

# Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

September 2021

## President's Byline



On Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, President Joe Biden ordered a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for millions of Americans. All businesses with 100 or more employees, health care workers, federal contractors and federal employees must get a COVID-19 vaccine or a weekly COVID test. There is one problem with this order; the President does not have the Constitutional authority to make it.

The President's powers are outlined in Article II of the US Constitution. His duties are as follows:

- *The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.*
- *The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the United States, and of the Militia of the several States, when called into the actual Service of the United States.*
- *He may require the Opinion, in writing, of the principal Officer in each of the executive Departments, upon any Subject relating to the Duties of their respective Offices.*
- *He shall have Power to grant Reprieves and Pardons for Offenses against the United States, except in Cases of Impeachment.*
- *He shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.*
- *He shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the Supreme Court, and all other Officers of the United States.*
- *The President shall have Power to fill up all Vacancies that may happen during the Recess of the Senate, by granting Commissions which shall expire at the End of their next Session.*
- *He shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union, and recommend to their Consideration such Measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient.*
- *He may, on extraordinary Occasions, convene both Houses, or either of them, and in Case of Disagreement between them, with Respect to the Time of Adjournment, he may adjourn them to such Time as he shall think proper.*
- *He shall receive Ambassadors and other public Ministers.*
- *He shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed, and shall Commission all the Officers of the United States.*

As you can see, Article II does not give the President the authority to protect Americans from illness. The President does NOT have the authority to order civilians to take vaccines or medical tests. The President cannot order businesses to require their employees to get vaccinated or tested. He cannot force employers to give their workers paid time off to get vaccinated. The President also does not have any authority over health care workers, schools, or teachers. Therefore President Biden's mandate is totally unconstitutional and unlawful.

*Jennifer Groysman*

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## Calendar of Events

PRW Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am  
Napolis in West Plano

October 13-16  
TFRW Convention

PRW General Meeting  
October 19<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 am  
Saltgrass Steakhouse  
Plano East

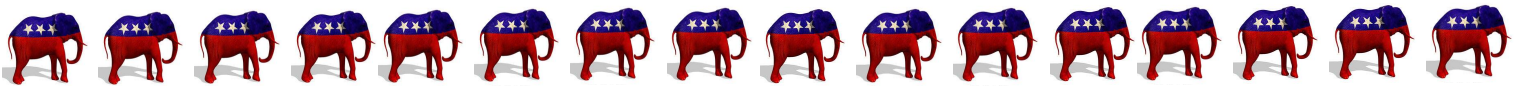
# President's Byline

Continued from Page 1

This order is not the first unconstitutional thing a President has done. Over many decades Presidents have used their office to take more power, and the States and American people have allowed these Presidents to get away with it. We have allowed Presidents and the executive branch of government to take control over areas of our lives the framers never intended them to have. For example, President Washington had four Cabinet Secretaries. They were the Secretary of State, Treasury, War, and Attorney General. Today, 22 people make up the President's Cabinet. Added to the original four are Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Education, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Labor, Transportation, and Veterans Affairs. Additionally, the Cabinet includes the US Ambassador to the United Nations, the Director of National Intelligence, the US Trade Representative, Head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Head of Office of Management and Budget, the Council of Economic Advisers, Head of Office of Science and Technology Policy, and Head of the Small Business Administration. The existence of a majority of these departments are unconstitutional. Yet, they were created, and we let them have control over us.

So, it is not surprising that President Biden thinks he can get away with forcing people to get shots or take a weekly medical test. As long as the people and the States continue to comply to unconstitutional mandates and nonexistent Presidential powers, Presidents will take more power and make more illegal mandates. This will stop only when the people and the states stand up to the executive branch of government by saying, we will not comply. Until that happens be prepared for more unconstitutional mandates and more executive power.

*Jennifer Groszman*  
 president@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org



Want to get a jump on our ***Caring for America, Brown Bag Project*** while school supplies are on sale?

Shop for ...

- \* Crayolas -24 count
- \* Glue sticks
- \* #2 pencils
- \* Large, Pink Erasers
- \* Crayola Washable Markers- 8 or 10 count
- \* Watercolor Paints
- \* Construction paper -12"x18" in assorted colors
- \* Facial Tissues -250 count



## Information & Timeline:

PRW - Caring for America team will be **collecting** gently used brown, grocery bags at our **September and October General meetings**. (Look for the box in front of the podium.)

At the **November** General Meeting you can **pick up a school supply wish list** stapled to one of the donated brown bag and, **go shopping**.

At the **December** General meeting, **bring your Brown Bag back, full of much needed school supplies**.

Donated supplies will be delivered in January to a Plano ISD, Title 1, elementary school.

Your donation will help students finish the school year with the supplies they need.

Cathie Stanford Alexander  
 Precinct 61, SD 8

# PRW October Meeting



## PRW October Meeting - October 19, 2021

**Ashley Smith Thomas**  
**Founder & CEO of Freedom's Fund USA**

### "China's Influence in America & The Threat to Our National Security"

Ashley Smith Thomas is the Founder & CEO of Freedom's Fund USA, a nonprofit to protect freedom and national security. She is a Political Strategist for Fox Radio and an Academy Fellow at The Heritage Foundation.

Ashley started her career as the Assistant to the Vice President of Corporate Development for The Blaze in Dallas. She made a corporate move to manage a \$14.7M project to rescue and resettle persecuted Christians and religious minorities who were targeted by ISIS in 2016. Ashley and her team rescued over 1,000 families and resettled them to host countries around the world.

Ashley furthered her calling by starting her own organization to work alongside the private and public sector to protect freedom. She works toward countering religious persecution, extremism, and other threats that impact freedom in America and abroad. She has briefed and continues to brief panels within the intelligence community.

Ashley graduated Magna Cum Laude from Oral Roberts University, with her Bachelor's degree in Communication & Government. She earned her Juris Masters in International Law from Liberty University's School of Law. She also received Professional Certificates in U.S. Intelligence Analysis and Project Management from SMU.

Ashley and her husband reside in Dallas, as they continue to be a voice for freedom and protect national security.

**Location : Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East**

**3320 North Central Expressway, Plano, TX 75074**

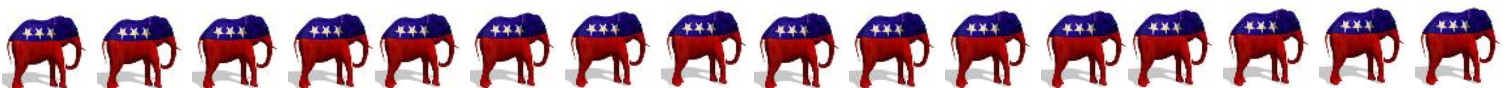
**Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in, 11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program**

**Lunch is available for \$25.00 with RSVP, cash or check payable to PRW on arrival  
 RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm Friday, October 15, 2021**

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting  
*We welcome guests and visitors to our General Meeting. Members, please bring a friend!*

To RSVP send an email to: [rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org)

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





# Legislative Report



On Monday, we started our Third Special Session of the 87th Legislature. Or as a friend of mine calls it: "The Third Not-So-Special Session". Since we only met on Monday and Thursday this week, I was delighted to get to come home and actually get some things done in the District. So far, no bills have been referred to the House Committees on which I serve, but I expect that to change with the new items the Governor added on Wednesday.

The Governor added two agenda items to the "call". The first being legislation providing additional property-tax relief for Texans. Secondly, he added legislation proposing a constitutional amendment to further protect the safety of the community, law enforcement, and victims, from accused criminals who may be released on bail, including by giving magistrates the discretion to deny bail under some circumstances to people accused of certain violent, sexual, or trafficking offenses. Since we have already passed significant bail reform legislation along these lines this summer, I have to assume that he has specific ways to tighten the wording on those laws. We'll see what we hear in the days ahead on this issue.

I must admit that I'm very excited about property tax relief being added to the session's agenda. We've done a good bit of work on this in Ways and Means both last session and already this summer (SB 8 & SB 12 in the 2nd Special Session). While the bills we just passed were very important to our senior population and granted a homestead exemption to a new property owner the year in which they purchase their home, they didn't help the majority of our Texas property owners.

HB 90 (Oliverson) would use surplus in our state's revenue to buy down the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) portion of school property taxes across the state. This bill would create a steady, sustained buy down by the state, over time, of each school district's M&O taxes. I've been a Joint Author on this bill when it has been filed in the past, because it returns tax dollars to those who pay them, and I will support this bill again this session. I should note here that your school property tax may very well include one other type of tax, and this one involves the debt your district has for financing the facilities. This is called the I&S (Interest & Sinking) Tax Rate, and is listed separately from the other rate on most of your school district's tax information. None of the filed bills would touch the I&S tax burden, because those are debts that the citizens of the district have voted to incur, and must be paid off over time. I've included a link to a chart that shows these tax rates from across Texas over the last several years. Our area is located on the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3.

