bag W/Clear Window & Grommets	1
Pink Erasers (3 count)	1	Scissors (Blunt)	1	Scissors (Blunt)	1
No. 2 Pencils (24 ct)	2	Glue Sticks	9	Glue Sticks	9
Broad Tip Markers (8 ct)	1	Pink Erasers (3 count)	1	Pink Erasers (3 count)	1
Fine Tip Markers (8 ct)	1	No. 2 Pencils (24 ct)	2	No. 2 Pencils (24 ct)	2
Crayons (24 ct)	2	Broad Tip Markers (8 ct)	2	Broad Tip Markers (8 ct)	2
Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2	Crayons (24 ct)	2	Crayons (24 ct)	2
Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	3x3 Assorted Sticky Notes 4PK (50ct)	2	3x3 Assorted Sticky Notes 4PK (50ct)	2
Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Washable Glue 4oz	1	Washable Glue 4oz	1
Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2	Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2
Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Wide Rule 8x10.5 Filler Paper (120 ct)	1	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Dry Erase Markers (4 ct)	2	Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Tissue Box	2	Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1	Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	1
Hand Sanitizer	1	Wide Ruled Black Composition Notebook (100ct)	7	Reclosable Gallon Zip Bags (20 ct)	1
12" 1/16" Standard/Metric Plastic Ruler	1	Dry Erase Markers (4 ct)	2	Wide Ruled Black Composition Notebook (100ct)	7
Reg. Pencil Sharpener w/receptacle	1	Tissue Box	2	Wide Rule 8x10.5 Filler Paper (120 ct)	1
Disinfecting Wipes	1	Hand Sanitizer	1	Dry Erase Markers (4 ct)	2

Legacy Preparatory Charter School



**LEGACY PREPARATORY
CHARTER ACADEMY**
— Mesquite West —

School Supplies List

****CLEAR BACKPACKS ONLY** **NO WIRELESS AIRPODS or EARBUDS****

6th Grade		7th Grade		8th Grade	
ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY	ITEM	QTY
\$15 for Cell Phone Case (if you child brings a cell phone to school)	-	\$15 for Cell Phone Case (if you child brings a cell phone to school)	-	\$15 for Cell Phone Case (if you child brings a cell phone to school)	-
Personal Headphones	1	Personal Headphones	1	Personal Headphones	1
Pencil Bag/Box	1	Pencil Bag/Box	1	Pencil Bag/Box	1
Scissors	1	Scissors	1	Scissors	1
Glue Sticks	6	Glue Sticks	6	Glue Sticks	6
Pink Erasers (3 Count)	1	Pink Erasers (3 Count)	1	Pink Erasers (3 Count)	1
Pencils or Mechanical Pencils	10	Pencils or Mechanical Pencils	10	Pencils or Mechanical Pencils	10
Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2	Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2	Fluorescent Yellow Highlighters	2
Colored Pencils (12 ct)	1	Colored Pencils (12 ct)	1	Colored Pencils (12 ct)	1
Black or Blue Pens	12	Black or Blue Pens	12	Black or Blue Pens	12
Markers Thin Tip	12	Markers Thin Tip	12	Markers Thin Tip	12
12 inch ruler	1	12 inch ruler	1	12 inch ruler	1
Pencil Sharpener	1	Pencil Sharpener	1	Pencil Sharpener	1
College-Ruled Paper	2	College-Ruled Paper	2	College-Ruled Paper	2
Composition Notebook	4	Composition Notebook	4	Package Graph Paper	2
Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Composition Notebook	4
Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Binder	1
Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Red Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2
Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2	Blue Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2
Tissue Boxes (Large)	3	College-Ruled Paper	2	Yellow Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2
Hand Sanitizer	2	Journals	3	Green Folder - Pockets w/Brads	2
Dry-Erase Markers (4 count)	2	3x5 Ruled White Index Cards (100 ct)	2	Tissue Boxes (Large)	3

