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 Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris
 Bylaws/Parliamentarian: Kerri Tonkin
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 Fundraising: Keri Tonkin
 Hospitality: Barb Koeplinger
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 Membership: Peg Love
 Newsletter: Mary Snyder
 Programs: Pat Baldwin
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 Non-Committee Positions
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THE MAHOUT

The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

July 2017

*Strong Women for a
Strong America*

RAY RODRIGUES

Raymond "Ray" Wesley Rodrigues is the Republican Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives, representing the 76th District, which includes southern and coastal Lee County, namely, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers Beach, and Sanibel.

Rodrigues was born in Pensacola and attended Berry College in Rome, Georgia, where he received a scholarship from the WinShape Foundation and graduated in 1992. Following graduation, he moved to Estero, where he became an active member of the community, eventually working as the Budget Manager for the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University.

Mr. Rodrigues has been active in the Lee County Republican Party since 1995, serving in various capacities including Vice-Chairman from 2010-2012. In 2004, Ray embarked on his first campaign for public office when he ran for Lee County Supervisor of Elections, but he lost in the Republican primary to incumbent Sharon L. Harrington. When the Florida House of Representatives districts were redrawn in 2012, Ray elected to run in the newly created 76th District. He faced off against former State Representative Michael J. Grant and Chauncey Solinger in the Republican primary. He won by a fairly large margin, winning 50% of the vote to Grant's 28% and Solinger's 22%. Rodrigues was unopposed in the general election.

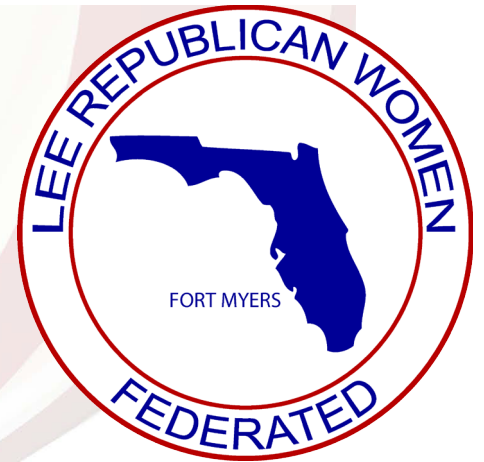
During his time in the legislature, he sponsored legislation that guaranteed the public's right to speak at official government meetings, due to the fact "that there is no explicit right for those in attendance to speak at meetings of bodies such as city councils, county commissions, school boards and taxing districts," which

passed the legislature nearly unanimously. Additionally, he authored legislation that would allow overseas absentee voters to have their ballots fully counted as long as they are postmarked by Election Day and received within ten days of Election Day, as previously, ballots received within ten days of Election Day were only counted for votes for President. He noted, "Our military voters overseas are sacrificing for us to have the opportunity to hold elections. I think the right thing to do is to guarantee their full participation; I wanted to see their entire ballot counted in that ten day window." He also worked with fellow State Representative Cary Pigman to sponsor legislation that would require "immediate medical care for fetuses born alive following an attempted abortion." In 2016, Ray drafted a bill that allows fracking in Florida and prevents local governments from making any laws prohibiting fracking; under this bill the oil and gas industry would be required to disclose carcinogens and monitor the future effects of the chemicals injected into the ground.

Ray has a wife, Ruth, and one child by the name of Rhett. He is heavily involved in many civic and religious organizations.



Ray Rodrigues
Florida State House
Majority Leader



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"I think the best possible social program is a job." Ronald Reagan

LRWF MONTHLY MEETING

Join us on Monday, July 10th at Pincher's Restaurant, The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. 1st St., Fort Myers. Ray Rodrigues, Florida State Representative and Majority leader will be speaking.

There are three menu choices:

1. Homemade crab salad on a croissant with chips
 2. Garden salad with grilled chicken and rolls
 3. Plain Caesar salad with toppings on the side
- We will have ice cream sundaes for dessert.

- \$22 Inclusive
- 11:15 PM Social Time /Lunch and Program following
- Reservations deadline is noon, Thursday, 7/6/17.

For reservations call Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or email at wrenspet@hotmail.com.

To make a reservation online go to <https://squareup.com/store/lee-republican-women-federated-2>

Remember, a reservation made is a reservation paid!
Everyone MUST check in at the Reservation Desk.



