

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

May 2019

President's Byline



At the time I am writing this the Texas Legislative Session is about to come to an end. It has not been a good session for fiscal Conservatives who wanted to reduce government spending, or Republicans who wanted to see the party's five legislative priorities get passed.

At the state convention in 2018, the delegates passed five things we wanted to see the the state legislature get passed. They were...

- Constitutional Carry
- End taxpayer funded lobbying
- Abolish Abortion
- Abolish the Maintenance & Operation property tax
- Protect religious freedom and privacy

So, how did the legislature do? Not so well.

Constitutional Carry was filed in the house by Rep. Johnathan Stickland, but it was killed by Speaker Bonnen. A bill was never filed in the State Senate.

A bill banning taxpayer funded lobbying was filed and passed in the Senate. When it got to the House, it died on the floor.

Anything to stop abortions never made it to the floor of either chamber. A ban on local governments subsidizing Plan Parenthood may pass.

A bill to abolish the M & O property tax was never filed; however, a property tax reform bill has passed the Senate, and is likely to pass the House.

As for protecting religious freedom and privacy, the only thing that has been passed is the Save Chick-Fil-A bill. It was named for the fast food chain after San Antonio banned the Christian owned restaurant from the San Antonio airport. This law would not allow a government entity to take any adverse action against any contractor, individual, or business because of their religious beliefs. This is a clear win for religious liberty.

As for government spending, the TX budget grew a whopping 16%. This is more then the rate of inflation plus population growth. Simply put, our leaders spent our money like Democrats.

Over all we have a fairly good Texas Senate. The Texas House is the problem. Bills Conservatives like get passed in the Senate and get killed in the House. We must hold the Texas House and the Speaker accountable for killing bills we want before they get to the floor.

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Calendar of Events

Board Meeting
TBA

August Meeting
August 20th

Jennifer Groszman

president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

May Plano Republican Women Meeting

Next PRW Meeting:

Tuesday, August 20th, 2019

Location: Reflections on Spring Creek, 1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

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

PRW membership is not required to attend our meeting

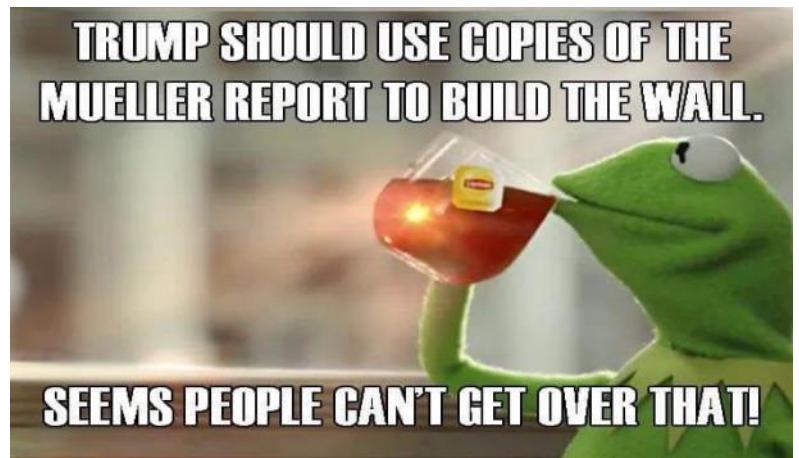
Lunch is available with RSVP for \$20 in cash or check payable to PRW

RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm the Friday before the meeting

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and say if you will/will not be having lunch



AMERICANISM REPORT

By Cleo Marchese, Americanism Chair



Duty, Honor, Country: True American Heritage

What do these three little words mean? They seem so simple at first but they came at a heavy price for so many. On Memorial Day weekend, I was scrolling through the West Point Mom's Facebook group looking at all the smiling faces from graduation. When I came upon two pictures posted by mothers of their fallen sons, one was just a tomb stone and the other an old graduation picture. I thought to myself as people prepare to barbecue, go to the lake or take advantage of Memorial Day sales that we have totally lost the meaning and the understanding of Memorial Day.



