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Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris
Caring for America: Ashley Winstel
Fundraising: Lori Fayhee
Legislative: Lori Fayhee
Membership/Hospitality: Peg Love/Joan Clark
Museum: Kerri Tonkin/Mary Snyder
Newsletter: Mary Snyder
Outreach: Mary Snyder
Publicity: Gail Langner
Reservations: Ashley Winstel/Mary Ann Hansen
Social Media: Mary Snyder

Non-Committee Positions

Past President: Doris Cortese
Chaplain: Terri Lee
Photographer: John Fernandez

THE MAHOUT The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

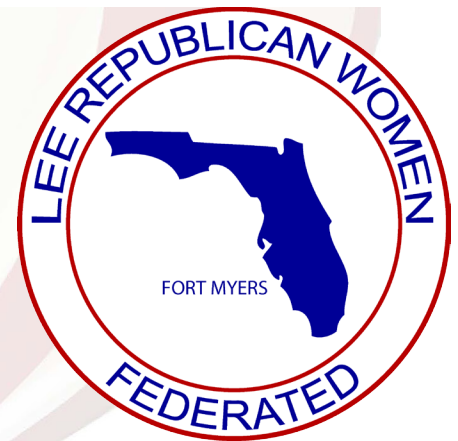
FEBRUARY 2019

Strong Women for a Strong America

KCARL SMITH

KCarl Smith is a former U.S. Army officer and the founder and president of Frederick Douglass Republicans. He is an author of the best-selling book, Frederick Douglass Republicans: The Movement to Re-ignite America's Passion for Liberty.

*KCarl is rapidly becoming the most requested speaker for Tea Party groups, GOP organizations, collegiate activities, and faith-based groups. He has appeared on The-Blaze TV, 700 Club and Huckabee. KCarl is featured in the documentary produced by Rev. C.L. Bryant, The Runaway Slave. **AND NOW...KCARL IS COMING TO FORT MYERS!***



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"A constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."
John Adams, July 17, 1775*

JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is February 11th at Pincher's Restaurant, at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West First Street. Our speaker will be KCarl Smith, author and founder of the Frederick Douglas Republicans. He will show us how to take the conservative message to blacks and all minorities by giving them a message of policies of liberty and values.

The menu choices are:

1. Pan seared salmon with bourbon glaze, rice and steamed broccoli
 2. Herb roasted chicken, with rice and steamed broccoli
 3. Plain Caesar salad
- Dessert: Chocolate cake