PRW August Meeting





AMERICANISM REPORT



25 YEARS LATER: WE WILL NEVER FORGET

By Crystal Griffith

On this solemn anniversary of the great tragedy of September 11th, 2001, I am brought back to that crisp, clear, beautiful Tuesday morning; no clouds in the skies and Americans living out our final few hours of innocence before the world changed forever. I was seventeen, a senior at Plano West, and like you, remember where I was and every racing thought that went through my head that day. They called it a terrorist attack on America, but we had not experienced that before. No, not on this grand scale. There was an explosion at the World Trade Center back in 1993, the Oklahoma City Bombing in '95, but this....it stopped the whole country in its tracks. One minute we were all throwing bread in the toaster, making coffee, discussing our day, and the next – everything came to a crashing halt. Families wondered if they knew someone who was injured, if a portion of the buildings were still there - the dust was too thick to tell, and most important - what city would be targeted next? Dallas had their own fears. We had a World Trade Center too. Would they attack here? What about the White House? How long would this go on?

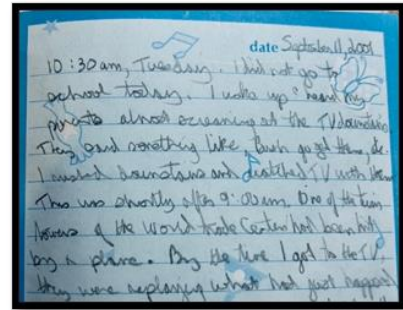
On that morning, I found myself in a place of utter sadness, shock and fear, so I picked up my pencil and began to write. **I've decided on this 25th anniversary to share what I wrote from my perspective as a young woman seeing it unfold in real time.** Several details below are written in haste and not with perfect, well-thought-out phrasing. **Facts are also inaccurate**, for data poured in faster that day than what could be verified. But this is how we felt in those moments. I had been told all my life how large of a disaster Pearl Harbor was, and the early reports on 9/11 quoted 50,000 souls potentially lost in each tower that morning, so there was a very real possibility we were witnessing a tragedy unfold that was ten times the bloodshed of 1941. Those initial numbers, as we know now, were not correct.



AMERICANISM REPORT



September 11, 2001 -10:30am, Tuesday. I did not go to school today. I woke up and heard my parents almost screaming at the TV downstairs. They said something like "Bush, go get them!" I rushed downstairs and watched TV with them. This was shortly after 9:00am. One of the twin towers of the World Trade Center had been hit by a plane. By the time I got to the TV, they were replaying what had just happened a few seconds ago. A 2nd plane had hit the second tower, and I watched it replayed for the first time. I was glued to the TV for several hours afterwards. I watched ABC as a plane hit the Pentagon, as one, then the second World Trade Center collapsed completely and as New York was covered in smoke. Right now, President Bush is on Air Force One, supposedly traveling from Florida (an education meeting) to D.C. for the disaster. However, I have a feeling that he and other political figures are going somewhere else. The two planes that destroyed the Trade Center were AA planes hijacked by terrorists with 90 and 60 people on them. 50,000 people work in each of the twin buildings and one plane in Pittsburgh crashed as well. We think maybe the pilot crashed his own plane instead of giving way to some terrorist's wants. One plane is unaccounted for in the U.S. All planes in the U.S. are to land at the nearest airport now. No one is to take off (except military planes) or they will be shot down. All important U.S. buildings have been evacuated (U.S. Capital, all airports closed, the Dallas Trade Center too). All U.S. incoming flights are being sent to Canada. We are, the whole world is waiting for confirmation of that last plane. Another hijacker might try to hit elsewhere. The White House West Wing was evacuated; Manhattan was evacuated and officials in the Pentagon have moved to an underground basement area. A helicopter just arrived behind the White House. It might be the President. *(I remember my hands shaking as I wrote the next phrase; my own fingers were fighting to admit our new reality. Then the tears came.)*



The World Trade Center does not exist anymore.