General Douglas MacArthur is one of the most well-known and memorable generals from World War II. He was born January 26, 1880 and died April 5, 1964. His military career spanned 57 years, from 1903–1964. General Douglas MacArthur gave his final address to the Corp of Cadet at West Point on May 12, 1962 in his acceptance speech for the Sylvanus Thayer Award, an award given for outstanding military service. He said many things about his life as a soldier and what it meant to him. But the most memorable part of his speech were three simple words, Duty, Honor and Country. These words were meant to give courage to the young cadets in front of him and help them put in perspective what it means to serve. Better people than me have tried to put these words into perspective so everyone can understand the true meaning of sacrifice American Soldiers give. These three words touch every branch of the military, and the people who are left behind. Our honored veterans, fallen soldiers and military families.

"Duty-Honor-Country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, and what you will be. They are your rallying points: to build courage when courage seems to fail; to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Speech upon Receiving the Sylvanus Thayer Medal at the United States Military Academy, May 12, 1962

As a military mom I thought about what Duty, Honor and Courage means to me. As I see mothers helping their injured children go through rehab, learn to walk, sometimes talk and function again. As I see devastated mothers clinging to caskets, holding what is left of their precious children. I thought to myself someone should ask these women what they feel, why they love this country so much that they could send their sons and daughters into harms what to preserve our American way of life.

Duty to country, and others is something all children should be taught. It means giving back to our great nation and preserving our American way of life. Duty means putting others before self, standing strong when others will run, standing firm where others would fail and being a shield the helpless can stand behind. As a mother, duty to me meant raising good men and women this country could depend on, citizens who would be givers and not takers.

Honor meant raising children who would honor and value our American way of life. Honor those who have come before them and the sacrifices generations before them have made to make this country what it is today. To understand what an honor it is to be an American citizen and live in our country.

Last is country, for some the hardest value to understand. It means to believe in the American way and support our constitution. To be men and women of action not words and not to seek only the path of comfort. To defend all its citizens including the ones who ridicule your sacrifices because in living their selfish lives, they cannot possibly understand yours.

Duty, Honor, Country can be summed into one word courage. Courage is a virtue that cannot be taught but must be innate. Courage means continuing when things are unbelievably hard. When you know you will probably pay the ultimate price in service to others. Very few people in the world possessed real courage but our veterans and honored fallen do. As a military mother, I have my own brand of courage. It is the quite strength other military moms share, the ability to smile when my son talks about his future military career, even though I feel fear inside. It is the ability to honor others women who have given the ultimate mother's sacrifice, their beloved child to the defense of this great nation. To support and give strength and encouragement to mothers helping their sons or daughters heal from devastating injuries or whose minds are forever broken. To mourn in silence and share the pain of my sister's in mother hood that have lost their babies forever.

I thought in honor of Memorial Day, we would honor the lives of little known fallen soldiers whose sacrifices are known only to a few.

AMERICANISM REPORT

By Cleo Marchese, Americanism Chair

Continued from Page 3



Dimitri Del Castillo, June 9, 1987- June 25, 2011. Dimitri graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in May 2009. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant with the United States Army. In May 2010, after completing the Basic Officer Leadership Course and the Mortar Officers Leadership Course, Dimitri qualified as a U.S. Army Ranger and was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division stationed out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

On June 25, 2011, while deployed in Kunar Province in Afghanistan. Dimitri and his unit were under attack by Afghan insurgents. Despite the risk, Dimitri refused to leave his position, and he used his radio to coordinate support for his fellow wounded soldiers. During the deadly fire fight, Dimitri was killed by enemy fire. Dimitri is interred at the United States Military Academy Cemetery at West Point. During his service in the Army, Dimitri earned the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, the Army Commendation Medal and several other awards and commendations.



Salvatore S Corma II, July 25, 1985-April 29, 2010. Salvatore graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in May 2008. He was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant with the United States Army. He was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. He later died at Forward Operating Base Bullard, Afghanistan, when insurgents attacked his unit using improvised explosive devices. Corma told 18 other soldiers to get to safety as he handled the improvised explosive device. He was killed instantly in the explosion.