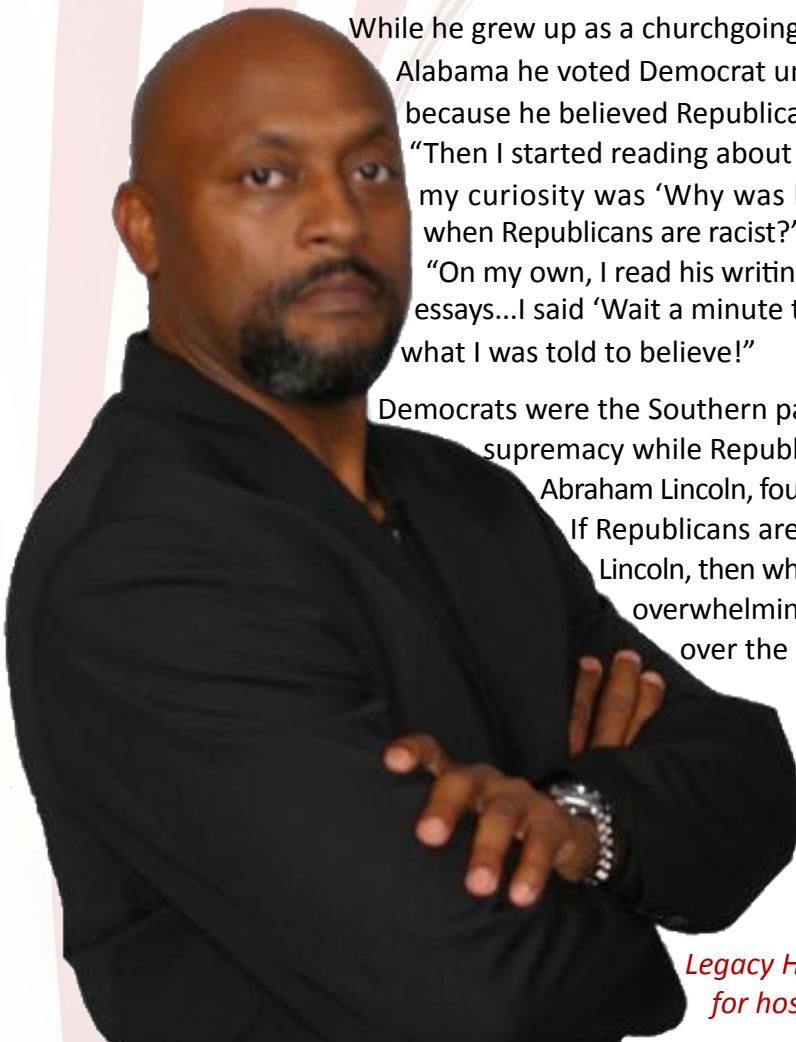
Doors open at 5:00 PM

*Social hour begins at 5:15 PM
with dinner following*

Reservation Deadline is Thursday, February 7th at noon. Reservations after the deadline will be provided a Plain Caesar Salad only.

For reservations call or text Ashley Winstel at 602-708-8663 or email acwinstel@gmail.com
To make a reservation online go to <http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:
*Drew Steele
Host of Day Break - 92.5 FM*



While he grew up as a churchgoing conservative in Alabama he voted Democrat until he was 40, because he believed Republicans were racist. "Then I started reading about Douglass, and my curiosity was 'Why was he a Republican when Republicans are racist?'" KCarl said. "On my own, I read his writings and saw his essays...I said 'Wait a minute this was not what I was told to believe!'"

Democrats were the Southern party of white supremacy while Republicans, especially Abraham Lincoln, fought for progress. If Republicans are the party of Lincoln, then why did black voters overwhelmingly abandon them over the last 50 years?

*Thanks to
Legacy Harbor Inn & Suites
for hosting KCarl Smith*

NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Kerri Tonkin
LRWF President

Hello Beautiful Ladies and Gents,

Well here we are in February and what better way to get ready to celebrate the founder of the Republican Party, Abraham Lincoln, than with a talk by KCarl Smith who promotes the Republican Party's principles through the works of one of Lincoln's main supporters... Frederick Douglas. As we continue in our year of Outreach to others, what better way to tell our story than by being reminded of who we are as a Party and why. This year, it is important for us to be able to accurately portray our values to our sphere of influences and to encourage others to join us.

We have a great invigorating year ahead of us, and as we focus on our work I leave you with some words from Abraham Lincoln himself,

"The people -- the people -- are the rightful masters
of both congresses, and courts --
not to overthrow the constitution,
but to overthrow the men who pervert it.
September 16 and 17, 1859

Notes for Speeches at Columbus and Cincinnati"

I look forward to seeing you all soon.
Blessings Kerri

MY EFFORTS TO LOWER PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICES

By Francis Rooney

As the 116th Congress begins, I am again focused on bringing down the cost of prescription drugs for Florida's seniors and am acting on three key issues: first, our seniors have subsidized low cost prescription drugs in foreign countries for years, an abuse that needs to stop. Second, pharmaceutical companies do not compete for the prices of drugs under Medicare Part D; in fact, they are affirmatively prevented by law from negotiating prices. Third, there is no transparency about how drugs are priced.

I have introduced the Drug Price Transparency Act to determine the feasibility of basing reimbursement rates for Medicare Part B drugs and covered Part D drugs on the average drug prices charged in the countries who are members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). In these countries, identical drugs are often cheaper than here in the United States.

Further, with Congressman Peter Welch (D-VT), I introduced the Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act. This act will require the Department of Health and Human Services to directly negotiate with pharmaceutical companies on the price of drugs covered under Medicare. Currently, the government is not able to directly negotiate drug prices for citizens utilizing Medicare Part D, resulting in inflated prices paid by seniors, many who live on a fixed income.

I see no reason why pharma should be shielded from competition. We all compete in our businesses so why not them? The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that spending on Medicare Part D benefits will total \$99 Billion in 2019 alone. Just five years after the creation of Part D, a report by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform estimated that these much-needed negotiations would save taxpayers \$156 billion over ten years.

We know direct drug pricing negotiations work to bring down costs. In contrast to the Medicare program, the Department of Veterans Affairs can advocate lower prices for veterans. A 2018 report by the U.S. Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee revealed that Medicare pays 61 percent more for 20 commonly used drugs compared to the Veterans Affairs Administration.

