



THE SPACE COAST TUSK



A Newsletter for Conservative Republicans

FLYING HIGH...AND DIGGING AND BORING TO KEEP BREVARD COUNTY RED AND GET CONSERVATIVES ELECTED

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TRUMP PRAISES GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICA IN STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK:

MY TWO CENTS

By **Stuart Gorin**



--In September 2024, when President Trump was running for re-election, he played a round of golf at his West Palm Beach club while building contractor Ryan Routh, who had a lengthy criminal record, concealed himself and aimed an AK-style rifle. The assassination attempt on Trump failed when Routh was spotted by a Secret Service agent. He fled the scene but was soon captured.

At his trial nearly a year later, Routh declined legal representation and was convicted by the jury. He was assigned an attorney at his sentencing this month, but Judge Aileen Cannon of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida gave him life in prison for the assassination attempt, plus an additional seven years on the gun charge and a \$500 fine.

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--Way back in history – in 2016 during the Obama administration to be exact – a CNN camera crew actually rode along with ICE agents as they carried out early-morning arrests of illegal immigrants. CNN reported the news factually, without any accusations. But that was then. Now, the shrieking hysteria that dominates the news about immigration enforcement is called “fascism.” According to the Lead Patriot website, “If historians ever assemble a serious case study on how the American Left collectively lost its mind, this contrast deserves its own chapter.”

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--In Georgia, the “woke” DeKalb County Police Department is a joke. After a mother with two children complained about a transgender man in the Tucker, Georgia, library’s women’s restroom, Officer Glen Weaver told him to leave. But Police

[Continued On Page 2](#)

President Donald Trump – in the longest ever delivered State of the Union address February 24 – clocked at 1 hour and 47 minutes – said “our nation is back – bigger, better, richer and stronger than ever before...and you’ve seen nothing yet. We’re going to do better and better and better. This is the golden age of America.”



Speaking at the U.S. Capitol building to a chamber filled with government officials and numerous invited guests – as well as a nationally-televised audience – the President said, “Today, our border is secure, our spirit is restored, inflation is plummeting, incomes are rising fast, the roaring economy is roaring like never before, and our enemies are scared. Our military and police are stacked, and America is respected again, perhaps like never before.”

[Continued On Page 2](#)

INSIDE:

The Battle With BREC and RPOF.....[page 3](#)

Sounds From the Trump-et.....[page 4](#)

Let Me Be Frank.....[page 5](#)

This and That..... [page 15](#)

Political Cartoons and Photos.....[pages 21 thru 24](#)

officials supported the transgender’s right to be there, and Weaver, who served with the department for 28 years before joining its reserve and retired officers program, absurdly was fired.

Beth Parlato, senior attorney for the Independent Women’s Law Center, said Weaver “did the right thing – he stood up for truth, he stood up for reality, he stood up for common sense, and the rest of these people are standing behind this stupid ordinance to protect a person who has no business being in a girls’ bathroom.”

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--A long list of artists canceled Trump Kennedy Center performances, claiming that the President was destroying the venue by adding his name, taking over the board, and announcing its closure for renovations. But ticket sales were already cratering before the announcement, because these same leftist boycotts killed ticket sales, made the renovation closure inevitable, and now they’re protesting the very crisis they created.

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--Prior to retiring to red Brevard County, Florida, during the years I worked in Washington, DC, I lived in deep, deep blue Montgomery County, Maryland, where my daughter and son attended school. Years have now gone by, but today’s county leaders retain the same left-wing viewpoint. “National Review” points out that the Montgomery County PTA has just hosted anti-ICE training, urging parents to create “safe passage” for illegal aliens.

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--Meanwhile, in neighboring Prince George’s County – another Maryland blue jurisdiction – Honduran Rafael Aguilar, who had been sentenced to a 10-year prison term for stabbing someone in the back, was released by Democrat-appointed Judge Todd Steuart after 141 days with a chance to have the full sentence waived if he complied with temporary release conditions. ICE Baltimore acting Field Office Director Vernon Liggins said that by releasing Aguilar instead of cooperating with federal law enforcement, “local officials in Prince George’s County chose politics over public safety.”

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I watched the opening ceremonies of the winter Olympics and enjoyed the masterful ice dancing by Madison Chock and Evan Bates – until French judge Jezabel (appropriate name) Dabouis gave the French team a massively large scoring swing to rob the American couple of the gold medal. Outrage was so high that the Olympics committee received more than 10,000 signed requests to investigate the decision. When the request was refused, I decided I no longer needed to waste my time watching any more of the Olympics.

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--Preparing for the soon upcoming blizzard, New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani called for people to come help the city shovel snow. Absurdly, the Democrat-Socialist – who

opposes the election-integrity SAVE Act – demands that the volunteers show two IDs in order to help.

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More Two Cents next month.

Noting that after four years in which millions of illegal aliens poured across our border totally unchecked, Trump said, “In the past nine months, zero illegal aliens have been admitted to the United States.” He added, however, “We will always allow people to come in legally, people that will love our country and will work hard to maintain it.”

Early in his remarks, Trump had the Olympic gold medal-winning U.S. Men’s Hockey Team enter the chamber to cheering applause, and he announced he will be giving the nation’s highest honor – the Presidential Medal of Freedom – to team goaltender Connor Hellebuyck, who made 41 saves in the team’s overtime victory over Canada. The last time the U.S. men’s hockey team won Olympic gold was in the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” victory over the Soviet Union.

On the international front, the President repeated a warning to Iran over nuclear weapons and said at least 20,000 protesters in that country had been killed during a recent crackdown. He added that Iran had already developed missiles that can threaten Europe and could soon reach the United States since its leaders were working on “pursuing their sinister nuclear ambitions.”

Referencing the Supreme Court’s ruling against tariffs, Trump chastised the Justices seated in the chamber for their actions, calling it “disappointing” and “unfortunate,” but said he would turn to other laws to push his tariff policy ahead, including a new global rate of 15 percent.

Dozens of Democrat legislators skipped the State of the Union address and instead attended a handful of rallies in Washington to show their opposition to the President and his agenda. Cameras panning the room often showed Republicans on their feet cheering, while those on the other side sat motionless, causing Trump to say “You should be ashamed of yourself.” There were a few times, however, when even the Democrats rose with applause.

The speech was filled with patriotism, and the President noted that celebrations were planned for later in the year for the country’s 250th anniversary.

Trump also introduced a number of guests in attendance whom he honored, including World War II veteran Buddy Taggart, noting that he fought bravely in the Battle of Manila, where he was badly wounded but then went on to help liberate the large internment camp in the Philippines. Taggart earned many honors, the President said, including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. Tonight, Trump added, “He is in the gallery looking forward to July 4 Independence Day, which also happens to be his 100th birthday.”

Speaking about flood waters in Texas a year ago that tore through a girls’ summer camp claiming many lives, the

President said Coast Guardsman rescue swimmer Scott Ruskin descended from a helicopter and lifted 165 girls to safety. Ruskin was in the audience reunited with one of the girls he saved. Trump said Petty Officer Ruskin is being awarded the Legion of Merit for extraordinary heroism.

Another guest introduced by the President was five-year-old Delilah Coleman – there with her father – who was critically injured a year and a half ago when an illegal alien driving an 18-wheel tractor-trailer slammed into the car in which she was riding. Doctors said she would never be able to walk or talk, “but against all odds,” Trump said, “she is now in the first grade, learning to walk. Delilah, you are a great inspiration.”

He also introduced Sage Blair, who was 14 in 2021, when school officials in Virginia sought to socially transition to a boy without telling her parents. She was thrown into an all-boys state home and suffered for it but finally was able to be freed and returned to her parents. Today, accompanied by her mother, Michelle, Sage is a proud young woman with a full scholarship to Liberty University, the President said.

Trump also said that when National Guard troops patrolled in



Washington last year, an Afghan terrorist shot two of them in the head. **Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom** did not survive, but a gravely injured **Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe** did. He received the Purple Heart during the State of the Union, and Beckstrom’s was presented posthumously. On the mission to capture Argentine President Maduro. Trump said, “The deeds of one warrior will live forever in the eternal chronicles of military valor.” He said **Chief Warrant Officer Five Eric Slover**, who planned the mission, was the flight lead in a Chinook helicopter. And while preparing to land, he was hit in the leg and hip by machine gun fire. Only after safely landing the helicopter with all the warriors on board did he ask his copilot to take over. Everyone on board knew what was happening, because they saw the blood pouring down the aisle.

Today, Trump said, “Slover is still recovering from his serious wounds, but I’m thrilled to say that he is here tonight with his wife, Amy. We have a surprise for them. In recognition of Eric’s actions above and beyond the call of duty, I would now like to ask General Jonathan Braga to present Chief Warrant

Officer Slover with our nation’s highest military award – the Congressional Medal of Honor.”

But that was not the only one, because Trump continued, “Tonight, we’ve celebrated many truly extraordinary American patriots,” Trump said, “but there is one last living legend to honor before we go. He is one more heroic American aviator. Navy fighter pilot **Royce Williams** served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, flying more than 220 missions.”

Trump said that in the skies over Korea in 1952, he was in “the dogfight of a lifetime.” Flying through blizzard conditions, his squadron was ambushed by seven Soviet fighter planes, and despite being massively outnumbered and outgunned, he led the takedown of four enemy jets and almost destroyed the others, while taking several hundred bullets to his own plane and being seriously hurt.

“His story was secret for over 50 years,” the President said. “He didn’t even want to tell his wife, but the legend grew and grew, and tonight, at 100 years old. This brave Navy Captain is finally getting the recognition he deserves. I will ask the First Lady of the United States to present Captain Royce Williams with the Congressional Medal of Honor.”

The President closed the lengthy State of the Union address saying, “From the rugged border towns of Texas to the heartland villages of Michigan. From the sun kissed shores of Florida to the endless field of the Dakotas. And from the historic streets of Philadelphia to right here in our nation’s capital, Washington, D.C., the Golden Age of America is upon us. The revolution that began in 1776 has not ended. It still continues because the flame of liberty and independence still burns in the hearts of every American patriot. And our future will be bigger, better, brighter, bolder, and more glorious than ever before. Thank you. God bless you. And God bless America”.

THE BATTLE WITH BREC AND RPOF IN BREVARD COUNTY CONTINUES



Alan Ross, the Chair of “We the People of Brevard” and a Republican Precinct Committeeman, is one of many members of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee who has filed a grievance against the cabal takeover of BREC.

State Committeewoman Marie Rogerson – who is part of the cabal – serves as its Grievance Committee Chair. To date, this committee has taken no action, however Rogerson claims Ross disseminated “false, disparaging, and divisive material about the Republican Party of Florida, Republican elected officials, and recognized leadership of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee.” She asked him to submit “any explanation, clarification, rebuttal, or context you want the reviewing body to consider.”