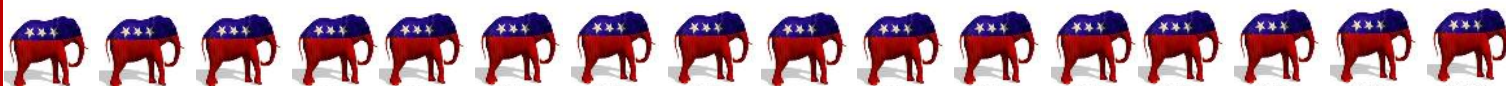
At this funeral his uncle, Martin Keeney, said, *"He did what he loved and he loved what he did."* His mother in a later interview said when she expressed concern about his deployment. He said, *"Mom, this where I am supposed to be"*. He was presented several posthumous medals, including the Purple Heart and a recommendation that he receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. Salvatore was interred at the United States Military Academy Cemetery at West Point.



Ben Adams, July 19, 1976- May 4, 2017. Ben enlisted in the United States Army and was deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ben served in over 200 missions. At the end of his last tour, Ben's vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. He suffered serious injuries to his back, neck and brain from the explosion. After returning to civilian life, Ben suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder. Despite his own struggles, he continued to serve by helping other veterans suffering from post-combat related. despite his own struggles. Ben devoted time to issues soldiers face when returning to civilian life. He also joined Veteran support groups such as 22KILL and Operation "Rock the Troops."

Ben died by suicide on May 4, 2017. He is interred at Line Creek Baptist Cemetery in Ida, Louisiana. Ben is remembered as a dedicated soldier who spent his time helping other veterans struggling with similar experiences.

Memorial Day should be a day of remembrance for the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. Not just another fun holiday. Duty, Honor and Country came at heavy price for these soldiers and their families. These men are the true embodiment of our American Heritage, a heritage of sacrifice, service to others before self and love of our great nation.



Trivia:

Our local Jerry Madden, former Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives, District 67 from 1993 to 2013 and Collin County Chairman Republican Party from 1974-76 and 1984-1991 was a West Point Cadet present at MacArthur's speech. When I asked him what did he most remember about it? He said, "It really hot in the hall because they were in full dress in May with no air conditioning."

The Department of Defense reports 2,346 military deaths and 20,095 injured in Afghanistan since the War on Terror started 2001.

Political Cartoons

“
For the life of me,
I'll never
understand how
@TheDemocrats
can question our
President's sanity
while continuing to put
@RepMaxineWaters
in front of a
camera.”



-@RealCandaceO

She needs to be removed from office and the country!!!

Her Own Twitter Words



-I am America's hope and the president's nightmare" "I think all white men should be put in chains as slaves because they will never submit to Islam": Ilhan Omar

In Case Y'all Forgot!!!!

As a 27 year old staff attorney for the House Judiciary Committee during the Watergate investigation, Hillary Rodham was fired by her supervisor, lifelong Democrat Jerry Zeifman.



When asked why Hillary Rodham was fired, Zeifman said in an interview, "Because she was a liar. She was an unethical, dishonest lawyer, she conspired to violate the Constitution, the rules of the House, the rules of the Committee, and the rules of confidentiality."



- John Wayne



IF YOU DON'T WANT AN AMERICAN FLAG FLYING IN YOUR TOWN SQUARE OR AT YOUR SCHOOL, THEN WHY THE HELL ARE YOU LIVING IN THE US?

President Trump Is Not Starting A Trade War!

He is retaliating in kind against China for what they have been doing to us for years.

China acts as if we have no right to stand up to them.

Looks like the US Media wants YOU to think the same thing.

President Trump is standing up for the USA - but does he get any thanks for it?

YES! I'LL STAND WITH HIM!

The Conservative Christian



Do you know why Trump doesn't wear glasses ?

because he's got 2020 !

Trump Should Make The Wall Out Of Russian Collusion



People Can't Get Over It

House Passes Equality Act

Rachel del Guidice, May 17, 2019 Daily Signal

The House voted 236-173 Friday to pass Democrats' Equality Act, pushed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

"This is not about tolerance," Pelosi said in a video posted to Twitter. "This is about respect for our LGBTQ communities, this is about taking pride."

"We won the fight in the House today, and we will continue until we see these protections become law," House Judiciary Chairman Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., tweeted moments after the bill passed.

The bill, which is not expected to pass the Senate due to its Republican majority, adds sexual orientation and gender identity to characteristics—race, color, religion, sex, or national origin—protected from discrimination under the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

It received unanimous support from House Democrats and eight votes from Republicans, namely Reps. Susan Brooks of Indiana, Mario Diaz-Balart of Florida, Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania, Will Hurd of Texas, John Katko of New York, Tom Reed of New York, Elise Stefanik of New York, and Greg Walden of Oregon.

