

GTRW GAZETTE

VOLUME 15

1st Quarter 2023



MAY 15: PEACE OFFICERS
MEMORIAL DAY

TFRW Region 6
TX SEN District 3
TX SEN District 4

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2021

11:15 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

ELEGANTE' HOTEL BALLROOM
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

MAYRA FLORES

FORMER U.S. CONGRESSWOMAN

TEXAS DISTRICT 34

TOPIC: BORDER SECURITY

BUFFET BEGINS AT 11:15 A.M.

AND OUR MEETING BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 11:30,

SO PLEASE BE SEATED AT THAT TIME

**R
S
V
P**

GTRW.email@gmail.com

409-748-0013 (please text or leave a msg.)

Members: Online @ gtrepublicanwomen.org

NOTE: Meeting Fee \$25

**PLEASE Fill Out Your 2023 Membership App
and Bring Your Membership Dues, too!**

**ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND
RELATIVES TO JOIN GTRW!**

2023 GTRW BOARD

- Linda Brown, President
- Janet Brown, 1st Vice President-Programs
- Elaine Henderson, 2nd Vice President-Membership
- Linda Sparkman, Recording Secretary
- Geraldine Lapham, Corresponding Secretary
- Mary Wickland, PAC Treasurer
- Lisa Wolf, Chaplain
- Evangeline George, Bylaws/Parliamentarian
- Louise Williams, Legislation
- Linda Nicholas, Campaign Activities
- Lynda Moncla, Hospitality
- Marie Maggio, Awards
- Carol Hearn, Greeting Team
- Ann Jones, Americanism/Community Involvement
- Danielle Faraci, Caring for America
- Kim Huber, Stephanie Figari, Historians
- April Hawkins, Special Events
- Marsha Morgan, Media/IT
- Theone Bradley, Newsletter/Social Media
- Lajaunda Williams, Communications/Reservations -
409-748-0013 (Please Text or
call and leave a message)



CALENDAR

April 3 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting

Speaker: Eva Guzman, Former
Texas Supreme Court Justice

April 7 - Good Friday

April 9 - Easter Sunday - Fly Your Flag

April 17 - GTRW Executive Board Meeting

April 21 - San Jacinto Day - Fly Your TX Flag

April 24 - Early Voting Begins

April 25 - Last Day to Register to Vote in
May Election

April 28 - GTRW's Golden Triangle Nuggettes
Participate in Relay for Life

May 1 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting

Speaker: Mayra Flores, Former
U.S. Congresswoman, TX Dist. 34

May 2 - Early Voting Ends

May 6 - Election Day

May 14 - Mother's Day - Fly Your Flag

May 15 - Peace Officers Memorial Day
Fly Your Flag Half-Staff

May 20 - Armed Forces Day - Fly Your Flag

May 22 - GTRW Executive Board Meeting

May 29 - Memorial Day - Fly Flag
Half-Staff until noon

June 5 - GTRW Luncheon Meeting

Speaker: Daniel Ferrer, 11-yr-old
who fired up CPAC re our Constitution

June 14 - Flag Day - Fly Your Flag

June 18 - Father's Day - Fly Your Flag

June 19 - GTRW Executive Board Meeting

NO JULY MEETING



Dear Members of GTRW - Welcome to Spring!

I trust you're enjoying the growing warmth of the sun and all our trees budding out. This is one of my favorite months, not because it's my birthday month, but because of the fresh growth of our gardens replacing the dead of winter.

This is a wonderful time of the year to spend outside, like "block-walking" for our local city councilmen, mayor and school board candidates. Our local candidates need our help! Select one or two and give them your precious time. Time spent on local campaigns will bring us dividends just like our November **RED WAVE**. *We have so many activities scheduled for this Spring - we will have to change our walking shoes into running shoes!*



READY – SET – GO !!!

- March 22** **GTRW Goes to YMBL (8 a.m. - 10 a.m.)**
- March 28** **"Nuts & Bolts" Workshop in Houston Sponsored by the Greater Houston Council**
- April 3** **GTRW Luncheon with Eva Guzman, Former Texas Supreme Court Justice**
- April 6** **CHAT in Bridge City at Tequila's Restaurant 5:30-7:30 p.m. with Brenda Gail Weber as our Special Guest**
- April 24-May 2** **Early Voting**
- April 28** **Join GTRW's Golden Triangle Nuggettes - Relay for Life Ty Terrell Track at Lamar University**
- May 1** **GTRW Luncheon with Mayra Flores, Former TX Congresswoman**
- May 6** **Beaumont City Election and Orange County City Elections**
- June 5** **GTRW Luncheon with Daniel Ferrer, the 11-year-old from Florida who fired up CPAC regarding our Constitution**

Your help and attendance at these events will make Jefferson County stronger than ever. I thank you for being a member of GTRW. I encourage each member to ask a daughter, family member or a friend to join the No. 1 Club in the State of Texas. It's essential that we maintain this status — our great speakers come because we are Number One!

Have a wonderful time enjoying all our activities!



With deep appreciation and love,

Linda Brown

GTRW President



GTRW'S JANUARY SPEAKER:
"JOE FROM TX" PENLAND
PRESIDENT,
QUALITY MAT COMPANY



MONDAY, JAN 9 - 11:30 AM
Elegante' Hotel Ballroom
Beaumont
RSVPs DUE MONDAY,
JAN 2, 6 PM

gtrepublicanwomen.org/speaker/

Buffet begins at 11:15 a.m. and Meeting begins promptly at 11:30, so please be seated at that time.







JOIN US IN CELEBRATING
Cinco de Mayo with

MAYRA FLORES Former U.S. Congresswoman TX District 34



Visit our Website:
gtrepublicanwomen.org

Mayra Flores was born and reared in Burgos Tamaulipas, Mexico. She came legally to the United States at age 6 with the help of her father. Growing up, Mayra worked alongside her parents in the cotton fields in Memphis, Texas to earn extra money for school clothes and supplies. After graduating high school in San Benito, Texas, Mayra earned a bachelor's degree from South Texas College and became a health care worker. She is a proud U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) wife and a mother. Mayra Flores currently serves as a Distinguished Senior Fellow on the staff of the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

Mayra was the first Mexican-born Congresswoman ever elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Elected in a special general election held on June 14, 2022 to finish the term of the Texas District 34 congressman who had resigned in March 2022, Mayra bested a field of four candidates – two Republicans and two Democrats – in the all-party contest.

