

The Republican Club of Sun City NEWSLETTER

March 2017

Everett Schmidt, Editor

Sun City Texas

(Subjects in this newsletter: Democrats and the "Left"; Dysfunctional Courts; Obituary of Howard Butt, Jr.)
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VICE CHAIRMAN OF REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS TO ADDRESS CLUB

Amy Clark, elected as vice-chairman of the Republican Party of Texas in 2014, will address the club during its dinner meeting scheduled for **Thursday, March 9** in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City.

Her address is expected to be wide-ranging and timely, this being said because, while the presidential election may be over, the death-struggle for the soul of America continues. But the struggle is now perhaps more ideological than political as suggested by strong evidence that 'leftism' is currently the predominant ideology of the Democrat party, the media, the universities, and the teachers' unions, leaving the future of the nation, as founded, almost entirely in the hands of the Republican party – provided it remains true to its ideals. Her extensive experience provides her with valuable insights which she can pass on to individuals willing to continue the fight. (A description of "leftist" is provided in a report below.)

Conservatives, especially, will be impressed by her background, some examples of which include working in the Washington, D. C. area with the National Rifle Association, being a published columnist writing opinion pieces for *The Washington Times* online edition, and traveling to both Colorado and Ohio to volunteer for the national "Victory" effort emanating from Texas during the 2012 elections, leading then a team of 28 to Cleveland with the Mighty Texas Strike Force.

Her experience in dealing with Texas' politics is varied and impressive. Note some of her experiences in that regard: she was a precinct chairman, an election judge, a county chairman and a member of the State Republican Executive Committee (SREC) and served on the SREC Ballot Integrity Task Force and the Party Organization Committee. She has also served on a number of civic and governmental committees.

A homeschooling mom, she is passionate about sharing her love of the outdoors, food, football and *the Constitution* with her girls. She makes the following charge to each of us who love this country as founded: "I fervently believe that American is that Shining City on a hill, and that it is up to each of us – each in our own way – to defend her and preserve our freedoms for the next generation." Given her record as a political activist, it can be said, "She practices what she preaches!"

Clark currently resides on a ranch in south Texas with her husband, a wildlife business consultant, and their two daughters.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MEETING OF MARCH 9

BEGINNING TIME: Doors Open - 5:45 pm; Social Period – 6:00 pm; Dinner – 6:30 pm; Program – 7:00 pm

MENU: Capris salad, assorted dinner rolls, chicken pesto alfredo, vegetarian stuffed portabella mushrooms, wild mushroom risotto, steamed broccoli, sauteed vegetable medley with ratatouille.

COST: Dinner fee is \$18 per person. Checks made out to "The Republican Club of Sun City" should be mailed to: **The Republican Club of Sun City, 1530 Sun City Blvd., Suite 120, Box 227, Georgetown, TX 78633**, or left in a special drop box located on the front porch of the home of club treasurer Gene Edwards at 202 Duck Creek Lane. For information, contact Gene at 512-990-1159 or gneedwards@earthlink.net The deadline for payment or reservations is Friday, March 2.

VISITORS ARE WELCOME! (Non-members may attend a maximum of two meetings per year – as attendees for the dinner or as observers for the program – without having to pay membership dues.)

BUSINESSMAN/CITIZEN TO DISCUSS "CONVENTION OF THE STATES" DURING APRIL CLUB MEETING

Chuck Adams, a Roundrock businessman speaking as a citizen, will address the club about a "Convention of States" during the club's dinner meeting scheduled for **Thursday, April 27** in the ballroom of the Social Center in Sun City.

Article V of the Constitution provides two methods of amending the Constitution. The first has Congress playing an indispensable role. The second method empowers the states to *bypass Congress* and call a convention (referred to as a "Convention of the States" or an "Article V Convention") for the purpose of amending the Constitution, possibly on subjects Congress may be resistant to consider because of the self-interest and/or political considerations - such as, for example, term limits – of its members.

Details of that meeting will be provided in the April newsletter.

CLUB TO SPONSOR TOUR OF “COMMUNITY FIRST VILLAGE”

The reader may recall hearing about “Mobile Loaves and Fishes,” an organization providing help to the homeless, during the club's November meeting when a representative of that organization, Perri Verdino-Gates, spoke of it.

Considerable enthusiasm has especially been generated over that organization's founding of the Community First Village, an actual village consisting largely of tiny – though friendly and comfortable – houses which can provide homes for the homeless – and in a manner which enables residents to attain (or maintain) personal dignity and avoid dependency. (This will be explained during the tour) Three of the club officers who visited the Village just prior to the November meeting used such terms as “exciting” and “overwhelming” to describe their experiences there.