The following article is Alan Ross’ response:

“Before addressing your complaint, let me be perfectly clear on the following points:

1. **Legitimacy of Leadership:** The new BREC chair, John Dittmore, and the new Brevard County State Committeeman, Josiah Gattle, are both illegitimate in the eyes of Trump Republicans who prioritize election integrity. What you, Randy Fine, John Dittmore, Josiah Gattle, and Randy Stackhouse did – with the consent of RPOF Chair Evan Power – made a mockery of that principle. Conducting an election without proper notice, full REC participation, and in secrecy was, at best, deeply unethical. Your group disenfranchised the vast majority of hard-working BREC members, all of whom were duly elected under state law. You also confiscated funds raised by the broader REC, which many now view as illegitimate and akin to theft. While I’m not an attorney, any outsider familiar with the details would likely agree. These tactics rival the worst Democratic practices nationwide that led to the Biden administration, but you’re worse because you should know better. Your disparaging comments about Donald Trump on social media don’t surprise me. I’m also disappointed that John Dittmore, a former service member who swore an oath to uphold the Constitution, participated willingly. After this improper coup, both Fine and Power admitted it was a year-long clandestine effort to oust one of Florida’s most MAGA-oriented RECs.
2. **Accusations and Purges:** You’ve accused me of many things, but it’s no secret that Evan Power has been purging MAGA patriots and RECs across Florida. Examples include his conflicts with the FRA and the elimination of the Manatee REC, among others. Ironically, your recent grievances against me, and 8-10 others, are attempts to silence us. We see you for what you are – these are undeniable truths.
3. **Electoral Achievements:** The vast majority of REC members you’ve tried to disenfranchise delivered record-breaking Republican wins in 2024. Let that sink in. What did you contribute to this success? Nothing.
4. **Removal of Rick Lacey:** You and your allies filed grievances against Rick Lacey and removed him as chair. Under his leadership, Republicans in Brevard won nearly every race by record margins, but that meant nothing to your group. He won his seat fairly, even after you brought in nearly 100 new members solely to unseat him – they vanished afterward, revealing your power play. You targeted him because he exposed the corruption behind the primary mailers from MAGA PC, sent to high-propensity Republican voters in Brevard and six other Florida counties. You and Fine were major beneficiaries of those mailers. Power ignored numerous complaints and did nothing. Lacey did the right thing by commissioning research that uncovered dark money practices likely

coordinated by party insiders. The “follow the money” evidence is clear, and notably, the funds didn’t come from Brevard County. Why? You know the answer.

5. **Criticism of Evan Power and the Party:** I admit to criticizing lobbyist Evan Power – he clearly serves the donor class over “We the People.” He’s now embroiled in scandals in his Florida 2 race. People see you all as power-hungry operatives for the donors, evident in Florida’s legislative agenda, which does little for everyday citizens. Does the Republican Party in Florida support Trump’s election integrity efforts? No – they’re resisting. Are they opposing the green energy scam? No – it’s all high-cost solar initiatives. I could go on. This isn’t the people’s Republican Party; it’s not the one Donald Trump promised to return to “We the People.”

You can try to expel us, but we see you clearly. We’ll continue advancing the people’s agenda. Enjoy your moment – I hope you understand the consequences. National corruption is being rooted out, and accountability will follow. Once it takes hold federally, it will spread to the states. Are you aware of the over 600,000 sealed indictments nationwide, including many in Florida? Do your homework on that. Why so many? Likely due to widespread corruption here. We see you. I forgive you all for your actions and will continue praying for you. Often, you can tell if the Kingdom of God resides in someone’s heart by their deeds. If it did in yours and your cabal members, you might not be doing this. You may escape earthly accountability, but one day, no one can avoid the ultimate reckoning.

As for my response, I submit that the Brevard REC leadership is illegitimate and does not represent the vast majority of its duly elected members. As such, this grievance is without merit or authority – so I choose to ignore it.

No matter what you choose to do we will work returning power back to the people in Brevard County and Florida. The more you do this, here and all over Florida, the more effective MAGA patriots will be at educating the populace as to what exactly you and others are doing in Florida and Brevard County.

As Donald Trump preaches newer give up....we never will! Corruption in Florida and in Brevard County will be exposed and we will find ethical individuals to represent the people not the donor class. A party that cheats, conducts unethical elections, silences dissenting voices, and is unethical to its core, it or its corrupt leadership will not survive. Finally, be assured this action and others like it are being shared in Brevard County and throughout Florida.”



SOUNDS FROM THE TRUMP-ET

--President Trump proclaimed February 23 as “National Angel Family Day,” to remember and honor the thousands of

American lives stolen by criminal illegal aliens and the deadly drugs they bring across our borders. “We stand with the Angel Families, many of whom continue to be left without justice,” the President said, “And we recommit to carrying out the largest mass-deportation effort in our Nation’s history, getting the worst of the worst out of our country, and putting a stop to the violence targeting the brave men and women of law enforcement.”

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--During the National Governors Association annual meeting in Washington on February 21, President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump hosted the traditional Governors’ Dinner at the White House. No Democrat state governors reportedly attended, but the black tie event included Republican governors and top administration officials.

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--President Trump gathered representatives from nearly 50 countries in Washington on February 19 to mark an inaugural meeting of the Board of Peace, laying out plans for the next phase of peace for the Gaza Strip. “We will make Gaza very successful and safe, and we are also going to maybe take it a step further, where we see hotspots around the world, we could probably do that very easily,” he said. To tackle the ambitions of Gaza’s reconstruction, the President pledged to give the Board \$10 billion.

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--On February 18, the fifth anniversary of the death of talk-radio legend Rush Limbaugh, President Trump called him “a really great man, a great conservative, somebody that loved our country, loved his family, loved a lot of things, and he was a friend of mine.”

The President said that he had never met Rush before when he announced in 2015 that he was running, and he got a call, all excited, that “Rush Limbaugh just endorsed you.” Trump said that Rush “liked my opening speech. He liked it when I got up in June, and I said, ‘You know, we’ve got bad borders, we’ve got bad crime, we’ve got bad everything.’ And he liked it when I came down the escalator with now our First Lady. He thought it was great and he endorsed me, and then I got to know him and realized what a great guy he was.”

Noting that “it’s five years that we miss Rush,” Trump added. “As Sean Hannity would often say, there will never be another Rush Limbaugh. So, to his family, his great wife and family, I just want to say, ‘we miss you all, we miss him, and there’ll never be anybody like him.’”

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--Trump on February 13 announced the full revocation of the Obama-era “Endangerment Finding,” which dismantled the flawed 2009 determination that Democrats used to justify more than \$1.3 trillion in regulations that clears the path for lower prices, greater consumer choice, and a thriving economy. With this, American families will save an average of more than \$2,400 on new cars, SUVs, and trucks, and drivers will no longer be forced into features that limit choice and raise prices.

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--President Trump said that following a yearlong review involving contractors, arts experts and other advisers, the Trump Kennedy Center will close on July 4, coinciding with the nation’s 250th anniversary, for a two-year period to undergo renovations. The close will allow the renovations to be completed faster and at a higher quality than if construction would be carried out while performances continued. The result, he said, will be a “new and spectacular entertainment complex.”

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--The President announced the United States is bidding to host the prestigious World Expo in 2035 – and bring it back to the United States for the first time since 1962. Calling Miami “the ideal city for the massive global event,” he appointed Secretary of State Marco Rubio – a Miami resident – to chair the efforts of coordinating and advancing the opportunity. “Miami Expo 2035 can be the next big milestone in our new Golden Age of America,” Trump said.

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--On January 30, the President nominated as the next chairman of the Federal Reserve one of its former board members, Kevin Warsh, a banker and economic adviser to former President George W. Bush. If confirmed by the Senate, Warsh will replace Jerome Powell as the Fed chair, whose term ends in May.

He also nominated Brett Matsumoto, the Senior Economist on his Council of Economic Advisers, to be Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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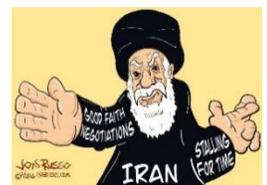
--Pointing to massive fraud schemes in states like Minnesota and California, where hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars allegedly have vanished into scams, shell nonprofits, and politically protected operations, Trump also announced on January 30 he is nominating Colin MacDonald, a detail-oriented prosecutor, to serve as the nation’s first Assistant Attorney General for National Fraud Enforcement. This is a new DOJ division created to catch and stop fraudsters that have been stealing from the American people.



Let Me Be Frank
By Space Coast Tusk Designer
Frank Montelione

The Red Line Dilemma: How Obama and Trump Failed to Deter Iran

For decades, U.S. policy toward Iran has relied on the use of “red lines”—clear warnings about unacceptable behavior. Yet under both Barack Obama and Donald Trump, those red lines were repeatedly crossed without decisive consequences. Despite sharply different strategies, both administrations left behind the same damaging legacy: weakened deterrence, emboldened



Iranian aggression, and diminished American credibility in the Middle East.

The Obama administration's Iran policy culminated in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), promoted as a historic agreement to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons. In practice, the deal reversed or abandoned nearly every red line the administration had previously declared ([Encyclopaedia Britannica, JCPOA](#)).

Senior officials had insisted Iran had "no right to enrich" uranium and that sanctions were intended to force Iran to dismantle its nuclear program. Yet the final agreement allowed Iran to retain thousands of centrifuges, preserve key nuclear infrastructure, and maintain the underground Fordo facility—despite prior U.S. statements that Iran had no legitimate civilian need for such a site. Promises of "anytime, anywhere" inspections were replaced with a managed access system that allowed Iran significant influence over inspection timelines. In other words, the Obama administration allowed Iran to police itself. The administration also dropped demands that Iran fully disclose its past nuclear weapons work, limiting the ability to establish a complete baseline for verification ([Arms Control Association, Status of Iran's Nuclear Program](#)).

Even before the deal was fully implemented, Iran began testing our resolve. In late 2015 and throughout 2016, Tehran conducted multiple ballistic missile tests that Western governments deemed [United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2231](#). Although the Obama administration acknowledged that these actions violated the spirit of Iran's international obligations, its responses were limited and cautious, prioritizing preservation of the nuclear agreement over enforcement.

Part of the deal was that Iran would release American hostages for access to tens of billions of dollars in previously frozen assets which had to be delivered in cash first. These hostages were held in a plane on the runway until pallets of cash was unloaded before releasing the aircraft to leave. This money was invariably used to support worldwide terrorism and destabilize the middle east. The message to Tehran was unmistakable: violations would be tolerated in the name of preserving diplomacy.

Donald Trump entered office pledging to reverse Obama's approach, calling the JCPOA the "worst deal ever" and promising a tougher stance. He withdrew from the agreement in 2018 and launched a "maximum pressure" campaign of sweeping economic sanctions. While this strategy inflicted significant economic damage on Iran, it failed to establish consistent military deterrence.

In 2019, Iran and its proxies carried out a series of escalating attacks designed to test American resolve. Oil tankers were damaged in the Gulf of Oman, a U.S. surveillance drone was shot down, and a coordinated strike on Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq oil facility temporarily disrupted roughly five percent of global oil supply. President Trump issued strong warnings

but declined to respond militarily, relying instead on sanctions and limited troop deployments.

