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# THE MAHOUT The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

April 2018

*Strong Women for a Strong America*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."  
The 2nd Amendment, Constitution of the United States*

## STATE ATTORNEY CANDIDATES AMIRA FOX AND CHRIS CROWLEY

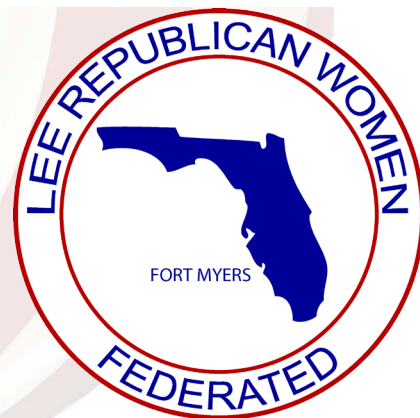


**Amira Fox** Throughout her 30-year career in public and private law practice, Amira Fox has stood for justice. As Chief Assistant State Attorney, Amira oversees the prosecution of tens of thousands of cases throughout Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Lee counties. She also supervises a team of 300 staff members including 120 Assistant State Attorneys. Amira is an experienced trial attorney who has tried hundreds of cases ranging from misdemeanors to felonies to first degree death penalty murder cases in all five counties in the 20th Circuit. Most recently, she conducted the death penalty proceedings against Mesac Damas in Collier County, which resulted in six death sentences for the murders of his wife and five children. Amira understands the budget, the legislative process.

**Chris Crowley** Chris Crowley is an experienced former felony prosecutor, who tried dozens of criminal cases and negotiated thousands of plea agreements in the Florida Court system.

Chris is an army Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, currently holding the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps. He has received numerous awards and commendations for his military service, both on active duty and in the reserves.

He is a Rotarian, VFW lifetime member, NRA member and serves as a Board Member on the local Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). He received his undergraduate degree from the George Washington University and law degree from Suffolk University of Law. Currently, he also serves as the elected Republican State Committeeman for Lee County, Florida.



## JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is April 9th at Pincher's Restaurant. at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West First Street. Social time starts at 5:15 PM with dinner following. Meet Amira Fox and Chris Crowley who are both candidates for the Florida State Attorney position. Hear them talk and ask them questions. Become informed before you vote. Also, Christopher Berardi, Communications Director for Congressman Francis Rooney, will be speaking about the Omnibus Bill.

The menu choices are: 1. Cashew crust-ed tilapia with fruit salsa, wild rice, slow roasted carrots, house salad and rolls 2. BBQ pulled pork wild rice, slow roasted carrots, house salad and rolls and 3. Plain Caesar Salad with toppings on the side. With Key lime pie for dessert.

Reservation Deadline is Thursday,  
April 5th at noon

For reservations call  
Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or  
email at [wrenspet@hotmail.com](mailto:wrenspet@hotmail.com).

To make a reservation online go to <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

## 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

It is the season for Easter and Passover....two of the most important times in the Christian and Jewish religions. We are blessed to live in a country where we can practice our faith freely and openly.

However, this freedom is gradually being taken away,. We are prohibited from carrying Bibles or saying prayers in schools, and businesses are not allowed to operate according to their beliefs. Liberals are trying take down the 10 commandments (a fundamental part of both religions) and no nativity scenes are allowed in public places at Christmas. I could go on and on.

We need to say "no more". We need to show our faith by wearing tee shirts, crosses and other religious symbols. Do not be intimidated into not saying prayer before meals in a restaurant.

Support bills in Washington and Tallahassee which strengthen our religious freedoms.  
IT IS TIME TO TAKE A STAND!!!!

Sincerely,

Doris Cortese, President, LRWF  
Vice President, LCREC

## *My Fight for Lower Cost Prescription Medications*

*By Francis Rooney*

Few issues have more of a direct impact on the budgets of Southwest Florida seniors than the soaring cost of prescription medications and the lack of low-cost generic options. Nearly three-quarters of the public view prescription drug costs as unreasonable, and one in four patients say they have not filled a prescription because of cost.

Much of this exorbitant pricing and limited generic availability is attributable to delay tactics and legal loopholes that hold generic drugs off the market. Manipulating the system in this manner may be good business for Big Pharma's bottom line, but it is bad news for the millions of Americans whose quality of life depends upon reasonable prescription pricing. I am fighting for our seniors by sponsoring or co-sponsoring several bills to lower costs and increase the number of affordable generic options available to the public.