In light of the noted enthusiasm, the club has arranged for a bus trip to and tour of the Community First Village on **Wednesday, April 19**.

The bus will depart at 8:30 am on that date from the circle in front of the Social Center. Return by noon is expected. Ellen Mire, who conducts tours for the Community Association, will be guide. The tour at the Village site is from 9:30 am to 11:00 am when Alan Graham, founder of the Mobile Loaves and Fishes and the Community First Village, will be present.

Cost is \$21 per person (includes tips) to be paid by check made out to The Republican Club of Sun City and sent or delivered to Meredith's address. Anyone wishing to participate in the event should first contact club president Meredith Chiles at 104 Scissortail Trail, 512-868-1391 or chilesmm@gmail.com to confirm the availability of space *before* sending in a check.

OTHER CLUB NEWS

Membership for 2017. Individuals who were club members in 2016 will have their names kept on the communications list until February 28. If they have not renewed by that date, their names will be removed from that list. They can, of course, renew their memberships anytime during 2017.

Dues (\$15 per person) may be submitted by mail provided an Application, available at rcsctx.com, accompanies the payment. Mail those items to the address shown in the “COST” section above.

Directories. Vice president Cody reports she will have available at the March 9 meeting printed Membership Directories; however, members can also access the 2017 membership list in an electronic version (in lieu of a printed version) on the club's website, rcscx.com. Directories also contain names and contact information of elected officials.

Vice President Vacancy. The Executive Committee has indicated that it intends to select during its meeting of March 2 a person to fill the current vacancy of First Vice President (for programs). Anyone wishing to be considered for that position or wishing to suggest someone for it should contact club president Meredith Chiles as soon as possible. Speakers have been scheduled through August, so a major responsibility of that position has already been met.

Statistics. Vice president Cody reports that current club membership for 2017 stands at 288; the number of attendees at the dinner of the February meeting was not available; however, 23 individuals are reported to have attended the program as observers.

Club Donates “Essential Liberty” Booklets. The Executive Committee authorized the donation of one “Essential Liberty” booklet to each participant in the coming Vacation Liberty School classes which are part of a week-long, half-day program for children of ages 7-12 designed, according to its web site, “to educate, enlighten and excite kids about the beliefs, fundamentals and principles on which this country was founded.” Inasmuch as the club has a sufficient number of booklets for that purpose, the purchase of additional booklets will not be necessary.

NEWS OF THE COUNTY PARTY

The county party has elected club member Sue DeVillez as chairman of Precinct 281, one of the three precincts in Sun City.

THE DOMINANCE OF THE “LEFT” IN TODAY'S DEMOCRAT PARTY

Democrats Disassociate Themselves From Their Past. Democrats no longer honor – as they once did – their party's founders, Thomas Jefferson and Andrew Jackson. That's because Jefferson's views are no longer in vogue. Note, for example, that it was Jefferson who stated, “The government is best which governs least,” a thought which doesn't square with the ever-present promotion of big – if not gargantuan – government advocated by Democrats.

Also, Jefferson had a concern about government catering to special interests. It was Jefferson who led the Anti-Federalist movement against the ratification of the Constitution because he feared those elected would become pawns for special interests, using their constituencies to perpetuate their offices. Jefferson was proven right! Even so, for all to see, Democrats engage in emotional – often demagogic – appeals to special interests such as minorities, women, LGBT groups, open-border groups and the like.

And note the present hostility of Democrats toward religion. The party has gone from Present Roosevelt proclaiming the need to save “Christian Civilization” in World War II speeches to an attempt two conventions ago to ban the mention of God in the Democrat platform.

Note also that one of the past heroes of Democrats, John F. Kennedy, is now out-of-tune in at least two respects with Democrats: (1) Kennedy advocated reducing taxes as a means of make the economy grow, and (2) counter to the entitlement philosophy promoted today, admonished Americans, “Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country.”

The Term “Liberalism” is no Longer Appropriate. Columnist Dennis Prager discusses why the term “liberalism” is no longer appropriate to describe the ideology of the Democrat party: “Liberalism – which was anti-left, pro-American and deeply committed to the Judeo-Christian foundations of America . . . regarded Western Civilization as the greatest moral and artistic human achievement. The left, however, is opposed to every one of those core principles of liberalism. Just as in Western Europe, the left in America seeks to erase America's Judeo-Christian foundation.

The Emergence of the Term “Left.” Given such departures from Democrat beliefs such as those discussed above, the terms “progressive” and “liberal” - which had been used in the past – are now no longer appropriate. Since the beliefs of the past are now in conflict with present Democrat values, new terminology had to be introduced into the vernacular. The result is the terminology “left” and “leftist.”