Finally, I co-sponsored the bipartisan FAIR Drug Pricing Act, which would require drug companies to give notice and justification for raising the price of a drug 10 percent or more over a twelve-month period.

Prescription drug pricing is a critical issue that is hurting our seniors. It must be addressed with common sense, bipartisan solutions. We need to stop this egregious and unconscionable abuse which affects the 43 million American people who utilize Medicare Part D. I remain committed to solving this issue in the 116th Congress.



Francis Rooney
US House of Representatives

Legislative UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

While still in the first month of 2019, newly elected Governor Ron DeSantis didn't waste any time getting down to business. Following, are a few of his accomplishments:

-Appointed three justices to the Florida Supreme Court. Judge Barbara Lagoa, the first Hispanic woman in history to serve on the Florida Supreme Court; Judge Robert Luck, the first Jewish justice appointed in over 20 years; and Carlos Muñiz, the first Nicaraguan-American to serve on the Florida Supreme Court.

- Signed Executive Order 19-12 (Achieving More Now For Florida's Environment), implementing major reforms to ensure the protection of Florida's environment and water quality. The order calls for: \$2.5 Billion over the next four years for Everglades restoration and protection of water resources (a \$1 Billion increase in spending over the previous four years and the highest level of funding for restoration in Florida's history); The Establishment of a Blue-Green Algae Task Force, charged with focusing on expediting progress toward reducing the adverse impacts of blue-green algae blooms now and over the next five years; Instruction to the South Florida Water Management District to immediately start the next phase of the Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project design and ensure the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approves the project according to schedule; The Creation of the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency charged with organizing and directing integrated scientific research and analysis to ensure that all agency actions are aligned with key environmental priorities; and The Appointment of a Chief Science Officer to coordinate and prioritize scientific data, research, monitoring and analysis needs to ensure alignment with current and emerging environmental concerns most pressing to Floridians.

-Called for the immediate resignations of all governing board members of the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD). The announcement was made during a stop in Stuart to discuss the Governor's major water policy reforms to protect and improve Florida's water resources.

-Issued Executive Order 19-13, formally suspending Okaloosa County Superintendent of Schools Mary Beth Jackson. Two Okaloosa County Grand Jury Reports found that Superintendent Jackson failed to protect the children. Although Jackson was not indicted on any criminal charges by the Grand Jury, they stated that it continued "to lack confidence in (Superintendent Jackson's) abilities to serve as Superintendent of Schools for Okaloosa County. According to a letter from Commissioner, Richard Corcoran, "the Grand Jury reviewed allegations that special needs children were 'kicked, tripped, and grabbed' and that the teacher 'withheld food and sprayed students with a vinegar solution as a form of punishment.' A four-year-old boy on the Autism Spectrum, who was nonverbal was the recipient of the majority of this abuse. The teacher received a seven-year prison sentence."

-Issued a full pardon of the members of the Groveland Four: Ernest Thomas, Samuel Shepherd, Walter Irvin and Charles Greenlee. The pardon was unanimously approved by the Executive Clemency Board. Governor DeSantis, regarding the pardon, stated, "For seventy years, these four men have had their history wrongly written for crimes they did not commit. As I have said before, while that is a long time to wait, it is never too late to do the right thing. I believe the rule of law is society's sacred bond. When it is trampled, we all suffer. For the Groveland Four, the truth was buried. The Perpetrators celebrated. But justice has cried out from that day until this. I would like to thank CFO Patronis, Attorney General Moody and Agriculture Commissioner Fried for their support."

-Issued Executive Order 19-14, formally suspending Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel and formally announced the appointment of Gregory Tony as Sheriff of Broward County. Tony, is Broward County's first African-American Sheriff.

-Made a major announcement regarding medical marijuana policy where he called on the Florida Legislature to pass a bill that would allow Amendment 2 to be implemented as originally intended by 71 percent of Florida voters in 2016. He stated that "Florida voters overwhelmingly approved medical marijuana in 2016, and I believe the subsequent legislation has been inadequate," "Voters intended for medical marijuana to be dispensed in a way that would best benefit the patient, smoking included. That is why I am calling on the Legislature to provide me with a bill within the first two weeks of Session that will fix this issue and allow the voices of Floridians to be heard."