Cecil Pendergrass
Lee County Commissioner

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER...CECIL PENDERGRASS

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

Associated with the Florida Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese
LRWF President

July is the month when we celebrate our independence. It's the time to reflect on the blessings we have as citizens of the greatest country in the world.

Knowing how blessed we are, we must also realize that freedom of speech and religion are being threatened by groups of left wing activists. Peaceful gatherings are difficult to hold, since these gatherings are filled with shouting protestors. It is very important that we attend Republican meetings and particularly town halls to support the speakers. The opposition is coming out in force to these meetings and is taking over the floor. Make it your goal this summer to attend as many events as possible and then, it is imperative that we, as Republicans, ask intelligent questions and show our support. If we are doing the talking, the opposition will not have the opportunity to obstruct the meetings as they are now.

Our freedom of religion is also being threatened as our pastors cannot speak out for their beliefs and our students are bullied and harassed for stating their faith or political beliefs. Encourage everyone you know to state their issues and why they feel the way they do. We can peacefully show everyone that freedom is not free, but if we refuse to stand firm for and speak out for our rights, we will lose them.

Sincerely,
Doris Cortese, President, LRWF
Vice President, LCREC

A Word from Our Congressman

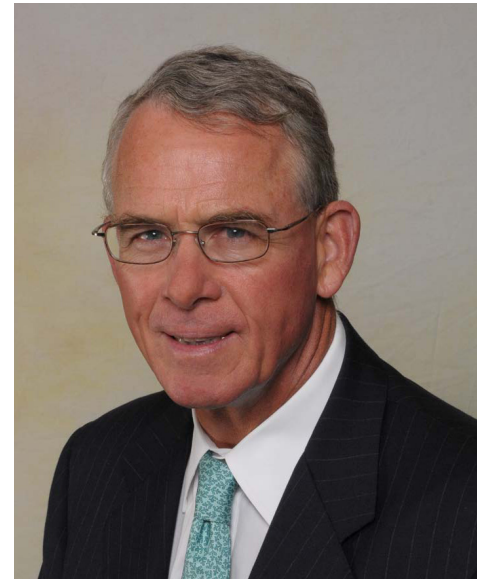
As I begin my sixth month in Congress, I am grateful for this opportunity to update you on the progress being made on many important issues. Over these first few months, I have been committed to restoring our Everglades, repealing and replacing Obamacare, and rolling back the federal government's bureaucratic red tape to get our economy moving again.

Our most critical local issue is fixing Lake Okeechobee and restoring our Everglades. The Lake Okeechobee watershed and Everglades have far-ranging impact on the entire State of Florida and the country, but especially in Southeast and Southwest Florida, where 55% of all real estate in the state is affected - 2 trillion dollars of economic impact across 164 cities and 16 counties. CERP was enacted in 2000 and we need its 68 projects to be executed. I am actively working towards solutions that will solve our water issues in the quickest and most efficient way possible. My mission at the federal level remains clearly targeted towards earning the support necessary to secure the federal funding already approved but not yet appropriated. I have had the opportunity to discuss the Everglades with President Trump, Majority Leader McCarthy, and members of the Army Corp, and believe that they are supportive of our efforts.

Nationally, there is no topic that has been more discussed than repealing and replacing the failing and unsustainable social experiment of Obamacare. Its repeal is a necessity for Southwest Floridians that have seen choices dwindling and premiums skyrocketing. The plan passed in the House of Representatives is a conservative, patient-centric, free enterprise healthcare solution that provides choice and competition. Despite what some on the left are contending, coverage for pre-existing conditions will remain. The ability for individual states to tailor their guidelines to meet the needs of their residents is a critical element of reforming our health care system, and it is what our Constitution intends for powers not expressly delegated to the federal government. It is now up to the Senate to do its part.

Finally, Congress has been successful in rolling back many of the Obama-era regulations that have stifled economic growth and prevented employers from hiring. The House has passed, and President Trump has signed into law, the repeal of 14 Obama-era regulations. These repeals will save taxpayers over \$3.7 billion in regulatory cost and begin to unravel the red tape put in place by unelected bureaucrats over the last eight years.

There is much important work still to be done on; passage of a fiscally responsible budget, tax reform, veterans care, defeating radical Islamic terrorism, and many other key issues. As we look ahead to these issues, I welcome your opinions and look forward to hearing from you soon.



Francis Rooney
US House of Representatives

ATTENTION:

Ardent supporters of President Donald J. Trump have been showering his cardboard-cutout at the Republican Headquarters with kisses. Although this is understandable, his likeness is developing some soggy smooch spots.