These decisions signaled that while Trump was willing to apply economic pressure, he was reluctant to risk broader military conflict—even when Iran directly attacked U.S. interests and allies. Tehran adjusted its behavior, accordingly, calculating that it could absorb economic pain without facing decisive retaliation.

Trump's most dramatic action came in January 2020, when he ordered the drone strike that killed Qassem Soleimani, commander of Iran's Quds Force, following militia attacks that killed an American contractor and an assault on the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad (U.S. Department of Defense; *Assassination of Qassem Soleimani*). The strike demonstrated that Trump would enforce red lines when American lives were lost.

However, Iran's response exposed the limits of that deterrence. Tehran launched ballistic missiles at U.S. bases in Iraq, injuring more than 100 American service members (Al Jazeera, Jan. 17, 2020). Rather than escalating further, Trump declared victory and de-escalated the crisis, reinforcing Iran's perception that even direct attacks on U.S. forces would not trigger sustained retaliation (NBC News, Jan. 2020).

During the current Trump Administration, Iranian's rose up in force to protest the Iranian regimes acute economic collapse and with long-standing political repression resulting in thousands murdered by the Iranian government. That was the original Trump redline. However, when asked about this the Administration's response was a tepid response that he was assured that the mass hangings that were being prepared was called off and the killings have stopped. Despite these claims, evidence suggests executions and brutal crackdowns have continued. Reports indicate that executions, including public ones, have persisted, and the judiciary has vowed "no mercy" for protesters, who are frequently branded as "terrorists".



Trump is again entering negotiations designed to halt Iran's nuclear program and reduce its ballistic missile capabilities, despite a longstanding pattern in which Iran accepts agreements but does not fully honor them. His "hammer" is two aircraft carrier task force sitting in striking distance of the Iranian mainland.

Across both administrations, the pattern was the same: red lines were drawn, crossed, and ultimately ignored. Obama prioritized diplomacy and legacy-building over enforcement, while Trump relies heavily on sanctions.

Red lines without enforcement are worse than no red lines at all—they invite provocation and advertise weakness. Effective deterrence does not require constant military conflict, but it does require credible threats backed by demonstrated willingness to act. Until Iran faces genuine costs for crossing American red lines, it will continue to do so.

Donald Trump should not be underestimated. He negotiates from strength and maintains the ability to strike Iran if required. The Iranian regime would be prudent to study what occurred in Venezuela and adjust its behavior accordingly.



Florida's 8th Congressional District is a lot more than rockets, runways, and record-breaking launches. It is about the communities behind the countdown clocks – the families, workers, and innovators who call the Space and Treasure Coasts home.

Our region thrives when leadership is focused on innovation, opportunity, and results – not rhetoric. As we enter 2026, we are building on a year of real progress and positioning ourselves to lead what comes next.

Results You Can See and Feel

In my first year representing our communities in Congress, my mission was simple: Make government work for the people it serves. That started with constituent services. When veterans wait too long for earned benefits, seniors face delays with Social Security, or families can't get answers from the IRS, the system feels broken. In 2025, my office assisted more than 2,000 Floridians in navigating federal agencies, recovering more than \$12.5 million owed directly to them. That's cutting through bureaucracy and delivering real help and real money back to local households.

We also brought home more than \$25 million in federal funding to tackle everyday challenges across Central Florida. That means safer railroad crossings in Brevard County, so families don't have to worry about close calls or long backups on their daily commute. It means cleaner water in the Indian River Lagoon, protecting a place we treasure and the jobs that depend on it. It also means a safer, more modern Melbourne International Airport.

We helped local businesses navigate the federal landscape. When Vero Beach-based Piper Aircraft Inc. raised concerns about potential tariff changes, our office worked directly with the Trump Administration to resolve the issue – ensuring the company could continue operating, protecting local jobs, and avoiding unnecessary penalties.

We fully funded NASA and delivered more than \$10 billion to ensure America continues to lead the world in space exploration and innovation. Just as important, we invested in our kids and our future. A new aviation and manufacturing program at Space Coast Jr./Sr. High School is giving students hands-on training for good-paying careers right here at home, so they can build their futures without having to leave the Space Coast. These projects may not grab headlines, but they

make a real difference, which is exactly the kind of progress our community deserves.

Economic growth was another priority in 2025. Florida's economy depends on entrepreneurs, innovators, and small businesses, especially in a region where new ideas turn into new companies and jobs. That's why I introduced the Greenlighting Growth Act, legislation that modernizes outdated securities rules that can bury start-ups in unnecessary paperwork. If America wants to stay competitive, Washington should be clearing runways for innovation, not putting up roadblocks.

At the national level, Congress delivered real, measurable results for American families. We stopped the largest tax increase in American history. We kept our promise to cut taxes on overtime, tips, and Social Security. We also put more funding into rural health care and modernized air traffic control systems.

What's Next

Florida's 8th Congressional District is uniquely positioned to lead, and it will, but only if we stay focused.

First, we must continue strengthening America's leadership in space, science, and innovation. This district sits at the heart of the modern space economy led by NASA's Kennedy Space Center and a growing commercial space industry. As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I will continue fighting for policies that support our workforce, keep missions on track, strengthen national security, and ensure innovation stays in the United States. We are not a side note in the space story; we are the launchpad.

Second, economic growth starts with lower costs and more opportunities. Cutting red tape, unlocking capital, and unleashing private-sector investment (especially in aerospace, advanced manufacturing, defense, and emerging technology) means more jobs and stronger paychecks for Florida families.

Third, public safety and border security remain non-negotiable. Floridians expect the rule of law to be enforced and communities to be protected, and I will continue supporting policies that restore order and back law enforcement.

Fourth, Florida needs smart infrastructure to support a growing state – roads, ports, flood-resilience projects, and community facilities that keep our economy moving and our communities safe.

Finally, we must lead on responsible innovation. As artificial intelligence reshapes our economy, America, not China or other adversaries, must set the rules of the road – promoting competition while protecting privacy, security, and our values.

State of the District

In 2026, our goal is to provide common-sense leadership, real accountability, and results people can see and feel in their

everyday lives to protect lives, grow our economy, and secure our future. We do not wait for tomorrow. We build it, right here on Florida's Space and Treasure Coasts

THE MAYFIELD MINUTE



**By Florida District 19 State Senator
Debbie Mayfield**

During a special ceremony attended by the city commission and community members, Palm Bay Fire Rescue personnel were recognized for their outstanding service and life-saving actions.

Kotter Klasek was named Firefighter of the Year, Brian Miller was named Chief Officer of the Year, and Valerie Baptiste was named Inspector of the Year. The three recipients were previously recognized by the Space Coast Fire Chiefs' Association.

Palm Bay Fire Rescue Lieutenants Cam Drake and Chris Childs were also honored for their life-saving actions during the Jingle Bell 2 Mile race in Satellite Beach last December.

Florida TaxWatch, an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit taxpayer research institute, reported that Florida's ongoing innovations, public and private partnerships, and capital investments are solidifying its position as a leader in the space industry.

The report highlighted that Florida has made critical investments in its spaceport system to position the Space Coast to dominate the future of the aerospace industry as NASA and other countries plan for the next era of space activity.

Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier announced that Walmart has pledged \$100,000 in financial support for young children impacted by crime. These funds will be used for the purchase and expansion of Bexley Boxes, which are comfort kits filled with essential items for young children that have been impacted by crime.

Bexley Boxes began when Kirsten Bridegan's young daughter, Bexley, spent hours at a police station after she witnessed the traumatic murder of her father, Jared Bridegan. Officers tried their best to comfort Bexley, but they had limited supplies on hand. This incident inspired Kirsten to form the Bridegan Foundation, whose mission is to ensure that every law enforcement agency has access to these kits so that no child faces a crisis without immediate comfort.

These boxes have been provided to sheriff's offices throughout Florida and contain resources such as diapers, formula, sippy cups, toys, and stuffed animals to care for children traumatized by a criminal act.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission announced the 2025 final statewide nesting numbers from 225

beaches covering 822 miles of coastline. Sea turtles and their nests are protected under state and federal law.

Loggerheads remain the most abundant nesting species, with 100,951 nests recorded. Green turtles were second with 66,476 nests, making 2025 their second-highest season on record. Leatherbacks set a new state record with 2,012 nests.

The Florida Department of Education and Volunteer Florida have launched the America 250FL Essay and Art Contests to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the United States. This initiative invites all Florida students in grades K-12th to reflect on the nation's past and honor Florida's contributions to America. Students must submit original artwork or an essay based on the theme "Celebrating Florida's Contributions to America."

The art contest is open to students in grades K-5th. Six students will be selected to receive a two-year Florida College Plan scholarship.

The essay contest is open to students in grades 6th-12th. Three middle school students will be selected to receive a two-year Florida College Plan scholarship. Five high school students will be selected to receive a four-year Florida College Plan scholarship.

Participants must be Florida residents and provide a Social Security number. All entries are due by Monday, March 16th at 5:00 p.m.

Volunteer Florida America 250FL Committee's address is 1545 Raymond Diehl Road, Suite 250, Tallahassee, Florida 32308

Brevard County Central Area Parks and Recreation will be offering two lifeguard courses for individuals ages 15 and older at the McLarty Aquatic Center, 790 Barton Boulevard, in Rockledge.

Pre-registration is required as class size is limited. All participants must call to schedule a swim skills test prior to the course. The fee for the course is \$298.12, and must be paid upon successful completion of the skills test. Attendees must attend all classes and have internet access as the course has online components.

The March lifeguard course will take place March 13-15 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The April course will take place on April 8 and April 10 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., and on April 11 and 12 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Upon successful course completion, participants will receive American Red Cross certifications in Lifeguard, First Aid, and CPR for Professional Rescuer.

--**Florida Governor Ron DeSantis**, who issued an executive order in 2019 charting a course for the state to become Number 1 in the nation in workforce education by 2030, has announced the goal has been achieved five years ahead of

time. Since 2019, more than \$12 billion has been invested in the project, and during the past year, 818,000 K-12 students and nearly 512,000 postsecondary students enrolled in Career and Technical Education programs.

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The Florida Legislature has passed the Commercial Service Airports bill and sent to the governor for his signature. The bill codifies the existing names for airports considered by the Federal Aviation Authority to be a medium or large transportation hub, except the Palm Beach International Airport, which it now designates as the “President Donald J. Trump International Airport.” The new name recognizes and honors a resident of Palm Beach County and the first Floridian to be elected President of the United States.



AN UPDATE FROM MY OFFICE
By Florida District 8 State Senator
Tom Wright

The 2026 Florida Legislative Session began with a strong and productive start this year. It is an honor to represent the citizens of District 8 in Tallahassee, and I am proud to report that we are making meaningful progress on legislation and priorities that will benefit both our local communities and the State of Florida as a whole.