By inserting sexual orientation and gender identity into current anti-discrimination law, the bill would make hospitals and doctors vulnerable to litigation "if they don't follow the medical recommendations of the transgender movement," Emilie Kao, director of The Heritage Foundation's DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society, wrote in a January commentary.

If passed, the Equality Act would hurt women by "dismantling sex-specific facilities, sports, and other female-only spaces," The Heritage Foundation's explainer stated, as well as compromise the work of charities, if they were unwilling to open up sex-specific areas, such as bathrooms and housing, to anyone based on gender identity, not sex.

The explainer also said that parents' rights could be affected by the Equality Act.

Under President Donald Trump, the White House routinely issues a statement of administration policy for various bills—stating whether it would suggest the president sign or veto legislation and why, as The Daily Signal's Fred Lucas recently reported.

While an administration official said "this bill in its current form is filled with poison pills that threaten to undermine parental and conscience rights," the administration has yet to issue a statement of administration policy on the bill, as it did for the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and Climate Action Now Act, among others.

"Today is a truly historic day for civil rights in our country," Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., tweeted. "With final passage of the [Equality Act] in the House, we have taken the first step to explicitly bar discrimination on both sexual orientation and gender identity for every American."

But House Republicans hardly see it as such.

"HR 5 is an enormous blow to religious liberty and our Constitution," Rep. Jody Hice, R-Ga., tweeted after Democrats passed the legislation. "The [Equality Act] is anything but equal, and enshrines a federally-mandated belief system that if you don't agree with it – you'll be punished. Deeply disappointed in the passage of such a destructive bill."

Rep. Debbie Lesko, R-Ariz., spoke out against the legislation earlier in the week, telling The Daily Signal, "The Equality Act—or I call it the Forfeiting Women's Rights Act—takes away women's and girls' rights that we fought for for years."

In a statement emailed to The Daily Signal, Kao said the legislation does not represent what the American people want.

"Today, the House of Representatives failed to listen to lesbians and conservatives, feminists and pro-life advocates, and doctors and parents who united against the radical imposition of ideology through the Equality Act," she said. adding:

True equality exists when the government respects the freedom of all Americans, including parents who want to educate their children according to their own beliefs, doctors who want to use their best medical judgment and women and girls to shower and dress in safety and play sports in their own leagues. But this Equality Act imposes sexual ideology on the nation that endangers religious freedom, freedom of speech, and parental rights by punishing those who dissent from political correctness.

Rachel del Guidice is a reporter for The Daily Signal. She is a graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, Forge Leadership Network, and The Heritage Foundation's Young Leaders Program.

Photos from the May Meeting





Legislative Report



[Rep. Van Taylor of Plano is not like other Congress members as he works to be 'Mr. Bipartisan'](#)

Freshman Rep. Van Taylor of Plano is without question a conservative Republican. But watching him work the House floor, you might not know it, because he spends much of his time working the other side of the aisle. That's not uncommon in Austin, where Taylor served in the state House and Senate for eight years before heading to Congress. In the Legislature, lawmakers in both parties routinely work together. But in Washington, the two tribes mostly stick to their own kind.

"When you turn on the TV and you see a lot of both extremes -- extreme right and extreme left-- what you don't see are the Democrats and Republicans who are working together...who actually like each other," said Rep. Jimmy Panetta, D-Calif., a fellow military veteran. **"It helps when you have somebody like Van, not only someone you like professionally but someone you like personally."** [» READ MORE](#)

[Reps. Taylor, Morelle Propose Plan to Prevent Surprise Medical Billing](#)

WASHINGTON - Today, United States Congressmen Van Taylor (R-TX-03) and Joe Morelle (D-NY-25) proposed bipartisan policy that would protect Americans from surprise medical bills from an out-of-network provider that are often financially crippling.