Please restrict your show of appreciation to hugs and general canoodling. Photos always encouraged.

Bring your friends!



Happy 4th of July!

THERE'S A MUSEUM?

by Patricia M. Baldwin

Yes, indeed. The Lee Republican Women Federated (LRWF) has been working on this project for the last six months and is now taking tour reservations for its members and friends.

The idea came about as an answer to the obvious lack of knowledge many have about the Grand Old Party (GOP). It was apparent from some very strong statements from the opposition, and some equally vile remarks by foreign heads of state, that United State citizens don't know anything about nor do they appreciate the Republican Party.

Not that Republicans can't take criticism, but when the former President of Mexico, Vicente Fox, stated last fall that Donald Trump was Hitler and Republicans are Nazis, it is time to mount the parapets and fight back.

The best way to do it appeared to be to reach out to the children and young adults who may not know their own history. Realizing that some of these youngsters will be voting in four years, the LRWF decided to open its doors for tours with a friendly introduction on how and why the Republican Party was born, and how Abraham Lincoln came to be the nation's first Republican President.

The audio-visual room was the first to be developed. With the gift of a TV and DVD by Mike and Amira Fox, the museum will be able to show films on American government, the Civil War, slavery and many other subjects.

Like Topsy who "just grewed", the museum seems to be following its own whims through development as things are donated and subjects are re-searched.

All 20 Republican Presidents' photos have been hung in the main foyer. Across from them is a wall with posters, designed and donated by Mary Snyder, regarding the accomplishments of the GOP, and early abolitionists. The Civil War Room celebrates the remarkable achievements of many ordinary people during that dire and turbulent time. Adjacent to it is a room dedicated to President Trump and Vice President Michael Pence.

Another room asks, "How Do You Measure Up To Abe?". Here children can don a stovepipe hat and stand against a sketch of Honest Abe, donated by artist Joe Mahler, to see if they reach his 7'4" height. Photos encouraged.

Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Guided tours are by reservation only. Call 239-936-8779. The museum is located at the Republican Headquarters at 7910 Summerlin Lakes Drive, Ft. Myers just off Summerlin by Cypress Lakes Drive.

SUPPORT THE MUSEUM BUY A HURRICANE LAMP

LRWF is selling hurricane lamps with candles for \$5. The lamps have been provided to us by the REC to fund the museum that is being set up at the Republican Headquarters to teach conservative values. If you get a chance stop by the Headquarters and check out the museum and while you are there, purchase a lamp or many lamps!

The lamps are brand new and boxed. They are deal for entertaining or for the upcoming hurricane season. There are 60 available. Great for a wedding! Add a romantic glow to your patio area or throughout your home.

Available at headquarters. Checks only made out to LCREC.



REPUBLICANS NEED TO UNITE NOW

Tell our congressmen what you are concerned about. Encourage them to get behind our president!

BILL NELSON

716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274
or email at

<https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill>

MARCO RUBIO

284 Russell Senate Office Building
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<https://marcorubio.com/contact/>

FRANCIS ROONEY

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Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2536
or email at

<https://francisrooney.house.gov/contact/>



I am tired of being silent. I took the position of writing this newsletter so that I might have some influence or a voice in the midst of a world that is falling down around me. I've written some articles that I believe have been important, but due to the political environment, not just among Democrats, but also among some Republicans, I have been reluctant to strongly declare my faith in my articles. It's not that anyone that reads my articles would think that I am not a Christian, but it is not something that I have felt that I could speak about strongly, when in fact, my faith is truly strong within me.

I honestly believe that my God gives everyone the right to choose who they will worship or not worship. Freedom of religion means that we all have the right to worship in our own way. Freedom of speech means we can declare our faith, no matter what our faith is...or isn't. However, I believe that things have gotten out of hand and have become very unfair to Christians. While it is okay to be atheist, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, Hindu or Buddhist, it doesn't seem to be okay to be a Christian.

It's perfectly okay to have gay pride parades and entire days devoted to the lesbian and gay lifestyle. It is everyone's right to choose how they will live, but don't let a Christian read the Bible in public. It's perfectly okay for Muslims to pray in the streets of Washington D.C. It's okay for the praying Muslims to shut down traffic while they pray! But don't let the Christian pray in school!