Another proposed property tax bill that has already been heard in the Senate, and voted out of committee is SB 1 by Bettencourt (Oliverson has the companion, HB 89, in the House). This bill would be much like HB 90, but would provide only a one time buy down, using surplus revenue available this biennium (our state's two-year budget cycle), with the option of continuing it each time the legislature meets. This bill doesn't bind future legislatures to the M&O buy down in case there is an economic downturn for the state, and there is no surplus of revenue (much like last year with Covid).

I found that the Collin County online tax calculator is a very valuable resource. At our home, 74% of our property taxes are from our ISD, and most of that is M&O taxes. When we passed the buy down two years ago, the average homeowner saw between a 9 and 11 cent reduction in their school taxes. Since our home values are rising so quickly, you might not have noticed that savings. But imagine if we hadn't passed it: the average home in the district would have paid an additional \$600 in school taxes these last two years. Neither of the proposed plans will solve the property tax situation, but they are both headed in the right direction.

This week has been a doozy on the border. Well, actually this whole year has been a doozy on the border. On Monday, the Governor released the following information concerning our border with Mexico: Governor Abbott sent a letter to President Biden requesting an emergency declaration for the State of Texas as a result of the escalating crisis at the Texas-Mexico border, specifically due to the dire situation in Val Verde County.

Texas Department of Public Safety troopers and our Texas National Guard are working to throw up a barricade against the flow of people crossing the border in the Del Rio region. More law enforcement and National Guard are being added each day to protect that region.

Governor Abbott announced \$100 million in grant funding, called the Operation Lone Star Grant Program, to help local governments enhance interagency border security operations. This help includes the humane processing of the remains of folks who are killed or die while being smuggled into our state, as well as the expansion of detention facilities, and much more. Our DPS will continue to work with local law enforcement in the region to secure the border and protect Texans from drugs, cartels and human traffickers coming into Texas.

You might be interested to know that Border Wall Funding Donations had reached \$54,306,402 as of September 22. For more information about this program, visit [borderwall.texas.gov](http://borderwall.texas.gov).

The Senate Redistricting Committee is meeting this morning (Friday) at 10am, and again tomorrow (Saturday) at 9am. The Committee will hear testimony about the proposed Senate and State Board of Education maps. For more information, and to submit written testimony, [go to this link](#). There are no House Redistricting Committee meetings on the schedule as of now, but you can watch for opportunities to testify at this link: Texas House of Representatives : Committee Schedules.

Finally, I wanted to mention that yesterday the Texas Secretary of State's Office Announced that they were performing a full forensic audit of 2020 General Election in Four Texas Counties. The four counties include the two largest Democratic and two largest Republican Counties: Dallas, Harris, Tarrant and Collin. They have already begun the forensic audit process. I know we will all be interested to see those results.

Even though I have to be in Austin a bunch right now, my heart remains at home with you, my friends. I'm grateful for the honor of serving you, and am blessed to be given this privilege and responsibility.

*Candy Noble*



# Legislative Report

## REDISTRICTING

The Texas House and Senate currently are conducting hearings on redistricting for all regions of the state. The calendar for Hearings may be found [HERE](#). The link includes videos of previous hearings. You may wish to watch one or more hearings to become more comfortable with the hearing process. The Hearing Notice provides you all the information you need to testify or provide written comments.

You may testify at **ANY** regional hearing. However, if you plan on testifying in Austin at a live hearing for the House Committee on Redistricting, you must register at least 48 hours in advance. You also may register for an invitation to testify via virtual conference at [this link](#). The House also provides the option of submitting your comments in writing through an online portal. Click [House portal](#) to go to the House Public Comment page and enter your information and comments.

The Senate will conduct its hearings via Zoom conference. You can register for the Zoom conference at any time up until the conclusion of the hearing. To register for a Senate Redistricting Hearing, [click here](#).

Be prepared to provide useful information to your representatives about your community based on your personal knowledge of the area and by doing some research about your community. Such information includes, but is not limited to, local preferences, communities of interest and local voting patterns. **Please use your own words, but the talking points we suggest that you hit upon are contained in the below testimony.**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I currently reside at \_\_\_\_\_

I am over 18 years of age and am a registered voter. I reside in Texas Senate District \_\_\_\_ and Congressional District \_\_\_\_.

The testimony I give today is based upon my personal knowledge from my experience in my community and as a citizen of the State of Texas.

**TALKING POINT 1:** I want any new district map to fairly represent the voting patterns of Texas. In Texas, all of our statewide officials are Republican. Therefore, any new Congressional seats awarded to Texas as a result of the increase of the Texas population should represent the voting pattern of the state of Texas, which is Republican.

**TALKING POINT 2:** I want the new map to reflect one person, one vote as provided in the U.S. Constitution. It is important to me that districts are created so that there is approximately equal voting power in each district, and by "equal voting power," I mean equal voting power of people legally eligible to vote.

**TALKING POINT 3:** I want to emphasize that I believe it is important that redistricting is accomplished by our elected officials, like you, who are accountable to the people of Texas. I strongly oppose any so-called "Independent Panel" that is not elected by the people of the State of Texas. Allowing redistricting to be done by an appointed panel takes away my voice and the voice of people like me in this very important process

**SPECIFICS:** For my community in particular you should know that:

(information specific to your community that makes it important to keep the community together in one district.) for example:

*For my community in particular you should know that the area is bordered by Lake Travis. Highway 71 borders the area to the south, and FM 2222 borders the area to the north and includes Lakeway and Steiner Ranch. Ranch Road 620 runs north and south through the area. The area is bordered on the west by the Pedernales River. The school districts are Lake Travis ISD and Leander ISD. We physically are in Travis County but, thankfully, outside the city limits of Austin. The entire area is mostly comprised of residentially zoned communities and the commercial/retail activity that supports the residents. The Baylor Scott & White Lakeway Hospital serves the area as well as additional Urgent Care and medical facilities. Because the area surrounds Lake Travis, many of the commercial enterprises serve the lake tourism interests.*

*The people in the Lakeway and Steiner Ranch communities enjoy not being caught up in the craziness of the city of Austin. Currently, SD 24 provides our only Republican representation, and we should not lose that. HD 47 had been represented by a Republican as long as I can remember until this last election. There has been so much growth in this area that a shift in the district line may be a possibility. The areas further west from the Lakeway area toward Marble Falls are less dense in population, but also share many of the economic and educational characteristics of my part of Travis County.*

*I hope that my testimony, based upon my personal knowledge of the community in which I live, is helpful to you in the redistricting process. Thank you*

Robbi Hull, TFRW VP Legislation. [vplegislation@trfw.org](mailto:vplegislation@trfw.org)

# September PRW Photos





# AMERICANISM REPORT

by Jessica Bartnick



## Why Was Columbus Day Canceled?

We all know the history behind Columbus Day. But did you know that it is a controversial holiday in some parts of America? When there is a holiday that the Democrats can either ruin or make controversial, rest assured, we can just about guarantee they will try. So it should be no surprise that they have tried to cancel Columbus Day.

Some historians do not want to celebrate this holiday and they do not want to honor the Italian Explorer as a hero. There are a few main sources of controversy that are making a certain group of people question the importance of Columbus Day, those include; Columbus labeling the indigenous people as “Indians”, the assumed use of violence and slavery, the conversion of native peoples to Christianity, and new illnesses that may have been introduced to the native people in the Americas at the time.

As of 2021, NYC public schools no longer honor Columbus Day. Instead they have promised one of the nation’s largest districts a holiday that will be called, “Italian Heritage Day/ Indigenous People Day”. Instead of making Columbus Day about a person, the Democrat run state prefers to make a holiday that is more segregated and focuses on racial ideology. Proving yet again, that the Democrats do not really support inclusion, they continue to fight for segregation.

In 2020, Chicago public schools halted the celebration of Columbus Day as well. As statues were torn down over the past year and half all over the United States of America, one statue that came tumbling down was Christopher Columbus that stood for almost 90 years outside the Minnesota State Capital. Senators Ron Johnson(R-Wis) and James Lankford(R-Okla) wanted to replace Columbus Day with Juneteenth. Fortunately, this did not happen.

Sadly, we still have to continue to fight to preserve the history of America. History is not always pretty or perfect, but it is our history. It made America the land of the free, the home of the brave, and the place where you can live a dream. Honor Columbus Day and celebrate how Christopher Columbus was instrumental in making this the place that we call home.

Happy Columbus Day!

By: Jessica Bartnick

Cited:

<https://www.history.com/>



# Constitutional Minute Series

## Claiming Almost Everything is “Commerce”

By: Rob Natelson Published on: Jul 20, 2009

How can Congress get around the Tenth Amendment and regulate almost every aspect of American life?

One way is by claiming that the Tenth Amendment doesn't apply because Congress is merely acting within the scope of its enumerated powers. But to make this claim, one must assume that some of the enumerated powers are much broader than they really are.