Mayra Flores' 2022 campaign website included the following stances:

Pro-God: My Christian faith is a core part of who I am. My parents raised me to be a strong woman of faith and defending individuals' religious liberties will always be a priority of mine.

Pro-Life: I will always fight for the unborn and advocate for pro-life policies in Washington.

Pro-Family: My family is the most important thing in my life. I was raised with strong family values and work to instill them in my own children. Family values are one thing that make our community in South Texas so special and strong.

Pro-America: America is the greatest country in the world and it has afforded me the life I have today. Through hard work anything is possible in America. I will ALWAYS put America first.

Pro-Second Amendment: The right to bear Arms is something I hold near and dear. Americans should always

be able to protect themselves and their families. I will always fight for our Second Amendment rights.

Pro-Law Enforcement:

I am married and a proud U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) wife. Law enforcement will always have a fierce advocate if I am elected to Congress.

Pro-Border Security: Illegal immigration encourages and funds human/child trafficking. I legally immigrated to America when I was six years old. Living in South Texas offers a unique perspective on illegal immigration and how it affects the livelihood of American citizens. We MUST secure our border to keep bad individuals out and to encourage LEGAL immigration.

Veterans: My goal is to fight for every veteran; to fix the current health and medical issues at the VA, to address the amount of homeless vets on the streets, to get additional funding and resources so they can overcome any mental issues they face. I love all our men and women in uniform, both past and present.

Pro-Jobs: Texas is the economic engine of America because of its low regulation and pro-business mindset. Texans know that when you get the government out of the way and let the private sector create jobs, the economy will flourish. I am an advocate against socialism and will always promote capitalism.

Pro-Oil and Gas: The oil and gas industry is critical to the success of our State and Nation. The industry has been hit hard in recent years but I will always work to help the oil and gas industry and stand firm against radical policies that would undermine it

Pro-Affordable Healthcare: As a healthcare worker I speak to residents of CD 34 day in and day out and understand that having access to affordable healthcare is the most important issue facing residents of South Texas. In Congress I will always strive to improve our healthcare system and work to find solutions that will lower the cost of prescription medicine.

CLUB UPDATES



I am so excited about our club. As of March 10th, we have 201 Primary Members, 58 Associate Members, and 1 Affiliate Member. But we have much work to do to get our membership over 423 Primary members before June 1st. This is the date our total numbers are due to TFRW for the final numbers to count toward awards at the October Convention. So that means I need every one of you to get to work and make sure you get your membership renewed, **but also go out and recruit new members**. Remember that one of the reasons we get such great speakers is because we are THE LARGEST CLUB IN TEXAS. We want to remain that way. Below is an article that was in the March TFRW Newsletter. This should help you go out and recruit. There is also a link to go to the application page to renew your membership or sign up as a new member. An email has been sent to every member who has not renewed. Let's go ladies and get this done!

We hosted a Chat on February 19th at Lupe Tortilla Restaurant. There were 21 in attendance and we discussed membership and the committee's responsibilities.

On April the 8th we will be hosting a Chat in Bridge City. The invitation is below.

"April showers bring May Members"



The
Golden Triangle
Republican
Women

Invite you to a Special Chat
For all Orange County Republican Women

Thursday April 6th 5:30 to 7:30

Tequila's Mexican Restaurant 1085 Texas Ave, Bridge City,

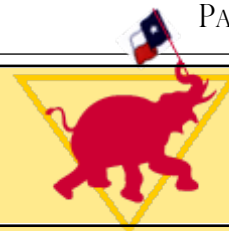
Special Speaker - Brenda Gail Weber

RSVP Required - Text Name and Number attending to Elaine 409-656-5724



Elaine Henderson
Golden Triangle
Republican
Women
Membership
Chair

CLUB UPDATES



TFRW Today | MARCH 2023 | Melanie Grammar, VP Membership

**Here are some great perks to remind all of us
why being a member is so important:**

- You meet like-minded women, make friends and establish lasting relationships by networking with women from all over the state.
- You get to know and have greater access to elected officials and their office staff.
- You get to know the candidates running for office and have many opportunities to talk one-on-one with them.
- You have access to info about campaigns that need your help. You won't be on your own if you choose to work on a candidate's campaign, and your time will be well appreciated.
- You have access to political info in general – if only to get newsletters and emails, you will find out about events and opportunities the public wouldn't know about.
- You gain cumulative knowledge and information on important topics.

(Examples – immigration and border security, ballot integrity, voter fraud, women's health issues – over time you'll hear from those directly involved in these issues such as elected officials, attorneys, volunteer groups, journalists/ authors, etc.)

- You get info and training about resolutions and testifying at the Capitol on bills.
- You learn to ease the process to become a delegate to the Republican Party of Texas state convention, crafting resolutions for the platform, and serving on the various committees.
- You hear about campaign schools and training, especially if you are considering running for an elected office.
- You gain organization and structure, reinforcing your political efforts.
- You learn about other volunteer opportunities in your community.
- You have the clout of numbers behind you, locally with your own club and statewide with the Federation.
- You get real information, not fake news.
- You have an outlet with like-minded people to express your frustrations and discuss conservative values. For those of you who feel that one club is enough, remember that strength is in numbers and the more options offered to prospective members, the stronger and more unified your county and senate district becomes. After all, our objective is to **Keep Texas RED!**

TFRW is undeniably the most powerful women's political organization in Texas today. We preach time and again: **Every Vote Counts.**

Also, please remember that every member counts as well. We all strive to be role models and we all have the capability to be mentors. Unified in strength, our voices are being heard, and we do make a difference.



Congratulations!

Congratulations!

