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HAPPY ELEPHANT HOUR

Each month, WVRWF members gather at a local watering hole for whine and wine. These popular events give our members the opportunity to gather with like-minded Conservatives.

Watch for times and locations!





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I don't often know when I am right. I mean really know it! That I am totally, completely sure of my choices- my carved in stone decisions. Not for my first marriage, not for giving birth, not for choosing houses, schools or which brand of detergent I should buy. Second guessing is second nature to many of us and, as they say, "hindsight is 20/20". That being said, I have never been so sure of anything in my life as I am of my support of Donald Trump – the President of the United States. Did I ever think that I would say that during the primaries of 2016? Uh, NO!

This is a man who puts my country first. A man who doesn't care what people say about him or try to do to defame him. This is a man with the strength of his convictions. A leader who does what he says, says what he means and keeps his promises. He stands up to every effort to topple him. He has been attacked by every method possible by a left faction who simply hate him because he defeated their hero- Hillary Clinton. They hate him more than they love America. They hate him because he and his administration are exposing the criminal activity in our leadership that has gone on for far too long in our county.

It isn't often that I stand up and cheer while watching television (not an NFL fan!) but I did just that while watching our President deliver his State of the Union address. His every point resonated with the patriotism that lives inside of me. His remarks were inspiring, his plans were all to benefit our

country and to keep the promises he made during his campaign. Who in their right mind, I thought, could disagree with stopping illegal aliens, many who are criminals, from entering our country where they rely on our taxpayer dollars to support them? How could anyone support full term abortion? Who wouldn't want trade deals that would benefit our country, improved military support to protect us, lower taxes, a strong economy and more job opportunities? Who wouldn't support these amazingly great platforms that would indeed "Make America Great Again?" Who indeed?

Then I looked up and realized that right behind the President sat the enemy. The leader of the women in white who want to do everything possible to stop our progress- to stop our President no matter what the cost. That's when I was certain I was right. That I had to do everything possible to support this man who never bends in the face of adversity. Donald Trump came to us in a time of our greatest need. He came to us at a time when our country was at a fork in the road. At a time when we were at the precipice of losing our Republic to the greed and power grabs of the past. We must do all we can to support this man who stands strong in the face of the storm and never wavers from his belief that he loves this country and wants what is best for all of us. We must make sure that evil does not win and that Donald Trump is reelected in 2020. I have never been so sure of anything in my life.

The Trumpet Newsletter

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MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING



Become a Member

Our conservative agenda must be guarded and nurtured by us always. Join the WVRWF today and fight for conservative values!

You will find the 2019 Membership Form on the following page or visit www.wvrwf.com.



Renew Your Membership

Your membership enables us to be aligned with the California Federation of Republican Women.

We welcome Sisters, Mothers and Daughters as associate members. Men and Spouses still included!

Renew your membership now to help us get started on another great year!



Gift of Membership

Give the Gift of Membership to anyone! We will send them a welcome email and let them know that they are now part of our Club!



Join Our Team!

Join the dynamic group of women who keep our club humming. Offer your talents today!

Open Position: Committee Chair, Media & PR

Duties: Send out Press Releases to local publications to advertise our events. Information is sent via email to existing contact list and entered into media calendars online.

Additional Tasks: Organize letters to the editor by members on conservative issues, submit follow up submissions to media with pictures from events, and cultivate media relationships to get coverage of our events.

Time Commitment: A few hours a month from home. Work with the Executive Board to get event details. Advisable to attend Board Meetings to keep WVRWF apprised of your efforts!



MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERING

Meet Our New Member



Rosalie Strong

Rosalie is a retired professor from Emerita, CSUMB and graduate of USC. She has two adult daughters and six grandchildren. She recently moved to Southern California from Monterey, Calif. to be nearer to family and to finally enjoy some warm weather.

She has a Doctorate in Educational Psychology and Technology and taught in the Cal State University system for 30 years before retiring. Her teaching expertise includes: Learning Theory, Instructional Design, Research, and, Assessment and Evaluation.

Rosalie is a voracious reader of just about anything and enjoys playing Mahj Jong. She enjoys walking as her main mode of exercise, but will stay indoors if it is too cold.



Birthdays!

Karole Aldrich	2/1
Susan Holt	2/8
Inger Hogan	2/21
Lilly Klink	2/17
Heather McKearn	2/21
Karen Wensel	2/23
Elaine McKearn	2/25

New Members!