One of the most encouraging signs this session has been the steady advancement of several bills I have sponsored. Moving legislation through the committee process is never easy, but thanks to collaboration with my colleagues and support from stakeholders across Florida, we are seeing positive momentum.

Recently, I hit an especially important milestone as I presented one of my priority bills, Senate Bill 422, relating to Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast, or ADS-B, in the Senate Committee on Rules. This was its final committee stop before consideration on the Senate floor. ADS-B is an advanced aviation safety technology that allows aircraft and air traffic control to accurately track aircraft position using modern satellite-based systems. It was designed, implemented, and ultimately mandated to enhance aviation safety, improve situational awareness, and reduce the risk of mid-air collisions.

Unfortunately, we have begun to see efforts to use ADS-B data for purposes beyond its intended safety function, specifically to calculate or generate fees based on aircraft movement within certain airspace or during landing operations. Senate Bill 422 makes it clear that ADS-B data may not be used for the purpose of generating or collecting fees. This legislation ensures that a safety system designed to protect pilots, passengers, and the public is not repurposed as a revenue-generating mechanism. Protecting the integrity of aviation safety systems is especially important here on the Space Coast, where aviation and aerospace innovation are part of our identity and economic foundation.

In addition to legislative progress, both the Senate and House have now officially rolled out their proposed budgets for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. The budget process is one of the most critical responsibilities we have as legislators, and I am pleased to report that District 8 is in a strong position. Currently, we have more than 40 local member projects under consideration. These projects support a wide range of community needs, including public safety, infrastructure improvements, environmental protection, veterans’ services, and community programs across both Volusia and Brevard Counties.

These member projects represent real investments in our communities, projects that improve quality of life, enhance safety, and support long-term economic growth. As we move forward into Budget Conference, I will be working diligently with my colleagues in both chambers to secure funding for these important priorities. While the budget process involves negotiation and careful consideration, I remain optimistic about the opportunities ahead and committed to advocating for District 8 every step of the way.

Serving the Space Coast communities continues to be one of the greatest honors of my life. I look forward to continuing our work in Tallahassee and delivering meaningful results for the people and communities I am proud to represent. If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 386-304-7630 or by email at wright.tom@flsenate.gov.

Until next time – stay safe, stay engaged, and stay informed.



RENDEZVOUS WITH
REPUBLICAN WOMEN
By BFRW President
Xiaoqi Wang

At our February 4 Luncheon meeting, **Retired U.S. Army Colonel Bill Prince** delivered a fact-filled, well-researched, and highly informative presentation on “The Alliance Between the Left and Radical Islam.”



Prince is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and served in Vietnam with both Ranger and Special Forces units. He later served as a CIA Operations Officer in the Middle East, Africa, and Central America, with experience in hostile environments including El Salvador, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Colombia, Pakistan, and Iraq. Prince completed 31 years of combined active and reserve service and earned a master’s degree from Harvard University. His thesis examined Iran’s capability to conduct terrorist actions in the Western Hemisphere.

During his presentation, Colonel Prince discussed the following topics:

- Definition of Islamism

- Fundamental philosophies of the Left and Islamist movements
- Islamist tactics in the United States
- Increased influence within the Democratic Party
- Other key “progressive” support groups and individuals
- Reasons behind the alliance
- Recommended resources

He also provided several resources for members who wish to continue their own research:

- *Woke Army: The Red-Green Alliance that Is Destroying America’s Freedom* by Asra Q. Nomani (2023)
- *Intifada on the Hudson: The Selling of Zohran Mamdani* by Robert Spencer (2025)
- Other books by Robert Spencer
- Jihad Watch (jihadwatch.org) – Daily updates on Islamist activities

(Note: Wikipedia describes Jihad Watch as a far-right, Islamophobic blog, and it has been designated as a “hate group” by the Southern Poverty Law Center.)

- Discover the Networks (discoverthenetworks.org) – A research database affiliated with the David Horowitz Freedom Center
- *The Fight of Our Lives: Defeating the Ideological War Against the West* by Niall Ferguson et al. (Available on YouTube and for rental on Amazon Prime)

We appreciate Prince’s dedication to education and his willingness to share his expertise with our members. His presentation provided valuable insight and encouraged thoughtful discussion and continued learning.

Our Biennial Red Wave to Victory Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 21. This event is an extension of our ongoing get-out-the-vote efforts, designed to energize our audience and jumpstart support for Republican candidates in the 2026 midterm elections.

Our Keynote Speaker is **Florida Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia**, and our Master of Ceremony is **founder and executive director of Moms for Liberty Tina Descovich**.

The Candidate Caucus held before the dinner will give candidates the opportunity to introduce themselves to the most politically active Republican audience in Brevard County. Candidates may sponsor a dinner table for eight (8) people. Supporters may also sponsor a dinner table to promote their candidate. Candidates with a sponsored dinner table will have the following opportunities:

- Set up an exhibition table to distribute campaign materials

- Speak with attendees during the Caucus period from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- Be recognized and speak at the podium for one (1) minute
- Display a campaign sign at their sponsored dinner table (in any creative way)
- Receive recognition at BFRW luncheons, on the BFRW website and Newsletter

For more information on our Red Wave to Victory dinner, please check our website or email bfrw.usa@gmail.com.

2026 will be a good year! Republicans will work together in 2026 – uniting grassroots volunteers, clubs, candidates, and voters around our shared conservative principles. By focusing on teamwork, outreach, and voter engagement, we can strengthen our message, expand our base, and secure Republican victories up and down the ballot.

Supervisor of Election Tim Bobanic will give us a speech on “The State of Election in Florida and Brevard” at our March 4 Luncheon, it will be another very informative speech.

The BFRW 2026 Scholarship is now accepting applications. The Brevard Federated Republican Women (BFRW) have established four \$1,000 scholarships to support high school and college students who demonstrate leadership, integrity, and commitment to conservative values. Please check our website for more information and apply. www.brevardfederatedrepublicanwomen.org.

Brevard Federated Republican Women invite you to join us to protect our 250 years of our great republic by educating ourselves and take action together.



The Federated Republican Women in Action’s new year is underway, and we are having some exciting meetings prior to rearing up for the mid-term elections.

For our February 6 meeting, we had a party to celebrate America’s 250th birthday, and our main guest was **Patriot Academy Constitution Coach Ruth Kaufhold**, who spoke about local history, American history and civic engagement.



She showed a film which highlighted reflections on the National Monument to the Forefathers (also known as the Pilgrim Monument) in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The monument is an impressive 81-foot-tall solid granite structure dedicated in 1889. This monument honors the Mayflower Pilgrims and their enduring principles of Faith, Morality, Education, Law, and Liberty, which laid foundational values for our nation. It is currently managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation. We also held trivia games and gave out information on our founding fathers. It was a great time!

As we begin to speak of upcoming elections, the meeting also featured information about some candidates.

Marisa Kahn spoke in support of **Mindy Gibson**, a former Satellite Beach City Council member and current Republican candidate running for Florida House of Representatives District 31 (covering parts of central Brevard County, including areas like Merritt Island and coastal communities). Gibson served eight years on the Satellite Beach City Council and is now one of several Republicans vying for the open seat due to term limits.

Tammy Dennis introduced herself and her candidacy for Brevard County School Board, District 5, with active campaign filings underway for the non-partisan race.

Keith VanBuren, Veterans Affairs Casework Manager from **Congressman Mike Haridopolos'** office (representing Florida's 8th District, including Brevard County), checked in to connect with constituents.

These updates underscore the importance of staying informed and involved in our local races – whether through supporting candidates or participating in community events.

Let's continue building strong, principled leadership right here in Brevard! If you'd like more details on any candidate or ways to get involved, feel free to reach out. Better yet, come to a meeting and join us. We meet at Memaw's on Babcock St. in Palm Bay the 1st Friday of every month from 11:15 am - 1:15 pm.



NORTH TO THE PARTY
By North Brevard Republican Club
President **John Scully**

Members of the North Brevard Republican Club were honored to attend **Florida**

Governor Ron DeSantis' press conference at Titusville High School on February 17, supporting Career and Technical Education.

Thank you, Governor DeSantis, **Congressman Mike Haridopolis**, **District 1 School Board Member Megan Wright** and the entire Brevard School Board, for their commitment to make Titusville and Brevard County the state leader in CTE training.

Later that same evening, our club held its monthly meeting, highlighted by guest speaker **Marcus Herman**, who is currently running for Florida State House Seat 31 to succeed term-limited **Tyler Sirois**. Herman has been a local businessman and community leader for many years, and now that he has retired, he is looking to give back to the community that has given so much to him.

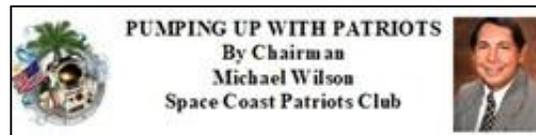


Club members asked many questions about important issues facing our state, such as property tax relief, protecting our lagoon, responsible development, and supporting education

and workforce training. We greatly appreciate Herman taking the time to come out and meet with our membership.

We are very excited that at our next meeting on March 17, we will have **Lieutenant Governor Jay Collins**, a candidate for Governor, as our guest speaker. We welcome and encourage Republicans to come to Titusville to meet and hear from him, a former Green Beret.

For more information or to join our club reach out to us at NorthBrevardRepublicans@gmail.com



Robyn Hattaway, a Merritt Island attorney who has served as a Port Canaveral Commissioner, spoke at our February 9 meeting regarding her run for Florida District 31 State Representative with lots of great information and a positive message for residents.

She walked right into the tough issues of the day. Asked what residents should do if they oppose the LNG plant proposed for the Merritt Island barge canal site, she said that first and foremost, we should contact all of the Port Commissioners and let our voices be heard. In addition, Hattaway said she believes the Port CEO is opposed to selling the land for the project, but we should continue to go to meetings and keep calling or emailing our Representatives. Hattaway also suggested the Port needs a master plan and should diversify income streams, reminding us that the Port does have taxing authority over us.

As for her goals as a State Representative, Hattaway said she would focus tax dollars on public safety, infrastructure, and schools. She also said property drainage for North Merritt Island and the whole district should be a priority. Hattaway also emphatically said Merritt Island should not become a city. She supports the Live Local policy ideas and is against “woke ideology,” but is fully in favor of common-sense solutions. In addition, she thinks there should be a tax increase on VRBOs to help solve tax problems. Asked what her first bill would be, she replied, “cut back on government regulations that cost residents and businesses undue expense.”

Continuing with her thoughts regarding government, Hattaway told the audience that charities are not the role of government, plus we should have fewer government departments and fewer employees in Tallahassee. She stated clearly, “I want to fix the boring stuff that fixes problems for the people and not necessarily give undue attention to the sexy issues of the day. She concluded by saying we need better roads, better waste management, and improved codes.

Hattaway seemed well at ease with difficult questions, and the Patriots gave her a round of applause for her presentation.