One of the enumerated powers cited by advocates of the modern monster-state is the Commerce Power. This derives primarily from two sources:

- (1) the Constitution's grant to Congress of authority to “regulate Commerce . . . among the several States” and
- (2) the Constitution's grant to Congress of authority to “make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers. . .”

According to promoters of the monster-state, those constitutional phrases go further than allowing Congress to regulate trade among the states. They also allow Congress to control manufacturing, wages, agriculture, crime, mining, land use, firearm possession, and a range of other activities.

How can they justify this? Basically, they make two arguments. The first argument was spun during the New Deal by a University of Chicago law professor. (Too many law professors spend entirely too much time fabricating constitutional theories to promote big government.)

This professor argued that during the Founding Era the word “commerce” meant more than trade. Instead, he contended, “commerce” included all gainful economic activities. Hence Congress has a license to regulate the entire economy.

An even broader version of this theory was published more recently by a Yale law professor. He maintains that “commerce” means any human interaction – so the federal government can regulate almost anything, so long as it doesn't trample one of the specific guarantees in the Constitution, such as Free Speech.

On investigation, however, the claim that “commerce” meant “all gainful activities” or “all interactions” turns out to be completely untrue. It flies in the face of much of what we know about the Founding Era, including specific representations by leading Founders that most regulation would be reserved to the states.

But because it is sometimes necessary to prove the obvious, several other academics (such as Georgetown University's Randy Barnett and I) have examined literally thousands of appearances of the word “commerce” in the historical records from the Founding Era. And those records show clearly that “Commerce” in the Constitution means trade and associated activities, but no more.

The second argument for an almost unlimited Commerce Power currently prevails on the U.S. Supreme Court. (Don't let anyone tell you the present court is “conservative” on such matters.) This argument acknowledges that when the Founders wrote “Commerce,” they meant only trade and a few allied activities, such as navigation.

But it goes on to say that modern economic life, unlike life during the Founding Era, is highly interdependent, so it is now “necessary and proper” for Congress to regulate everything that substantially affects commerce.

But this argument also ignores history. Economic interdependence is nothing new: the promoters of the Constitution themselves emphasized it. But they also assured the public that, interdependent or not, most activities could be regulated only by the states.

They added that the Necessary and Proper Clause added nothing to federal authority, but merely clarified that the legal “doctrine of incidental powers” applied to the Constitution. And no power could be “incidental” if its scope swamped the principal power. In other words, Congress couldn't take over a big field like manufacturing or agriculture on the pretense of regulating commerce.

If the Supreme Court were doing its job in this area, it would restrict Congress to the authority granted by the people through the Constitution. Because the Court is not doing what it should, it is up to the people to recall the federal government to its constitutional limits.

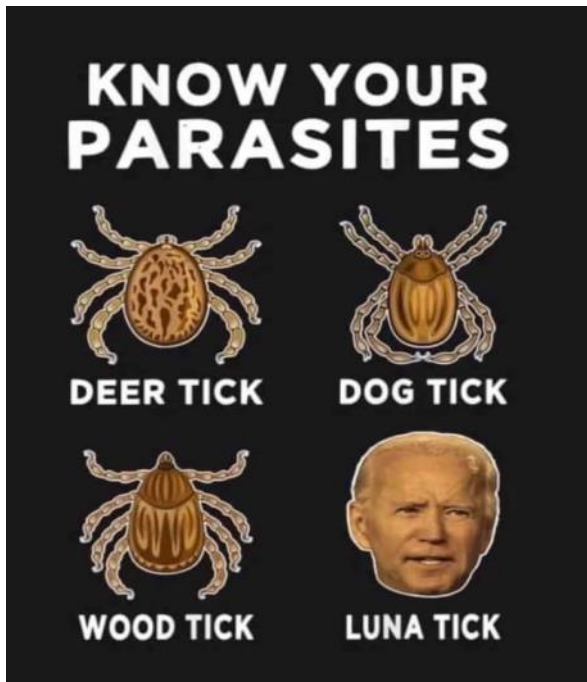
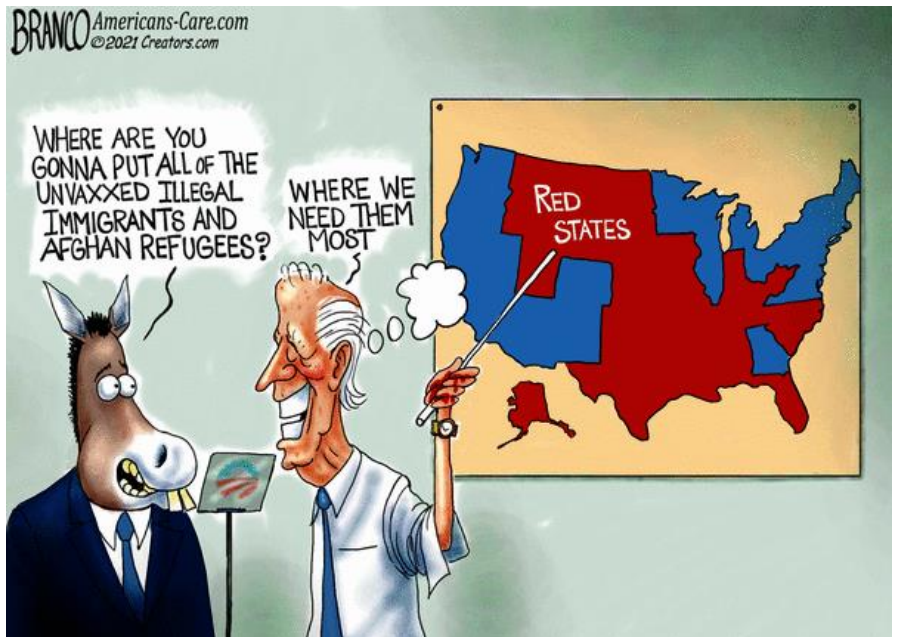
**Rob Natelson** -In private life, Rob Natelson is a long-time conservative/free market activist, but professionally he is a constitutional scholar whose meticulous studies of the Constitution's original meaning have been repeatedly cited in U.S. Supreme Court opinions and published or cited by many top law journals (See: <https://i2i.org/author/rob/>) He co-authored *The Origins of the Necessary and Proper Clause* (Cambridge University Press) and *The Original Constitution* (Tenth Amendment Center). He was a law professor for 25 years and taught constitutional law and related



# Political Cartoons



**My Husband Hates America**  
**My Husband Loves America**  
**My Husband Forgot America**



# Clarence Thomas and the Declaration of Independence

By: Star Parker, September 22, 2021

## Commentary

Last week, Supreme Court Associate Justice Clarence Thomas arrived at the University of Notre Dame to speak about the Declaration of Independence.

Speaking invitations like this that Thomas accepts are few and far between.

Anyone who cares about our country and listens to this address will wish that he would agree to speak more.

His presentation was a brilliant and profound articulation of what America is about at its core.

It is what every American needs to hear in these troublesome and divisive times.

Thomas tells his own story and how his life's journey led him to understand what America is about.

He grew up poor near Savannah, Georgia, raised by his grandparents, under the tutelage of his grandfather, a devout Catholic and American patriot.

Thomas' grandfather understood that the injustices of the country were not about flaws in the country but about flaws in human beings in living up to ideals handed down to them. What needed to be fixed were the people—not the nation.

This insight strikes at the heart of the divisions going on today that are so bitterly dividing us.

But Thomas left his grandfather's house and went to college in the midst of the civil rights movement. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, and Thomas became filled with bitterness and the sense that America is an irredeemably flawed, racist nation, which is so much in the spirit of the times today.

In his own words, "What had given my life meaning and sense of belonging, that this country was my home, was jettisoned as old-fashioned and antiquated. ... It was easy and convenient to fill that void with victimhood. ... So much of my time focused intently on our racial differences and grievances, much like today."

"As I matured," Thomas continued, "I began to see that the theories of my young adulthood were destructive and self-defeating .... I had rejected my country, my birthright as a citizen, and I had nothing to show for it."

"The wholesomeness of my childhood had been replaced with an emptiness, cynicism, and despair. I was faced with the simple fact that there was no greater truth than what my Nuns and grandparents had taught me. We are all children of God and rightful heirs to our nation's legacy of equality. We had to live up to the obligations of the equal citizenship to which we were entitled by birth."

As he continued work in the federal government, Thomas became "deeply interested in the Declaration of Independence."

"The Declaration captured what I had been taught to venerate as a child but had cynically rejected as a young man. All men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights."

"As I had rediscovered the God-given principles of the Declaration and our founding, I eventually returned to the church, which had been teaching the same truths for millennia."

Despite the strident voices dividing us today, Thomas observes "there are many more of us, I think, who feel America is not so broken, as it is adrift at sea."

"For whatever it is worth, the Declaration of Independence has weathered every storm for 245 years. It birthed a great nation. It abolished the sin of slavery. ... While we have failed the ideals of the Declaration time and again, I know of no time when the ideals have failed us."