Conservapedia website states, “A leftist supports collectivism, more government control of the economy, direct government control over social policy, including Federal control over education at all levels, lower military spending, censorship of religion, a living constitution, same-sex “marriages,” a more unisex society, globalism, transnationalism, feminism, the homosexual agenda, taxpayer-funded abortion, and censorship of Christianity in public places.”

Differences Between the “Left” and the “Right.” In a recent op-ed piece, Prager produced a chart revealing in stark terms some of the major differences between the “left” and the “right.” Following are excerpts from that chart.

SOURCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Left: Government
Right: The Creator

ECONOMIC GOAL

Left: Equality
Right: Prosperity

WAR

Left: Not the answer
Right: Sometimes the only answer

PRIMARY ROLE OF THE STATE

Left: Increase and protect equality
Right: Increase and protect liberty

PURPOSE OF JUDGES

Left: Pursue social justice
Right: Pursue justice

GENDER

Left: A social construct
Right: Male and female

FAMILY IDEAL

Left: Any loving unit of people
Right: A married father and mother and children

GOOD AND EVIL

Left: Relative to individual and/or society
Right: Based on universal absolutes

HUMANITY'S PRIMARY DIVISIONS

Left: Rich and poor, strong and weak
Right: Good and evil

IDEAL PRIMARY IDENTITY OF MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT AN AMERICAN

Left: World citizen
Right: American citizen

TO CULTIVATE IN A CHILD

Left: Self-esteem
Right: Self-control

WORTH OF THE HUMAN FETUS

Left: Determined by the mother
Right: Determined by society rooted in Judeo-Christian values

BLACK AMERICA'S PRIMARY PROBLEM

Left: Racism
 Right: Lack of fathers

NATIONAL BORDERS

Left: A relic of the past
 Right: Indispensable for national survival

VIEW OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

Left: Welcomed guests
 Right: Illegal immigrants

HOW TO MAKE A GOOD SOCIETY

Left: Abolish inequality
 Right: Develop each citizen's moral character

VIEW OF AMERICA

Left: Profoundly morally flawed; inferior to any number of European countries
 Right: Greatest force for good among nations in world history

PRIMARY SOURCE OF CRIME

Left: Poverty, racism and other societal flaws
 Right: The criminal's malfunctioning conscience

INTERNATIONAL IDEAL

Left: World governed by the UN and no single country is dominant
 Right: World in which America is the single strongest entity

HATE

Left: Wrong, except when directed at the political
 Right: Wrong, except when directed at devil

AMERICA'S FOUNDING FATHERS

Left: Rich white male slave owners
 Right: Great men who founded the greatest society

HUMAN NATURE

Left: Basically good (Therefore, society is responsible for evil.)
 Right: Not basically good (Therefore, the individual is primarily responsible for evil)

PLACE OF GOD AND RELIGION IN AMERICA

Left: Secular government and secular society
 Right: Secular government and religious society

GREATEST THREAT TO THE WORLD

Left: Environment catastrophe (currently global warming)
 Right: Evil (currently radical Islamist violence)

PRIMARY REASON FOR LACK OF PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

Left: Israeli settlements in the West Bank
 Right: Palestinian, Arab and Muslim denial of Jewish state's right to exist

PURPOSE OF ART

Left: Challenge status quo and bourgeois sensibilities
 Right: Produce works of beauty and profundity to elevate themselves and society

Is Unity Between Left and Right Possible in America? In regard to the possibility of unity being attained between the left and the right, Prager contends the following: "Without any important value held in common, how can there be unity between left and non-left? Obviously, there cannot." He then asserts the following stark conclusion: "There will be unity only when the left vanquishes the right or the right vanquishes the left. Using the Civil War analogy, American unity was achieved only after the South was vanquished and slavery was abolished."

The Connection Between "Leftism" and "Secular Humanism." The ideology of "Secular Humanism" conflicts with the Judeo-Christian ideology which has served the nation so well, but is consistent in many respects with the "leftist ideology." Secular Humanism has been codified into a document known as the *Humanist Manifesto* of which there have been several versions dating back to the early 1900s.

Following are excerpts from the *Humanist Manifesto* of 2000. The reader may be stunned at the extent to which this ideology, once considered but a fringe movement, has now come to represent the dominate ideology of the left.

ATHEISM.

We find insufficient evidence for belief in the existence of a supernatural; it is either meaningless or irrelevant to the question of the survival and fulfillment of the human race. As nontheists, we begin with humans not God, nature not deity. But we can discover no divine purpose or providence for the human species. The unique message of humanism on the current world scene is its commitment to scientific naturalism.