-Retracted 46 appointments made on January 4 and 7, 2019 by the previous administration. The retracted appointments only applied to those requiring Senate confirmation. His letter stated, "I agree many of these individuals are outstanding citizens who are experts in their respected fields," "I thank these individuals for their willingness to serve our state. They will be afforded every consideration as my office re-opens the application process to fill these critical appointment vacancies."

Legislative Update Continues on Next Page...

Legislative Update continued...

- Announced that Kevin J. Thibault, P.E., former Southeast Regional Senior Vice President of TranSystems Corporation, will serve as Secretary of the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for the DeSantis-Nuñez Administration.
- Issued Executive Order 19-19, suspending Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Susan Bucher, effective immediately.
- Issued Executive Order Executive order 19-18, officially accepting the resignation of former Broward County Supervisor of Elections Dr. Brenda Snipes, effective January 4, 2019, formally terminating her duties.
- The Florida Cabinet unanimously approved Governor DeSantis' appointment of State Representative Danny Burgess to serve as the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.
- Announced a bold first step in ensuring a brighter future for Florida's economy. Governor DeSantis recently wrote a letter to the members of Florida's 23 Professional Licensing Boards, calling on them to join him, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez and Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) Secretary Halsey Beshears on Thursday, January 31, 2019 at Valencia College in Orlando for a one-day event called "Florida Derogathon" to find solutions to harmful regulations facing Floridians.
- Announced additional reimbursement assistance for Hurricane Michael recovery expenses. On Tuesday, January 22, Governor DeSantis met with President Trump to discuss his request for 45 days of 100% Federal cost share for Hurricane Michael debris removal and emergency protective measures. After their meeting, President Trump granted the Governor's request without hesitation.
- Announced the appointment of Clay Ingram as CEO of Volunteer Florida.
- recommended Richard Corcoran, who served as a top adviser to DeSantis during the transition, for the position of Florida's Commissioner of Education. The commissioner is the state's Chief Education Officer, in charge of representing Florida's public educational system (except universities), and is appointed by the State Board of Education, whose members are appointed by the governor.

Locally, Lee County School Board is embroiled in controversy once again, following an email sent from the personal email address of former School Board chair, Cathleen Morgan, titled 'Superintendent Under Fire', and marked 'PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL... PLEASE DO NOT SHARE.' This email was sent to undisclosed recipients, reportedly including all of the School District's Advisory Committee Chairmen, and was released by Fox 4, who quoted Morgan as writing, "The Superintendent no longer has the confidence of the board." In the email, she stated that 'the new School Board is fracturing,' and she called for her email recipients to 'attend and observe the Board at work' at their workshop on Thursday, January 17th. The email concluded with the Board member's phone numbers, for contact, including the personal cell phone number of new Board member, Debbie Jordan.

During the January 17 workshop, some seasoned Board Members and some newly elected Board Members expressed concern with the recent 15-20 percent salary increase given to School District executives - retroactive to June - while teachers and support staff are still working without a contract since August and are still in the fifty-fifth percentile of pay. Fox 4, covering the workshop, reported that newly elected Board Chair, Gwen Gittens "took that time to express how she felt about some decisions that were made, specifically about the districts executive salaries. 'I asked the question, this is great, how are we going to pay for it, and I was told that we found, \$22 million dollars...that was a concern to me,' said Gittens."

At the last School Board Briefing meeting, Gittens made a motion for all Board meetings to be held in the main Board Room so that they could be televised live to our community. This motion passed, and you can watch meetings live or watch tapes later to know first hand how your tax dollars are being spent.

Workshop can be accessed at this link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U33lndBZVYQ>

2019 LRWF Meeting Dates and Times

February 11: Dinner 5:15 PM

March 11: Luncheon 11:15 AM

April 8: Fashion Show, Forrest Country Club 11:15 AM

May 13: Luncheon 11:15 AM

June 10: Dinner 5:15 PM

July 8: Luncheon 11:15 AM

August 12: Dinner 5:15 PM

September 9: Luncheon 11:15 AM

October 14: Dinner 5:15 PM

November 11: Luncheon 11:15 AM

December 9: Dinner 5:15 PM

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Glorious Babes, Bags and Baskets on Parade

APRIL 2019



Ladies,

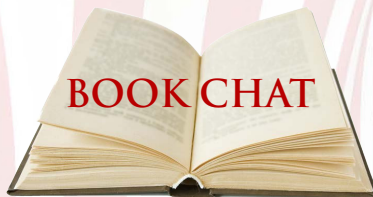
Our spring fashion show is going to be here before we know it. Please bring any designer bags, gently used scarves and jewelry to our February 11, 2019 luncheon at Pinchers.