The Declaration of Independence "establishes a moral ideal that we as citizens are duty-bound to uphold and sustain. We may fall short, but our imperfection does not relieve us of our obligation."

Thomas' message about the Declaration may be summarized: There are eternal truths; they are true for all of humanity; and it is the personal responsibility of each individual to live up to them.

Thomas' detractors are those who reject these premises. This defines the culture war that so deeply and dangerously divides America today.

**Star Parker is the founder and president of the Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE) and host of the new weekly news talk show "Cure America with Star Parker."** If you wish to hear the entire remarks of Justice Thomas, please copy and paste this link into your browser.

[Justice Clarence Thomas Remarks at the University of Notre Dame | C-SPAN.org](https://www.c-span.org/program/justice-clarence-thomas-remarks-at-the-university-of-notre-dame)

# Americans Have Not Forgotten the 13 Soldiers

Salina Zito, September 22, 2021, Epoch Times



Campo Verde High School varsity football team carried 13 American flags to the field to honor the 13 service members killed Aug. 26 in Afghanistan. Kathleen Diggs, counselor and community service coordinator at Campo Verde, said the flags were then set up near the field with 13 empty chairs. (Zach Alvira on Twitter)



At the Tattered Flag Brewery in this Dauphin County borough, just outside of Harrisburg, they set out 13 beers at the bar with an American flag in the center, marking the space "Reserved." Tattered Flag Brewery in Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, set out 13 beers at the bar and marked the space "reserved" to honor the fallen service members. (Courtesy of Tattered Flag Brewery's Facebook page)

## Commentary

MIDDLETOWN, Pennsylvania—When judging the nation's character, the media tend to gravitate toward its loudest voices, its most extreme measures, its deepest grudges. The result is a loss of all subtlety and nuance.

In the days and weeks following Aug. 26, when our nation lost 13 service members in a deadly terror attack in [Afghanistan](#), something profound happened across the country that few in the national media have noticed: simple but meaningful tributes to honor those American lives lost.

The Fossil Bar and Grill in Russell, Kansas, did something similar.

"We wouldn't have our freedoms without the sacrifices of the brave," said the owner, Nick Buehler. "Our community has many brave men and women who have served our country, 13 beers honor those 13 heroes, but it also honors our hometown heroes."

The table setting has spread not only through different bars and breweries across the country, but also to restaurants, diners, businesses, and casinos, as well as along front yards, town squares, and high schools in suburbs, cities, and small towns everywhere.

Last week as college and high schools across the country kicked off their first games, hundreds of them found their own unique ways to honor the fallen 13. In North Carolina, the Greenfield Central Junior High tweeted that members of their 7th grade football team worked together to plan a ceremony before this morning's game.

"They placed flags in 13 empty chairs next to the field to remember the service members killed recently in Afghanistan."

In Gilbert, Arizona, the Campo Verde High School varsity football team carried 13 American flags to the field to honor the 13 fallen soldiers killed on Aug. 26.

Kathleen Diggs, counselor and community service coordinator at Campo Verde, said the flags were then set up near the field with 13 empty chairs.

"The effort was 100 percent student-driven," she said. "This was something they came to us wanting to do."

Diggs said what she sees in Gilbert's students is remarkable.

"I see in our youth a desire to do the right thing," she said. "This was an out-pouring of compassion from their own hearts. They wanted to do something

that would demonstrate that they cared for these soldiers and their families."

In Independence, Montana, Youth Court students and volunteers included 13 chairs with the names of the military lost in Afghanistan in front of the Old Jackson County Courthouse.

A Starbucks in Virginia Beach, Virginia, placed 13 cups of coffee on a table to honor the fallen with a note that read, "This table is reserved for the 13 soldiers lost in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021."

These are not one-offs—placed there for a day and then gone. Many of them throughout the country remain even now.

Too often, we let others define who we are—particularly those with the loudest megaphones, or worse yet, those with the most access to power. Even worse, the cultural curators who have the wealth and power use it to convey the image of an America that largely does not exist.

I would argue these gestures of mourning aren't gestures at all, but signs of the character of a nation. Each one is not a photo-op, but a sign of the constant compassion that lives within us, just below the surface—an expression of our exceptionalism that is waiting to emerge.

We as a people are always looking for ways to come together, to drown out the loudest voices trying to divide us. We are not the NFL that now showcases two national anthems; we are the people who raised children who want to show their support for those who protect us by honoring

# Americans Have Not Forgotten the 13 Soldiers

Continued from Page 11

Salina Zito, September 22, 2021, Epoch Times



Independence, Missouri, Youth Court students and volunteers placed 13 chairs with the names of the service members lost in Afghanistan in front of the Old Jackson County Courthouse. (Courtesy of the City of Independence, Missouri, Twitter account)

them with empty seats or by raising the American flag without showing it any disrespect.

The media have moved the conversation off the front pages. But what happened and continues to happen in Afghanistan has left a mark on the American psyche. It crosses political ideologies, race, and socioeconomic fronts—a mark the loudest voices have failed to see.

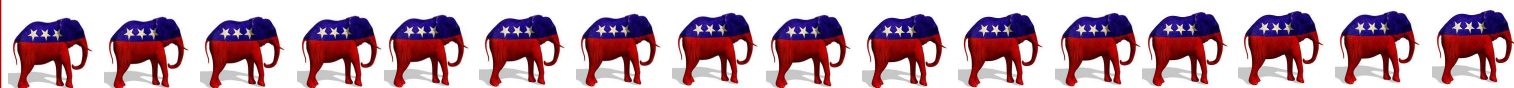
Many in the media mistakenly believe people are now upset about Afghanistan because of politics or because they believed we should have stayed. They think all this will go away because they have stopped covering it. They believe Americans will turn away from the imagery of Afghan women being beaten for demanding their rights or of American citizens trapped, helpless, in what can only be described as a hellish existence.

They could not be more wrong.

*Views expressed in this article are the opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Epoch Times.*

## Salina Zito

Salina Zito has held a long, successful career as a national political reporter. Since 1992, she has interviewed every U.S. president and vice president, as well as top leaders in Washington, D.C., including secretaries of state, speakers of the House and U.S. Central Command generals. Her passion, though, is interviewing thousands of people across the country. She reaches the Everyman and Everywoman through the lost art of shoe-leather journalism, having traveled along the back roads of 49 states.



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**AFGHANISTAN**  
**NEVER FORGET**  
**WHY WE WENT**



9/11/1

# The Disaster at Our Southern Border

August 2021, Volume 50, Number 8, Mark Morgan

*The following is adapted from a speech delivered on July 22, 2021, at Hillsdale College's Allan P. Kirby, Jr. Center for Constitutional Studies and Citizenship in Washington, D.C., as part of the AWC Family Foundation Lecture Series.*

Mark Morgan is a visiting fellow at the Federation for American Immigration Reform and at the Heritage Foundation. He served as acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection and acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement in the Trump administration and as chief of U.S. Border Patrol in the Obama administration. A Marine veteran and a former officer in the LAPD, he served for over 20 years in the FBI, including as the assistant section chief of the National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime Branch; deputy on-scene commander in Baghdad, Iraq; special agent in charge of the El Paso Division; and assistant director in charge of the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He has a B.S. in engineering from Central Missouri State University and a J.D. from the University of Missouri, Kansas City.

In just a few short months, the Biden administration has created a disaster on the southern border of the United States. It did so by methodically—and by all indications intentionally—undoing every meaningful border security measure that had been in place. As a result, we have had five straight months of over 170,000 illegal immigrants apprehended at the border. The number in June was the highest in over 20 years. And Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has been effectively shut down.

Our national discussion of border security is generally misleading, and it is designed to be misleading by those who favor open borders. They frame the issue as if the American people face a binary choice: either let all immigrants in because they are “looking for a better life” or close our borders completely and inhumanely. But this is a false choice. The unspoken alternative is to enforce the law, taking in immigrants who enter the U.S. legally while securing our borders against those who attempt to enter illegally—particularly those meaning to do us harm.

Illegal immigration is, of course, nothing new. It has been a problem in our country for many decades. What is relatively new is the total lack of concern we see in the Biden administration, especially in terms of the national security aspect of border control.

Unbelievable as it may seem to us today, it was only 15 years ago—with the 9/11 terrorist attacks still fresh in our minds—when Congress came together in a bipartisan effort to pass the Secure Fence Act of 2006. The Secure Fence Act directed the Department of Homeland Security to take appropriate actions to achieve “operational control” over U.S. land and maritime borders to “prevent unlawful entry.” It defined operational control as the prevention of all unlawful entries into the U.S., including terrorists, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband. And it specifically set the goal of “provid [ing] at least two layers of reinforced fencing, installation of additional physical barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors.” It added thousands of Border Patrol personnel, mandated the acquisition of new technologies, and resulted in the construction of more than 650 miles of physical barrier along the southern border of the U.S. between 2006 and 2011.