**Golden Triangle Republican Women ROCK
1ST QUARTER 2023 HOURS WERE 31,225!**

**We reported the largest number of hours in club history for the last
quarter of 2022 - 53,112 Hours!**

**We won the award for most hours by a super club for that quarter
from Texas Federation of Women and our hard work paid off!
We turned Jefferson County, Texas RED!**

**We worked so hard with all the block walking, poll watching and
phone banking — and it all paid off. We must never forget what we
did and continue to work hard to keep Jefferson County RED!**

**On Saturday, May 6, there is a very important election in Beaumont,
where we have the opportunity to win again —
the Beaumont City Election and Beaumont School Board.
Let's get behind our candidates and help them all we can!
(SEE PAGE 10)**

*Early voting begins Monday, April 24th through Monday, May 2nd
Election Day is Saturday, May 6th*

LOCAL RACES IN 2023 ARE SO IMPORTANT &



TOGETHER

WE CAN DO IT AGAIN!

*Linda Nicholas
Campaign Activities Chair*



EARLY VOTING**April 24, 2023 – May 2, 2023***May Joint Election – Citywide Polling – All precincts may vote at any Vote Center.**(Elección uniforme de mayo – Lugares de votación en toda la ciudad – Todos los precinctos pueden votar en cualquier centro de votación.)*

Election Day Polling Places	Address	City, State, Zip Code
<i>Localizaciones</i>	<i>Dirección</i>	<i>Ciudad, Estado, Código postal</i>
Rogers Park Community Center	6540 Gladys Ave	Beaumont, TX 77706
Jefferson County Courthouse (Lobby) Main Location	1085 Pearl St	Beaumont, TX 77701
John Paul Davis Community Center	3580 E. Lucas Dr	Beaumont, TX 77703
Theodore Johns Library (Meeting Room)	4255 Fannett Rd	Beaumont, TX 77705

DATES AND HOURS FOR ALL ABOVE LOCATIONS:*(Fechas y Horas para todas las localizaciones anteriores):*

April 24 – 28, 2023 (Abril 24 – 28, 2023)	Monday - Friday (Lunes -Viernes)	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
April 29, 2023 (Abril 29, 2023)	Saturday (Sábado)	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
April 30, 2023 (Abril 30, 2023)	Sunday (Domingo)	12:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
May 1 – 2, 2023 (Mayo 1 – 2, 2023)	Monday – Tuesday (Lunes – Martes)	7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY**May 6, 2023***May Joint Election – Citywide Polling – All precincts may vote at any Vote Center.**(Elección uniforme de mayo – Lugares de votación en toda la ciudad – Todos los precinctos pueden votar en cualquier centro de votación.)*

Election Day Polling Places	Address	City, State, Zip Code
<i>Localizaciones</i>	<i>Dirección</i>	<i>Ciudad, Estado, Código postal</i>
Amelia Elementary School (Gymnasium)	565 S. Major Dr	Beaumont, TX 77707
BISD Administration Building (Boardroom)	3395 Harrison Ave	Beaumont, TX 77706
Dishman Elementary (Gymnasium)	3475 Champions Dr	Beaumont, TX 77707
BISD Career Center (First Floor Old Library)	2330 North St.	Beaumont, TX 77702
Rogers Park Community Center	6540 Gladys Ave	Beaumont, TX 77706
Roy Guess Elementary (Hallway near Gymnasium)	8055 Voth Rd.	Beaumont, TX 77708
Alice Keith Park Recreation Center	4075 Highland Ave	Beaumont, TX 77705
Charlton-Pollard Elementary (Gymnasium)	825 Jackson St	Beaumont, TX 77701
Lamar University Montagne Center (Cardinal Club Room)	4401 S. MLK Pkwy	Beaumont, TX 77705
Jefferson County Courthouse (Lobby) Main Polling Location	1085 Pearl St	Beaumont, TX 77701
MLK Middle School (Gymnasium)	1400 Avenue A	Beaumont, TX 77701
John Paul Davis Community Center	3580 E. Lucas Dr	Beaumont, TX 77703
Sterling Pruitt Center (Multi-purpose Room)	2930 Gulf St	Beaumont, TX 77703
Theodore Johns Library (Meeting Room)	4255 Fannett Rd	Beaumont, TX 77705

OFFICIAL BALLOT
 Joint General Election
 Jefferson County, TX
 May 6, 2023

BOLETA OFICIAL
 Elección General Conjunta
 Condado de Jefferson, TX
 6 de Mayo, 2023

Precinct Precinto ALL CONTESTS

Instruction Note:

- Vote for your choice in each contest by darkening in the oval (●) provided to the left of the choice.
- Vote on Proposition(s) by darkening the oval (●) provided to the left of the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.
- Use a black pen to mark your ballot.

Nota de Instrucción:

- Vote por su preferencia en cada carrera oscureciendo completamente el espacio ovalado (●) a la izquierda del su preferencia.
- Vote por las propuestas oscureciendo el ovalo (●) proporcionado a la izquierda de la declaración indicando la forma en que desea votar.
- Use una pluma de tinta negro para marcar su boleta.

City of Beaumont, General Election
Elección General de la Ciudad de Beaumont

Mayor
 Vote for None or One
Alcalde
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Robin Mouton
- James Daryl Eller Jr. **R**
- Roy West **R**

Councilmember At-Large
 Vote for None, One or Two
Miembro del Concilio en General
 Vote por Ninguno, Uno o Dos

- Michael Cooper
- Biguita "BIG" Hernandez-Smith
- Albert "A.J." Turner
- Terry Preston Roy
- Randy Feldschau **R**

Councilmember Ward I
 Vote for None or One
Miembro del Concilio Distrito I
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Taher Quraishi
- Taylor S. Nelid Sr. **R**

Councilmember Ward II
 Vote for None or One
Miembro del Concilio Distrito II
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Mike Getz **R**

Councilmember Ward III
 Vote for None or One
Miembro del Concilio Distrito III
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Audwin Samuel
- Geary Senigaur Jr.
- Carlton Sharp

Councilmember Ward IV
 Vote for None or One
Miembro del Concilio Distrito IV
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Charles Christopher "Chris" Durio Jr.