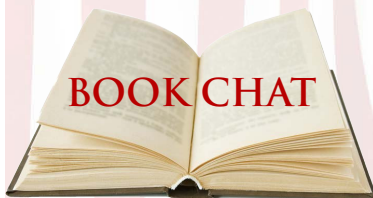
It seems to me that no one knows where morality originates. Who decides what morality is? Who decides that it is right to do one thing and not another? In my humble opinion, I believe morality starts with God...our creator. As children, our parents tell us what is right and what is wrong. It is no different with our heavenly father. Our heavenly father, God, sets the rules. You can find these rules in the written word. Do you think the word of God, the Bible, is a book of fiction or fairy tales? Let me tell you something, if you have ever taken a course in apologetics (the study of the proof for Christianity and the Bible), you will know that there are mountains of evidence proving the realness of the death and resurrection of Christ and the reliability of the Bible. If you are educated in these matters, you will know that what I am saying is true.

There! I've said it! I just quit letting people dictate to me what I can say and what I can't say. Christianity is under siege in this country and it is getting very serious.

Did you know that you will not find anything in the Constitution about the separation of church and state? It isn't there! Read it! What it does say is that "**Congress shall make no law** respecting an establishment of religion, or **prohibiting the free exercise** thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The Bible encourages all people of faith to be active in government. "This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'If you will walk in my ways and keep my requirements, then **you will govern my house and have charge of my courts**, and I will give you a place among these standing here. Zech 3:7 NIV

I'll make this editorial short and sweet this month. If we don't declare our faith and our right to declare our faith...whatever it is...Christian, Hindu, Buddhist or whatever, we will let those who have no faith or who are of other faiths run over us and we will lose our wonderful freedom to worship and enjoy the blessings that God has bestowed upon us and that our founding fathers set forth for us in the constitution. Speak out for your faith and remember... "**Always be prepared to give an answer** to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... I Peter 1:15 NIV



Ladies, Book Chat will not meet over the summer months. We will resume on October 4, at Mel's Diner from 1:00-3:00. Our selection for October will be Sheriff David Clarke's book, Cop Under Fire. This book is not a dry recitation of what has gone wrong in America with regard to race. With racial tension and animosity toward law enforcement officials, America is in need of healing and Sheriff Clarke knows where to begin. Helping us rise above our divisions, he encourages us to stop blaming others. We need to face our problems head-on and take ownership of our family, community, nation and turn to God. He feels we can rise above our current troubles to be a truly great people in pursuit of liberty and justice for all.

For November 1, we will also be meeting at Mel's Diner from 1:00-3:00. We will be reading George Orwell's book, Nineteen Eighty-Four. This book was published in 1949. It was chosen by Time magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels from 1923 to 2005. As a literary political fiction and dystopian science-fiction, this is a classic novel in content, plot and style. Many of its terms and concepts, such as Big Brother, doublethink, thoughtcrime and Newspeak have entered into common use since its publication. The popularised adjective, Orwellian, which describes official deception, secret surveillance and manipulation of recorded history by a totalitarian or authoritarian state.

Have a great summer. Read two good books, and we will meet again at Mel's Diner in October.

Please call or email me to let me know if you will attend before October's meeting so we are able to plan accordingly.

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390
timcherylharris@aol.com

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

By Norma Bruner, Volunteer at LCREC Headquarters

Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary Army while another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died either from wounds or hardships from the war.

Who were these men? Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists. Eleven were merchants, nine were farmers and plantation owners. Although men of means and well educated, they signed the Declaration knowing that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold what was left to pay off his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKeam, hounded by the British, was forced to move constantly. He served in Congress without pay. His family stayed in hiding to avoid the British. His possessions were taken from him. Poverty was his reward.

Vandals or the British looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

When the British General Cornwallis took over the Yorktown home of Thomas Nelson Jr., the owner quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis also had his home destroyed. His wife was jailed, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from the bedside of his dying wife. Their 13 children fled for their lives. He hid for a year returning to find his wife dead, children gone, and gristmill and fields destroyed. He died of exhaustion and a broken heart.

Norris and Livingston suffered similar fates.

Such were the stories and sacrifices of the American Revolution. These were not wild-eyed, rabble-raising ruffians. They were soft-spoken men of means and education. They had security, but they valued liberty more. Standing tall, straight, and unwavering, they pledged: "For the support of this declaration, with firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

They gave you and me a free and independent America. The history books never told you a lot about what happened in the Revolutionary War. We didn't just fight the British. We were British subjects at that time and we fought our own government!