To repeat, this legislation was passed in a bipartisan spirit, with 80 members of the U.S. Senate voting to approve it. This included Senator Barack Obama, who said in 2005: “We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked, and circumventing the line of people who are waiting patiently, diligently, and lawfully to become immigrants in this country.” It included Senator Chuck Schumer, who said in 2009: “Illegal immigration is wrong, plain and simple. . . . People who enter the United States without permission are illegal aliens and illegal aliens should not be treated the same as people who enter the U.S. legally.” And it included Senator Joe Biden, who said in 2006: “Let me tell you something, folks, people are driving across that border with tons, tons—hear me, tons—of everything from byproducts from methamphetamine to cocaine to heroin, and it's all coming up through corrupt Mexico.”

Some attribute the breakdown of the bipartisan consensus on securing the border to the fact that Democrats came to look on illegal immigrants as much-needed Democrat voters. For whatever reason, a decade later these same Democratic leaders were lambasting President Trump's border wall policy as “immoral and ineffective,” even “racist,” and fiercely opposing any and every serious proposal aimed at enforcing immigration law.

\* \* \*

When I say that the Biden administration methodically undid every meaningful border security policy that it inherited, what specifically do I mean? I've mentioned the border wall. And it is a demonstrable fact that border walls, placed in strategic locations, act as effective impediments and improve the ability of law enforcement to drive and dictate the behavior of criminal organizations rather than being driven and dictated to themselves. One of the most ridiculous criticisms I've heard is that the wall is “a fourteenth century solution for a twenty-first century problem.” The same could be said of the wheel, which also still works pretty well.

In any case, the first bullet point of President Biden's budget for the Department of Homeland Security this year trumpets the fact that not a cent will go towards the construction of border walls.

Yet despite the amount of intense debate the border wall engendered, it was not the only or even the most important border security measure instituted under the Trump administration. Let me outline two other key game changers.

Prior to Trump's presidency, a combination of three things had the effect of forcing the Department of Homeland Security to institute a “catch and release” policy for illegal immigrants: the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, which mandated that the U.S. detain all unaccompanied minors from non-contiguous countries (countries other than Mexico and Canada); Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an executive policy adopted in 2012 to allow some of the migrants brought into the country illegally as children to receive a renewable deferred action from deportation; and the Flores Settlement Agreement, a 1997 court decree that was reinterpreted in 2015 to prevent the U.S. from detaining migrant families and unaccompanied minors for more than 20 days. In addition to catch and release, these things combined to bring about a demographic shift in illegal immigration that was immediately

# The Disaster at Our Southern Border

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exploited by smuggling organizations—a shift from the influx of predominantly single adult males from Mexico to an explosive influx of families and unaccompanied minors from far and wide, and particularly from Central America. By 2016, the message had been sent and received that America's southern border was wide open.

In response to this, the Trump administration negotiated the Migrant Protection Protocol, a bilateral agreement with Mexico more commonly known as the Remain in Mexico Program. Under this agreement, people illegally entering or being smuggled into the U.S. with a minor would no longer be able to stay simply by asking for asylum. It was chiefly this Remain in Mexico Program that ended catch and release, removing the greatest incentive for people to try to enter the U.S. illegally.

Prior to the full implementation of the Remain in Mexico Program—at the height of the 2019 border crisis when Department of Homeland Security facilities were overwhelmed—the Flores Settlement Agreement had forced Border Patrol to release illegal alien families, often just hours after they were apprehended. In May of that year, Customs and Border Protection were apprehending over 5,000 illegals per day. After full implementation of Remain in Mexico, illegals who applied for asylum were returned to Mexico to await their hearings. This resulted in a dramatic reduction in the flow of illegal immigrants, especially of families and unaccompanied minors. By February 2020, we had seen a 75 percent reduction in families attempting to enter illegally. Many chose to return home—either on their own or with the assistance of the Mexican government—since catch and release was no longer in effect. It was a big victory for the rule of law.

The current out-of-control surge at the border stems chiefly from the fact that the Biden administration acted quickly to halt the Remain in Mexico Program and return to catch and release. In response to a lawsuit brought by the Texas Attorney General, a federal judge has recently ruled that Remain in Mexico must be reinstated, and the U.S. Supreme Court has refused to overturn that ruling. How this will play out remains to be seen.

Another game-changing development under the Trump administration was a series of Asylum Cooperative Agreements made between the U.S. and the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. These Asylum Cooperative Agreements codified accepted international practices governing asylum seekers, which encourage migrants to seek relief from the first safe country able to assist them. Migrants from these countries seeking asylum in the U.S. were traversing thousands of miles, across multiple countries, and our policies were encouraging that. The Agreements not only encouraged migrants to obtain immediate assistance closer to home, they also served as a deterrent to those with fraudulent claims.

Less than three weeks after President Biden took office, Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced that “in line with the President’s vision” the U.S. had suspended, and was in the process of terminating, the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. In the same announcement, Blinken said that the new U.S. approach to the problem of migration from these countries would be to address the “root causes” of that migration—especially economic underdevelopment and poverty, although, oddly enough, climate change has been mentioned as a root cause as well.

We are hearing more and more subsequently about root causes—especially from Vice President Harris, who President Biden charged with developing a “Root Causes Strategy.” But what we are hearing is bunk. The fact is that when the U.S. opens its borders—which is what it amounts to when we return to a catch and release policy—illegal immigrants flock to the U.S. That’s the root cause of the crisis on our southern border. Compare the numbers in April of last year to those of this April: there was a 900 percent increase in illegal immigration. The economic conditions in Central America didn’t markedly change during that period. The climate didn’t markedly change. Our policies changed! That’s the root cause.

There is a second important point to make in this regard. The basic legal premise of asylum is that the migrant must have a valid claim to be the victim of persecution in his or her home country due to race, religion, nationality, political affiliation, or membership in a protected class. Under current law, a desire to improve one’s economic status is not a valid asylum claim. If it were, the overwhelming majority of people in the world would have a valid claim to seek asylum here. Open borders advocates, including those in the Biden administration who harp on root causes, cultivate the myth that a desire for economic betterment is a valid reason by itself to seek asylum. That would require a radical change in U.S. law that I don’t think the American people would accept.

\* \* \*

The incoming Biden team received exhaustive briefings on the situation at the border and was warned about the consequences of undoing the security policies they inherited. They were told clearly that Border Patrol stations didn’t have adequate capacity to handle the surge of illegal immigrants that would follow a reversal of policy; they were told clearly that the Department of Health and Human Services did not have the detention capacity to handle it. They were told that smuggling organizations and other criminal groups would exploit a return to catch and release.

Despite this, they rushed to dismantle the entire system. And with the results becoming evident to the public, they resorted to deception. I’ve served in federal law enforcement in various capacities for more than 35 years, under six different administrations. And while I’ve become numb to the spin and misdirection that is commonplace in Washington, I have never seen as blatant a disinformation campaign as this one.

Initially, this campaign involved outright denial: “Our message has been straightforward—the border is closed,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas on March 21, in the midst of a surge across the border of families and unaccompanied minors. There was also deflection: Mayorkas blamed the surge on the Trump administration, which he claimed had “torn down” the “entire [immigration] system” that had been in place. This took a lot of gall, given that the surge was so obviously a direct response to the termination of Trump’s Remain in Mexico Program and Asylum Cooperative Agreements and the revival of catch and release.

We were also treated to a fictitious narrative according to which the surge was the reflection of seasonal trends. A “significant increase” in migration “happens every year” in the winter months, President Biden claimed at his first presidential press conference, since that is when migrants “can travel with

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the least likelihood of dying on the way.” The problem is that this year’s winter numbers dwarfed those of 2020—not to mention the fact that the surge has continued unabated into the spring and summer. The June apprehension number exceeded 180,000, and in July it exceeded 210,000. Year-to-date apprehensions are over one million, including more than 100,000 unaccompanied minors—a 444 percent year-to-year increase.

At the point when the administration could no longer deny the dangerously overcrowded conditions at Border Patrol facilities, some operating at more than 400 percent capacity, it adopted a shell game strategy, first moving migrants into newly-constructed facilities and then surreptitiously flying families and unaccompanied minors to cities throughout the U.S. The point of this ongoing shell game is not to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into our country, but to improve the political “optics” of the crisis.

\* \* \*

Make no mistake, criminal organizations—which are adept at exploiting weak and ambiguous U.S. immigration policies—are paying close attention to what’s happening and will adapt their tactics and procedures accordingly. The commonsense reality is that by incentivizing and facilitating illegal immigration, the Biden administration is making it easier for drugs to pour into the U.S., for human trafficking to expand, and for criminal aliens to infiltrate our society. Simply consider that between 40 and 50 percent of Border Patrol and other Customs and Border Protection enforcement resources have been pulled off the front lines to provide humanitarian aid, leaving large areas of the border unmonitored and unsecured.

It is estimated that the number of “got aways”—not the illegal immigrants being relocated around the country, but those who have successfully entered undetected—already surpasses 260,000, more than the population of the city of Arlington, Virginia. And we can safely assume that not all of them are good upstanding people.