Chried Fields
Linette Jimenez





2019 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Application Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home: (____) _____ Mobile: (____) _____ Work: (____) _____

Email: _____ Birthday: _____

Spouse*: _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Active Member Annual Dues* \$35
- Gold Elephant Sponsor \$100
- Platinum Elephant Sponsor \$200

Sponsorships include dues and receive special recognition in newsletters, website, programs and directory

- Student Member \$15
- *SAVE* Couples Membership \$50

When spouses join together (spouse joins as an Associate Member)

- Associate Member Annual Dues \$25

Associate membership available for Men, Daughters, Sisters, and members of another Republican Women Federated club (please state which club _____)

- *Optional* Name Badge \$20

Name to appear on badge: _____

Total Payment \$ _____

Would you like to be included in the 2019 Membership Directory? Yes No

Directly is for members only and will not be used for commercial purposes

How do you want to receive your monthly Newsletter?: Email [cost effective for the club] Mail Only

PAYMENT METHODS

Online at www.wvrwf.org

Credit Card: CC# _____ Exp _____ Sec. Code _____ Zip _____

Check Payable to WVRWF. Mail to: WVRWF, P.O. Box 6536, Westlake Village, CA 91359-6536

Become Engaged in Our Club! Help Our Republican Party! Share Your Talents!

(Circle your interests)

Community Service/Literacy

Voter Registration

Military Support

Mailings

Fundraising at Club Events

Hospitality

Legislation

Membership Outreach

Newsletter Contributions

Photography at Events

Programs/Speakers

Technology or Media



SAVE THE DATE!



Happy Elephant Hour

February 27, 2019

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Nabu Winery

\$10.00 members; \$15 non-members

Enjoy shared appetizers, no host bar.



Cocktails & Conservatives

March 13, 2019

Guest Speaker, Ondrea Faillace, will discuss illegal immigration and U.S. Child Welfare Programs.

For more information, see event invitation on p. 7



Book Signing – The Case for Trump

March 18, 2019

Join the WVRWF and political commentator, Victor Davis Hanson, at the Reagan Library.

For more information, see event invitation on p. 8



March for the Troops

March 27, 2019

Join the WVRWF in supporting the Air Warrior Courage Foundation.

For more information, see event invitation on p. 9



Annual Club Fundraiser

April 11, 2019

Enjoy an evening of creativity at Painting with a Twist and support our great programs!

For more information, see event invitation on p. 10



Coffee & Conservatives

May 22, 2019

Guest Speaker, Tamika Bridgewater, will discuss improving racial inclusiveness in the Republican Party.

For more information, see event invitation on p. 11



Cocktails & Conservatives

Featured Speaker

ONDREA FAILLACE

Court Appointed Special Advocate in Ventura (CASA),
Masters in Social Work and the Law from Fordham
University, NY

Topic

**ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND
U.S. CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS**

March 13, 2019

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

No charge for members

\$20 for non-members

Wine & Appetizers

Attendance limited to 25 guests

Location is at the home of a member in Thousand Oaks
Address will be provided to all confirmed attendees in a separate email
RSVPs and Questions to Donnell Nichols at nichols.donnell@gmail.com

Pay online at www.wvrwf.org or mail to
Westlake Village Republican Women
P.O. Box 6536
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-6536

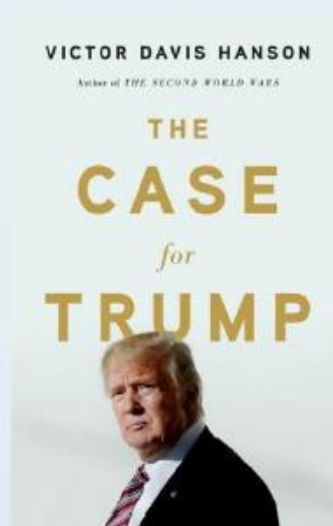


Join the WVRWF at the Ronald Reagan
Presidential Library and Museum

Book Signing

with **Victor Davis Hanson**
Award-Winning Historian and Political Commentator

The Case for Trump



March 18, 2019
6:00 pm Program
7:00 pm Book Signing

Event is **FREE**

WVRWF has 15 tickets
First come, first serve

RSVP Required: Donnell Nichols at nichols.donnell@gmail.com
Further information provided upon confirmation

Westlake Village Republican Women
P.O. Box 6536
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-6536

JOIN THE WVRWF!