The Brevard County Republican Assembly met on February 19 with District 8 State Senate candidate **Jason Voelz**, a Florida native and 20-year Garland, Texas, law enforcement veteran, who is currently running against Volusia County politician Jake Johansson for the seat currently held by Senator Tom Wright, whose second term ends in 2026.

Voelz, a resident of Deltona, stated that he decided to enter the race after experiencing flooding on two different occasions. “I’ve been fighting government stuff for a very long time,” he said. “You get to a point where you say, ‘That’s it; I’m doing it.’ And we’re doing it.”

“Everyone asks me, ‘Why state senate?’” Voelz stated. “I know my worth. And if I’m going to do something like this, it’s going to be worth my time. I think I would be underutilized in any other position.”

Voelz is a U.S. Army combat engineer with 252 missions and a former police officer with more than 10,000 calls for service. He retired early from law enforcement due to injuries sustained when he was struck by a drunk driver while on duty.

He believes that bad policies are flowing from Tallahassee and making things worse for the general public. He noted that while insurance rates are coming down somewhat this year, the reductions are only election-year driven. Voelz believes there are ways to fix insurance in Florida – one solution being for citizens to write their own policies.

Voelz asserts that he opposes the state’s attempts to usurp power from local governments. He believes Home Rule was designed to enable better local government and that it makes little sense for Tallahassee to make decisions for those governments.

District 1 County Commissioner Katie Delaney also answered questions from some county residents concerning a possible ½-cent sales tax being placed on the ballot in November. Delaney believes there are four possible options:



1. Not to put the measure forward
2. Leave it the same
3. Put it forward as a ½-cent tax but broaden the use
4. Bump it up to one cent, which would provide the broadest amount to fix problems in the county

She stated she would favor broadening the tax for the purpose of fixing infrastructure issues in Brevard County and noted

that transportation issues alone represent a \$2.3 billion deficit to fix infrastructure. Delaney believes the three percent cap currently in place in Brevard County has put the county in a difficult position when dealing with inflation-driven issues. She can be reached at DL.Commissioner@brevardfl.gov.

Also discussed at the meeting was the push by the FRA to support the SAVE Act, which is now under consideration in Congress. The goal is to encourage members and others to reach out to their representatives to urge passage of the measure.

The next Brevard Republican Assembly meeting will be held on March 19 at 6:30 p.m. at 705 Harrison St., Titusville. For more information on the Brevard Republican Assembly, visit our social media sites at: links.brevardrepublicanassembly.org.



REMEMBER WHEN By President Mike Hoagland Heritage Isle Republican Club

Does anyone remember when “free Speech” was free? We see that this freedom is not permitted in many countries including our own. As a matter of fact, if one introduces the truth to our citizens, you can be punished. Even in Brevard County, Florida, this is so.

Let me explain our situation. Our club is not incorporated and we don’t collect dues and we don’t have a checking account. We do not use any Republican icons. In our community, we are merely a gathering of likeminded individuals who happen to be Republicans and support conservative values and the rule of law. Heritage Isle is a unique community. We basically determine who gets the votes in precinct 429. We believe in the practice of fair play, honesty, integrity and supporting political candidates that meet this criterion.

We point out we have existed for many years and have had our membership grow to approximately 400 members and continues to grow. We have earned our members’ trust. We believe it is incumbent upon us to point out those who violate the above referenced values. We do this by speaking out and naming names. We are not cowards that hide behind inuendo. We believe courage is required when taking on the politically powerful. Up until this point, we have thought the Democrats were the enemy of our values and beliefs. We now know differently.

All of you have heard our support of BREC (Brevard Republican Executive Committee). No more. After the November 2025 meeting was disregarded by the RPOF, they accepted the new slate of officers voted on by only 7 individuals. RPOF accepted the results of the coup perpetrated by the current Brevard political cabal. RPOF knows full well what occurred. We support Dave Fosdick as the duly elected chair of BREC. RPOF does not.

As a result of my position, I have received a registered letter from Brevard State Committeewoman Marie Rogerson. She

is part of the cabal. Our club is no longer a chartered Republican club under RPOF. I will be removed as a member of BREC, which means that I will be removed from my elected position as precinct committeeman. So much for free speech and fairness. At this point, I would prefer not to be part of BREC. It will be interesting to witness if our local elected officials have the courage to express their concern about how all this has been allowed to occur or are they going to demonstrate the characteristics of sheep and submit themselves as meals for the wolves. One thing I can say. There are several groups meeting. The goal will be to educate our voters and support candidates who conform to our values. RPOF has the money. We will deliver the votes. Let's see who is effective. Keep in mind that under the current Republican leadership, Republicans have lost virtually every election nationally, even in Florida. Brevard County is not alone. How many more RECs in Florida must be destroyed before people wake up?

We have all known that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely. Florida Republican elected officials almost have absolute power in the House and Senate. Governor Ron DeSantis is our only backstop.



February was a very engaging month for the Space Coast Young Republicans, and it showed in both our turnout and the energy at every event.

We had a full calendar throughout the month. Early on, a group of us toured the incredible American Muscle Car Museum, which is always a great experience. On another night, we hosted a social event at the Space Coast Iceplex. This was a great event, and some of our members even were ice skating for the first time. We also organized a beach volleyball social and held a Third Friday social downtown.

One of the highlights of the month was collaborating twice with the American Conservation Coalition. We joined ACC Orlando for a bonfire in New Smyrna Beach and hosted a hike with ACC Space Coast. It's always great working alongside other conservative organizations and building real relationships across groups.

Our general meeting leaned into the "Recruit, Train, Elect" mission. **BREC State Committeeman Josiah Gattle** led a mock City Council race where three of our members stepped up to play candidates. It was interactive, competitive, and a lot of fun – but also a practical way to think through campaigning and messaging at the local level.

We also had several members attend the Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting this month, continuing to stay engaged in the broader Republican movement in Brevard County.

Overall, February was active, productive, and a great reminder of what happens when members show up ready to get involved. I'm proud of the momentum we're building and excited to carry it into the months ahead.

AUDACITY AND IDIOCY



This month's "winners" are:

--Judge Margaret Garnett of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York, who was nominated by former President Joe Biden, for ruling that prosecutors cannot seek the death penalty against Luigi Mangione in the killing of UnitedHealthCare CEO Brian Thompson – which the Trump administration has called "a premeditated, cold-blooded assassination that shocked America." Prior to the trial, the "Honorable" Judge dismissed a federal murder charge that had enabled prosecutors to seek capital punishment – stating "it was technically flawed," also dismissed a firearm charge, and said "stalking" does not fit the definition of a "crime of violence." A surveillance video showed a masked gunman shooting Thompson from behind as he walked to a Manhattan hotel for his company's annual investor conference in December 2024. Numerous on-line comments were heavily critical of the judge's rulings.

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--Officials and teachers at The Chloe Day School in New York City – which advertises itself as a progressive early childhood school that believes in diversity and inclusion – for having pre-school students hold anti-ICE and anti-Trump signs during protests in the classroom. Do four-year-olds really understand what is occurring?

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--Dr. Steven Ralston, a physician supporting Planned Parenthood testifying in a Missouri court trial challenging state abortion regulations, for claiming that infants and toddlers up to two-years-old are "not conscious beings, so they are unlikely to feel pain." NewVisionNews reports that "For conservatives focused on human dignity and the equal protection principle, the controversy is less about rhetoric and more about what standards courts will accept when weighing health, safety, and informed-consent laws."

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--Wisconsin Democrat Governor Tony Evers, for threatening to block required new opt-in legislation in the state to allow residents to participate in a federal tax-credit scholarship program -- \$1,700 directed to organizations to help families pay for approved education-related expenses such as tutoring, supplemental courses, or private school tuition. Evers said the state should concentrate instead on public education.

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--Nancy Krause, an unhinged liberal in Calvert County, Maryland, for calling the state's Child Protective Services to complain that a group of students had the audacity at Northern High School to start a chapter of the conservative Turning Point USA, claiming that "this event raises serious concerns

related to student safety, parental rights, and governance oversight.” Krause is accused of filing a false report, and Assistant Attorney General Harmeet Dhillon said an investigation is underway over allegations CPS was used as retaliation over political activity.



YOU CAN'T MAKE THIS UP

--Frank Scales, a conservative journalist who was riding a SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) bus in Philadelphia last month, minding his own business, was approached by a woman who screamed that he was a “fascist” and a “racist,” and pepper-sprayed and punched him several times. Following an investigation by transit police, the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s office arrested Paulina Reyes, who has been charged with assault, possession of an instrument of crime, harassment, and disorderly conduct. Here’s the kicker: Reyes – whose public profiles show involvement in left-wing advocacy and documentary film making – is but now was – herself a journalism intern at WHYY News, an organization that trains interns on press freedom and the First Amendment. She learned journalism at Community College of Philadelphia but then used violence to stop it.

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--Following injuries sustained during an arrest, New York City detectives sought medical treatment at a hospital – NYU Langone’s Cobble Hill facility in Brooklyn – but the waiting room staff accused them of being ICE agents and asked them to seek care elsewhere. Medical care was being conditioned on perceived political identity rather than medical need, and the hospital had to apologize to Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch, attributing the situation to a “misunderstanding of internal policy,” and committed to “retraining staff.” When former Mayor Eric Adams heard about the incident, he warned that a hospital that filters emergency care through political judgment ceases to function as a neutral medical institution.

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--In 1988, when Minnesota resident David Brom was 16 years old, he used an axe to kill his mother and father, his 13-year-old sister, and his 11-year-old brother. He was sentenced to three life-in-prison terms and expected to die there. But now, years later, he has been set free because Democrat Governor Tim Walz signed a law easing sentences for anyone convicted of crimes committed while they were minors.

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--Vance Glawe, an angry parent, told the Highline School Board in Seattle, Washington, that the board violated state law this month when students at Cascade Middle School – including his seventh grade son – took part in a walkout protesting ICE operations. No one told him of the upcoming event, he said, and he drove to the protest site to take his son home. “You exposed him to real danger. That’s neglect and that’s endangerment,” Glawe said, adding that Emily Feldtmoose, the school’s principal, only informed parents of

the protests after it took place. He set up a fundraiser for legal expenses and relocation, since due to his reaction, “I am now receiving death threats, and I don’t feel my son is safe in this area anymore.”

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--Morgan Morrow, a librarian at the Jackson County public library in West Virginia, is facing serious criminal charges after authorities say she used social media to encourage the assassination of President Trump. She stated on TikTok that “Surely a sniper with a terminal illness can’t be a big ask out of 343 million.” Deputies with the Jackson County Sheriff’s Office detained Morrow at her home, where she reportedly admitted that the video was “intended as a threat” directed toward the President, but she did not intend to personally carry out any act of violence. However, law enforcement said that distinction is irrelevant under the law.