In the past decade, the Border Patrol has apprehended tens of thousands of criminal aliens and gang members. It is estimated that just this year, the Border Patrol has apprehended 8,000 criminal aliens—including 46 murderers, 393 sex offenders, and 880 assailants. Over the July 4 weekend, it apprehended several members of MS-13, the most violent transnational gang operating in the U.S. It also recently apprehended two Yemeni nationals who were listed on the U.S. Terrorist Screening Database. In 2020, ICE made more than 100,000 arrests, with 90 percent of those arrested having a criminal conviction or pending criminal charges.

In addition to utilizing illegal immigration as a distraction technique, smuggling organizations often force migrants to carry drugs across the border as a means of payment. And they use their profits from human smuggling activities to finance increasingly more sophisticated drug smuggling techniques that involve tunnels, drones, ultra-light aircraft, and maritime operations. So far this year, Customs and Border Protection assets have participated in the seizure of more than 600,000 pounds of drugs. Fentanyl seizures have skyrocketed in 2021, with more than 6,000 pounds being seized by Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection—a 300 percent increase over this time last year.

Let me end by saying something about what is bureaucratically called the 287(g) program—it is called that because it was established in Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act in 1996. This is the program that makes it possible for local law enforcement to work with ICE in removing illegal criminal aliens. A majority of Americans oppose the idea of so-called sanctuary cities, which are disastrous in terms of public safety. What they might not realize is that every city is now threatened with becoming a sanctuary city. Why? Because the Biden administration has effectively shut down ICE. So today, for instance, a sheriff’s department can arrest a known gang member who is in the U.S. illegally for a non-violent felony such as burglary or drunk driving. But if that sheriff calls ICE, he will be told that is not a priority and that he should release the criminal gang member back into the community.

Thomas Feeley—until recently the director of ICE in New York State—resigned from ICE out of frustration that the Biden administration is, in his words, “doing everything [it] can to cripple [enforcement and removal operations].” In an interview following his resignation, Feeley related an incident where he was told to release an illegal immigrant who was a convicted arsonist. The rationale for releasing the illegal was that he hadn’t been arrested in the past ten years. He hadn’t been arrested, Feeley pointed out, because he had been in prison during that period. But that didn’t matter. He was released into the community anyway.

\* \* \*

In conclusion, it is simply common sense to view border security as national security. If you make this point today, you risk being called a racist or worse. But it needs to be said over and over until we fight our way back to the point where we have a bipartisan consensus that immigration laws should be enforced. This is not going to be easy. Even as the acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, I had my official government Twitter account blocked prior to the 2020 election for posting a photograph of the border wall and explaining that it is an integral part of effective border security. The powers-that-be eventually reversed this decision, but it is an indication of what the American people—who overwhelmingly support border security—are up against.

What we need is widespread active public involvement. Illegal immigration, border security, the erosion of the rule of law, and the loss of our nation’s sovereignty are interconnected, and should be debated as important issues in local and state politics as well as national. When I was the chief of U.S. Border Patrol in the Obama administration, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson told us that 1,000 illegal immigrants a day is a bad day. Today that number is approaching 7,000, and nothing is being done about it. This can’t be allowed to continue. A country that cannot control its borders is not a country, and I’m sad to say that we are facing that eventuality.

# NFRW Convention Photos





# Biden warns mounted Border Patrol agents charging migrants in Del Rio sector: 'Those people will pay'

By Brooke Singman, Adam Shaw | Fox News, September 24, 2021

*Investigation ongoing as Texas border crisis intensifies*

President Biden on Friday issued a stern warning to Border Patrol agents seen this week chasing migrants on horseback, vowing, "those people will pay," amid an ongoing investigation into the images which some Democrats have falsely claimed showed agents whipping migrants.

The president said Border Patrol agents were victimizing migrants: "Horses run them over, people being strapped." However, critics have pointed out the agents were holding onto reins to control the horses, not whips or straps for migrants.

"Of course I take responsibility," Biden said. "I'm president, but it was horrible what you saw."

## **BIDEN ADMINISTRATION STOPS BORDER PATROL USING HORSES IN DEL RIO AMID DEM OUTRAGE**

"To see people treated like they did, horses barely running over, people being strapped — it's outrageous," Biden said. "I promise you, those people will pay. There will be an investigation underway now and there will be consequences. There will be consequences."

He added that it is "an embarrassment, but beyond an embarrassment, it's dangerous."

"It's wrong," he said. "It sends the wrong message around the world. It sends the wrong message at home."

He added: "It's simply not who we are."

The remark drew an immediate rebuke from Brandon Judd, head of the National Border Patrol Council, who blasted Biden for making a determination before the ongoing investigation into the controversy was complete.

"Now that the President of the United States has already said they did wrong, how is an investigator supposed to do a true and honest investigation?" he told Fox News in an interview. "Because if that investigator finds they did nothing wrong -- and they didn't do anything wrong -- but if that investigator finds they didn't do anything wrong, how is that investigator's job going to go?"

Judd said Biden's comments were "completely and totally outrageous."

"He is playing politics with Border Patrol agents' lives, that's what he's doing."

The photographer behind the widely seen images said Friday that the agents never whipped anyone.



"Some of the Haitian men started running, trying to go around the horses," Paul Ratje told KTSM. "I've never seen them whip anyone," he added. "He was swinging it, but it can be misconstrued when you're looking at the picture."

On Thursday, the Biden administration announced it was prohibiting Border Patrol agents from using horses in the Del Rio sector as the investigation proceeded. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson said in a statement: "We have ceased the use of the horse patrol in Del Rio temporarily. We'll prioritize other methods for identifying individuals who might be in medical distress."

In fact, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas and Border Patrol chief

Raul Ortiz had debunked the claims Monday, noting agents were wielding long reins to control their horses in difficult riverines.

Other Border Patrol sources have noted that agents will spin or twirl their reins in order to move the horse forward as a signal to the horse. So far no images have been presented of migrants being hit by the reins.

However, as the White House condemned the images, by Tuesday Mayorkas had changed his stance.

"I was horrified by what I saw," Mayorkas told CNN. "I'm going to let the investigation run its course. But the pictures that I observed troubled me profoundly. That defies all of the values that we seek to instill in our people."

## **BORDER PATROL AGENTS FACING DEMOCRATIC ATTACKS SHIFTED TO DESK DUTY AMID INVESTIGATION**

# Biden warns mounted Border Patrol agents charging migrants in Del Rio sector: 'Those people will pay'

By Brooke Singman , Adam Shaw | Fox News, September 24, 2021

Continued from Page 17



On Tuesday, Vice President Kamala Harris said she supported an investigation and was "deeply troubled" by the allegations.

Senate Majority Leader [Chuck Schumer](#), D-N.Y., decried "images of inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants by Border Patrol—including the use of whips."

The agents involved have since been moved to administrative duty.

The narrative that the agents used "whips" has continued to gather steam among activists and left-wing Democrats, who have then infused a racial narrative into the encounters involving Haitian migrants.

"What we witnessed takes us back hundreds of years," Rep. Maxine Waters, D-Calif., [said this week](#). "What we witnessed was worse than what we witnessed in slavery ... cowboys with their reins, again, whipping Black people."

"This is insane. The agents did nothing wrong," one agent responded to Fox News.

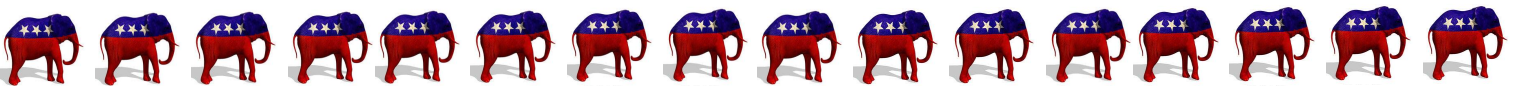
## HARRIS 'DEEPLY TROUBLED' BY IMAGES OF BORDER PATROL AGENTS ON HORSEBACK BLOCKING MIGRANTS, AGENTS RESPOND

On Friday, former acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan, who served during the Trump administration, tore into Biden.