MARCH FOR THE TROOPS

AIR WARRIOR COURAGE
FOUNDATION (AWCF)

MARCH 27, 2019

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

Sunland Vintage Winery
Tasting Room

1321 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd.
Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



Presented by
Col. Jerry Knotts (USAF RET)

\$25 (additional \$2 for credit
card or PayPal use)
Fiesta Taco Bar Dining
Experience

RSVPs and Questions to Donnell
Nichols at nichols.donnell@gmail.com

Pay online at www.wvrwf.org or mail to
Westlake Village Republican Women
P.O. Box 6536
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-6536

AWCF provides emergency financial aid to active duty, guard, reserve and retired military personnel and their families needing financial assistance for medical, educational, and other extraordinary expenses not covered by other military, veterans, or other charitable institutions. Programs supported by AWCF include Ventura County Veterans, the Center for the Intrepid, San Antonio Military Medical Center (SAMMC), Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and Fort Belvoir Medical Center. AWCF has a “FOUR STAR” rating from Charity Navigator and gives back 97% to the Warriors.

**Westlake Village Republican
Women Federated**

Annual Club Fundraiser

Enjoy an Evening of Creative Revelry at

Painting with a Twist

Create Unique Patriotic Works of Art
guided by Brett Gilbert, professional artist
(all supplies provided)

Donations Support Our Programs:

Literacy Project
Young Republicans
Student Memberships
Education and Outreach Speaker Series

April 11, 2019

5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

No-host bar, Appetizers will be served

\$45 for members and non-members
(additional \$2 for credit card or PayPal use)

Limited space, book now!



RSVPs and Questions to Donnell Nichols
nichols.donnell@gmail.com

Pay online at www.wvrwf.org or mail to
Westlake Village Republican Women
P.O. Box 6536
Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-6536



Coffee & Conservatives

Featured Speaker

TAMIKA BRIDGEWATER

Conservative Public Speaker dedicated to exposing the lies of the Left and ending Black America's unconditional loyalty to the Democratic Party

Topic

IMPROVING RACIAL INCLUSIVENESS IN THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

May 22, 2019

9:30 am – 11:00 am

No charge for members

\$20 for non-members

Coffee & Treats

Attendance limited to 30 guests

Location is at the home of a member in Thousand Oaks

Address will be provided to all confirmed attendees in a separate email

RSVPs and Questions to Donnell Nichols at nichols.donnell@gmail.com

Pay online at www.wvrwf.org or mail to

Westlake Village Republican Women

P.O. Box 6536

Thousand Oaks, CA 91359-6536

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

2018 Westlake Village Republican Women Federated *Literacy Project*

This year, our club worked with the Conejo Valley Elementary School for the Literacy Project, as we have in the past. The Librarian at the school, Laura Collett, always has wonderful ideas for book purchases for us to support. These purchases help the school build a solid, knowledge-based curriculum as well as giving us a theme to rally around for the Literacy campaign. Last year, we bought books on Republican Presidents. The project this year was to purchase books from the “Who Am I?” series, providing resources for the students to write biographies.

At the literacy dinner on September 12, 2018, I reminded the club that writing biographies is a very “Republican” endeavor. Our culture and other political entities often box people into groups by race or socioeconomic status. They also downplay individual achievements by pretending everything is a group effort (i.e. “you didn’t build that”). Biographies, on the other hand, celebrate the individual and their achievements, and tell people that “you can build that” with hard work. Our club certainly responded to that message, buying over \$500 in tickets for the books that we were raffling off to support the project. With that money, we were able to buy 33 hardbound “Who Am I?” books for the library, two Mamie Eisenhower Literacy Program (MELP) books, as well as a few items from Ms. Collett’s Wish List. I visited the school library on November 27, 2018 to deliver the books and read to one of the library classes. A huge THANK YOU to everyone that donated to this worthwhile project.

- Julia Bach, *Committee Chair for Literacy*



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



On February 23, I drove to Chatsworth to participate in Operation Gratitude’s efforts to thank our brave Military and First Responders. Every year, Operation Gratitude sends over 300,000 individually addressed care packages to soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and coast guardsmen, first responders, veterans, wounded heroes, new recruits and care givers. Their mission is “to forge bonds between Americans and their Military and First Responder heroes through volunteer service projects, acts of gratitude, and meaningful engagements in communities nationwide.” Since 2003, Operation Gratitude has sent over 2 million care packages.

On this particular Saturday morning, well over 100 people formed a line around the block of the Operation Gratitude warehouse, ready to assemble care packages. Package items included comic books, chocolate bars, handmade scarves, socks, personal hygiene products and thank you cards handmade by children. In our volatile political climate, it was reinvigorating to be around other patriots who still remember what makes this country great – every day Americans who are willing to fight for our God given freedom.

While we can never truly thank our brave service men and women for their sacrifices, we can engage in small acts of gratitude to show each one of them that they are never forgotten.

- Ariana M. Perfecto, *Editor*



Senate Fails to Pass Bill Protecting Infants Surviving Abortion

By Newsroom

Today, the United States Senate voted on an anti-infanticide bill introduced by Senator Ben Sasse(R-Neb.), the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. The legislation needed 60 votes to pass, and it failed by a vote of 53 in favor and 44 against. The bill stated that “if an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the United States, and entitled to all the protections of such laws.”