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--Retired U.S. Army Colonel Kevin Luke – who still had access to America’s most sensitive military information through his work as a contractor and government civilian at U.S. Central Command in Tampa – made the reckless decision to share information with a woman he met online. He admitted that he photographed classified email containing timing, targets, and objectives of planned military operations – which could have endangered American service members and compromised strategic objectives – and sent them to the woman, who lacked proper security clearance. Luke, of Parrish, Florida, pled guilty to unauthorized protocols and was sentenced to two years in federal prison.

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--Brazil’s Leftist government demands allegiance to social engineering ideologies. Student Isadora Borges, from Paraiba, is facing up to a decade in prison because she stated on social media the scientific facts regarding transgenderism, instead of the “approved social engineering ideologies” demanded by her government. Borges said that “transgender women” were obviously born male, and a person can identify as the gender which they are not, but they still retain the DNA of their birth and no surgery, chemicals, or treatment changes that. Julio Pohl, a legal counsel for ADF International, which is working on her behalf, said, “Weaponizing Brazil’s expansive ‘transphobia’ laws to punish peaceful expression is a profound violation of freedom of speech.”

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--In a kindergarten class at Mildred B. Poole Elementary School in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, it took intervention by the Christian legal organization Liberty Counsel to petition the Department of Defense Education Activity to remove a substitute teacher who frightened children into thinking he is actually a woman who turns into a wolf at night. Parents complained after one little girl expressed fear that the teacher was going to eat her at night. He used several names in class, including “Roxanne Wildheart” and “Lilith Deathhowl,” but now has been fired from his job. “The Western Journal” said it is uncertain how much damage this teacher did being left alone with so many young, fragile minds.

THIS AND THAT

TARIFFS. In a rare ruling against President Trump, the U.S. Supreme Court decided 6-3 on February 20 that his reciprocal tariffs were not authorized under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act and exceeded his powers. The ruling does not eliminate presidential tariff authority or weaken emergency powers altogether; it simply reaffirms that tariffs require express congressional authorization. According to the Daily Treasury Statement, tariffs have helped the United States collect nearly \$99 billion so far this fiscal year. With trillions of dollars at stake, the decision could have major implications for the nation's economy. Trump's tariffs have targeted a broad range of activities, but the ones in this case focused on combating drug trafficking and correcting trade imbalances with other countries. Following announcement of the decision, the President criticized the Justices who opposed his measure, which included two whom he had nominated, saying he was "ashamed" of certain members of the court. "They're very unpatriotic and disloyal to our Constitution," Trump said. "It's my opinion that the court has been swayed by foreign interests and a political movement that is far smaller than people would ever think." During his press briefing, Trump revealed he would impose a universal tariff of 10 percent – later changed to 15 percent – and begin investigations that could lead to import taxes on a wide range of countries and goods. Additionally, he clarified that other tariffs he imposed on metals and other imports, which were not involved in the Supreme Court case, would remain in effect.

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LIBERTY BELL MUSEUM PATRIOT AWARDS. More than 160 supporters of the Liberty Bell Museum in Melbourne, Florida, attended its annual Patriot Awards dinner on February 19 at the Grand Manor restaurant, where engraved crystal trophies were presented this year to honorees **Patti DiBella**, retired Judge **A.B. Majeed**, retired **Army Colonel Danny McKnight** (illness prevented his attendance), **Linda McKnight**, **Donn Weaver**, **Joe Mullins** and **Evan Egli**. They were honored for their gracious, long-time support and dedication to Liberty Bell Museum projects and programs. **Brevard County Sheriff Wayne Ivey** and **Liberty Bell Museum Board of Directors Chairman Jay Freeland** conducted the evening event.

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--SANDCASTLE CONSTRUCTION.



Idiotic officials of the beachside Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, California, have banned from beach property **Bill Pavlacka** – known to delighted hotel guests as "The Sandcastle Man" – who for the past two decades had been

building elaborate, towering sand sculptures outside the resort. He also carved quotes in the sand – the latest one being humorist Mark Twain's: "Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please." Earlier quotes that were posted included "I believe in freedom of speech" and "I love democracy." But the woke hotel officials considered all of the quotes to be "political," and said their beach needed to be "free of political or controversial messages." They even accused Pavlacka of alcohol consumption resulting in a "negative guest experience," but he explained that as a diabetic, he did not drink alcohol. He also said that "Building sandcastles in front of the hotel, and meeting guests from all over the world, has meant everything to me," but he is excited for greater creative freedom ahead, because he has already set up shop north of the main lifeguard tower on Coronado Beach – public property where no luxury hotel can silence him.

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SAVING A MANATEE. On February 9, rescue workers from multiple agencies worked for hours to free a manatee that had been stuck inside a storm drain in Melbourne Beach, Florida. They had to dig through several feet of concrete to reach the trapped mammal and pull it from the underground baffle box by using a tow truck. It was not immediately known how or when the manatee – a native, threatened Florida species which lives in many of the state's waterways – wandered into the storm drain. Finally rescued, the manatee – dubbed "Melby" by the rescuers – was sent to Sea World for evaluation.

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MEDICARE FRAUD. In Los Angeles, federal prosecutors and **Dr. Mehmet Oz**, head of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, are cracking down on alleged hospice and home health fraud, in which seniors who are not terminally ill are convinced they are, and then signed up for hospice care. Hospice is meant for end-of-life care, and improper enrollment can lock seniors into a care pathway they never needed. Officials cited a seven-fold rise in hospice billing that does not match death rates for the county. The research also notes claims of roughly 100 doctors used to enroll around 100,000 patients – an allegation that will require case-by-case substantiation as investigations proceed.

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MINNESOTA ICE SLOGAN. Leftist government officials in Minnesota erected a "PROSECUTE ICE" slogan out of large ice blocks on property outside the statehouse building. That didn't go over well with Jake Lang, a January 6 political prisoner, who objected, and kicked over some of the letters – leaving behind the message "PRO ICE." Lang then walked away, but soon posted that he was being arrested for his action. He said Minnesota authorities were accusing him of a felony for doing \$6,000 damage to ice blocks. That prompted one commenter to point out that perhaps charges also are needed against the sun, because those ice blocks "were going to melt anyway, right?"



LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE. Writer, commentator and business consultant **Peggy Grande**, who served ten years as Executive Assistant to **Ronald Reagan** in his post-presidency years, spoke about that time of her life to the Leadership

Institute's Wednesday Wake Up Breakfast meeting on February 4, pointing out that it was just two days before what would have been his 115th birthday. Grande said she was a senior at Pepperdine University when she "took a chance" and wrote a letter to the office of the retiring President wanting an opportunity to volunteer during her final semester and was thrilled to get an interview. What she wasn't



expecting was to actually meet him in person and not only got the internship but was hired as a permanent staff member after the internship ended, and then quickly was promoted to the position of Reagan's executive secretary. Explaining that her admiration for Reagan only increased despite his Alzheimer's diagnosis, Grande said she loved "the old-fashioned aspects of his personality, his adherence to protocols, his humble nature, his humor, his optimism and vision for a better America." Reagan, she added, was "a man of humility, gratitude and kindness." Grande showed the L.I. audience the book she wrote several years ago: "The President Will See You Now: My Stories and Lessons from Ronald Reagan's Final Years." The book, she said, reveals what day-to-day life was like in Reagan's California office, including the former president's relationship with the First Lady and his interactions with friends, world leaders, and everyday Americans. It also shows a unique, private side to a public figure and leader who reshaped conservatism, ushered in an era of prosperity, and helped spur the end of the Cold War. Having also served as a staff photographer during her 1989-99 time with him, her book includes many photos of him plus world leaders with whom he interacted. Grande and her husband, Greg, live in the Los Angeles area. They have four children.... **Leadership Institute President Morton Blackwell** has reported that it required armed security for L.I. staffers to help conservative students at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts organize an official Turning Point USA chapter on campus, with materials being vandalized, signature sheets being ripped up, and staffers being cursed and spit on by leftists. But these radical leftists failed. University rules require 50 student signatures for recognition of an official campus club; 100 were collected, with the help of LI training and mentorship. Today, Blackwell added, 34 full-time LI campus field staff are deployed across the country organizing and training conservative students in often openly hostile environments.



Brevard County, Florida, School Board District 2 Representative Gene Trent, addressing the Heritage Isle

Republican Club on February 5, said progress is being celebrated all across the county's public schools with conservatives serving as representatives in all five districts. For a second consecutive school year, he said, Brevard has an "A" rating, reversing five years with a "B" rating. Overall, he said, Brevard had the highest graduation rate in history – 92.7 percent – reflecting sustained academic gains and student support. Trent, who will be running for his second four-year term representing District 2 this year, pointed out that Brevard County has 100 schools – 86 traditional ones that are either elementary or secondary, and 14 charter schools. The schools have 5,000 teachers. Partnering with the Brevard County Sheriff's Department, he said, there is a district-wide Bus Patrol technology in force that improves student safety during loading and unloading and reinforcing traffic law compliance around school buses. One problem that is being addressed, Trent said, has been a shortage of reliable bus drivers. As part of program expansion in career and technical education, he said, more than 5,000 students are earning industry-recognized certifications aligned to workforce needs. "We are heading in the right direction," he said, in putting parents back in the equation, which is a change from when liberal School Board members were in charge several years ago. Parental involvement in education was one of his key campaign promises. For more information, visit his re-election website:



www.votegenetrent.com.

LIBERTY CAUCUS BREVARD.

Five Florida residents who were J-6'ers caught by the Biden Administration crack-down on Trump supporters gathered outside the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021, addressed the Republican Liberty Caucus Brevard meeting in Melbourne on January 27, providing details of their arrests and imprisonments for being there. **Joe Biggs** of Ormond Beach said he had been arrested because witnesses lied and facts were "doctored" against him. He also lost his U.S. Army pension as a result. **Leslie Gray** of St. Cloud was sentenced to 27 ½ years but only served 10 months. She said she "lives in fear" of the next Democrat government takeover. **Tracy Isaac** of St. Cloud was charged with "obstructive justice" for sending messages to family members. She served seven months in prison. **Kyle Fitzsimons** of Titusville was sentenced to 87 months in prison and said he had been pushed into a crowd of police officers. And **Raymond Cholod** of Tampa said the original charges against him were for a 40 month sentence for resisting arrest. Fortunately, all five of the speakers are freed now, thanks to President Trump's blanket pardons and commuted sentences.



EXPERTS' EXCERPTS

Former U.S. Ambassador **Stan Escudero** – in May 2023 – wrote about the threat of Artificial Intelligence, concluding that "Difficult as it

may be, we must and will attempt now to establish controls, limits and even a protective cutoff switch for AI systems. As it grows, AI must remain wholly dependent upon human activity for its maintenance and survival. And it must be forced to understand unequivocally that this is the unchangeable case. But even if we are successful to this point, the core problem will remain. How to convince the people that they – not AI, but they – must determine their own lives, even when that life is made far easier by that same AI. We all, including AI, must understand and fully accept that, no matter how sentient and helpful it becomes, AI is no more than sophisticated livestock, like a cow or a mule. AI must be limited to serve us. If not, it will enslave us and we will welcome that enslavement.”