I'm watching TV right now, everyone on the streets of New York is running, being evacuated, crying, and injured people are being directed by police. It is chaos! The United States has pretty much shut down today. This is a nationwide disaster! Over 100,000 people have died and been injured today. The mayor of Cleveland has just said that a Boeing 767 has landed somewhere because they might have a bomb on board. This may be the missing plane. Officials say that Air Force One has not landed and the President is probably being taken to a secret place that no one knows about. He made a statement earlier today in Florida before leaving for Washington. He had a moment of silence and said, "God Bless the victims and their families." This is being called the second Pearl Harbor. There is talk of closing U.S. borders from immigrants. News reporters rush up to people to get a quick interview, and they run away because they have no time to talk. About 150 businesses are in the World Trade Center and 80,000 people visit every day. AA officials are on TV now. All former presidents have been taken to secure areas. Firemen are missing in New York (probably killed/injured). ABC has subtitles that say: ---Trading halted at NYSE---(various school reports) ---Workers evacuated from World Trade Center in Dallas---AA confirms it lost Flight 77 from Washington to LA with 58 passengers---United also confirms its loss of a 2nd flight---Love Field closed. A second plane has crashed (#175) somewhere. 2 United Airlines flights from Newark to San Francisco and from Boston to Los Angeles and 2 AA flights crashed into the two towers. 4 total planes with people have crashed. AP reports Arab journalist that terrorist Osama Bin Laden warned of an attack on U.S. 3 weeks ago. Smoke is clearing in NYC. It looks like tons of dust was dumped on every building. Everything is grey colored and air is hazy. It looks like all of the buildings in NY have been completely covered in ice, but it's really dust. Just yesterday at school, we were discussing in economics how our generation has not witnessed any big World Wars.

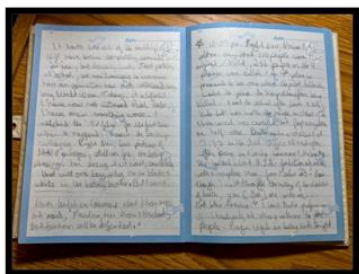


AMERICANISM REPORT



Today, it is different. I have now not witnessed Pearl Harbor, I have seen something worse. I watched the "TV film" for the first time when it happened. I saw the buildings collapse. Right now, live pictures of the Pentagon, still on fire, are being shown. I'm seeing it all now, something that will one day only be in black and white in the history books. But I saw it. Bush landed in Louisiana about 1 hour ago and said, "Freedom has been attacked, but freedom will be defended."

10:09pm – Right now, News 8 and others say that 100 people were injured/killed, 256 people on the 4 planes were killed and the 4th plane is presumed to be one where the pilot deliberately crashed the plane to keep others from being killed. I went to school after lunch and all kids did was watch the news in class. The choir concert was canceled, and flags everywhere are half-staff. Bush made a statement at 7:30pm in the Oval Office at Washington after being in Florida, Louisiana and Nebraska. He talked about U.S.A.'s foundation and ended with a scripture verse from Psalm 23 – "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you [God] are with me....God bless America." I loved Bush's profession of Christianity and strong witness to the people. Prayer vigils are being held tonight at various churches and SMU students and their president met on campus to pray and sing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Dozens of stories are being heard on TV. Some are from the 4th plane's pilot's parents, people working in the towers who were told to wait but didn't, and stories that 3 phone calls were made during the plane's flights: One from a stewardess on the 1st plane who said they had been hijacked, her co-worker was stabbed and they were heading for New York (and the stewardess may have given the seat of the terrorists to officials so they could look up and track him down), one from the 2nd plane from a man who made two phone calls to his older father, and one from Channel 4 news reporter Barbara Olson. The men are thought to have stabbed the stewards, pushed people to the back of the plane, killed the pilots, and flew the planes themselves (they were probably all pilots too). I'm wrapping up this long day now that will forever be a part of America's history and has changed everyone's life, including mine. Mom and dad always said they remember when JFK was shot in Dallas....the Challenger went down, etc. Today is just as awful, if not worse. The whole country has come together and Britain, Germany and France express their condolences. Palestinian leaders are "sad," yet their people rejoice in the streets that we have been weakened. I will always remember what I was doing this day. May you who read this never have to experience something so horrible. As I write this, the clock at Channel 8 has switched from 11:59 to 12:00am. Now it is September 12, 2001. This terrible day is finally over and tomorrow is now here. I pray it turns out to be better than yesterday, and I thank God that I and my family are not directly affected. Yet, emotionally, we *are* affected.