Beaumont Independent School District, Trustee Election
Elección del Administrador del Distrito Escolar Independiente de Beaumont

Trustee, District 4
 Vote for None or One
Administrador, Distrito 4
 Vote por Ninguno o Uno

- Kevin W. Reece
- Thomas P. Sigeo, Sr. **R**
- Brian C. Nepveux **R**

Trustee, At-Large
 Vote for None, One or Two
Administrador en General
 Vote por Ninguno, Uno o Dos

- Robert C. Dunn, Sr.
- Denise Wallace-Spooner
- Mikelle Patillo
- Carl Kevin Lambeth, Jr. **R**

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CLUB UPDATES



PROGRESS IN THE 88TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

By Louise Williams, GTRW Legislative Chair

The 88th Session of the Texas Legislature, which meets every other year, began January 10, 2023 and will end May 29. House Speaker Dade Phelan appointed 34 committee chairs, committees have been formed, and bills have been written and submitted to meet the March 10 deadline. The good news is that Republicans control the House and Senate and if they work together, some great legislation can be passed.

Many areas of government deserve attention:

1. Election integrity

It should come as no surprise that Democrats are still trying to fundamentally change the way we vote.

A. At the national level, the Democrats' latest goal is to reduce our presidential elections to a popular vote and thereby eliminate the Electoral College, the system devised by the framers of the United States Constitution to provide a method of electing our president and vice president that was feasible, desirable and consistent with a government form for a republic.

B. At the state level, Democrats are working to establish the Ranked-Choice voting (RCV) system in Texas and the other 49 states. RCV is an electoral system in which voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots:

If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, he or she is declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated. First-preference votes cast for the failed candidate are eliminated, lifting the next-preference choices indicated on those ballots. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority.

Thankfully, our Republicans are having none of that! Senate Bill 921 banning Ranked-Choice voting recently passed the Texas Senate and is currently under consideration in the House.

C. Another important Election Integrity matter is the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), an interstate voter list program funded by George Soros. Alan Vera, the Harris County Republican Ballot Security Chair who addressed GTRW in 2022, is working hard to eliminate ERIC.

ERIC was created to clean up voter rolls across the states and was meant to be politically neutral. However, the result has been that ERIC is gathering voters' personal information protected by federal privacy laws and is sharing that information with a third party group tied to Mark Zuckerberg. The goal is for Democrats to find eligible but unregistered voters and hand this list to Democrat activists to register people to vote.

Alan Vera states that ERIC is a virtual share operation and has no real headquarters as they pay daily rent in Washington, D.C. A lot of voter data is stored on a server, but no one knows where the server is located.

Many red states have withdrawn from ERIC where the Secretary of State has the authority to do so. In Texas, the Legislature must vote to eliminate ERIC. SB 1070 and HB 2809 are the two bills that will do so.

D. As regards ILLEGAL Voting, Senate Bill 2 passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. This bill increases the punishment for illegal voting from a high misdemeanor to a felony.

(Cont'd. on Page 15)



(Cont'd. from Page 14)

As to punishing illegal voting, SB 1927, if passed, will allow the Texas Supreme Court to appoint a state prosecuting attorney that has the power (jurisdiction) to prosecute election crimes.

2. National and Texas Security:

SB 147, introduced by Senator Lois Kolkhurst from Brenham, focuses on national security for Texas and our country. This bill aims to prohibit Texas land sales to foreign entities/citizens of China, Iran, North Korea and Russia. As is well known, Texas has military bases and strategic refineries that need protection.

3. Cultural Issues:

A. Critical Race Theory (CRT) is a group of concepts such as the idea that (1) race is a sociological rather than biological designation and that (2) racism pervades our society and is fostered/perpetuated by our legal system. HB 1607 has been filed to remove state funding from state colleges and universities that teach CRT.

B. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) - HB 1006 would prevent Texas public colleges/universities from funding DEI programs/education. As an example, the University of Texas DEI Department costs the university \$28 million per year. Lt. Governor Dan Patrick supports this legislation and Texas is the first state to file a bill of this kind.

C. Transgenderers - SB 15 requires athletes in public schools to compete on the basis of their gender identity at birth — the gender that appears on their birth certificate.

D. Gender Modification - HB 42 defines “gender modification” of children younger than 18 years as “child abuse.”

E. Fentanyl - SB 695 would reclassify deaths due to fentanyl as “poisonings,” therefore anyone who makes, sells or delivers fentanyl could be charged with murder when someone overdoses. The bill would increase the penalty for making or delivering less than one gram of fentanyl to a third degree felony.

F. Sexualization of Children - SB 12 prohibits sexually explicit performances like drag shows from being performed in the presence of children.

HB 900 prohibits public school libraries from possessing books with sexually explicit content. This bill has the full support of parents, yet Democrats are pushing back with statements such as, “We need to trust the librarians.”

To encourage our Texas Legislature to disallow sexually explicit books in public school libraries, Christen Bentley, a member of the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC), sends a “filthy” book to our legislators each week to demonstrate how inappropriate and dangerous these books are for the mental and developmental health of our children in grades K-12.

There are many more bills that have been filed — appropriation bills that set the state budget and decide where money will be spent — and other bills concerning education, healthcare, the border, infrastructure, tax reform and gun control. The vast majority of these bills will not make it out of committee. For those that do, many will be altered or rewritten before final passage by the House and Senate. As you can imagine, there is a lot of “push and pull” and bargaining in the process, not to mention all-nighters as our legislators work diligently.

But never fear — Republicans are in control and ever mindful of what’s best for the citizens of Texas. That is why Texas is such a successful state.

The Texas legislators of Southeast Texas are:

Senator Robert Nichols, District 3	(512) 463-0103
Senator Brandon Creighton, District 4	(512) 463-0104
House Speaker Dade Phelan, District 21	(512) 463-1000



ANNOUNCING GTRW'S FEBRUARY & MEETING FEATURING

A Celebration of the Vietnamese New Year and Performance by the SEVA Vietnamese Community Organization

WEDNESDAY, FEB 4 - 11:30 AM

Regester: www.gtrw.com

RSVP'S DUE SUNDAY, JAN 29 - 6 pm

info@seva-usa.org

SPEAKERS: HOW SOCIALISM CHANGED MY HOMETLAND

Wincent Vu
Real Estate Businessman
Origin: Vietnam

Tiffany Tran
GTRW Member
Origin: Vietnam

Dr. Elena Kridavskaya Iribarren
Internal Medicine Specialist
Origin: Venezuela

Subject begins at 11:30 a.m. and Meeting begins promptly at 12:00. on please be seated at that time.



The goal of *Caring for America* is to help as many groups within our community as possible.