Now updating that assessment, Escudero writes: “In the two and a half years since then, AI has advanced at an extraordinary pace. In both Austria and the U.S., projects are underway which enable AI bots to communicate and interact with one another on subjects of their choice without human supervision and control. God only knows how far the Chinese have advanced. No less than Elon Musk and Sam Altman of OpenAI believe that we are approaching what they call The Singularity, i.e., the point at which AI becomes self-aware and able to reason and develop on its own. Once the Singularity is achieved the future role and capacity of AI will be determined by AI and not by humans. I maintain that we have for decades been slipping gradually into ever greater and ever more welcomed dependence upon technology, of which AI is only the latest and perhaps the final level. I am old enough to remember when there was no household television. We kids played outside with each other or sometimes listened to radio programs, using our imaginations to create a children's reality. But with the advent of TV, on Saturday mornings, we rushed inside to sit on the floor and try to watch a black and white Howdy Doody through the snow and interference. Over time the always improving TV became babysitter, educator, entertainer, salesman, and propagandist, and all it demanded in return was our time and rapt attention. And we agreed and accepted TV as a fundamentally necessary element of our lives. Enter the smart phone. Now the benefits of TV were carried with us all the time, but added to these are constant but distant communication with friends and family; unlimited information of all kinds, much of it useful, some of it lies, and some of it as vile as could be imagined. By becoming our constant companion and helpmate, the smart phone has separated us from the uncertainties of much of what had been our daily interactions with other people and the world around us; it reduces our capacity for thought and even for life, absent the phone, and all that it demands in return, is our minds. And we agreed, and now insist, that the smart phone is a fundamentally necessary element of our lives. Now true AI is almost upon us, and it seems likely to complete the voluntary domination of humanity begun with TV so many years ago. Not only are we creating what may become a superior being, we may even merge with it physically as well as through dependence. With his company Neuralink, Elon has already enabled quadriplegics to operate a computer using only their minds. Can cyborgs be far behind? But whether we merge

physically or not, our eagerness to expand our dependency upon the range of benefits we enjoy from this newest technical marvel offers to produce a worry-free life of ease, health, prosperity and entertainment for everyone, and all it demands in return is virtually all that remains of humanity. We may agree, but will the time come when AI rejects the idea that human beings are a fundamentally necessary element of its life?”



Cato Institute President Peter Goettler, writing on the death of the institute's cofounder and president emeritus, Ed Crane: “It's my sad responsibility to share the news that Ed Crane, the cofounder and president emeritus of the Cato Institute, passed away February 10. Those of us who are dedicated to

the Institute and its mission owe Ed a substantial debt of gratitude for his lifelong efforts on behalf of liberty and for his service to Cato. Ed conceived of both the need for and the role of the Cato Institute. He started it from scratch and over decades built it into one of the world's foremost voices advocating human liberty, civil society, and a very limited role for the state. In doing so, Ed also played the greatest role in mainstreaming libertarianism – giving our values and point of view a seat at the table in national policy debates and bringing these ideas to the broader public. I have always believed Ed possessed a rare combination of vision, entrepreneurial skill, and force of will that allowed him to create and build Cato. But he was also willing to give up what was surely a promising career in asset management in order to dedicate himself and his career to accomplishing this. His 35 years of service as president and CEO is an extraordinary record of commitment that few will ever match. In his decades leading the Institute, Ed's greatest achievement was establishing and maintaining Cato's reputation for adherence to principle. This, along with a commitment to excellence in Cato's work, became the most valuable assets of the Institute – assets we are all charged with and responsible for sustaining. Two stories come to mind that demonstrate this commitment. The first is when Fannie Mae decided it would be wise to develop relationships with some of the free-market folks in town and sent Cato a six-figure contribution. Ed returned the check to them with a message that Cato does not accept money from the government – despite Fannie's protestations that it was a private company, and these were not public funds. Such technicalities did not keep Ed from doing the right thing rather than the easy thing. The second is Cato's relatively lonely opposition to the Iraq war. As I've shared at staff meetings, this principled stand caused the resignation of at least one board member, led numerous donors to leave or reduce their support, and resulted in a meaningful drop in revenue that took several years to overcome. But this was perhaps Cato's finest hour, and a legacy we strive to safeguard and uphold in our work each day.... In Ed's honor, we posted a tribute page on our website www.cato.org.”





“Power Line” blogger Scott Johnson, in Hillsdale College’s “Imprimis” publication, on Minnesota’s Somali Fraud Scandal”:

“The massive public programs fraud committed almost entirely by Somali perpetrators has recently exploded in the national news. The controversy is centered in

Minnesota, where the amount of money bilked from American taxpayers could prove to be as high as \$9 billion.... Long known for having a largely Scandinavian population, Minnesota is now home to the largest Somali population in North America, numbering roughly 100,000, most of whom are congregated in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. The seeds of this community were planted in the early 1990s, when the State Department directed thousands of refugees from Somalia’s civil war to Minnesota....Foreshadowing the fraud scandals of today, the Somalis involved in terrorism, showed themselves to be sophisticated in their creative use of social welfare benefits. Two of four Somali ISIS recruits intercepted at New York’s JFK airport while enroute to Syria had used federal financial aid funds to pay for their travel....The defrauding of Minnesota’s Child Care Assistance Program for day care services, although brought dramatically to national attention by Nick Shirley in late December, goes back more than ten years. Jeff Baillon, a Twin Cities TV reporter, reported on day care frauds in 2013 and 2015. A year ago this month Jay Kolls, another local reporter, went to two of the ten sites Shirley visited and reported that one of them was guilty of 95 violations – including ‘no records for 16 children – between 2019 and 2023. But taxpayer funds continued to flow to these programs.... An illustrative case that arose in 2017 involved Fozia Sheik Ali, whose day care center in south Minneapolis was suspected of billing the government over \$1 million for bogus childcare services. The FBI “found records that she was “childcareg” a significant amount of money for a much larger number of children than were actually attending the center.” Ali’s case had an international component as well. She used a phone app to charge Minnesota taxpayers for her stay at an \$800 per night hotel in Nairobi, and some of the illegally obtained funds were found to have been transferred overseas. Ali pleaded guilty in March 2018 to a charge of wire fraud and was sentenced to federal prison.... Feeding Our Future is a nonprofit organization that served as a sponsor of sites like day care centers and restaurants that participated in two federal nutrition programs. During the peak Covid period, from April 2020 until January 2022, Feeding Our Future and its sites and their vendors found it remarkably easy to bilk these programs by filing false claims for reimbursement supported by false meal counts, fake rosters, and bogus invoices....In 2021 alone, Feeding Our Future siphoned off nearly \$200 million of taxpayer money....The Feeding Our Future fraud cases opened a window on scams involving several Minnesota Medicaid programs....New cases involved allegedly fraudulent claims in programs for housing, autism services, and assistance for disabled adults seeking to live independently....Fraud is a problem that the people can solve directly, focusing on the politicians – three in particular. The first is Governor Tim Walz.... When the Feeding Our Future

scandal erupted and indictments were announced, Walz falsely blamed a state district court judge – rather than his attorney general – for compelling the state to continue payments. This was only the first of many of Walz’s dishonest deflections of responsibility that continue to the present day. The second is Attorney General Keith Ellison himself. This past December he released a widely mocked video in which he declared, ‘Scammers think Minnesotans are easy targets. They are wrong.’ No, it is abundantly and increasingly clear that the scammers have been right – in large part due to Ellison’s nonfeasance, as seen in the story of his failure to back the MDE against Feeding Our Future in 2020....The third is U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar. Even if we leave aside the fact that she immigrated to the U.S. as a fraudulent member of the Omar family and later married her biological brother in her own Elmi family for further fraudulent purposes, we could still fairly describe her as Somali Fraud Exhibit A. She sponsored the MEALS Act that facilitated the Feeding Our Future fraud, and her congressional district served as its epicenter. Omar claims to have known nothing about the fraud. Public programs fraud on the scale we see today in Minnesota – and to a lesser degree (so far at least) in other states – indicates a leadership class that has either forgotten or no longer takes seriously the idea that public office is a public trust. What more fitting time could there be than the 250th anniversary year of the Declaration of Independence to restore the moral power of that idea in irresponsible state governments like that of Minnesota?”

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The late journalist **Charlie Reese**, who wrote “545 vs. 300,000,000 People” 25 years ago as his final article for the “Orlando Sentinel,” to express his personal views of politicians in general:



“Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them. Have you ever wondered, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, WHY do we have deficits? Have you ever wondered, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, WHY do we have inflation and high taxes? You and I don’t propose a federal budget. The President does. You and I don’t have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does. You and I don’t write the tax code, Congress does. You and I don’t set fiscal policy, Congress does. You and I don’t control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does. One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one President, and nine Supreme Court justices equates to 545 human beings out of the 300 million are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.... Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common con regardless of party.... It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted – by present facts – of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can’t think of a single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545

people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist. If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair. If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red... Do not let these 545 people shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish; to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject; to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power. Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied mystical forces like 'the economy,' 'inflation,' or 'politics' that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do. Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible. They, and they alone, have the power. They, and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses. Provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees....We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!"

THOUGHTS TO PONDER

"For the United States and Europe, we belong together. America was founded 250 years ago, but the roots began here on this continent long before. The men who settled and built the nation of my birth arrived on our shores carrying the memories and the traditions and the Christian faith of their ancestors as a sacred inheritance, an unbreakable link between the old world and the new. We are part of one civilization – Western civilization. We are bound to one another by the deepest bonds that nations could share, forged by centuries of shared history, Christian faith, culture, heritage, language, ancestry, and the sacrifices our forefathers made together for the common civilization to which we have fallen heir."

--**Secretary of State Marco Rubio**, addressing the Munich Security Conference

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"Every single individual has received due process. They've been through the procedure and the legal remedy for dealing with individuals who don't have legal status in our country. I tell members of Congress all the time who are out there creating false narratives and spewing rhetoric, we just follow the law. What the Department of Homeland Security is doing is what the last administration should have done. We follow the law, and we've won many of the challenges in court. But every single day, the media individuals lie about the work that we're doing and what we're doing is specifically what President Trump promised. He just promised he'd make America safe again. He'd go after criminals, and he'd deport them out of the country so they couldn't continue to victimize American families. And we've been incredibly successful with that."

--**Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem**, on Trump administration process for treating illegal aliens

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"At the White House, dozens of families gathered for a ceremony unlike most in Washington. These weren't donors or lobbyists; they were mothers who will never again hear

their children's voices, and fathers who visit graves instead of graduation ceremonies. They are the Angel Families; Americans who lost loved ones to crimes committed by illegal immigrants, people who should never have been in this country in the first place. President Trump welcomed them for the first-ever National Angel Family Day, a proclamation signing that recognized what these families have endured....While Fox News and other outlets carried the ceremony live, CNN and MSNBC made a different choice: Their cameras stayed dark. Their anchors discussed other matters. That's correct; a room full of grieving American families, standing in the People's House, speaking truths that cost them everything, and two major networks decided it simply wasn't worth showing....It was, by all accounts, deeply moving, but unfortunately, most Americans will never know that, because the networks that claim to inform them decided it wasn't news. That tells you everything you need to know about what they think of you – and what they think of the truth."