Every Democratic presidential hopeful — Kamala Harris, Cory Booker, Kirsten Gillibrand, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, and Elizabeth Warren, along with Independent Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont — voted against this common-sense bill. Democrats Doug Jones, Joe Manchin, and Bob Casey Jr. voted in favor of the bill. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), Tim Scott (R-S.C.), and Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) did not vote on the bill.

The 2002 Born Alive Infants Protection Act, signed into law by President George W. Bush, established that any child born alive — even as the result of an abortion — is to be legally considered a “person”, “human being,” “child”, and “individual” in federal law. However, that law contained no penalties for those who choose not to follow it. Senator Sasse’s



bill included penalties for abortionists who break the law, including a fine and/or imprisonment for up to five years.

The bill would also have allowed a woman to take legal action against an abortionist who breaks this law. The bill states that any child who accidentally survives an abortion must be treated with “the same degree of professional skill,

care, and diligence to preserve the life and health of the child as a reasonably diligent and conscientious health care practitioner would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age” and would make certain that “the child born alive is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital.” In addition, the bill requires the mandatory reporting of violations.

Currently, there are 19 states which afford no protections to abortion survivors. According to the Centers for Disease Control, infants are still born alive every year. Between 2003 and 2014 alone, at least 143 babies died after being born alive during abortions. And according to a press release from Live Action News, “In 2018, 16 infants in Florida alone were born alive after surviving abortion attempts.”

Adult survivors of abortion have formed The Abortion Survivors Network. On the group’s website, it states, “a government report in Canada from 2012 reported that 491 children survived abortions there over the nine-year period of 2000-2009. There’s also this report that identifies 766 children survived abortions in the five-year period from 2013-2018. Additionally, there are similar government reports from the U.K. and states in Australia.”

Recent polling indicates that just since radical pro-abortion legislation was signed into law in New York in January, more Americans are identifying as pro-life, including Democrats. Other polling indicates that the vast majority of Americans oppose the killing of children who survive abortions. However, the pro-abortion legislators in Congress have largely been deaf to public opinion on this issue.

Live Action president Lila Rose responded to the news of the vote in a press release, stating:

Live Action has documented on camera how abortionists in our country’s notorious late-term abortion facilities talk about survivors of abortion. Washington, D.C. abortionist Cesare Santangelo told our

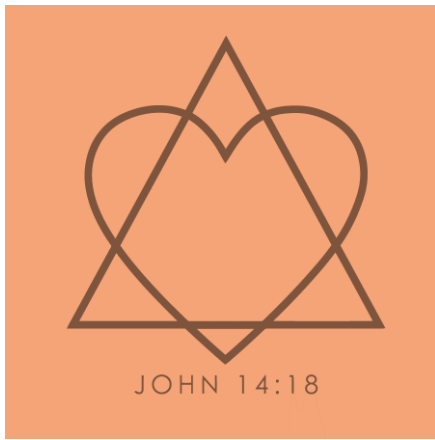
undercover investigators that he would make sure babies “do not survive” if they were born alive at his facility. A New York abortion worker told our Live Action investigator to “flush” the baby down the toilet or “put it in a bag” if she’s born alive. In Arizona, an abortion worker told us there “may be movement” after the baby is outside of the mother and that they would refuse to provide help and instead let her die. Dr. DeShawn Taylor, former medical director for Planned

Parenthood, told a Center for Medical Progress investigator that identifying “signs of life” after a baby survives an abortion is contingent upon “who’s in the room.”

There is no difference between infanticide and abortion: both kill the same child....

Today should have been a time of unity in protecting life, but instead, Democrats continue to push for the brutality of abortion and infanticide. With Congress failing to do its job, every state should take this issue up for themselves, ensuring care for these innocent children that are often left to die, and work to eradicate abortion altogether.

https://www.liveaction.org/news/senate-votes-born-alive-abortion-survivors/?fbclid=IwAR0Iprer3MUtIg7D5976aBtlnXY45vW2H2O_lkODoXneiOGHI0nee9O6mgA



“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you”

FAITH-BASED ADOPTION AGENCIES TO KEEP THEIR DOORS OPEN ON TRUMP’S WATCH

By Jeanne Llewellyn

“My administration is working to ensure that faith-based adoption agencies are able to help vulnerable children find their forever families while following their deeply held beliefs,” President Trump said at the Annual Prayer Breakfast on Thursday.