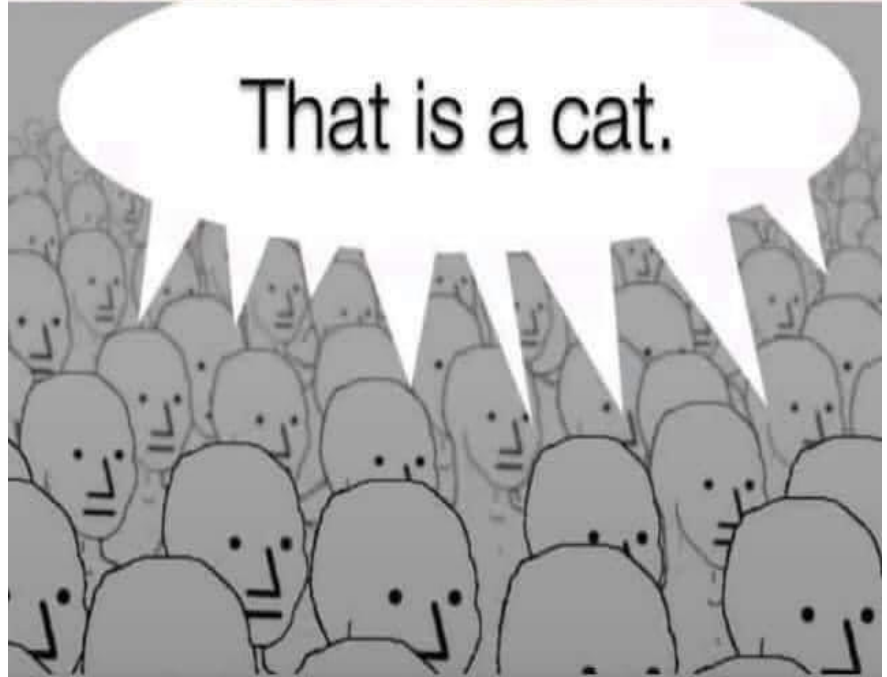
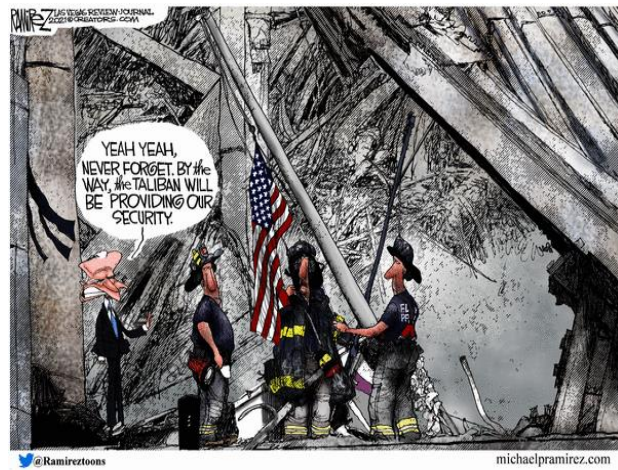
"The Border Patrol agents been have abandoned, scapegoated, and thrown under the bus by their own Secretary and now vilified by the President of the United States," he said. "They have been condemned, careers ruined, and reputations irreparably harmed without any due process -- all to distract from the out of control catastrophic crisis at our southern border. I'm pissed."

*Fox News' Bill Melugin and Peter Hasson contributed to this report.*

Brooke Singman is a Politics Reporter for Fox News. Follow her on Twitter at [@BrookeSingman](#).



# Political Cartoons



# GOP Elected Official Column

## 9/11: A twenty-year remembrance

By: Sid Miller Texas Agriculture Commissioner

Texans, Americans and all those who love freedom throughout the world will mark[ed] the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. We are bombarded with remembrances, the replay of minute-by-minute telecasts from that day, and the more scientific analysis of what happened to explain the horrific destruction of the World Trade Center Towers.

But for myself, my moments of contemplation and prayer on this sad and tragic anniversary will focus on those who gave their lives that day and the loved ones they left behind. This act of terrorism may have occurred in the world's busiest city, but Texans and rural communities throughout this nation suffered loss that day.

A Texan like Barbara Olson, raised in Houston and who rose to become a leading political commentator, was aboard Flight 77 as it was flown into the Pentagon. Daniel Martin Caballero, a Naval Electronics Technician Third Class and Army Lt. Col. Karen Wagner were working in the Pentagon that morning. All three Texans perished that day. Lauren Catuzzi Grandcolas, a Stratford High School graduate who worked for Good Housekeeping Magazine and was three months pregnant; she was one of the heroes aboard Flight 93 that sacrificed everything to overpower the plane's hijackers.

Texas has given many of its finest young women and men to defend our freedom. Many of them come from our small towns, from farms and ranches.

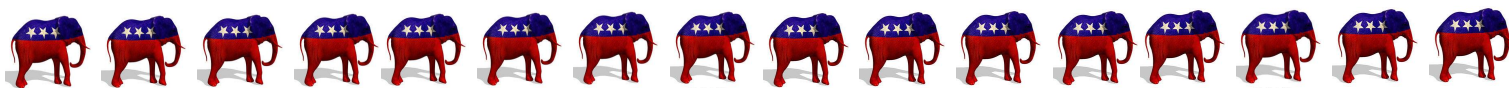
In these twenty years since 9/11, over 600 Texans have given their lives in the fight against terrorism. The loss of these heroes is incalculable. It is especially important that we remember them on this day.

In a corner of northwest Harris County stands the Fallen Warriors Memorial. It is dedicated to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the global war against terror. This quiet corner of dignity and peace is where Texans come to understand what we as a people have sacrificed to this cause. At this time of global turmoil, it is our duty as Americans and Texans to not forget why this memorial exists and how, if we are not careful, history can repeat itself.

Whether it be New York City, Pentagon City, Shanksville, PA or even Northwest Harris County, these places are now hallowed ground; places of quiet contemplation to honor those who died that day and to those who continue to fight a ceaseless enemy opposed to our values and our way of life.

So, as we think, as we pray and as we reflect on these twenty years since 9/11, let's honor those who gave so much for our nation and the principles it is founded upon. Let their deaths not be in vain as we enter the next era where our American freedom is on the line.

God bless those who were lost, God bless their families and God bless America. Still the world's beacon of freedom. Still that 'Shining City on a Hill.



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These two short sentences tell you a lot about our government and our culture:

1. We are advised to not judge **ALL Muslims** by the actions of a few lunatics, But we are encouraged to judge **All Gun Owners** by the actions of a few lunatics. Funny how that works.

And here is another one worth considering.

2. Seems we constantly hear about how **Social Security** is going to run out of Money. How come we never hear about **Welfare** running out of money? What's Interesting is the first group "worked for" their money, but the second didn't.

Profound isn't it...Think about it....Pass it on.



# Political Action Hours

Diane Perkins, Political Action Chair



In the late 80's I had the pleasure of travelling to Australia to celebrate their bicentennial. It was a great couple of weeks filled with fun and adventure. One thing that stuck with me was something that I saw as we travelled on the motor-coach from one place to another. We passed by the Sydney courthouse. Outside the courthouse there were the barristers in their funny little wigs and lots of cameramen reporting on what was going on. Their wigs caught my attention. I asked the driver what it was all about. He told me a fascinating story of a reporter who attended a high-profile trial and reported on it in the local paper. The very controlling judge had him jailed because he didn't ask the judge's permission to report the news first, and just like that, the judge took away his right to free speech. I was dumbfounded. What??? A journalist was not allowed to report the news? I remember commenting to the driver, "That would NEVER happen in America!". Fast forward 30 years and here we are. Our first amendment rights are being taken away. We are repeatedly censored on social media and even "fact checked" by erroneous "fact checkers" who deem our opinion as false because it doesn't advance their mission to silence the conservative voice.

If you watch what is happening in Australia today, you will be amazed that they are now on full lockdown due to the pandemic and have set up a government mandated phone app that every citizen must use for the government to track their movements. They are only allowed outside for a couple of hours a day. I pray we don't take after them in their Socialist mandates.

It is getting worse in America by the day. The leftists not only want to take away our right to free speech and take away our right to have guns, now they are discriminating against those of us who did not get the vaccine. It is even to the point that corporations have decided to punish the non-vaccinated by levying a surcharge on their health coverage. What?? Is this America, land of the free and home of the brave or has it become a dictatorship?

As many of you know, I recently battled COVID 19. My breathing was compromised, and my doctor instructed me to go to Texas Health Presbyterian hospital in Allen, TX. When I arrived, I was dehydrated, and the ER doctor told me that he would go to lunch and get back to me. I laid all alone on the Stryker bed with no blanket or pillow or IV for 5 hours. When I was greeted again by the ER doctor, he told me I was wasting his time and compromising his staff because I was not vaccinated. He laughingly told me that my health care would cost more because I refused the vaccine. He looked at my chart and noted that I had a DNR in place with specific instructions that I would not be put on a ventilator. (My brother died in March from the vaccine and lingered on a ventilator for 35 days until his sons had to make the decision to turn off his life support). I have one child and I knew that I could not do that to her. However, I did need oxygen during the worst part of COVID pneumonia. The ER doctor told me he would not give me at home oxygen referral if I refused the ventilator. He said I did not fit his protocol and he would not admit me with my restrictions on my admission form. My PCP doctor already set up the monoclonal antibody infusion to be sent through Texas Health central pharmacy to be administered at that hospital. The ER doctor was reluctant to help me but after 5 hours I got the IV and infusion. The doctor told me the second week of COVID would be much worse and my body would determine if I lived or died, and I need to go home and wait and see. My nurse told me privately to contact the patient advocate line and report that doctor. I asked to be released after that and went through some underground medical channels to get oxygen. Also, I went as a cash pay patient to a renown COVID expert doctor in McKinney and got alternative medications. I was better within hours. I share these details to let you know that medical discrimination is here, and it is real. If this had not happened to me, I would not have believed it.