Some of us take these liberties so much for granted, but we shouldn't. So, take a few minutes while enjoying your Fourth of July holiday and silently thank these patriots. It's not much to ask for the price they paid.

Remember: Freedom Is Never Free!

WHERE IS OUR PROMISED LEGISLATION OUT OF WASHINGTON DC?

By Kerri Tonkin

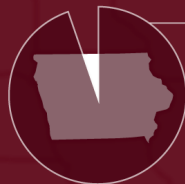
This is a question I hear pretty frequently in various circles. Everyone is wondering why it is taking so long to move legislation in Congress. My only answer to them is one, the Majority Leader Mitch McConnell in the Senate and two, committee work. The Majority Leader sets the agenda for the Senate and decides what bills will come to the floor for a vote. However, before that can happen the bill has to be cleared by the committees that are germane to the subject. The same holds true for the House of Representatives.

Recently, we have witnessed the debacle trying to repeal and replace Obamacare. The reported plan was to try and repeal and replace Obamacare using a procedure called reconciliation. This procedure allows for a bill to be passed that impacts the budget using the simple majority vote rule. This means a vote of 51 in the Senate. Because democrats are not going to vote for repeal this is the only way to get Obamacare repealed.

The other way would require the Majority Leader to bring to the floor a vote to repeal the rule on bill passage in the Senate which requires two thirds or 61 votes and allow passage of bills by a simple majority ie: 51 votes. Mr. McConnell has stated quite firmly that such an action will not happen. And given recent behavior by some Republican Senators it is not clear that he would have the votes to change the rules if he did try.

What can we do sitting here in Fort Myers? Read the bills coming out of Congress and let Representative Rooney and Senator Rubio know how you feel about them. For eight years we heard we are going to repeal and replace its time to deliver!

IT'S TIME TO
REPEAL AND REPLACE OBAMACARE



Next year, **94 OUT OF 99**
IOWA COUNTIES may
only have **ONE INSURER**
selling Obamacare coverage
and **NO CHOICES.**

MEMBERSHIP & ORIENTATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

An executive decision was made to delay the Orientation gathering until late September or early October, due to traveling new members and board members! New members will receive an invitation in the mail. HOWEVER, please join us if you are a member and have never attended a prior Orientation. We'd love to have you!

Club Directories have been printed and are available. I will have them available at each meeting. Sincere thanks and accolades to Donna Clarke for the many hours she has devoted to the Directory. Pat Baldwin, Darlene Izzo and I spent Saturday at headquarters along with Donna, proofing and detailing. As with all efforts, we found some errors and omissions after printing. If you find anything, please let me know so that I can correct the master list.

Peg Love
peglove810@gmail.com
941-740-0228

CARING FOR AMERICA 2017 PROJECT

Our new Caring for America project in 2017 is Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida. At our July meeting, Christina Harris Scwhinn will give us an update on what's new with Junior Achievement! Be sure to come and get informed!



HOLIDAY 4 HEROES

Through our September 11th meeting, LRWF's Caring for America will be collecting items for Holiday 4 Heroes. The items collected will be distributed to members in our Armed Forces that are residents of Lee County. We ask each member to bring something with them to our monthly meeting to be sent to our "heroes" overseas. Below is a list of the items that are needed:

Snacks

Tuna (in the fresh pouch)
Crackers
Nuts, Trail Mix & Protein Bars
Cookies (Store bought/homemade)
Slim Jims, Jerky & Dried Fruit
Peanut Butter and Hot Sauce
Candy, Mints & Gum
Pop Tarts and Breakfast Bars
Full Size Chocolate Bars drinks

Drinks

Single Serve is Best
Instant Coffee & Tea
Powdered Drinks
Energy Drink Drops

Toiletries & Comfort

Shampoo
Sunscreen & Lip Balm
Body Wash, Hand & Body Lotion
Eye Drops, Advil & Nasal Spray
Hand and Foot Warmers
Mouthwash & Dental Floss
Foot & Body Powder, Cough Drops

Miscellaneous

Boot Laces, Magazines & Nerf Toys
Playing Cards, Dice & Puzzle Books
Greeting Cards, Journal Books
Frisbees, Hack Sac, Travel Games
New Wash Cloths and Personal Wipes
Gallon Zip Lock Bags



If you are filling your own box, please leave it open for inspection.
Always enclose a note of appreciation or greeting.
12 to 16 oz items are preferred.