Since the Supreme Court’s redefinition of marriage a decade ago, activists have called for faith-based businesses to either provide services to same sex couples or close their doors. The adoption controversy stems from an Obama-era regulation, put in place just days before he left office, which provided that the Supreme Court’s decision recognizing same-sex marriage applies to taxpayer subsidies whereby “all recipients must treat as valid the marriages of same-sex couples.”

The two largest faith-based agencies, Catholic Charities and Bethany Christian Services, account for 25% to 30% of adoptions. And for the over 100,000 children in the system, the consequences have been severe. In 2011 in Illinois alone, legislation that closed Catholic Charities adoption services displaced more than 2,000 children.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit to overturn conscience protection for faith-based

agencies in Michigan where the National Review stated in their March 2018 article, “...the lesbian plaintiffs had to drive past at least two other adoption agencies that would have worked with them.”

However, there is no shortage of other agencies that will work with same sex couples. In fact, adoptions by same sex couples has more than tripled from 2000 to 2010.

It is also worth noting that faith-based agencies have a higher success rate for placing older and disabled children. Furthermore, mothers should have the choice to work with agencies that honor their religious values. After all, if she is selecting adoption over abortion, chances are that she has religious values.

Faith-based agencies are known for strong follow up and continued support programs for the adoptive family that can be critical to a successful transition. Foster-care statistics give even greater support for keeping as many agencies open as possible. With more than 400,000 children on the wait list, one might say that we are facing a crisis.

For both foster care and adoption services, more options would seem to serve an agreed upon goal of facilitating forever homes for these children. To be sure, the “death by a thousand cuts” of Christian ethos in America by the ACLU and Liberal extremists must be curtailed. Their mission is clear and flies in the face of tolerance, acceptance, and non-discrimination that they purport to uphold.

The issue of discrimination as identified by Supreme Court cases rolls right up against the issue of religious freedom. To date, the Supreme Court in the case of the Colorado baker has only determined that his rights were violated by the State in the handling of his case. Whether creative businesses must provide services on request to any customer has yet to be determined by the high court. Let’s hope babies looking for forever homes do not get caught up in this. It looks like the Trump administration is working toward that goal.

Disclosure: I have often had this “discussion” with my pre-law school daughter and perhaps you’ve heard us across town ~;-o.

<https://www.nationalreview.com/2018/03/faith-based-adoption-agencies-under-assault-from-left/>



TRUMP COMMITTED TO ERADICATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

By Jeanne Llewellyn, Edited by Ariana M. Perfecto

Throughout his time as president, Trump has demonstrated his dedication to combating online sex trafficking and bringing criminals to justice. In 2018, President Trump signed the “Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act” (FOSTA).

FOSTA amends Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act of 1996, a law that provides legal immunity to website providers from information published on their platforms by third parties. More specifically, Section 230 states that “no provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided by another information content provider.”¹ FOSTA creates a sex trafficking exception to this broad protection.

President Trump has since signed four additional bills that exhibit his bipartisan commitment to ending human trafficking.

The **Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act** restricts certain types of foreign assistance to countries that do not meet standards for eliminating sex trafficking.

The **Abolish Human Trafficking Act** strengthens programs supporting survivors and resources for combating modern slavery.

The **Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act** authorizes \$430 million to fight sex and labor trafficking.

The **Trafficking Victims Protection Act** establishes new prevention, prosecution and collaboration initiatives to bring human traffickers to justice.

Furthermore, President Trump’s Immigration Reform bills (currently held up in Congress) are vital to preventing human traffickers from entering the U.S. illegally. Additional Border Patrol, a physical barrier and a reform of asylum loop holes will go far to eradicate the flow of victims into and out of the U.S.

These efforts are part of an overall strategy to protect and assist victims in recovery, to advocate for citizen hotlines to report suspects, incorporate fair employment requirements in trade deals, and training to ensure U.S. authorities are better able to identify victims of trafficking. President Trump and countless others are working tirelessly to end this scourge upon our land.

For additional information:

https://twitter.com/Polaris_Project

<https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/identify-victim>

<https://oag.ca.gov/human-trafficking/identify>

¹ <https://www.minclaw.com/legal-resource-center/what-is-section-230-of-the-communication-decency-act-cda/>



The Green New Scam

By Susan Shelley, *The Los Angeles Daily News*



The co-author of the Green New Deal, Sen. Ed Markey, D-Massachusetts, is upset. “Don’t let Mitch McConnell fool you,” Markey said of the Kentucky Republican who is the Senate Majority Leader, “this is nothing but an attempt to sabotage the movement we are building.” What exactly is this “sabotage” that has Markey so angry?

McConnell said he’s going to schedule the Green New Deal for a vote.