Recently, VP Harris gave a speech where she said when people can make choices without government interference, we are a stronger society. On its face, I agree with her statement. I wish this was true as it relates to our health care and right to bear arms. She was only referring to the right to murder unborn babies in the womb. Do you see the hypocrisy?

We live in a time of great uncertainty. Hypocrisy and elite dominance are trying to take our government from a constitutional republic to a Socialist dictatorship. This administration has repeatedly shown a reckless disregard for the rule of law. Small business owners are struggling with the decision to resist the mandate just issued by Joe Biden to require mandatory vaccines for all workers. Our Constitutional Republic is on the brink of becoming a Marxist Socialist regime. I could go on and on. Is your blood boiling yet?



# Political Action Hours

Diane Perkins, Political Action Chair



Continued from Page 21



Why do I tell you this? The future looks bleak on its face but have hope. We can turn this around. We have more power and influence that you think. Never underestimate the power of your voice and your efforts to get out the conservative platform to voters. So many people just listen to mainstream media and never take the time to research the facts. The leftists control the media.

Our voice is being silenced. Our children are taught the narrative in schools to accept the socialist indoctrination and to discount the exceptionalism that we have in America. Does any of this matter to you? Ask yourself what you can do to create a legacy to save our great country for your children and grandchildren. Every phone call makes a difference. Every day of block walking makes a difference. Every discussion helps to educate those folks who "always vote democrat ticket" who really are more moderate and align more with the conservative and libertarian platforms. I encourage you to stay connected to conservative outlets and stay informed about what is happening in our world. Knowledge is power.

Thank you for your investment in saving America. You are a valuable member of our team, and I am confident that we can come together to turn this nation around. Winston Churchill once said, "Never, never, never give up!". That is my exhortation to you. Never give up! America is worth saving. God bless each of you, and God bless America.

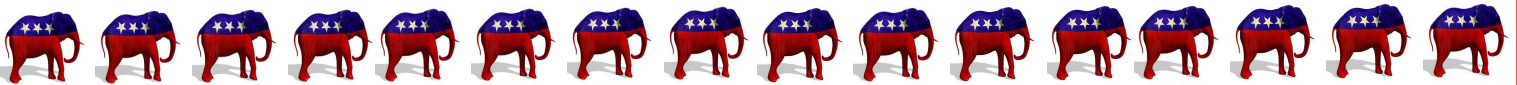
*Blessings,*

*Diane Perkins, Political Action Chair Plano Republican Women*

**Keep the challenge going! 10 hours per month!**

If you were unable to attend the September meeting and have hours to report for September, please go to our website to log the hours by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Our quarterly report is due. Remember, if you attend functions that educate and promote moving our conservative values forward you can count that as well as other activities such as block walking, phone calling, and patriot bridge brigade activities.

Report your Political Action Hours to our website [www.planorepublicanwomen.org](http://www.planorepublicanwomen.org)



The difference between  
Humans and animals?

Animals would never  
allow the dumbest  
ones to lead the pack.

Only in America will we  
stop a football game,  
drag out measuring  
chains and look at a  
play 15 times from 6  
different angles to  
make sure we make  
the right call, but won't  
verify the integrity of  
an election of the  
highest office in our  
nation!

**Even Forrest Gump knew to  
go back for  
Bubba and Lieutenant Dan.**





# PRW PATRONS



## Many Thanks To Our Patrons

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

**Lisa Babb**

**Nuray Fuller**

**Catherine Gibb**

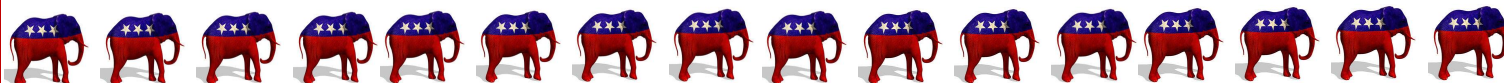
**Michael Godfrey**

**Jody Laubenberg**

**Cleo Marchese**

**Lynn McCoy**

**Diane Perkins**



## Membership Update

We have a total of 97 members for 2021.

We will start renewing for 2022 in October. Membership is \$40.00 for the year.

Included with your membership to PRW is membership to our parent organization, the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW), and our grandparent organization,

The National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW).

We hope everyone will rejoin in 2022 and bring a friend too.

It would be wonderful for us to reach 100 members in 2022.

The next time you see these sponsors —shake their hand.

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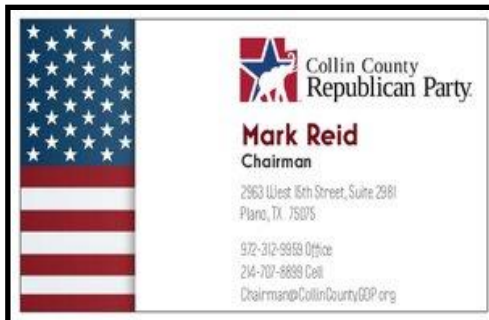
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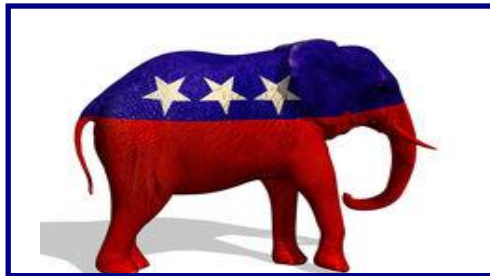
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## Officers and Birthdays

### PRW OFFICERS for 2021

**Jennifer Groysman, President**  
President@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org - 732-718-0464

**Cleo Marchese, 1<sup>st</sup>. VP Programs**

**Lisa Babb, 2<sup>nd</sup>. VP Membership**  
RSVP@PlanoRepublicanWomen.org

**Debby Arrant, 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Awards**

**Catherine Gibb, 4th VP, Ways and Means**

**Semida Voicu, Recording Secretary**

**Susan Bushey, Corresponding Secretary**

**Lynn McCoy, Treasurer**



### October Birthdays

#### PRW Members

#### Member Birthdays:

<b>Teresa Sperandeo</b>	<b>10/2</b>
<b>Debbie Hollingshead</b>	<b>10/8</b>
<b>Denise Voss</b>	<b>10/17</b>
<b>Toni Jenkins</b>	<b>10/20</b>
<b>Doris Mott</b>	<b>10/20</b>
<b>Teri Ann Rogers</b>	<b>10/21</b>
<b>Betsy Liberto</b>	<b>10/26</b>

#### Sponsors & Associate Members:

<b>Scott Sanford</b>	<b>10/3</b>
<b>Ben Smith</b>	<b>10/6</b>
<b>Piper McCraw</b>	<b>10/8</b>
<b>Kay Baird</b>	<b>10/9</b>
<b>Candy Noble</b>	<b>10/10</b>
<b>Joe Cordina</b>	<b>10/12</b>
<b>Scott Grigg</b>	<b>10/14</b>
<b>Derek Baker</b>	<b>10/19</b>
<b>Mark McCraw</b>	<b>10/21</b>
<b>Tom Nowak</b>	<b>10/31</b>





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P. O. Box 940461  
Plano, Texas 75094

CORPORATE CHECKS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

**PLANO REPUBLICAN WOMEN MEMBERSHIP/SPONSOR FORM**

**Year: 2022**

**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)

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron Member (includes Full Active Single Membership)

**Sponsors:**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$200 Platinum: Business card ad in Directory & Newsletter; PRW Webpage image w/link to your website & associate membership\* for your spouse

\_\_\_\_\_ \$150 Gold: Newsletter Ad, PRW Webpage image w/link to your website & spouse associate membership\*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Silver: Ad in the Newsletter & listing on the Website **OR** Webpage image w/link to your website

\_\_\_\_\_ \$75 Bronze: Ad in the Membership Directory/listing on the Website

\*if your spouse is not a member of another TFRW club, she can be a member of PRW

\*\* Please complete this form entirely and mail in, along with 3 business cards

**Additional (Optional):**

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Magnetic PRW Name Tag      \_\_\_\_\_ \$4 Mail Delivery of the annual PRW Membership

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide the information to be included in the PRW Membership Directory

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City Zip code + 4

Phone numbers: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Precinct# \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member Spouse Email\* \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (month & day) \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email is used for newsletters and other PRW announcements

**The information requested below is required by the Texas Ethics Commission:**

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Employer \_\_\_\_\_



Plano Republican Women  
P.O. Box 940461  
Plano, TX 75094



## Plano Republican Women

meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month  
(except June, July & December)

Saltgrass Steakhouse Plano East

3320 North Central Expressway

Plano, TX 75074

11:15 am check-in

11:30 am meeting, lunch and program

Lunch is \$25 payable to PRW (Cash or Check) at the door.

You do not have to have lunch to attend,

But please RSVP to

[rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org](mailto:rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org)