"Americans are already struggling to afford the continually increasing cost of health care – they shouldn't be blindsided by unexpected and hyperinflated medical bills when they unexpectedly need to see out-of-network providers," said Congressman Van Taylor. He continued, **"Reducing out-of-pocket health care cost isn't a partisan issue and I am proud to come together with Representative Morelle to introduce this commonsense proposal that will end surprise billing and give more certainty to our constituents."** [READ MORE](#)

[Rep. Van Taylor Cosponsors the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act](#)

WASHINGTON - Earlier this month, after hearing about the issue from a local, Collin County Gold Star Mother at one of his 'Coffee with your Congressman' events, United States Congressmen Van Taylor (R-TX-03) cosponsored legislation aimed at reducing excessive tax burdens on Gold Star Families. H.R. 2481, the Gold Star Family Tax Relief Act will fix an unintended consequence of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that is causing Gold Star families to see drastic tax increases. This week, the legislation received the formal endorsement of the For Country Caucus, a bipartisan group of veterans in the House of Representatives who are committed to working to support their fellow veterans and families of veterans, of which Congressman Taylor is a member.

The legislation now has 108 bipartisan cosponsors, including Congressman Taylor.

"As a Marine, I know what military families give up every single day – and Gold Star Families have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation," said Congressman Van Taylor (R-TX-03). **"While nothing can make up for the incredible loss these heroic families have suffered, we can show a small token of our appreciation by ensuring Gold Star Families receive the benefits promised by our nation. We must protect those who protect our democracy."** [READ MORE](#)

[Reps. Taylor, Panetta Introduce the Better Military Housing Act](#)

WASHINGTON - Today, United States Congressman Van Taylor (R-TX) joined with Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) to introduce legislation to improve oversight and enhance the health, safety, and quality of privatized military housing. The Better Military Housing Act requires the Department of Defense, in consultation with military families, develop and implement a strategy to improve privatized military housing. The action plan must improve personnel training and contract oversight, protect against any reprisal, and better regulate health metrics and lease provisions.

Congressman Van Taylor said, **"As they put their lives on hold and sacrifice to defend our freedom, the men and women of our armed forces should not be left with sub-standard housing as their only available option to raise their family. As a Marine, I'm proud to join Congressman Panetta and introduce this legislation to afford our military service members with a quality, safe place to call home while serving their nation."** [READ MORE](#)

[Congressmen Castro, Taylor Introduce the Feeding Hungry Students in School Act](#)

WASHINGTON - United States Congressmen Joaquin Castro (D-TX-20) and Van Taylor (R-TX-03) introduced legislation in the House of Representatives to help combat child hunger throughout the United States. Similar to legislation enacted in Texas in 2017, the Feeding Hungry Students in Schools Act would allow schools to set up food pantries with the extra food they do not use for school lunch programs.

"More than 12 million children struggle with hunger in the United States. We must do better," said Congressman Van Taylor. **"By giving local schools the flexibility to determine the best way to serve the unique needs of their students we can ensure more children have access to nutritious meals – even when they are not in school."** [READ MORE](#)



Legislative Report



May 30, 2019 | Austin, Texas | **WEB VIDEO: Promises Made, Promises Kept**

The Office of Governor Greg Abbott today released a web video highlighting the accomplishments of the 86th Legislative Session. Titled "Promises Made, Promises Kept," the video chronicles the efforts of Governor Abbott and the Texas legislature to tackle the state's most pressing issues – including school finance and property tax reform, disaster preparedness, school safety, and mental health wellness.

Thanks to the bipartisan effort of both chambers, all of Governor's Abbott's emergency items were passed. Additionally, the legislature made meaningful strides including further crackdowns on human traffickers, clearing the rape kit backlog, extending the statute of limitations for those who commit childhood sexual assault, and protecting free speech on college campuses.

"This session, I was proud to work with the 86th Legislature to achieve a transformative agenda that will benefit the people of Texas," said Governor Abbott. "In just 140 days, we passed property tax and school finance reform, increased teacher pay, made our communities more resilient to natural disasters, enhanced school safety, and so much more. This historic session was built on bold ideas and strong collaboration in both chambers. I thank the members of the Legislature, as well as Lt. Governor Patrick and Speaker Bonnen, for working together to build an even brighter future for our great state."

[See video here](#)



May 27, 2019 - **Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick: Statement on Sine Die of the 86th Legislative Session**

AUSTIN – Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick issued this statement today after gaveling out the 86th Legislative Session, *sine die*:

"When I was asked by a reporter earlier today to describe the 86th Legislative Session in one word, my answer was 'Teamwork.' This session wasn't about any individual leader, it was about focusing on the top priorities of the people of Texas — property tax reform, paying teachers more and education — and not quitting until we reached that goal. We changed a century of education policy in 140 days.