EVOLUTION

Humanism believes that man is a part of nature and that he has emerged as the result of a continuous process. Science affirms that the human species is an emergence from natural evolutionary forces. The scientific theory of evolution, however, provides a more parsimonious account of human origins and is based upon evidence drawn from a wide range of science.

AMORALITY

We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics is autonomous and situational, needs no theological or ideological sanction. Ethics stem from human need and interest. To deny this distorts and whole basis of life. In the

area of sexuality, we believe that intolerant attitudes, often cultivated by orthodox religious and puritanical cultures, unduly repress sexual conduct.

SOCIALISTIC ONE-WORLD GOVERNMENT

We deplore the division of humankind on nationalistic grounds. We have reached a turning point in human history where the best option is to transcend the limits of national sovereignty and to move toward the building of a world community in which all sectors of the human family can participate. Thus we look to the development of a system of world law and world order based upon transnational federal government. The world needs at some point in the future to establish an effective World Parliament - and elections based on population – which represents the people, not their governments.

We recommend an international system of taxation. This world community must renounce the resort to violence and force as a method of solving international disputes. War is obsolete.

DID THE FOUNDERS AND FRAMERS LEAVE THE NATION HELPLESS IN DEALING WITH A DYSFUNCTIONAL COURT SYSTEM?

Foreword. There is presently a great concern about the nation's court system. With respect to the Supreme Court, some of the concerns include legislating from the bench (as ObamaCare), exceeding authority (as Obergefell on same-sex marriage), taking sides in the culture war (as religious liberty), failing to recuse (as Obergefell) and others. In addition there is growing concern about the physical and mental health of our aging Justices, a concern justified by the fact that those problems were not dealt with in the past.

And more recently, there have been strong contentions by knowledgeable legal observers that a federal District Court in Washington State and a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit clearly exceeded their authority when they issued rulings which had the effect of stopping President Trump's order to restrict immigration of individuals from certain countries in an effort to reduce the threat of terrorism in our country.

This report will discuss some of the provisions the framers gave us to cope with wayward courts, Judges and Justices; however, it should be recognized that these provisions will not likely be effective in the absence of backbone on the part of Congress and an *informed* citizenry which supports Congress when it attempts to exercise its prerogatives.

Removal of Judges and Justices. Conventional wisdom holds that federal judges are appointed “for life.” But this holding, when expressed as an absolute, conflicts with a significant qualification found in Article III of the Constitution where Section I provides that judges “shall hold their offices *during good Behavior* . . .” Further, Article II states in pertinent part that “. . .civil officers . . . shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other *high crimes and misdemeanors*.” Significantly, columnist Andrew McCarthy contends the phrase “high crimes and misdemeanors” refers to political wrongs of public men, such as breaches of a fiduciary duty or trust.

Historian David Barton points out that even when aware of the above-cited constitutional provision concerning impeachment, many citizens believe that a public official may be impeached only for the commission of a *criminal offense* or for a violation of statutory law. He contends, however, that such belief is untenable in that “a judge – unless he commits an overt act – will remain securely in his office as long as he wishes regardless of how irresponsible, arbitrary, or tyrannical his rulings may be.” And with no threat of restraint to confront them, many judges, having abused their authority, affirm by their behavior Jefferson's two-centuries-old warning:

[T]he germ of dissolution of our federal government is in the [composition] of the federal judiciary . . . working like gravity by night and day, gaining a little today and a little more tomorrow, and advancing its noiseless step like a thief over the field of jurisdiction until all shall be usurped.

The Power of the Purse. In theory, nothing in government can happen unless the House, with its ultimate power of the purse, agrees to fund it. If a corrupt administration, for example, uses the IRS as a partisan weapon and harasses its detractors (as was charged during the Obama administration), the House can refuse to fund the IRS - or other parts of the executive or judicial branches.

Congress' Ability to Control Jurisdiction. A Constitutional provision useful for curbing usurpations or excesses by courts is found in Article III, Section 2 wherein there is, first, a statement about certain matters over which the court has jurisdiction consistent with certain Constitutional provisions. That statement is then followed by “In all the cases . . . the Supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, *with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as Congress shall make.*” (emphasis added)

In other words, the foregoing emphasized language authorizes Congress to stipulate certain matters for which courts may not have jurisdiction. Former Majority Leader Tom Daschle provides an illustration as to how easily this can be done. To keep environmentalists from contesting in court certain legislation he sponsored for his state concerning forestation, he simply added to that legislation the following statement: “Any action authorized by this Section shall not be subject to judicial review by any court in the United States.” It's apparently that simple!