“He wants to silence your voice so Republicans don’t have to explain why they are climate change deniers,” Markey blasted to his followers on Twitter. “By rushing a vote on the #GreenNewDeal resolution, Republicans want to avoid a true national debate and kill our efforts to organize.” So that’s it. Markey and the other supporters of this plan were hoping to spend the next 12 months sending out “Green New Deal!” emails and text messages, building a list of dewy-eyed activists who will work long hours on the 2020 campaign for two slices of pizza and a chance to win dinner with Michelle Obama.

Markey’s co-author, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-New York, released the Green New Deal as a resolution to be introduced in the House of Representatives. The title is, “Recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal,” and what follows is 14 pages of apocalyptic warnings and loopy leftist directives.

McConnell wants senators to go on record with a vote on the resolution, which cheerfully calls for “guaranteeing a job with a family-sustaining wage, adequate family and medical leave, paid vacations, and retirement security to all people of the United States.” At whose expense? That’s a little vague. All we know from the plan is that “frontline and vulnerable communities” will be in charge of it, and if we do exactly what they say, in 10 years we’ll all have paid vacations and perfect weather.

The Green New Deal has a familiar ring to Californians who have been forced to endure costly and ineffective government policies in the name of preventing climate change. For example, the state’s cap-and-trade program, which requires businesses including utilities and refineries to buy permits to emit greenhouse gases, has hauled in billions of dollars for Sacramento politicians to spend. Gov. Gavin Newsom’s budget assumes cap-and-trade revenue of \$2.6 billion in 2018-2019 and \$2.1 billion in

2019-2020. The Legislative Analyst’s Office projects that the revenue could be even higher.

Those billions of dollars are coming out of your pocket. Because of cap-and-trade fees, Californians pay more for electricity, natural gas, gasoline and anything that’s moved around the state in a truck, including food. Chickens don’t walk to the grocery store. The money is supposed to be spent on projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the meantime, 25 percent of the cap-and-trade revenue is going toward building the bullet train. You may recall that high-speed rail was supposed to be built without a tax increase or a public subsidy. It was also supposed to go from San Francisco to Los Angeles, and that’s not going to happen either.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority’s 2018 business plan, such as it is, includes a Ridership and Revenue Risk Analysis that discloses how much the cap-and-trade program is projected to add to the price of a gallon of gasoline: in 2029, an extra 23 to 73 cents; in 2033, an extra 26 to 77 cents; by 2040, an extra 33 to 84 cents. That’s per gallon, in 2017 dollars.

What are we accomplishing with this? Are we saving the Earth? Not according to the Legislative

Analyst's Office, which recently completed an analysis of the governor's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection budget. "California represents only about 1 percent of global GHG emissions," the LAO report states, so the impact of California's programs to combat climate change "depend on the degree to which state programs influence the adoption of policies and programs in other parts of the country and world."

Because the whole state accounts for 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions, the money you're paying to try to reduce statewide emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels is having no impact whatsoever on the Earth's climate.

You're paying more for gasoline, more for electricity, more for everything that's made or moved with energy. And California has the highest poverty rate in the nation when adjusted for the cost of living.

You're paying for "leadership" on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Is anybody following?

Not so far. Even the co-author of the Green New Deal doesn't want to vote on it.

This isn't about believing or denying anything. Even if you accept, if only for the sake of argument, that climate change is happening, it's catastrophic, and it's entirely man-made, the policies that are offered to prevent it don't do anything. The price of these ineffective policies is a number that belongs in astrophysics, not government budgets, and the proposed changes to our lives are right out of a 17th-century Dutch landscape painting. According to the Green New Deal, we can give up air

travel and factory farms and survive on sunshine, windmills and project labor agreements.

The Green New Dealers have repackaged collectivism, a discredited philosophy that holds that individual rights and freedom lead to inferior outcomes for society. Their real goal is a society in which mediocre narcissists in government jobs have control over the productive enterprises of smart and hard-working people, people who go along with it out of guilt, fear or the belief that if they don't, something worse will follow.

That's the way we do it in California. Nobody's following, but plenty of people are leaving.

Susan Shelley is an editorial writer and columnist for the Southern California News Group.

Susan@SusanShelley.com. Twitter: @Susan_Shelley.



BLEXIT: Fleeing the Liberal Plantation

Brandon Tatum on Why He left the Left and How the Democratic Party has Manipulated the Black Vote



By Arielle T. Perfecto

Known for his down-to-earth and laidback attitude, Brandon Tatum is a former police officer (and Democrat) from Arizona who currently serves as the Director of Urban Engagement for the conservative student organization Turning Point USA. He was recently invited by the TPUSA chapter at San Diego State University to speak about his experience of “fleeing the liberal plantation” in an effort to spread awareness of how the Democrat Party has continuously failed to empower Black Americans.