Thank you for your support of Holiday for Heroes!
We couldn't do this without YOU!



*Elizabeth Ann Bloomer Warren Ford
1918- 2011
Wife of Gerald R. Ford*

AMERICANISM

American First Ladies

By Pat Baldwin

Mention the name Betty Ford and one immediately associates this First Lady with the facility named after her: the Betty Ford Center established in 1982 to help women with drug and alcohol problems.

Betty was 60 when the family did an intervention after realizing that her drug and alcohol problems were causing chaos in her life and relationships. She and her husband, President Gerald Ford, were already retired and living at Rancho Mirage, CA, when she was confronted. Although angry at first, the denial quickly vanished and Betty realized that she was an alcoholic. She became an inpatient at the Long Beach Naval Hospital where, through its drug and alcohol rehabilitation program, she shared a room with another woman, participated in daily therapy sessions while accepting and doing janitorial duties. She bravely admitted her disease to the world and struck out to help many others.

Her compassion quickly extended to those addicts struggling with the HIV virus. She was supportive of gay and lesbian rights, and same gender marriage. The former First Lady was always candid about her progressive views.

While her husband served the country for nine months as its Vice President, Mrs. Ford made headlines following a TV interview in 1973 where she stated her support for legalized abortion, and admitted that she had been previously married and divorced. As far as Mrs. Ford was concerned, she had not kept her first marriage a secret but the press had never gotten around to asking her about it. Always independent, Mrs. Ford, as the Vice President's wife, took it upon

herself to represent her husband's administration by attending the funeral of Martin Luther King's mother, Alberta King, murdered in 1974.

In August of 1974, following the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon, Mrs. Ford held the Bible as her husband was sworn in as President of the United States. A month later, she was diagnosed with malignant breast cancer. Wanting to adhere to her husband's desire for White House honesty, Betty again shared her health problems with the nation and the world. Her openness led to thousands of women signing up for mammograms.

As FLOTUS, she was budget conscious, but her dinners were lively and most were followed by dancing. She appeared on the Mary Tyler Moore show, danced with Tony Orlando, hosted Queen Elizabeth II, the American Bicentennial celebrations, and ballet performances.

Her passion as First Lady was for the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Because of her frankness, Betty was a journalist's dream. During interviews, including one on 60 Minutes, she stated that yes, she and the President slept in the same bed, that she would be accepting of her young adult child having a pre-marital affair, she probably would have tried marijuana if that had been available when she was young, and thought the Supreme Court decision regarding a woman's right to an abortion was great. And although the Women's Christian Temperance Union censured the First Lady, which it hadn't done since 1886 when First Lady Francis Cleveland exposed too much cleavage, the in-coming mail after that TV interview was largely supportive of Betty.

President Ford lost the 1976 election. Because he was suffering from laryngitis, it was Betty Ford who delivered the concession remarks.

Although born in Chicago on April 8, 1918, Betty considered Grand Rapids, Michigan, home. She was two when she moved there with her brothers and parents. William Bloomer, her father, was a traveling salesman. Her mother Hortense Neahr was related to local furniture manufacturing families.

Raised Episcopalian, she began her passion with dance at age eight eventually attending the Bennington College School of Dance in Vermont. It was in the late 1930s that she studied under Martha Graham in New York City. She credited both Graham and her mother as being the most influential people in her life. Betty was instrumental in Graham receiving the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in 1976.

Betty always worked. In high school, she taught dance and later modeled for a local Grand Rapids department store.

At 24, she married her first husband, William Warren, a salesman. She was about to divorce him when he went into a diabetic coma. The couple stayed together until he was able to make a full recovery and obtain employment. She divorced Warren in December of 1947 and wed Gerald Ford 10 months later in 1948.

Within months after the wedding, the couple moved to Washington, D.C. While her husband was busy traveling and campaigning, Betty was raising their four children, being a PTA Mom, a congressman's wife and a volunteer for many organizations.

In 1965, she went to open a window and the movement caused a pinched nerve. This immediately resulted in muscle spasms, and peripheral neuropathy. Looking for relief, she was prescribed pain killers. Simultaneously, she continued to engage in the routine cocktail party circuit which was part of that era's social scene. In 1965, she collapsed into crying spell and suffered a nervous breakdown. Psychiatry helped but it did not address her dependency. The aforementioned intervention would not occur for 13 more years.