"The legislation we passed this session will provide an average of \$200 in property tax relief this year on a \$250,000 home. The first property tax reform in 40 years, Senate Bill 2 limits revenue increases at the local level by 3.5% for cities and counties and 2.5% for school districts. Currently, local property taxes increase an average of 7% across the state — and in some places, the increase is much more. Senate Bill 2 will save Texans thousands of dollars in property taxes in coming years. Going forward, Texas homeowners will no longer have their rising home appraisals used as a weapon against them.

"Property tax reforms this session also will help secure the future of our children and our state by making transformative changes in our public schools including a \$4,200 average pay raise for our veteran teachers. Next to a parent, no one has more impact on the success of a child than a teacher. This pay increase will help us keep our best teachers and recruit the best and the brightest going forward. We also made our teacher retirement system (TRS) actuarially sound this session and provided retired teachers with a 13th check.

"All 30 of the priorities I identified at the beginning of the session passed the Texas Senate and 18 of them are on their way to Gov. Greg Abbott as senate bills to be signed into law. Another 7 of our priorities were passed as House bills. These priorities include legislation addressing disaster response and rebuilding after Hurricane Harvey, stopping human trafficking and defending life, liberty and our Second Amendment rights. We also passed legislation to ensure that businesses can continue to expand and create jobs and legislation that will protect consumers. [Click here to see the entire list of priorities.](#)

"Legislation passed this session will end so-called 'surprise billing' for medical emergencies when patients have no choice of which medical provider they see or which facility they visit, including non-network care at in-network hospitals and out-of-network lab and imaging work.

"We also passed a consumer price check on prescription drugs that will ensure that when the price of a prescription spikes more than 15%, Texans will be alerted. This is one of the most stringent requirements in the nation.

"I want to thank Gov. Abbott and Speaker Dennis Bonnen for their diligence and friendship as we worked through the monumental legislation we passed this session. I also want to especially thank the 31 men and women, Republicans and Democrats, who serve in the Texas Senate with honor and distinction. They are tireless professionals who make great personal sacrifices to serve. I am lucky to have them as colleagues and Texas is lucky to have them as public servants."



Legislative Report



Rep. Justin Holland Wraps Up Second Legislative Session in the Texas House

by: *Rep. Holland, Justin*—05/27/2019

Austin, TX- In the 140 days of the 86th Texas Legislature, which gaveled in January 8th, 2019, State Representative Justin Holland (R-Heath) successfully navigated 11 bold and conservative pieces of legislation through the House and Senate to the Governor's desk waiting to become law.

In only his second session, Representative Holland displayed effective leadership and helped shepherd conservative legislative reforms to the House Floor. Rep. Holland was appointed to the powerful State Affairs committee dealing with many of the State's most important issues such as matters of religious liberty, banning taxpayer funded lobbying, and pro-life legislation.

Representative Holland held firm on all the conservative votes of the legislative session - voting for:

1. Ending the practice of taxpayer funded lobbying, a Collin County GOP and Collin County Commissioner's Court priority;
2. The Texas Tax Payer Protection and Transparency Act;
3. Ending taxpayer supported assistance or abatement of abortion providers;
4. School Finance Reform. The new school finance plan provides \$5 billion dollars in property tax relief, reduces recapture, more commonly known as Robin Hood, by \$3.6 billion, provides \$2 billion in teacher merit pay compensation, and \$1.6 billion for pay increases to teacher, librarians, counselors, and nurses. Additionally, the reform package helps secure retired teacher benefits and creates an actuarially-sound Retired Teacher pension system moving forward: and,
5. Representative Holland authored groundbreaking legislation ending unconstitutional hidden occupations taxes and fees on home owners and builders by changing the way building permits and city building departments are run.

"In my second term serving House District 33, I conscientiously worked with my colleagues to address issues important to my district, like school finance reform and property taxes." Representative Holland said, "I'm proud of the conservative legislative portfolio I worked to set on the Governor's desk this session."