Tatum began by telling the story of his gradual ascent to a position at TPUSA, sharing that he grew up in an all-black community where he was taught the unfortunate Leftist mantra of ‘white people hate black people, and if you’re black, always vote Democrat’.

Influenced by the lifestyle of his own family, Tatum was arrested before turning thirteen. He was encouraged by his father to turn his life around by actively pursuing his dream of having a career in professional basketball. Following this, things eventually changed for Tatum after earning a basketball scholarship to Texas Christian University, where he was exposed to a predominantly white community for the very first time. “Nobody ever came to me and called me the n-word or treated me any different. I went to class, did my work, and accomplished the things I set forth when I put in the work.” Tatum came to the realization that this nearly age-old idea of incessant racism from white Americans was a purely psychological one, a misconception perpetuated by his *own* community. After becoming more involved with his faith and his

church, and after accepting that a successful career in professional basketball was becoming less and less likely, Tatum found work with the police department in Tucson, Arizona. He spent a great amount of time training to become a police officer, and eventually became a member of SWAT and even helped train cadets at the academy.

Feeling disenchanted with Obama's treatment of police officers after having voted for him in 2008 and 2012, Tatum decided to check out a Trump rally in Arizona. Tatum was completely shocked by how many people of various ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds attended the rally, and disgusted by the outrageous behavior of the leftist protestors. He quickly found himself being energized by Trump's bluntness and fearlessness as well: "He started really speaking life to America to me. It wasn't divisive like they say in the media. I'm listening to him, he's talking about securing our borders, he's talking about prioritizing Americans first—how is that crazy?!"

Feeling the #MAGA effect, Tatum shared his thoughts on issues facing the black community—including his response to Colin Kaepernick kneeling during the national anthem—in short videos on Instagram and Youtube, many of which rapidly went viral. Tatum was grateful for all of the perks of working in law enforcement, but due to his online success he increasingly felt a pull towards a position where he could use a more public platform to reach out and inspire more conservatives. It was conveniently at this time that TPUSA's Director of Communications Candace Owens—who Tatum describes as, despite her tough appearance, a total "sweetheart"—encouraged Tatum to work as their Urban Engagement Director. Since then, Tatum has dedicated his time to speaking on college campuses across the nation. Of the conservative struggle against the hypocritical left, Tatum stated that "the fight isn't necessarily throwing punches. The fight is you can't express your opinions, you can't express facts without people attacking you. The problem that I have seen on college campuses is that people allow that intimidation to make them afraid...But you got to be bold. You have to stand at some point. Because if you continue to allow them to punk you, and push you in the corner, they're going to forever do it."

It is incredibly easy to find yourself enthralled by the charismatic everyman quality of Tatum, and it quickly

becomes evident that before you is a man whose captivating wisdom is shaped from having experienced life from nearly all angles. He speaks with the vigor, passion, and *clarity* of someone truly "awake," of a man who was born to inspire his people to be brave enough to openly love and defend their nation's core values. TPUSA is beyond lucky to have him as part of the team leading this fight on college campuses. I left Tatum's talk with a newfound sense of invigoration, of a reminder of why I'm conservative, and why I continuously choose to be so even when it becomes harder and harder in the impending socialist hellscape that is the state of California.

God willing, Tatum will one day feel the call to use his talents to run for public office. If he does, he can count on my vote.

A recap of his Q and A session:

On Abortion: Tatum shared an emotional story of when the mother of his now eight year-old son considered abortion. She had taken Tatum to their local Planned Parenthood, which at the time Tatum was unfamiliar with; when he realized what the appointment was for, Tatum asked her to please not go through with the abortion. Realizing he could not stop her, he remained in the waiting room, pleading with God, "Please, don't let this woman kill my child". Minutes later she emerged, telling Tatum she just "couldn't do it". Tatum thanked God and explained that one of the reasons why he is so vehemently against abortion is that "you never know who that child might become. They might find the cure for cancer or help another person find it".

On Immigration: Tatum shared his experiences working in law enforcement near the border, explaining that he tragically and frequently saw his fair share of the death of young Americans caused by abuse of substances that were brought in from Mexico. He strongly supports President Trump's stance on immigration, stating that first "we need to take seriously the people who live here and helped build this country".

On Socialism: When asked about Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's ridiculous Green New Deal, Tatum dismissed it as nothing more than a ploy to force the U.S. into socialism. He then discussed the Democrat Party's tactic of appealing to emotion in their arguments: "The

Democrats do a really good job of, instead of going straight for the facts they go straight for people's emotions". To demonstrate the difference in arguments between the left and the right, Tatum used a metaphor of seeing a homeless person begging for food. A left-winger sees this homeless person and wants to help them by giving them food and money every week, but as a right-winger, Tatum explained "I don't want to have to keep giving you money every week. I want you to grow and make more money than me".