In February, I co-sponsored the CREATES Act, which would promote drug price competition by making it easier for medicines whose patents have expired to be sold as less expensive generic versions. It would remove barriers to competition by stopping delays between a drug's going off-patent and the date when competitor products can enter the market. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the bill would result in a \$3.3 billion net decrease in the federal deficit. The savings to consumers and private insurance companies would likely be far greater.

Next, I co-sponsored the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017. This bill amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to require the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies regarding prices for drugs covered under the Medicare prescription drug benefit. Unbelievably, current law prohibits CMS from doing so.

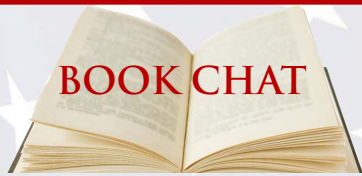
In the coming weeks and months, I will be developing legislation that mirrors language used for 'most favored nation' agreements. The idea is to require drug companies to sell their drug in the United States for the lowest negotiated price that Pharma companies have agreed to with other countries. This would influence companies to spread out the cost of research and development across many countries instead of having all the burden shouldered by our citizens.

These three initiatives will stimulate competition, cut prescription drug prices, and level the playing field across all nations – a great benefit to seniors in our community and across the country.



Francis Rooney  
US House of Representatives





Ladies, Since we still have not discussed the book that I had for us the past two months, we will discuss, *Let Trump Be Trump*. This is the inside story about the President from two of the President's closest campaign advisors. Written by Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie, it highlights the drama that has mesmerized the world. It offers a view of Donald Trump like we have never seen. He developed strong bonds with a band of outsiders and idealists who became his team because they believed in him and his message. We will meet at Mel's Diner on Wednesday, April 4th. Our meeting time will be from 1:00 - 3:00. PM

Come join us with thoughts about the book and share insight into today's political scene. It's a great afternoon for lunch and conversation. Please call or email me if you plan to attend, so we may plan accordingly. See you at Mel's!

Cheryl Harris  
239-225-7390  
[timcherylharris@aol.com](mailto:timcherylharris@aol.com)

The LRWF Board voted to approve the membership application for Lili Canfield  
9141 Raspberry Ct.  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
239-247-1922  
[Lilliancanfield@comcast.net](mailto:Lilliancanfield@comcast.net)  
And welcome aboard, Lili!! We are happy to have you with us.

Members and Friends, this is a very important year. As you all know the 2018 elections are crucial. Encourage friends to become active and support the campaigns. WORK, we have lots of WORK to do! There will be hours to work at Headquarters and mailings and phone calls and door to door and more. All with like minded and enthusiastic members. Attend the meetings to hear speakers of interest.

Peg Love, Membership Chair  
941-740-0228  
[peglove810@gmail.com](mailto:peglove810@gmail.com)



### YOU MAY NOW RENEW ONLINE!

GO TO <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com>

WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE "SIGN UP OR RENEW" POP UP

CLICK ON THE PICTURE THAT SAYS "SIGN UP OR RENEW"

FILL OUT THE RENEWAL APPLICATION AND SUBMIT

THEN CLICK ON THE LINK TO PAY FOR YOUR RENEWAL

### DON'T LET THE LEFT BULLY US!!!! SPEAK UP!!!!

Unfortunately for Fox News host Laura Ingraham, the number of companies boycotting her weekday show is growing after gun control activist David Hogg, a Parkland survivor, encouraged an advertiser exodus this week.

As of Saturday, more than a dozen advertisers have publicly said they have removed their ad dollars from Ingraham's show.

Here is the complete list:

Office Depot	Johnson and Johnson	Nutrish	Stitch Fix
Liberty Mutual Insurance	Jos. A. Bank	Jenny Craig	Principal
TripAdvisor	Hulu	Wayfair	Honda
Nestle	Expedia	Miracle-Ear	Progressive

And it's possible that more advertisers will flee in the coming days. Hogg and his supporters continue to pressure companies that advertise on Ingraham's show, including fast-food chain Arby's. Hogg even tweeted the email addresses of top Arby's executives and press personnel in order to add pressure to the company.