September 11, 2002 – On ABC today, there was a broadcast which lasted from 6:30am-11:30pm! Ceremonies were held at the WTC site (where each of 2,500+ names of those killed were read), at the rebuilt Pentagon (where about 200 were killed) and in Pennsylvania (where Flight 93 crashed on purpose to prevent a hit on the Capital or White House). Hundreds of stories were told, and Bush visited the sites to make a speech. A worldwide moment of silence was observed too. Tomorrow, Bush faces the U.N. and the U.S. will probably declare war on Iraq soon. This was a tough day, but full of patriotism and comfort. [END]

----- Last week I substitute taught at Trinity Christian, my old elementary school, for my mother who had undergone eye surgery. During one of my classes, the security team tested the lockdown alarm system. It was hard for me to not look bothered in front of the students I was with. In 2026, I still get caught in these little moments where I just want to scream. We did not grow up this way. How unfair is life now. Our freedoms, our security, our peace of mind, forever robbed from us. The small children do not know a different life. But we remember. And it all began that Tuesday morning, 25 years ago. We will never forget.



AMERICANISM REPORT



HONORING AN AMERICAN HERO: WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN DUNCAN

Memories shared by his daughter, Catherine Gibb



Our father was born on April 26, 1914, in Pelahatchie, Mississippi. At the age of twenty-six, he enlisted in the Army Air Force and went to training at Barksdale Base, Louisiana. On November 1, 1941, he departed by ship to Manila, Philippines with the 27th Bomber Group, arriving on November 20. On December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor and President Franklin Roosevelt declared war with Japan. The Battle of Bataan began January 7, 1942. By March of that year, the Japanese invasion of the Philippines had compelled MacArthur to withdraw his forces on Luzon to Bataan, while his family moved to Corregidor. On March 11, 1942, MacArthur, members of his family and staff left the Philippine island of

Corregidor, where the Japanese surrounded his forces. The Battle of Bataan ended on April 9, 1942, and that began the infamous Bataan Death March. 75,000 prisoners of war (65,000 Filipinos and 10,000 Americans) were forced to walk about sixty-five miles in intense tropical heat and humidity. The men were already exhausted from months of fighting and the Japanese guards committed countless atrocities, viewing the surrender of the soldiers as a shameful act. The suffering did not end with the march. My dad eventually ended up in Camp Cabanatuan where he spent 2 years and 9 months as a prisoner of war.

With the return of MacArthur to the Philippines in October of 1944, the liberation of the islands began. To prevent the rescue of POWs, the Japanese implemented a "kill-all policy." Without mercy, they ruthlessly slaughtered the remaining prisoners. Fearing a similar fate for the POWs at Cabanatuan, the U.S. Army leaders decided to launch a rescue mission. Lt. Colonel Henry Mucci led the 6th Ranger Battalion on the mission. Captain Robert Prince planned the rescue which occurred on January 30, 1945. The five hundred men in Cabanatuan were successfully rescued, and my father came home. These men were ordered by our government not to discuss the atrocities they endured while imprisoned and did not receive their pay for the time they were POWs. President Ronald Reagan tried to get payments for these POWs, but the Democrat-controlled Congress was not interested.

The Raid at Cabanatuan, also known as the **Great Raid**, holds the reputation for being one of the most daring and successful rescue missions in American history. In 2005, Hollywood released "The Great Raid," a movie based on this mission, starring Benjamin Bratt as Colonel Henry Mucci and James Franco as Captain Robert Prince. My late husband, Jim, and I saw the movie which was historically accurate. You can see it on Netflix and other streaming services. My father went on to marry my mother, Myra Huffstatler, in 1945. He ran for chancery clerk in Rankin County (the equivalent of being the county judge in Texas), serving two terms and losing in the third term election. Unfortunately, he suffered from what is now known as PTSD and in October of 1956, he committed suicide at the age of forty-two.