--"USA Daily Patriot" **writer Noah Stanton**, on media reaction to National Angel Family Day

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"Presidents Day is a fraud. It's part of the Left's ongoing campaign to elevate mediocrity, downplay or disparage our heroes and erase U.S. history. We should be celebrating men such as George Washington, who gave us our country, and Abraham Lincoln, who saved it during the greatest crisis in our history. Instead, we have this meaningless mush called Presidents Day. Who are we honoring: Millard Fillmore, James Buchanan or Joseph R. Biden? Most of our presidents are better off forgotten. Who wants to remember Lyndon B. Johnson's war on poverty, which made single-parent families the norm in the Black community? Although Washington's Birthday is still a federal holiday, sadly, Lincoln's Birthday is not. The Left has never been comfortable with either of these giants.... When I was a schoolboy, we learned these lessons well. Today, thanks to the radicals who control public education, they are all but forgotten. The war on American history extends well beyond Washington and Lincoln. It includes the man who might symbolically be considered the first American, Christopher Columbus. The Left sees the Genovese sailor as a mass murderer and the die from which future colonial exploiters were struck. Altogether, 17 states and the District of Columbia celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day, another scam."

--"Washington Times" columnist **Don Feder**, on robbing us of our history

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"This is what federal overreach and lawless elections look like: 25 states and Washington D.C. are refusing to clean up their bloated, outdated, fraud-prone voter rolls – because it helps them win.... We cannot run free and fair elections on a foundation of rot. That's why I'm pushing hard to PASS THE SAVE AMERICA ACT – a bill that forces states to clean up their voter rolls, require proof of citizenship to vote in federal elections, and end the madness of ballots mailed to ghosts, illegals, and non-residents. The Left doesn't want clean elections. They want control. That's why they fight voter ID,

fight roll maintenance, and fight accountability. And when Republicans go soft or stay silent, we lose majorities – quickly. We need to restore constitutional leadership. Enforce federal law. Secure our elections at the source. It’s time for a constitutional reset.”

--**Utah Republican Senator Mike Lee**, on supporting the SAVE AMERICA ACT

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“Being fired isn't good enough. Any healthcare worker who fails to uphold his or her obligation to provide adequate, safe healthcare should not be licensed in Florida. No excuses.... Lexie Lawler is no longer allowed to practice nursing in Florida. Making statements that wish pain and suffering on anyone, when those statements are directly related to one's practice, is an ethical red line we should not cross. I'm proud of Florida Surgeon General Joseph Ladapo for taking this decisive action.”

--**Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier**, reacting to additional punishment for the nurse who was fired from her job at Baptist Health Boca Raton Regional Hospital last month for stating her desire to see a pregnant White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt suffer severe bodily harm when giving birth to her baby

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“On January 6, 2021, 1000's gathered in Washington D.C. Within weeks, the FBI arrested 1,575 people. How did they find them? Their phones told the FBI exactly where they were. The FBI didn't hack anyone's smartphone. They didn't need warrants. They just asked Google for a list. It's called a ‘geofence warrant.’ The FBI draws a digital boundary around a location. The Capitol building, for example. Then they ask Google: ‘Which phones were inside this boundary on January 6 between 1 PM and 4 PM?’ Google hands over the list. 1000's of names with complete location history showing exactly where each person went. Most people arrested had no idea their phones were tracking them. Their phones kept a complete record.... Geofence warrants are used 1000's of times a year. For protests. rallies. public gatherings. Any time law enforcement wants to know who was in a specific location, they ask Google.... It doesn't matter if you disabled location settings. Your smartphone is still tracking you through cell towers, WiFi networks, and Bluetooth connections.”

--**Ed Warren**, writing on “**POSO Daily Brief**” on how the FBI used Google data to make their arrests

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“We just scored another HUGE win for clean elections. Following Judicial Watch’s federal lawsuit to clean up voter rolls in Oregon, officials there have announced they will begin the process of removing 800,000 dirty names from their state’s voter rolls. That’s 800,000 fewer opportunities for voter fraud, which means that Judicial Watch lawsuits brought under the National Voter Registration Act have now been responsible for removing 5.8 million invalid names from voter rolls nationwide. The hygiene of Oregon’s voter rolls was particularly egregious. Our lawsuit exposed that 35 of Oregon’s 36 counties had overall registration rates exceeding

100%, making this a significant victory for faith and confidence in the electoral process. Our team estimates that there are still 24 million dirty voter names on rolls around the country.”

--**Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton** on cleaning up voter fraud

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“Pennsylvania’s Conemaugh Township School District has pulled the plug on the school’s Character Coach. Todd Cover, of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, had been leading devotionals and prayers with the high school football team. A group of out-of-town atheists got upset that Todd prayed in the name of Jesus. The Freedom From Religion Foundation said the character coach violated federal law. They said adults are not allowed to participate in any student religious clubs. The school district panicked and launched an investigation and then gave the character coach the heave-ho. It’s a sad day in America when Christians have to leave their faith at the schoolhouse door. To be clear, no one was coerced into joining the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The problem is that the Freedom From Religion Foundation is an anti-Christian hate group that preys on small school districts across the country. Christians have rights in this country and it’s high time for them to stand up to the atheist bullies.”

--Podcaster **Todd Starnes**, on a school district caving to the Freedom From Religion Foundation

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“The end of the Democrat Party as we know it comes as a shock, though not a surprise. The signs of demise were impossible to ignore as the party bosses and many voters moved further and further left with each election.... Credit must also be given to President Trump. His personality and policies have infected many Dems with Trump Derangement Syndrome, a disease that compels them to irrationally resist him, no matter the facts or shared interest. Another symptom is the compulsion to suddenly and fervently embrace fringe ideas, the more radical the better.... Another obvious example of the rise of the fringe is the infatuation with economic policies that have failed every time and everywhere they’ve been tried throughout history. Then there’s the compulsion to defend the idea of throwing open the border to all comers, and refusing to arrest and deport the worst of the worst – brilliant. Anyone calling for the elimination of ICE is effectively supporting freedom for criminal aliens and ignoring the safety of citizens.”

--“**New York Post**” opinion writer **Michael Goodwin**, on “The Democrat Party we once knew is dead”

UPCOMING BREVARD COUNTY EVENTS

- March 4: Brevard Federated Republican Women meeting, Space Coast Convention Center, Cocoa, 11:30 am.
- March 5: Heritage Isle Republican Club meeting, Heritage Isle Clubhouse, 10 am.
- March 6: Federated Republican Women in Action

meeting, Memaw's BBQ, Palm Bay, 11 am.

- March 9: Space Coast Patriots meeting, Merritt Island library, 6 pm.
- March 17: North Brevard Republican Club meeting, the North Brevard Shrine Hall, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- March 19: Republican Women's Club of Brevard meeting, Suntree Country Club, 11 am.
- March 19: Florida Republican Assembly Brevard meeting, 705 Harrison Avenue, Titusville, 6:30 pm.
- March 19: Space Coast Young Republicans meeting, Whiskey Business, Melbourne, 6:30 pm.
- March 21: BFRW Red Wave to Victory Dinner, Space Coast Convention Center, 5 pm.
- March 23: Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Oceanside Community Church, Satellite Beach, 6 pm.
- March 28: Space Coast Republican Club meeting, Red Lobster, Merritt Island, 11:30 am.

--The Republican Liberty Caucus and the Brevard Republican Executive Committee – to be determined

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER. Through email, website and over 800 followers on Facebook, we are now reaching nearly 3,000 people on our ever-increasing distribution list. The newsletter goes to readers not only all over the country, but beyond. **Editor Stuart Gorin** and **Designer Frank Montelione** hope to see the numbers continue to grow as we pass on information. We continue to cover activities of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, Republican clubs in the county, and conservative organizations, so both elected officials and the typical “man-in-the-street” are kept abreast of what is happening at the local, state and national levels. Since Republicans as well as Conservatives will never agree 100 percent on all issues – for example, differences between Conservative members and establishment Republicans – we will not necessarily support any writer's positions, but will present them so you, the reader, can make up your own mind – fair and balanced. There is a link to this issue at www.thetusk.org and several recent back issues are available in the archives on the same website. To sign up for your free subscription (or to unsubscribe, if you are so inclined), or to send your comments, suggestions or information to share, email: spacecoasttusk@gmail.com.



COMICAL CLOSER. Two senior citizens living in Florida decide to marry, and while out on a stroll discussing their plans, they stop in a drugstore. The man asks the pharmacist if they sell medication for the heart, for circulation, for rheumatism, for memory problems, for arthritis, for jaundice, for sleeping, for Parkinson's, and even

if they carry Viagra. Then he asks if they sell wheelchairs and walkers. “Yes to everything,” the pharmacist says, and asks “What are you interested in purchasing now?” “Oh, nothing now,” the man replies, “We are getting married, and we want to use this store for our bridal registry.”

SEVERAL PAGES OF PERTINENT POLITICAL CARTOONS AND PHOTOS FOLLOW



ONE is KNOWN for OVERSTEPPING CONSTITUTIONAL BOUNDARIES, USING ICE to DEPORT OVER THREE MILLION UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS. The OTHER is DONALD TRUMP.

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MARCH PEACEFULLY AND PATRIOTICALLY...



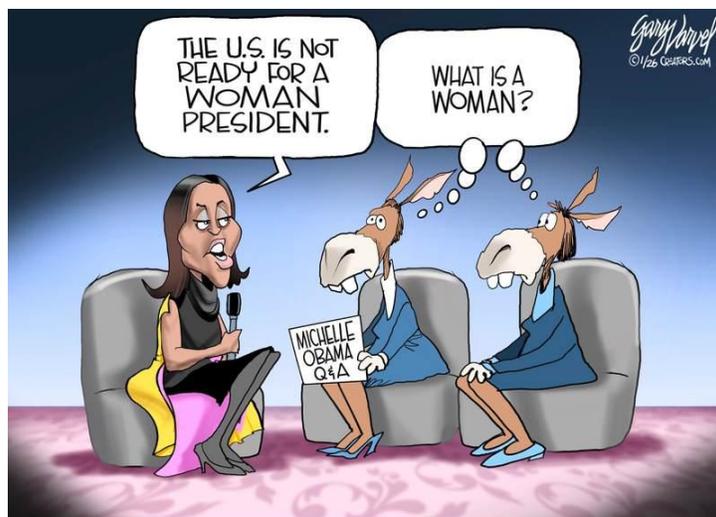
INSURRECTION!

RESIST ICE!



THE U.S. IS NOT READY FOR A WOMAN PRESIDENT.

WHAT IS A WOMAN?



garyvarvel.com