Cut-&-paste-able version of the Arby's PR emails @davidhogg111 posted. Write Arby's or anyone that you can find an address on.

[mbaker@arbys.com](mailto:mbaker@arbys.com)  
[lderouen@arbys.com](mailto:lderouen@arbys.com)  
[rlynch@arbys.com](mailto:rlynch@arbys.com)  
[jbowie@arbys.com](mailto:jbowie@arbys.com)  
[pr@arbys.com](mailto:pr@arbys.com)

[cfuller@arbys.com](mailto:cfuller@arbys.com)  
[pbrown@arbys.com](mailto:pbrown@arbys.com)  
[jtaylor@arbys.com](mailto:jtaylor@arbys.com)  
[michael.vizza@edelman.com](mailto:michael.vizza@edelman.com)  
#BoycottIngramAdverts

## A DIFFICULT TOPIC CONTINUED



Last month I talked about my precious son, who after 18 years of being precious, was discovered to be criminally mentally ill. I have never written about this until last month, but felt that I needed to speak up at this time. When my son, Mike, died after suffering twenty years of mental illness, I felt as though his life had served no purpose. That was the most difficult thing for me to reconcile in my mind. I asked God many times why He had let Mike come into this world if there was going to be no purpose to his life. What a tragedy, to have a son who was so talented, kind, ambitious and full of life to suddenly become mentally ill...only to suffer for 20 years until his eventual death. If someone can be helped by his story, then I have given him purpose.

First of all, I want to say that I know that some parents of mentally ill people are not good people and could actually have helped to bring on the mental illness. However, that is not always the case and I suspect that it is "often not" the case. In the case of my son, he received love and support from his entire immediate and extended family. He was well known in our town and was loved by countless people. He was loved...because he stood out as a good person.

After we discovered that Mike was mentally ill, whenever I heard of a crime on the news, I would immediately call him and ask him where he had been at the time the crime had taken place. He never knew why I was asking, but I wanted to make sure it wasn't him. I lived in fear for 20 years that he would do something bad. He used to tell me, "Mom, you don't want to know what is in my mind...it is worse than you can imagine." His thoughts haunted him. He didn't want to do anything wrong, yet his thoughts plagued him. His first psychiatrist told me that he held his thoughts at bay as long as he did because he had a very strong value system. I knew nothing about mental illness. It frightened me and it frightened Mike. I cried out for help, but no one wanted to talk to me because my son was over 18. I was ignorant. I didn't know where to turn, because when I spoke out...no one would listen...they said they couldn't talk to me because my son was an "adult."

I am writing this to let our legislators know that while registering guns is fine, taking guns from mentally ill people is fine and arming the schools is fine...but everyone is missing part of the picture. Parents have a vast wealth of information about their "adult" mentally ill children. I believe that a program should be put in place to identify who these mentally ill adults are and then institute something for the parents to be able to speak up. I also think a program should be instituted to educate the parents of mentally ill adult children both over 18 and younger to be able to handle the various situations that come up. And plenty of situations arise. In addition to educating the parents, they should use the parents as a resource. They have a lot of insight and information about their children, no matter how old their children are.

And most of all make it mandatory for a criminally mentally ill person to have mandatory lifetime psychiatric care. My son received medication for a while that diminished his horrible thoughts, but when he got better, he didn't think he needed the medication anymore, nor did he think he needed the psychiatrist. Then after he was off of the medication for a while, he couldn't be convinced to go back on them. As I said in my last article, my son lived under the radar for 20 years until his death. There were no incidences to force psychiatric care. The problem was that he needed psychiatric care, but wouldn't do it and I couldn't make him because he was over 18 years old.

I don't pretend to know how the logistics of all of this would work, but I know that if it had been mandatory for my son to get lifetime psychiatric care, I would have slept much better at night. I can't begin to tell you what my husband and I went through, but having a psychiatrist that would talk to my adult son and also my husband and I at the same time...not worrying about privacy rules, we could have helped him, the psychiatrist could have helped him and it would have helped my husband and me as well.

Taking guns from the mentally ill is good, but it is not the answer. It was illegal for my son to have a gun, but he managed to get one anyway. I don't know that he ever used it, but he did have one. And since part of his mental illness was paranoia, he had a baseball bat in his car along with his gun and many other weapons.