The Ability of Congress to Establish Courts. According to Article III, Section 1, “The judicial Power of the United States shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.”

Under the authority of this provision, two separate bills - one by Sens. Flake (R., Ariiz.) and McCain (R., Ariz.), and another by Sens. Aines (R., Mont.) and Sullivan (R., Alaska) – would splinter off six or seven states from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

The Ninth Circuit is by far the largest of the thirteen courts of appeal, with 29 active judges. Wikipedia reports several adverse consequences of its large size. Chief among these is the Ninth Circuit's unique rules concerning the composition of an *en banc* court. In other circuits, *en banc* courts are composed of all active circuit judges, plus (depending on the rules of the particular court) any senior judges who took part in the original panel decision. By contrast, in the Ninth Circuit it is impractical for 29 or more judges to take part in a single oral argument and deliberate on a decision *en masse*. The court thus provides for a “limited *en banc* review of a randomly selected 11 judge panel. This means that *en banc* reviews may not actually reflect the views of the majority of the court and indeed may not include any of the three judges involved in the decision being reviewed in the first place.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports another problem. As of September, the court had 13,334 pending cases, far more than double the next busiest circuit. The court takes a median of about 14 months to reach a decision in a case, 5 ½ months slower than the national median.

Splintering off six or seven states from the Ninth Circuit (as proposed) not only would provide some relief from some of the problems noted above, it would reduce the number of leftist rulings from the court which has the reputation of having more of its rulings overturned by the Supreme Court than any other Circuit in the nation.

The Intent of the Framers. There is solid support for the notion that, as reflected by the intent of the framers, the “judicial independence” of judges is not absolute, and that the Constitution authorizes a role for Congress when judicial abuse surfaces, even when it is not criminal in nature. Following are two examples of evidence:

Alexander Hamilton: “The subjects of it's [impeachment] jurisdiction are . . . of a nature which may with peculiar propriety be denominated political.” (emphasis added)

Founding Justice Joseph Story: “[Impeachment] is not so much designed to punish an offender as to secure the state against gross official misdemeanors. It touches neither his person nor his property, but simply divests him of his political capacity.” (emphasis added)

EXCERPTS FROM THE OBITUARY OF HOWARD E. BUTT, JR.

Foreword. Because a large number of club members – like virtually all residents of Sun City – patronize the HEB Grocery, the reader may find the following excerpts from one of the longest obituaries to appear in the *Wall Street Journal*, that of Howard E. Butt, Jr., to be of interest. (See issue of September 24-25, 2016)

Howard E. Butt, Jr., the eldest son helping run his family's HEB Grocery chain, grew uneasy in the 1960s with balancing the day-to-day demands of the fast-growing company and a fervent religious activism that carried him to prayer meetings and weekend revivals.

After juggling the weight of work, family and his Baptist faith, he became a pioneer in addressing mental illness when he publicly acknowledged bouts of anxiety and depression. Mr. Butt left the executive mantle to a younger brother and became a spiritual adviser to other business-people, founder of a central Texas religious center and the head of his family's philanthropic endeavors.

Mr. Butt died at his home in San Antonio on Sunday, September 11, from complications related to Parkinson's disease. He was 89 years old.

Today, HEB Grocery Co., has 380 locations and 96,000 employees around Texas and northern Mexico, with more than \$23 billion in annual sales. Forbes magazine lists the Butt family as having a combined net worth of nearly \$11 billion.

Mr. Butt's spiritual calling emerged early. Before graduating from Baylor University in 1947, he helped lead a Christian youth revival movement that spread across the country.

Shortly after graduation, Mr. Butt married his sweetheart, Barbara, and joined the operation of HEB, the grocery chain that his parents, Howard E. Butt Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt, were rapidly expanding in Texas.

As he rose through the ranks of HEB management, eventually to vice president, Mr. Butt sensed a higher calling to tend to the church laity, those who weren't ordained ministers but active members of their local churches.

Mr. Butt, the oldest of five children, was born September 8, 1927 in Kerrville, Texas, and appeared destined to work in the food business that his grandmother, Florence, founded in 1905.

He became head of one of the earliest private philanthropic organizations in Texas which provided camping and outdoor activities for underprivileged children. He established Laity Lodge, an ecumenical Christian retreat center. In 2000, he launched a series of 60-second radio broadcasts dubbed “The High Calling of Our Daily Work,” emphasizing the inherent value of honest dealings in the workplace, broadcast on 3,000 stations.