



"Freedom dies a little bit today."

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn)

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I waited for the health care debacle to wind down before writing my message this month and want to start with a quote from Rep. Marsha Blackburn of my former state of Tennessee: "Freedom dies a little bit today." How very true, but I think more than "a little bit" died this week.

First, we must contact the offices of our intelligent, sensible Congressmen with the integrity to vote "NO", and thank them for doing what is right and for standing up for us. Please be sure to thank Congressmen Michael McCaul, Lamar Smith, and John Carter here in our area. They are up for reelection, as you know, and we must make sure they win.

Next, contact those in our area who voted yes and tell them that we will do all in our power to vote them out of office. Unfortunately we have many such Democrats in Texas: Representatives Lloyd Doggett, Solomon Ortiz, Shelia Jackson Lee, Gene Green, Ciro Rodriguez, and Henry Cuellar. Rep. Chet Edwards waited until there were enough votes to pass the bill and then voted no...I am not sure whom he thinks he is fooling. All of these members have Republican opponents who need our help. As Congressman McCaul said in his message to the Republican County Convention for SD14, we must take Nancy Pelosi out of the Speaker's chair. The only way to do this is to obtain a Republican majority in Congress again.

Finally, we can be effective in working to elect Republican candidates not only in our own districts, but across the state and across the country. This is not a time to slow down or to give up. As Ronald

Reagan said,” When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat.” For those who didn’t listen to the people on this legislation, let’s work our hardest to show them that we mean business. Feeling the heat for them means being voted out of office. We must get active right now!

Remember that we may have lost the battle, but we have not lost the war.

Diane Fulton

Join us at our next ARW Luncheon

**Come see what’s really going on in Washington from someone who’s there!
Join us for an update from Congressman Michael McCaul.**

Date: Thursday, April 8, 2010
Time: 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Location: Sullivan’s Steakhouse
300 Colorado Street
(at Colorado & 3rd Street)
Free Valet Parking

Cost: \$25

Speaker: Congressman Michael McCaul

RSVP: To Denise Jenkins at rsvp@austinrepublicanwomen.org or 512-750-2442 **by noon on Tuesday, April 6, 2010**; Cancellations after noon on Tuesday will be members’ responsibility to reimburse ARW. Persons who make reservations and do not attend will be billed.



Congressman Michael McCaul

April Deal of the Day

Enter to win the April “Deal of the Day,” this beautiful, deep red leather handbag by Brahmin (www.brahmin.com) that easily goes from day to evening. Tickets can be purchased at the April luncheon for \$10 each, and the Fundraising Committee will randomly draw the winner at the close of the luncheon. Support ARW and win this fabulous prize!



A special thank you to Brahmin at the Prime Outlets in San Marcos for supporting ARW.

Mark Your Calendars: Upcoming Events

April 5-9, 2010	Early Voting for Joint Primary Runoff Election
April 8, 2010	April Luncheon Meeting with Congressman Michael McCaul
April 13, 2010	Joint Primary Runoff Election Day
April 17, 2010	ARW Troop Packing Party
May 6, 2010	May Luncheon Meeting with Alex Posey, Tactical Analyst for Security Issues for STRATFOR
June 11-12, 2010	Republican Party of Texas 2010 State Convention

Raging Elephants, ARW Boot Camp a Big Success! **By Kim Chambers**



ARW members attend Apostle Claver's Boot Camp on March 6, 2010.

Austin Republican Women hosted the first Raging Elephants Boot Camp in Austin, Texas on Saturday, March 6th. Over 60 people congregated at Sullivan's Steakhouse in downtown Austin for three hours to hear Apostle Claver Kamau-Imani, founder and chairman of RagingElephants.org, speak about how to overcome the demographic crisis of the Conservative movement in Texas.

Part one of the presentation was an assessment and diagnosis of the state of the Republican Party. The Party is consistently losing elections in urban areas. Concurrently, these areas are becoming more

racially diverse. The GOP contains only 2% African-American membership and Latinos hover around 5%. This is an untenable situation with the changing demographics of our state and country.

Part two of the presentation dealt with “conversion politics”—how to convert “voters of color” to the Republican Party. According to data and polls, African-Americans are conservative on many issues including taxes, a strong defense, privacy rights, gun ownership, illegal immigration, defense of traditional marriage, and pro-life issues.

As Claver explained, in order for the Republican Party to start winning elections, we need to “erode the traditional base of support of the Democrats” and “expand the base of the GOP through non-traditional voting blocks and Independents.”

By targeting the “communities of color” with Conservative, Republican issues, the Party can slowly erode the Democrat base while expanding it’s own base. But how can one know which issues are important to different communities across Texas?

The last part of the Boot Camp was a training session that addressed this question. Claver walked participants through the steps of how to canvass in these “non-traditional voting block” neighborhoods. He presented a questionnaire that helps uncover hidden Conservatives who have been camouflaged by their race and neighborhood. Once they are identified, RagingElephants.org targets these voters via direct mail and attempts to convert them to the Republican Party.

Dr. Susan Dinges Burak graciously served as the canvasser-in-training, while Mike Asmus, Dr. Donna Campbell’s campaign manager, played the role of the “non-traditional voter.” Claver helped Susan and the rest of the volunteers, by giving helpful tips on how to conduct a doorstep poll.

The afternoon was a great success and a fun time was had by all.

ARW Troop Packing Party, April 17

ARW’s Caring for America Committee is throwing a “troop packing party” to pack care packages to send to our troops in Kunar, Afghanistan. This is a fun opportunity to bring new members or friends who are not yet members to an ARW event. We will be sending the care packages to two units, troops and a hospital. There is no PX, so the troops need these supplies even more. They need items for themselves as well as the Afghan children they meet along the way.

What is needed?

Troops:

1. Hygiene items: bar soap, triple blade razors, shave gel, deodorant, body wash, antibiotic ointment, and personal wipes;
2. Pocket snacks: peanuts, jerky, dried fruit, tuna pouches, etc.; and
3. For convoys: hard, individually wrapped candies for themselves and children, 6-12 pack soft side coolers, gel ice packs, and single drink mixes.

Hospital patients:

1. Fleece throws for baby blankets;
2. Receiving blankets;
3. Like new baby and children's clothing and shoes (no skirts or short sleeves for girls and no Americanized symbols like Disney etc.);
4. Generic color books (pictures only with no writing) and markers (crayons melt);
5. Pencils and writing tablets (plain);
6. Stuffed animals; and
7. Soccer balls with small hand pumps.

Sadly, it is very important that nothing looks American.

Hospital staff:

Body wash, popcorn, cookies, individual hard wrapped candies, coffee, sugar, creamer, Pepto Bismal, antibiotic ointment, personal wipes, 6-12 pack soft side coolers, gel ice packs, and single drink mixes.

There will be a follow-up notice detailing the location and time and asking people to sign up to bring food for the packing party. We take donations to help cover postage and to purchase items for you if you would rather have us do it for you.

If you have the name and mailing address for a Marine or soldier you would like to include, please contact Kelly Hoag at jkhoag@yahoo.com or Genie Sorensen at genie.wayne@earthlink.net.



Websites

Check out our website for up to the date information: www.austinrepublicanwomen.org

Travis County Republican Party: www.Traviscountygop.org

Travis Republican Advisory Committee PAC: www.gopTRACPAC.org

Texas Federation of Republican Women: www.TFRW.org

MARCH PHOTO GALLERY



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