Texas House of Representatives Gavel Out "Sine Dine" After Historically Successful Legislative Session

by: *Rep. Leach, Jeff*—05/27/2019

AUSTIN – Today, upon concluding its work during the 140th and final day of the 86th Legislature, the Texas House of Representatives gaveled out "Sine Die," a Latin phrase meaning "adjourned with no appointed date for resumption." From the Capitol, Representative Leach issued the following statement:

"As we prepare to come home to our families and spend time in our community to live and work under the laws we created, I can say without question that the 86th Legislative Session has been the most productive and meaningful legislative session I have been a part of since taking the oath of office for the first time in 2013. Under the leadership of Governor Abbott, Speaker Bonnen and Lieutenant Governor Patrick, the House and Senate came together and tackled the fundamental priorities of the state – including a generational investment in public education, meaningful property tax reform, a constitutional ban on a state income tax, safeguards to protect innocent life, protections for religious liberty, support for our law enforcement, and landmark protections for victims of human trafficking, sexual abuse and sexual assault.

I am grateful to Speaker Bonnen for entrusting me to serve as Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence, and I am proud of my colleagues on this committee for their hard work and diligence as we thoughtfully deliberated countless pieces of legislation to make the Texas civil justice system the strongest in the Nation. Specifically, we gave our state judges and district attorneys a much-needed pay raise without raising legislative pensions, bolstered our judiciary with the creation of 17 courts throughout the state, and implemented various reforms to improve access to courts and consolidate court fees to promote fairness and transparency. Importantly, we adopted some of the boldest free-speech protections in the nation with legislation adding much needed provisions to strengthen and clarify the Texas Citizens Participation Act.

All in all, I am incredibly proud of the work we accomplished, together, for the Texans of today and the future Texans of tomorrow. Now, I look forward to coming home and spending time with my family, our neighbors and entire community, and continuing our collective work to ensure that Texas remains the best place to live, work and raise a family."

1,221,585 College Graduates are Missing This Year, Because They Were Killed in Abortions

OPINION FATHER FRANK PAVONE MAY 8, 2019 | 6:53PM WASHINGTON, DC

The college admissions scandal that has ensnared two popular American actresses and many other wealthy parents continues to garner headlines. Certainly it is a crime to pay money to finagle a way to get students enrolled in schools they might not be able to get into on their own, and Americans love to see celebrities in trouble.

But there is a much bigger tragedy surrounding the graduating class of 2019: More than a million students are missing. These Americans never celebrated their first birthday, or attended kindergarten. There were no senior proms for these innocent victims. They never learned to drive. This month, they will not graduate from college.

All of them were killed by legal abortion.

In 1996, when the majority of this year's graduates were born, the federal Centers for Disease Control reported 1,221,585 deaths by legal abortion. We know the total is higher because not all states contribute to the CDC's volunteer reporting system. But 1.2 million is bad enough. That translates to 3,346 abortions every day for the entire year. That number is bigger than the graduating classes of most colleges.

Among the celebrities who died in 1996 were the dancer Gene Kelly, comedian George Burns, actor McLean Stevenson and little Jon Benet Ramsey, whose tragic murder has still not been solved. Each was remembered with an outpouring of love.

But four women also died that year, along with their unborn children. Only their families and the pro-life community mourned.

Carolina Gutierrez turned 21 in a hospital intensive care unit, so badly wounded by a botched abortion in Miami that she was not able to recover. Had she chosen life, this young immigrant from Nicaragua might be attending her child's graduation this month.

Sharon Hampton was 27 when she bled to death following an abortion in California. The abortionist who killed her originally was charged with second-degree murder, but was allowed to plead to involuntary manslaughter, and sentenced to a year in jail. Had she avoided the office of Bruce Steir, she too might be making plans to attend her child's commencement exercise.

Kelly Morse was 32 and almost nine weeks pregnant when she had a fatal meeting with an abortionist named Delhi Thweatt in Pennsylvania. She was a known asthmatic and when she became unable to breathe, Thweatt did everything wrong. He's still aborting children, but the two children Mrs. Morse left behind will not be cheering their younger sibling at graduation.

Tanya Williamson was almost 14 weeks pregnant when she showed up for a second-trimester abortion with Moshe Hachamovitch in his New York office. As Tanya lay dying in the recovery room from an overdose of anesthesia, another woman was shuffled into the procedure room for an abortion.