Mrs. Ford died at the age of 93 at Rancho Mirage, CA, in 2011 five years after her husband. They are buried at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Grand Rapids. President Ford lived to 97, the longest living President. Mrs. Ford is the third longest living FLOTUS. Bess Truman lived to 97 and Nancy Reagan lived to 95.

Their four children are Michael, a minister, Jack, active in the Republican Party, Steve, an actor, and Susan who serves in both of her parents' foundations.

Legislative UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

MEDICAL MARIJUANA BECOMES FLORIDA LAW

Lawmakers passed the Medical Marijuana bill (SB 8-A) during a special session, and Governor Scott signed the bill into law this month.

The new law provides a plan to license ten new dispensaries by October, bringing the statewide total to seventeen. As many as eight dispensary licenses have been held for specific groups, including five for previous applicants to the existing, limited cannabis program, one for a member of the Florida Black Farmers and Agriculturalists Association and two for citrus processing companies, which will get priority, not a guaranteed license. Cities and counties can ban dispensaries, but they are not allowed to block delivery of cannabis or limit where dispensaries

can open more strictly than they limit pharmacies.

Qualifying patients will receive either low-THC cannabis or full strength Medical Marijuana through cannabis pills, oils, edibles and “vape” pens with a doctor’s approval but the law still bans smoking. Patients can qualify to receive a prescription if they have chronic pain but only if that pain is connected to another qualifying medical condition. To qualify to receive MMJ, a patient must be diagnosed with at least one of the following conditions: Cancer, Epilepsy, Glaucoma, HIV, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, PTSD, ALS, Crohn’s disease, Parkinson’s disease, MS, medical conditions of the same kind or class as or comparable to these, a terminal condition diagnosed by a physician other than the qualified physician issuing the physician certification, or chronic nonmalignant pain. Patients may receive an order for three 70-day supplies before having to visit a doctor again to get re-examined. A physician must recertify a patient at least once every 30 weeks instead of once every 90 days. The requirement for a patient to be in the care of a certified doctor for 90 days has been removed. Doctors are required to go through a training program offered by the Florida Medical Association before they will be allowed to certify a patient as eligible for medical marijuana.

Although the Florida House and Senate reached an agreement, and Governor Scott signed the implementation of Medical Marijuana into Florida law, the controversy continues.

Qualified Florida residents with prescriptions for legalized Medical Marijuana may not carry their prescribed medicine in some Orlando airports. Under federal legislation, Marijuana is still classified as a Schedule I drug under the Controlled Substances Act, alongside heroin and LSD, while other, highly addictive substances including oxycodone and methamphetamine are less stringently regulated under Schedule II of the law. The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board, the governmental board that operates Orlando International Airport, approved an operational policy that bans Medical Marijuana on airport property, including both OIA and Orlando Executive Airport. On June 21, Phillip N. Brown, Executive Director of the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority Board, announced in a memo: “The Aviation Authority, under Grant Assurance 1, is obligated to ‘comply with all applicable Federal laws, regulations, executive orders, policies, guidelines, and requirements.’ Consequently, the Aviation Authority must treat marijuana as a controlled substance and may not permit marijuana to be brought onto airport property,”

Additionally, The Miami Herald reported that ‘John Morgan, the Orlando trial lawyer who bankrolled the constitutional amendment’s campaign, has promised to sue over the smoking ban, and Tampa strip club magnate Joe Redner said he will file a suit because people cannot grow their own plants.’

Further information on Florida’s Medical Marijuana registry, physicians, dispensaries, and guidelines, can be accessed via the Office of Compassionate Use at <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/office-of-compassionate-use/>

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THE PAST MONTH IN PICTURES



Missi Lastra, President Cape Coral Republican Women with Jim Foraker, Candidate for Cape Coral City Council, District 1



Pat Baldwin, LRWF 2nd Vice President, introduces our guest speaker, Amira Fox...



We learned how much Amira Fox loves her job as a Chief Assistant State Attorney as she told us all about the many duties of the State Attorney's office.



Kerri Tonkin, LRWF Vice President with our lovely President, Doris Cortese.



Wally Cortese, 1st Mate and beloved husband of Doris Cortese.



Spencer Roach, Field Representative for Congressman Francis Rooney, energetically fills us in on all of the activities in Washington and our congressman's accomplishments.

A Special Thanks to John Fernandes Photography