On Slavery: When addressing a question on the seemingly never-ending subject of slavery, Tatum replied "I get so sick of it", calling attention to the

American school system's complete failure to discuss the many African Americans who have found success in the U.S.--some even before the end of the Civil War. "Why aren't we talking about George Washington Carver? Madame CJ Walker?"

Tatum also took a moment to point out that even though the Left insists on carrying slavery around as America's national shame, slavery was not invented in the United States, but in Africa, where Africans sold their own people into slavery. "And it still happens today!" Tatum exclaimed, stating that in cities like Chicago and Baltimore blacks tear each other down far more than white people do.

POLITICS OR CULTURE: WHICH CAME FRIST?

BY ANDREW S. KELINSKY

There comes a time in every culture's history when it feels like it has reached its precipice. Something big is about to happen, and either that culture fades into the abyss or makes a drastic and triumphant return to glory and continues to thrive. The former is best illustrated by the Roman Empire and the latter is best illustrated by the United States of America because of the qualities of our leaders and the strong beliefs that unified our people. Presidents like Washington and Lincoln exemplified these qualities.

America will always find a way; at least, we believed so until very recently.

With regard to modern politics, I have found myself in despair over this for quite some time. The struggles modern society faces feel both depressing and overwhelming. Fortunately, or unfortunately, it has no one to blame but itself and its predecessors. In response to these struggles, a prominent face of the Republican Party and a very well-known conservative political pundit seems to have turned on his own party and the political ideologies he has defended adamantly for years. I am talking about none-other-than Fox News's Tucker Carlson.

For those of you who are unaware, Tucker Carlson recently made comments disparaging capitalism and the free market:

“A lot of Americans are drowning in stuff. And yet drug addiction and suicide are depopulating large parts of the country. Anyone who thinks the health of a nation can be summed up in GDP is an idiot. The goal for America is both simpler and more elusive than mere prosperity. It's happiness. There are a lot of ingredients in being happy: Dignity. Purpose. Self-control. Independence. Above all, deep relationships with other people. Those are the things that you want for your children.

They're what our leaders should want for us and would want if they cared.”

I hear Carlson identifying the societal symptoms which indicate that Americans and our society as a whole are deeply ill – increasing drug addiction and suicide. I hear him speaking to the frustration that the people in our society refuse to acknowledge this reality. I hear anger in his rhetoric that bipartisanship is seen as weakness and that our leaders work in opposition rather than together to try and cure whatever disease plagues us. I hear Carlson asking the question why; and, I hear him give an off-target answer.

The mistake Carlson makes is in believing that our leaders and our government are *capable* of providing people with dignity, purpose and self-control.



As of late, Carlson is of the view that our social discontent is economically based. He holds that the free market leaves behind the little guy and provides us only with *stuff* and this stuff has made us miserable. Therefore, the government and our leaders should step in to

limit the free market ensure that this does not happen. The mistake Carlson makes is in believing that our leaders and our government are *capable* of providing people with dignity, purpose and self-control.

It is also a mistake to give our leaders and our government so much power. Only **God** can provide people with purpose and dignity. The Left has dedicated itself to the removal of God from every facet of American life. The Left wants the government to be god and *this* is what is making us all so miserable.

America was founded on Judeo-Christian principles. John Adams himself stated, “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.” Of course material possessions do not make us happy. A

free-market and all the vast freedoms we enjoy were meant to be checked by our own morals. A society of people without morals will destroy America from within, and we are seeing it happen now.

I could go on and on about how all the “problems” mentioned by Carlson cannot and never were meant to be addressed by economics and increased government intervention. The more important point is that Americans live in a culture that is Godless and egocentric. As Andrew Breitbart once said, politics is downstream of culture. Economics and politics will not fix our culture. Our culture must be repaired so that it will bring about moral economics and moral policies.

So, I ask, if I or if you are not happy, what do we do? Or, perhaps, more importantly, what should we do? Part of the beauty of living in a free country is that we can address these types of questions as we see fit. The way Americans have been answering that question seems ineffective at best. Again, I point back to this nation’s roots as a Judeo-Christian people.

If Carlson is so concerned about aiding in human happiness, blaming economics and relying on government intervention is escapist and lacks culpability. Until we as people and a nation, come together to support each other, to help each other get ahead, and to encourage family values that promote life, commitment, and loyalty, then this culture of death that we face may just be the end of a prosperous nation founded under God.

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