We know the names of the famous parents and children involved in the college admissions scandal, and we mourned the loss of the celebrities who died in 1996, but I'm willing to bet very few Americans know the names of these mothers who made a choice that proved fatal to themselves and their children. When death is business as usual, these mothers are just the collateral damage of the right to choose abortion.

The 1.2 million children killed by abortion were never named, their bodies thrown in trash bins or incinerators along with the medical waste. You can be sure their parents are aware of their loss, even if their politics make them unable to say so.

If you are attending your own graduation this year, or that of a loved one or friend, I am asking you to say a prayer for all the students who are not there, and for the mothers and fathers whose "choice" led to the tragic deaths of those young scholars who will never toss their mortar boards in the air.

I am asking you to remember Carolina and Kelly, Tanya and Sharon, and to pray that the graduating classes of 2043 and beyond will not be missing any of its members.

Let's pray for an end to abortion.



Chick-fil-A Takes the High Road with Response to Critics Accusing Them of Being Anti-LGBT

By Randy Desoto, May 16, 2019

Chick-fil-A defended its donations to Christian groups which have been accused of being hostile to the LGBT community.

The two organizations the Chick-fil-A Foundation has been criticized for supporting are The Salvation Army and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Both groups support the traditional view of marriage and reportedly exclude LGBT individuals from leadership positions, according to Business Insider.

The Salvation Army's website states that it does not discriminate against people who identify as LGBT in their hiring practices or in who they serve. Further, it does provide marriage benefits to same-sex couples.

"Our mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and meet human need in His name without discrimination," the website reads.

Rodney Bullard — executive director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation and Chick-fil-A's vice president of corporate social responsibility — told Business Insider its contributions to The Salvation Army and Fellowship of Christian Athletes are directed at helping young people.

"The calling for us is to ensure that we are relevant and impactful in the community, and that we're helping children and that we're helping them to be everything that they can be," Bullard said.

"For us, that's a much higher calling than any political or cultural war that's being waged," he continued. "This is really about an authentic problem that is on the ground, that is present and ever present in the lives of many children who can't help themselves."

The foundation supports the Salvation Army's camps for kids, as well as its Angel Tree Christmas gift program for families in need.

"The company's support of Fellowship of Christian Athletes goes toward summer sports camps the Chick-fil-A Foundation has hosted for years to introduce inner-city Atlanta youth to new sports, such as golf, tennis, and archery," Fox News reported.

In an October 2018 news release, Chick-fil-A said its foundation donated \$1.6 million to FCA in 2017 and \$150,000 to fund multiple Salvation Army programs.

"Our intention both at the corporate and restaurant level is to have a positive influence on our communities by donating to programs that benefit youth and education and are welcoming to all," Bullard said at the time.

"We are proud of the impact we've been able to make so far, and we have a lot yet to do."

The foundation partners with over 300 organizations, many of which are directed at helping low-income youth, according to Fox News.

The anger of some in the LGBT community directed against Chick-fil-A stems from CEO Dan Cathy voicing his support for traditional marriage in 2012.

"I think we are inviting God's judgment on our nation when we shake our fist at Him and say, 'We know better than you as to what constitutes a marriage,'" Cathy said at the time.

"I pray God's mercy on our generation that has such a prideful, arrogant attitude to think that we have the audacity to define what marriage is about."

At the time, the foundation had supported political groups which opposed same-sex marriage, including the Family Research Council, Business Insider reported.

In July 2012, as the controversy regarding Chick-fil-A was reaching a crescendo, the company announced, "Going forward, our intent is to leave the policy debate over same-sex marriage to the government and political arena."

"The Chick-fil-A culture and service tradition in our restaurants is to treat every person with honor, dignity and respect — regardless of their belief, race, creed, sexual orientation or gender," the statement added.

The company's corporate purpose is: "To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come into contact with Chick-fil-A."

The Atlanta-based chain's founder, the late S. Truett Cathy, once said, "We should be about more than just selling chicken. We should be a part of our customers' lives and the communities in which we serve."

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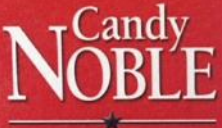
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Lisa Babb, 2nd. VP Membership

RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

Catherine Gibb, 3rd VP Awards

Anne Logan, Recording Secretary

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June

Birthdays

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