Above all, please do not take guns away from law abiding, good, sane people. We need them.

This is spoken from the heart of a mother. I was a good mother and my husband was a good father, but we were terribly unequipped to handle what was in front of us, and we couldn't force our son to get help. I thank God that he started out with an extremely high value system, and to my knowledge, he never acted on his thoughts except that one incident when he was 18 years old. If something good could come out of me speaking out, then perhaps Mike's life would finally serve a purpose...a purpose to provide some help and solutions to other mentally ill adults and also to their parents.

*Isa 60:20*  
*...the LORD will be your everlasting light,*  
*and your days of sorrow will end.*



*Legislative*  
**UPDATE**  
*By Lori Fayhee*



Urge your Representatives to support Rep. Rokita's House Resolution To Condemn Louis Farrakhan for promoting ideas that create animosity and anger toward Jewish Americans and the Jewish religion.

Farrakhan is an American religious leader, an African-American activist, social commentator, the leader of the religious group Nation of Islam, and is well known for his anti-Semitic and racist speeches.

According to Fox News, the Republican Jewish Coalition called on seven Congressional Black Caucus members to resign amid their support for Farrakhan. The members called on to resign were the subject of a story in The Daily Caller, which reported a review of videos, photographs and other documents revealed the lawmakers have had ties to Farrakhan. They are Democratic National Committee Deputy Chair Rep. Keith Ellison, Reps. Maxine Waters of California, Danny Davis of Illinois, Al Green of Texas, Barbara Lee of California, Andre Carson of Indiana, and Gregory Meeks of New York.

Recently, The Women's March, a civil-rights group at the center of protests against the Trump presidency, is losing top staffers and supporters over its leadership's refusal to denounce a racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic rant by Farrakhan. Women's March staffer Alyssa Klein, quit last week as the group's social-media director. According to the New York Post, Klein called Farrakhan "a dangerous troll," and she tweeted that Women's March leaders are "turning a blind eye to the hate spoken about a group of people." The controversy, they say, erupted over a February 25th Farrakhan speech in Chicago in which he called Jews "Satanic," claimed they run the governments of the US and Mexico and are pursuing a "pot plot" to spread marijuana use among black men in a scheme to feminize them.

Representative Rokita's House Resolution 772

Whereas the House of Representatives strongly opposes racism, anti-Semitism, and all forms of ethnic or religious intolerance;

Whereas on February 25, 2018, Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam, gave a speech saying "White folks are going down. And Satan is going down. And Farrakhan, by God's grace, has pulled the cover off of that Satanic Jew and I'm here to say your time is up, your world is through."; and

Whereas Louis Farrakhan has consistently attacked Jewish Americans and the Jewish faith, claiming Judaism is nothing more than a "deceptive lie" and a "theological error" promoted by Jews, and claiming that Israel and Jews helped orchestrate the 9/11 attacks: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns Louis Farrakhan for promoting ideas that create animosity and anger toward Jewish Americans and the Jewish religion; and

(2) condemns all manifestations of expressions of racism, anti-Semitism, and ethnic or religious in-tolerance.

### CALL YOUR CONGRESSMEN TODAY!

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  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3041  
or email at

<https://marcorubio.com/contact/>

**FRANCIS ROONEY**

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

<https://francisrooney.com/>

**LEE COUNTY RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR IRMA**  
*(Taken from an email released on March 29, 2018 by the Lee County Clerk's Office)*

Fort Myers, FL, March 29, 2018 – Lee County government has received a national award for its work before, during and after Hurricane Irma.

Lee County officials accepted the 2018 National Hurricane Conference (NHC) Outstanding Achievement Award on Wednesday at the NHC Conference at the Hilton Orlando Hotel. The award recognizes the county for serving as a model for other organizations in its handling of hurricane-related activities.

NHC officials recognized Lee County's achievement in hurricane-related preparedness in past years as well as 2017, including legislation, public awareness programs, financing mechanisms, sheltering plans, engineering research, warning notification systems and prediction techniques.

"The key word for this award is innovation. We're looking for individuals or organizations who are doing things in a new or better way and who are worthy of emulation by others around the country. The award is not for someone who is simply doing his or her job well," the NHC said in a statement.