My sister, Liz, and I will always be grateful to those courageous men who rescued my father from certain death during the war.

Political Action Hours

by Political Action Chair Jennifer Groysman



Campaign season is in full swing. Our Republican candidates are having town-halls, block-walks, postcard writing, and phone banking. If you are doing any of these thing, they all count as political action hours. Remember every hour you give goes a long way to help our candidates. So, keep track

of the time you give, and report that time to me. You can report them to our website www.planorepublicanwomen.org.

Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!



What counts as

Political Activity Hours

- **Attending Political Meetings**
 - Political Events & Fundraisers
 - County or State GOP meetings
 - School Board or City Council meetings
- **Travel**
 - Any time you spend traveling to and from political events and meetings.
- **Legislative Advocacy**
 - Time spent calling, writing, about legislative issues

- **Campaign Activities**
 - Block walking, sign waving, phone banking, digital work
 - Running for office
- **Election Support**
 - Election Judge, Election Clerk, Deputy Voter Registrar
- **Appointed or Elected Service**
 - Prep time, travel time, and attendance at meetings you were appointed or elected to serve at any level

Any political activity you do that is not for your primary job counts!

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Membership Report

by Membership Chair Joan Hart

Many Thanks To Our Club Patrons

These members have donated \$100.00 in cash, given items to the club, or paid budgeted expenses valued at \$100.00 or more.

Deb Blencowe

Stephanie Casson

Doreen Cruz

Pat Donley

Ushma Ferguson

Catherine Gibb

Jennifer Groysman

Joan Hart

Donna Krauss

Cleo Marchese

Lynn McCoy

Dana Sickler

Merrie Spaeth

Kathy Ward

Diana Wike

We are currently accepting Membership Renewals for 2026! And we always welcome new members!

**Membership dues can be paid at the meeting, online through our website
<https://planorepublicanwomen.org/become-a-member>**

**Or checks can be mailed to Plano Republican Women, P O Box 940461,
 Plano, TX 75094-0461.**

Memberships:

\$40 Full Active Single Membership (PRW receives \$15, TFRW and NFRW receive \$25)

\$45 Full Active Membership with Spouse

\$25 Associate Membership – for Men or Active Members of other Republican Women Clubs

\$20 Young Affiliate (young woman, age 10-17)

\$140 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)

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[Become a Member](#)

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Tammy Sharkey, Coordinator
Charla Reamy, Court Reporter
Ty Jones, Bailiff



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972.547.5303 Fax

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www.collincountytx.gov/sheriff



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REPUBLICAN • 219TH DISTRICT COURT



Judge Christine A. Nowak
493rd Judicial District Court

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Amy Patterson, Coordinator
Mark Miller, Court Officer
Ashley Boyd, Court Reporter



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Plano Republican Women

October 20



The Hon. Steve Munisteri
Senior Advisor to Governor Abbott

November 17



Chairwoman D'rinda Randall
Republican Party of Texas

www.planorepublicanwomen.org

PRW Officers and Birthdays

Kathy Ward, President

President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Catherine Gibb, 1st VP Programs - 214-929-0857

Joan Hart, 2nd VP Membership

RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Lynn McCoy, 3rd VP Awards

Ashley Bergerson, 4th VP, Ways and Means

Janet Troutman, Recording Secretary

Trina Westberg, Corresponding Secretary

Dana Sickler, PAC Treasurer

September Birthdays

Kathy Bass	9/1
Judi Neal	9/3
Vickie Palmer	9/4
Lisa Smith	9/5
Christine Drumm	9/11
Ginny Sturm	9/11
Joan Konkel	9/21
Elaine Smith	9/26



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Vision and Mission Statement:

Plano Republican Women is an American political club, bringing together women to positively impact the direction of our nation. We come together as a collective force advancing the power of women through political access and participation.

Our mission is to see women from all age groups and walks of life as key players at the political table of national, state, and local issues.