Caring for America kicked off our Relay for Life 2023 Campaign by collecting donations during GTRW's February 6 meeting where we celebrated the Vietnamese New Year with Vietnamese GTRW members and guests, two of whom addressed our luncheon attendees and spoke about their journeys to escape South Vietnam and ultimately arrive in the United States. Many are now seeking U.S. citizenship.

Drums were definitely present during the event and colorful dragons came to life manned by area Vietnamese teens, who traveled from table to table collecting donations in the dragons' mouths.

Altogether that day, we collected \$1,100 for our ongoing fight against cancer!

We will be participating in **The Greater Golden Triangle Relay for Life on Friday, April 28, 2023**, and we invite as many GTRW members as possible to join us from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Lamar University Ty Terrell Track Complex, 4405 Jimmy Simmons Boulevard.



**GTRW Luncheon
February 6, 2023**



**JOIN GTRW'S
GOLDEN
TRIANGLE
NUGGETTES**



**CA-SI-NO-MORE
CANCER!**



**RELAY FOR LIFE 2023
FRIDAY APRIL 28
4:30 PM
LAMAR UNIVERSITY
TY TERRELL TRACK**



*Contact Danielle Faraci
409-658-0117*

Please Donate to
**GTRW'S
GOLDEN
TRIANGLE
NUGGETTES**
RELAY FOR LIFE
at our April 3 Luncheon Meeting

**GTRW
Caring for
America**

**Danielle Faraci,
Chair**



Our Jefferson County TREASURER

Tim Funchess is a lifelong resident of Beaumont. He and his wife, Karen, have three grown children and nine grandchildren ranging in age from 1 to 18. After graduating from Lamar with a BBA in Finance, he was employed by a local bank and worked his way up to Vice President and Manager of the Commercial Credit Division. He is the President of Westbury Farms, Inc., a closely held family corporation with interests in agriculture, timber, oil and gas, and pipelines, as well as a large equity portfolio. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and golf. He is also a 5th degree black belt and holds the title of "Martial Arts Master."

Tim's family has an extensive presence in Beaumont AND Texas. He is an 8th generation Texan whose fifth great grandfather was one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico. And his great grandfather was instrumental in the early development of Beaumont following the oil boom of 1901.

Studying his family history is what inspired Tim to model himself after his ancestors by entering into public service -- and he sought the office for which he was most qualified. He chose the position of Jefferson County Treasurer because both his Finance degree and banking experience could only enhance his ability to perform these duties for his constituents.

Tim was successful with his first attempt running for Treasurer and did not realize until later that he was the first Republican elected to a full four-year countywide office since the Civil War and Reconstruction. This opened the door for other Republican candidates to run for their respective



offices in a county that was not only "predominantly Democrat," but totally Democrat — with the exception of one County Commissioner. Tim considers this victory his proudest achievement.

His first real challenge was trying to increase the earnings on County funds. Interest from the bank was paying less than one percent (0.7%). To offset the low bank interest, he looked into the

Government Bond market. Treasuries were on a slow and steady rise, so he was able to build a portfolio that over time would complement the low bank interest. Earnings eventually reached over \$3 million in 8 years. Rates on these bonds were low, but significantly higher than the bank. Tim stuck with this strategy and gradually grew and substantially increased the County's earnings.

Tim enjoyed networking with other County Treasurers around the State as a member of the County Treasurers' Association of Texas (CTAT). Getting involved with this organization, he was quickly placed on the Board of Directors during his fourth month in office. The following year, he was elected to the Executive Board as Secretary. He rose through the ranks and became the State President of CTAT in 2016. In 2018, he was a runner-up for Texas Outstanding County Treasurer of the year, missing out to a well-deserved and long-tenured Treasurer.

Unfortunately, eight years in office and the experience and statewide leadership did not keep Tim in office. He lost his bid for re-election in 2018, but was contacted by Orange County soon afterward and offered the position of County Purchasing Agent and thereafter appointed by a panel of District Judges and sworn into office. He enjoyed three years in this position, but was then approached by several in Jefferson County to run for Treasurer again. *(Cont'd. on Page 20)*

(Cont'd. from Page 19)

He was encouraged and convinced to do so after considering some very concerning reports on the state of the County Treasurer's Office following his absence.

On November 8, 2022, Tim Funchess won his bid to return to office. He resigned from Orange County on December 9 (his mom's 89th birthday) and was subsequently sworn in as the Jefferson County Treasurer on January 1, 2023. His first quarter back in the Jefferson County Treasurer's office has been a bit "challenging":

- (1) The report models he had previously created to monitor cash positions on a daily basis disappeared and needed to be recreated.
- (2) The County's bank merged with another bank and the newly named bank has an on-line system that must be accommodated.
- (3) As a side note, the previous County Treasurer was called out for his lack of investments and/or his unwillingness to invest. In a last ditch effort before the election, Tim's predecessor invested a ton of County funds into the County's investment portfolio and they are NOT what Tim considers to be wise investments:

(a) The investments have no call protection on the higher yielding investments; and

(b) The weighted average yield to maturity is underwater when compared to the equivalent Treasury rate.

(4) Tim has already begun restructuring the investment portfolio, but that will take some time to complete due to the length of maturities in some of the bonds now held.

Tim's goal is to have the operations of the Jefferson County Treasurer's office "routine" by this summer. Until then, he will work earnestly to return the office to its previous pristine condition before he left in 2018.

Tim Funchess looks forward to serving his constituents in Jefferson County for the next four years and is happy to be home.

Take Time to Laugh & Pray !!



WSJ | OPINION

In 2008, Hillary Clinton ran an ad saying that she was prepared to take a 3 a.m. phone call in a crisis.

Could 84-year-old Joe Biden take a 3 p.m. phone call?

https://www.wsj.com/articles/bidens-second-term-mistake-23dd7cbe?st=hoQnbkn480qte77&reflink=desktopw ebshare_permalink



Fake News You Can Trust

Why did Adam & Eve get kicked out of the Garden ?



Because they didn't read the Apple terms & conditions!





SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 222

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to join the citizens of Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange, and the surrounding communities in celebrating February 27 and 28, 2023, as Golden Triangle Days in Austin; and

WHEREAS, Golden Triangle Days in Austin was established in 2021, when leaders from the Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange chambers of commerce decided to combine their advocacy efforts during sessions of the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Golden Triangle Days in Austin provides an opportunity for citizens to build business relationships with others throughout Southeast Texas and with state officials and agency directors; representatives from Beaumont, Bridge City, Groves, Nederland, Orange, Port Arthur, Port Neches, and Tilden are attending the event; and

WHEREAS, The chambers of commerce from the Golden Triangle are truly deserving of special recognition for their efforts to organize this event for the benefit of Southeast Texas families and businesses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 80th Legislature, hereby extend best wishes for a rewarding and memorable event to those attending Golden Triangle Days in Austin; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared in honor of this special occasion.



THURSDAY — APRIL 13, 2023

TUCKER CARLSON: Good evening and welcome to “Tucker Carlson Tonight.” For the past 14 months, you have heard two main things about the war in Ukraine:

The first is that the war in Ukraine is a war of national sovereignty; it is not a proxy battle between super powers. Russia invaded Ukraine. That was immoral. The United States supports Ukraine because the United States supports democracy. But the United States, itself, is not at war with Russia. This is Ukraine’s war to fight.

The second thing we have heard over and over again is that Ukraine is winning that war. Ukrainian troops are brave and noble. Russian troops are evil and incompetent. The Ukrainians are beating the Russians. In the end, their victory is inevitable.

Now, you’re very familiar with these points because you have heard them every day since last February. You’ve heard them repeated by every power center in the United States: the Pentagon, the White House, the leaders of both parties in Congress, CEOs and celebrities. And, most consistently of all, you’ve heard them from virtually every single outlet along the entire spectrum of our national news media. These are the two essential themes of the war in Ukraine and both of them are lies.

We know that they’re lies because late last week leaked intelligence about the war in Ukraine began to appear on social media. Briefing slides prepared by the U.S. Government began to show up, among other places, on Twitter. And the slides show that this is, in fact, not Ukraine’s war. It’s OUR war. The United States is a direct combatant in a war against Russia. As we speak, American soldiers are fighting Russian soldiers.

So this is not a “regional conflict in Eastern Europe” — this is a hot war between the two primary nuclear

superpowers on earth. ***And, yet, this war has never been formally declared. It has not been authorized by Congress and, for that reason, this war is a violation of American law. It is a crime.***

The second thing we learned from these slides is that despite direct U.S. involvement, Ukraine is, in fact, losing the war. Seven Ukrainians are being killed for every Russian. Ukrainian air defenses have been utterly degraded. Ukraine is losing.

The Biden Administration is perfectly aware of this — they’re panicked about it — but they have lied about this fact to the public.

Just two weeks ago, for example, Secretary of

Defense Lloyd Austin told the U.S. Senate that Russian military power is “waning.” In other words, Russia is LOSING the war.

That was a lie. He knew it was a lie when he said it, but he repeated it in Congressional testimony. That is a crime.

But Lloyd Austin has not been arrested for committing the crime. Instead, the only man who has been taken into custody — or likely ever will be — is a 21-year-old Massachusetts Air National Guardsman who leaked the slides that showed that Lloyd Austin was lying.

He revealed the crimes, therefore he’s the criminal.



(Cont’d. on Page 25)



Fox News said Monday, April 24, it is parting ways with firebrand anchor Tucker Carlson, the network's most popular prime-time host and a leading voice in the modern conservative movement <https://www.nbcnews.com>

(Cont'd. from Page 24)

TUCKER CARLSON: That's how Washington works. "Telling the truth" is the only real sin.

Now, our news media exist and have constitutional protection precisely in order to push back against this grotesque standard. ***Their only job is to tell the truth, and yet tonight the news media are celebrating the capture of the kid who told Americans what's actually happening in Ukraine.*** They are treating him like Osama bin Ladin — maybe a little worse, actually — because unlike Al-Qaeda, apparently this kid is a racist. Here's CNN:



"The Washington Post, as you know, reviewed video of this suspect yelling racial and antisemitic slurs.... "

" Is this a dangerous person? This Air Guardsman, who has now been taken into custody, had talked about being a gun enthusiast — had been at gun ranges. He's obviously a member of the military."

"And he's the big guy in the scene. Somehow he has access to this kind of information and that makes him even larger."

"A person who thinks they know better than everyone else: They're smarter than everyone else, in their view... "

". . . And that this 21-year-old man — he's described as a gun enthusiast — feels like, in some of these descriptions, somebody who's maybe hungry for power . . . "

TUCKER CARLSON: So this 21-year-old Air National Guardsman from Massachusetts is **not a whistleblower**, CNN explains, with the help of the many intelligence agency figures that it's now hired

as analysts. No, he's not a whistleblower. **He's a criminal**, because he is — unlike the people who run our government — quote, "hungry for power." *And because this 21-year-old was so "hungry for power," federal law enforcement had to swing into action with unfamiliar speed and efficiency and apprehend him. He was **that threatening**.*

Now, keep in mind, as of tonight we still don't know where Jeffrey Epstein got hundreds of millions of dollars; we have no idea. Nor do we know what he did for a living. We don't know who left pipe bombs on Capitol Hill on January 6th — two of them!

We don't know who leaked the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade. We can't even say for certain who killed the President of the United States because, after 60 years, the Biden Administration is still hiding thousands of pages of classified documents from the Kennedy assassination, just as they are hiding more than a billion other classified documents.



But tonight, we can say for dead certain who embarrassed Toria Nuland* and Joe Biden, and that kid is going to jail for a long, long time. That's the standard — the media are fine with that standard.

*[Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Toria Nuland testified March 2, 2022 on Ukraine at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Ms. Nuland said, "It is clear that Russia will lose this conflict . . . It is only a matter of time."]

Watch this remarkable exchange on Monday of this week between the White House Press Corps and Biden flack **John Kirby**:

"Without confirming the validity of the documents, this is information that has no business in the public domain. It has no business — if you don't mind me saying — on the pages of — front pages of newspapers or on television. It is not intended for public consumption and it should not be out there."

(Cont'd. on Page 28)



GTRW'S MARCH SPEAKER:

**JULIE PICKREN,
DISTRICT 7 MEMBER,
TEXAS STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION**

**MONDAY, MAR 6 - 11:15 AM
Elegante' Hotel Ballroom
Beaumont**

**RSVPs DUE SUNDAY,
FEB 26, 6 PM**

Buffet begins at 11:15 a.m. and Meeting begins promptly at 11:30, so please be seated at that time.