Accepting the award on behalf of the county was Emergency Management Director Lee Mayfield, Public Safety Director Ben Abes and Assistant County Manager Christine Brady.

"It takes the whole community to respond and recover effectively," Mayfield said. "No one entity can do it all. Public and private sectors, nonprofits and most importantly the individual citizen and family. Irma was unprecedented in its size and threat, and it was not your 'typical' hurricane."

Under the direction of the Lee Board of County Commissioners, the Department of Public Safety/Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in coordination with municipalities and partner agencies, coordinated the response to Irma – one of the largest hurricanes in Southwest Florida's history. Irma hit Lee County on Sept. 10, 2017.

Earlier this month, Mayfield and the county received state recognition for Irma-related efforts. The Florida Emergency Preparedness Association invited Mayfield to Tallahassee and presented him with the Chad Reed Emergency Manager of the Year Award, which is awarded to those who show excellence in their profession.

During Irma, more than 100 individuals worked in the EOC, providing support to responders in the field and determining protective actions, including evacuations and sheltering operations. Based on the significant threat from Irma, about 300,000 people in Lee County were ordered to evacuate, prompting the largest sheltering operation the county's history – about 35,000 individuals in 14 shelters. This was the largest of any of Florida's 67 counties. The county also sheltered about 3,550 pets of evacuees. There was no loss of life.

Long-Term Recovery efforts continue today by leveraging partnerships with agencies such as the United Way and many other human services agencies throughout Lee County. Contractors and Solid Waste workers have collected 1.75 million cubic yards of horticultural waste and nearly 67,000 cubic yards of construction and demolition debris. The county has undertaken an effort, in coordination with partners, to remove impediments from waterways to reduce future flooding.

**TELL THEM TO GET THE PRESIDENT'S  
AGENDA DONE...WE NEED THE WALL!**

**CONTACT YOUR HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS**  
**(Click on the links below.)**

Paul Ryan

<https://www.speaker.gov/contact>

Mitch McConnell

[https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/  
public/index.cfm?p=contact](https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=contact)





# Americanism By Erin Casey



Gina Haspel  
Director of C.I.A. Nominee

Gina Haspel has been nominated to be the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (C.I.A.) and if confirmed by the Senate she would be first female CIA Director. Ms. Haspel has received a number of awards including the George H.W. Bush Aware for "Excellence in Counterterrorism", the Donovan Award, the Intelligence Medal of Merit and the Presidential Rank Award. Ms. Haspel joined the CIA in 1985 and served both locally and abroad in several undercover overseas positions in areas such as Turkey, Central Europe and Central Asia. She has been criticized in the media over her interrogation methods used in Thailand. The CIA was founded in 1947 and has been a male dominated agency since that time.

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Larry Hart  
Lee Co. Tax Collector



Brian Hammon  
Lee County Commissioner



Amira Fox  
Candidate Fl State Attorney



Spencer Roach  
Candidate Fl House of Representatives



## THE PREVIOUS MONTH IN PICTURES



*Cheri Carlson and six guests enjoyed a beautiful day on the water in Pine Island Sound. Hosted by Robert and Kerri Tonkin. Cheri successfully bid on the cruise during LRWF November fashion show fund raiser.*



*Frank White, Florida State Congressman, gives his case for becoming the next Florida Attorney General.*



*Former Judge Ashley Moody, Candidate for Attorney General gives us reasons to vote for her.*





*The Three Muskateers! From left..Donna Clarke, Lee Health Board Vice Chair and two of our wonderful LRWF past presidents Cindy Lignelli and Judy O'Donnell.*



*Kevin Karnes, President of the Young Republicans with Wren Morefield the LRWF Reservations Chairwoman.*





*Mike Fox, husband of Amira Fox who is running for Florida State Attorney with Roz Lesser, LRWF Assistant Treasurer.*



*From Left, Dr. Brooke Iwanski with Forner Judge Ashley Moody, Candidate for the Florida State Attorney General.*



*Therese Everly, Lee Health Board Member with Brian Hammon, Lee County Commissioner.*

**JOHN FERNANDEZ**  
P•H•O•T•O•G•R•A•P•H•Y

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www.JohnFernandezPhotography.net