(Cont'd. from Page 25)

TUCKER CARLSON: *So, the fact that U.S. soldiers are fighting Russian soldiers in a war in Ukraine has NO business in the public domain.* The fact that the country we are backing and fighting alongside is losing — NOT WINNING — has NO business in the public domain.

You have NO right to know what your government is doing in YOUR name with YOUR tax dollars and with the future of YOUR children and grandchildren. You have NO right to know.

“Shut up and stop asking relevant questions.”

“Okay,” said the media.

And if you want to get really sick to your stomach, go pull a transcript from the Pentagon briefing today, where “news reporters” asked flacks from the Pentagon, **“What are we going to do to keep information like this secret in the future?”**

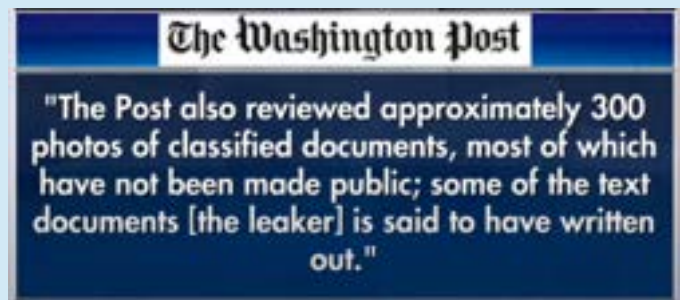
Not one question about the substance of the information: “We’re fighting a war against Russia directly, really? Don’t they have the largest nuclear arsenal in the world?” Hm, hm. **Not one question!**

“How can we help you keep it secret?” Those were the questions.

And not only are the media — not only are the media covering up the substance of the story, which is not who leaked it, but what he leaked — they’re covering up the crimes committed to get you this information.

The Administration apparently used illegal surveillance techniques to identify this kid — apparently with the help of the Washington Post and the New York Times, who are its accomplices. They are not holding government accountable; they’re helping government keep you from knowing what government is doing.

Today, the *Washington Post* reported it had exclusively obtained some of the classified



documents this leaker possessed. Quote, “The Post also reviewed approximately 300 photos of classified documents, most of which have not been made public; some of the text documents [the leaker] is said to have written out.”

So, we’ve got two problems here: If it’s illegal to see these documents — if you don’t have security clearance — how is *The Washington Post* doing this legally? They don’t have a security clearance. Well, obviously they were given them by the U.S. Intel agencies and they’re working alongside them. But the bigger problem is: This is information that’s relevant to the public in a so-called democracy. You can’t lie about things that jeopardize our collective future and get away with it. And you certainly shouldn’t be doing that with the assistance of the news media — the news media whose job it is to inform you of what your government is doing. But, instead, they are working actively, late into the night, to lie to you on behalf of their masters in permanent Washington.



And, by the way, just last week, the plan was to lie in an even more grotesque way and blame Russia for this — and we’re quoting — “Russia or pro-Russian elements are likely behind the leak of several classified U.S. military documents posted on social media that offer a partial, month-old snapshot of the war in Ukraine, three U.S. officials told Reuters on

(Cont'd. on Page 29)

(Cont'd. from Page 28)

Really? Who are these “officials” who lied to Reuters and Reuters just, of course, obediently reprinted their lies as they always do?

News agencies print what they are told to print by the Intel agencies, no matter how ridiculous it is — no matter how much dignity and self-respect they exchange in return for doing it.

So, what’s happening to this leaker now is what happens to anyone who contradicts the National Security State and their obedient servants in the media. You go to prison so the media can continue to tell you lies.

Here’s MSNBC, for example, assuring its viewers that everything is just fine:



“What the Russians didn’t understand was that they were going into the lions’ den . . . That kind of — what we would say in the military — this force multiplied — made the Ukrainian army quite literally unbeatable. They are winning. Russia is going to lose this war.”

“Every last person has said exactly what Malcolm just said. They’re going to win this war; it’s not a matter of if, but when.”

TUCKER CARLSON: Fourteen months in, they are simultaneously telling you that Ukraine’s victory is inevitable, mostly because of the moral power they possess. But at the same time, you need to send tens or hundreds of billions of dollars more in advanced weapon systems to Ukraine to keep them from losing.

What will they say now that we know the truth and that we know that they lied to us — not just the U.S. government, but the U.S. news media?

Glenn Greenwald has seen stories like this — very, very up close and personal. He’s the host of “System Update” on Rumble. He broke, of course, the most famous leaking story in American history, the story of Ed Snowden. He joins us tonight. Glenn, thanks so much for coming on.

I should say — and I’ll be quiet and let you speak since you know this better than anyone — but we left out a lot of details that are being reported in *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*, etc., etc., about the leaker and where this all came from because, honestly, I don’t believe anything and it’s very hard to know what is true. We’re all being spun, we’re all being lied to and we just didn’t want to repeat the lies.



So, with that, what do you make of this?

GLENN GREENWALD: I can’t think of an incident, Tucker, that reveals more vividly the real function of our nation’s largest media corporations than what just happened here.

If you’re a real journalist, somebody who’s devoted to transparency, ringing – shining a light on the most powerful government actors when they lied to the American people and informing the public, you would be celebrating this person who steps forward and risked his security to show his fellow citizens that the government was lying about this incredibly important war with a nuclear armed power; that we have actual troops deployed on the ground in Ukraine; there’s going to be no diplomatic resolution through at least 2023; that Zelensky is planning on

(Cont'd. on Page 31)



(Cont'd. from Page 29)



GLENN GREENWALD (Cont'd): using our weapons to strike deep into Russia — which we were told would never happen — risking escalation. He did the job of what journalists claim to do, which is showed the public the truth. If you work for the intelligence agencies, you would be furious if this person — and hate him because he revealed that you just lied. He exposed the truth about what you were doing. What's amazing is *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, all the people who were at that Pentagon briefing today think the way the CIA and the Pentagon think. They hate this person.

It was *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* that did the FBI's work and found the leaker and led the FBI to him. They are demanding that he be punished. They are demanding that the government clamp down and keep things more and more secret.

What kind of journalists would ever do that, would want to see a leaker exposed and punished and then demand that the government keep even more secrets? But that is what these media corporations are there to do. They love leaks when the CIA and Homeland Security tell them to leak. That's when they disseminate propaganda in the public like they did during the Trump years, when they leaked the transcript between Michael Flynn and Ambassador Kizlyak, the most serious kind of leaking crime.

The Washington Post did that. Nobody looked for that leaker; everybody cheered because it served the interests of the Security State.

But when it comes to transparency that undermines the agenda of these agencies and that proves to the American people what the truth is, it's amazing that these journalists are on the side of the government and will actually hunt down the leaker and demand that he be punished even more.

TUCKER CARLSON: I just don't understand how any journalist could collaborate in hiding the fact that we're in a direct hot war with Russia. Maybe you support that; maybe you don't. But how could you hide something that significant — the most significant fact of our generation — from the public? How could you do that?

GLENN GREENWALD: The only answer is that you don't actually have a journalistic mindset — that you far more identify with your job as working for the American People.

If you look at the history of the most important journalism stories, it's exactly insiders like Daniel Ellsberg — sees that the government is lying to the American people about the war in Vietnam, saying we're winning when in reality, privately, they're saying we are losing — and he goes and he shows the American people the truth.

Or Edward Snowden who overheard James Clapper falsely deny the NSA was spying on American people. He had the evidence in his hand and he risked his security to show the truth. Same thing WikiLeaks did. This is what you celebrate in journalism. "Aren't journalists" — meaning the media corporations — hate this because they actually work for their government; that is their true allegiance.

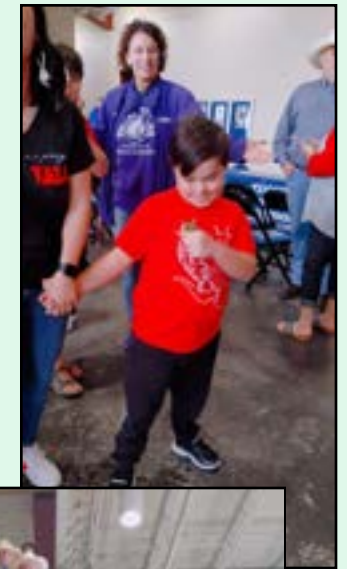
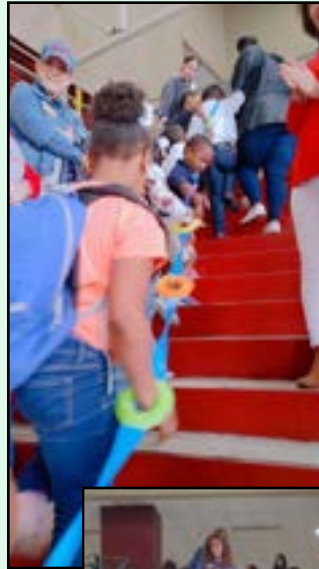
TUCKER CARLSON: You have to defend truth tellers you have. You cannot abet lying. If you have an entire country based on lies, it just does not end well. You have to tell the truth. I think you're certainly a living example of that. Glenn Greenwald, thank you very much.

GLENN GREENWALD: Thanks, Tucker.

GTRW Goes to ...



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Presidents: Kit Whitehill, TFRW; Linda Brown, GTRW; and Tina Gibson, GHCRW





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*From Ronald Reagan's Second Inaugural Address
 January 21, 1985*

With heart in hand, let us stand as one today: One people under God, determined that our future shall be worthy of our past. As we do, we must not repeat the well-intentioned errors of our past. We must never again abuse the trust of working men and women by sending their earnings on a futile chase after the spiraling demands of a bloated federal establishment. You elected us in 1980 to end this prescription for disaster, and I don't believe you re-elected us in 1984 to reverse course.

We are creating a nation once again vibrant, robust and alive. But there are many mountains yet to climb. We will not rest until every American enjoys the fullness of freedom, dignity and opportunity as our birthright. It is our birthright as citizens of this great Republic.

And if we meet this challenge, these will be years when Americans have restored their confidence and tradition of progress; when our values of faith, family, work and neighborhood were restated for a modern age; when our economy was finally freed from government's grip; when we made sincere efforts at meaningful arms reductions and by rebuilding our defenses, our economy, and developing new technologies, helped preserve peace in a troubled world; when America courageously supported the struggle for individual liberty, self-government and free enterprise throughout the world, and turned the tide of history away from totalitarian darkness and into the warm sunlight of human freedom. . . .

Let us resolve that we, the people, will build an American opportunity society in which all of us – white and black, rich and poor, young and old – will go forward together, arm in arm. Again, let us remember that our heritage is one of blood lines from every corner of the earth – we are all Americans, pledged to carry on this last, best hope of man on earth.

Today, we utter no prayer more fervently than the ancient prayer for peace on earth. Yet history has shown that peace does not come, nor will our freedom be preserved, by goodwill alone. There are those in the world who scorn our vision of human dignity and freedom. One nation, the Soviet Union, has conducted the greatest military build-up in the history of man, building arsenals of awesome offensive weapons. We've made progress in restoring our defense capability. But much remains to be done. There must be no wavering by us, nor any doubts by others, that America will meet her responsibilities to remain free, secure and at peace.

My friends, we live in a world that's lit by lightning. So much is changing and will change, but so much endures and transcends time. History is a ribbon, always unfurling; history is a journey. And as we continue our journey, we think of those who traveled before us . . . A General falls to his knees in the hard snow of Valley Forge; a lonely President paces the darkened halls and ponders his struggle to preserve the Union; the men of the Alamo call out encouragement to each other; a settler pushes west and sings a song, and the song echoes out forever and fills the unknowing air.

It is the American sound. It is hopeful, big-hearted, idealistic, daring, decent and fair. That's our heritage, that's our song. We sing it still. For all our problems, our differences, we are together as of old. We raise our voices to the God who is the Author of this most tender music. And may He continue to hold us close as we fill the world with our sound – in unity, affection and love. One people under God, dedicated to the dream of freedom that He has placed in the human heart, called upon now to pass that dream on to a waiting and a hopeful world.

God bless you and may God bless America.



*40th President of
 the United States
 1981 ~ 1989*