The fashion show is scheduled for April 8, 2019 at the Forrest Country Club. It promises to be a fun filled spring fashion show with Razzle Dazzle hosting. But we need your help, so please donate any designer bags you are no longer using.

We are also going to be doing theme baskets again, so if you feel the urge to be creative and donate a basket for our fundraiser please contact me and get on the list.

Thank you in advance,
Kerri

Glorious Babes, Bags and Baskets on Parade



Ladies,

Book Chat resumes on February 6. We will be reading *Ship of Fools*, by Tucker Carlson. Carlson tell the story of the new American elites, a group whose power and wealth has grown beyond imagination even as the rest of the country has withered. The people who run America now barely interact with it. They fly on their own planes, ski on their own mountains, watch sporting events far from the stands in skyboxes. They have total contempt for you.

The book offers a blistering critique of our new overlords. Traditional liberals are gone. The hand-wringers who worried about whales and defended free speech, have been replaced by globalists who hide their hard-edged economic agenda behind a smokescreen of identity politics. They'll outsource your job while lecturing you about transgender bathrooms. Left and right are no longer meaningful categories in America. The rift is between those who benefit from the status quo, and those who don't.

Our leaders are fools, unaware that they are the captains of a sinking ship. This book answers the all-important question: How do we put this country back on course?

We will meet again at Mel's Diner on US 41. We meet from 1:00-3:00 PM. We always have an enjoyable lunch and good discussions. Please plan to join us for a meeting of ladies who share our political views.

If you plan to attend, please call or email me, so we may plan accordingly.

Look forward to seeing you,

Cheryl Harris
239-225-7390

timcherylharris@aol.com

Thanks to all members who have already renewed
and if not, please do so ASAP!!

We welcome A new member enthusiastically!!

Claudia was one of the hard working people during the 2018 campaign!
Much appreciated!!

Claudia Jones
29 NE 15th Place
Cape Coral, Fl 33909
407-925-6705
cjones2185@aol.com

***Watch for a special Orientation Gathering in February.
Membership and Hospitality will combine for this event.

Please note, regarding new Name Tags...

You may place an order (cost is \$10) at the registration desk at each meeting or you may contact me at: peglove810@gmail.com or call 941-740-0228



Renew your membership at:

<https://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

OUR SPONSORS

Click on Pictures to View Websites



*Amira Fox
Fl State Attorney*



*Francis Rooney
U.S. Congressman
Dist. 19*



*Cecil Pendergrass
Lee County Commissioner*



*Spencer Roach
Fl House of Representatives*



*Brian Hammon
Lee County Commissioner*



*Linda Doggett
Lee County Clerk of Courts*



*Larry Hart
Lee Co. Tax Collector*



*Jenna Persons
Strayhorn and Persons, Attys.*



*Randy Krise
Krise Commercial Group*



My Opinion
By Mary Snyder

I CAN'T IMAGINE

President Trump tried to tell us. He told us that if we didn't vote a straight Republican ticket...if we lost either the Senate or the House, that we would have hell to pay. He didn't tell us that to bully us into voting a certain way. He told us that, because he knew that he needed those votes to accomplish the conservative agenda. If we didn't vote a straight Republican ticket, we would be stuck for, at least, the next two years!

Someone said to me the other day that they couldn't imagine what life without Trump would be like. It made me think. What would it be like?

I think we have all gotten a taste of life without Trump since we let the Democrats take control of the House. In the past few months, we have seen blood in the eyes of the Democrats. They shout impeachment at every turn.

So what will it be like if we lose in 2020? As bad as it has been since we lost the house, it will be so much worse. We MUST win the House, the Senate and the Presidency.

Here is my view of what it would be like. Abortion will have all limits removed. No longer will it be a thoughtful process at the beginning of pregnancy. (Hillary Clinton was for abortion right up to birth.) As we witnessed this week, it will be okay up to and "after" birth. Infanticide will be the norm. If you think that is too far fetched and that people could not be that cruel, think again. Back in the days of Moses, Pharaoh commanded the midwives of the Israelite women to throw all boys that were born, into the Nile to drown. Then in the days of Jesus, Herod commanded that all boys under the age of two be killed. This shows us that man is so depraved that killing a baby "after" birth due to an inconvenience, is not out of the range of believability. Today, only 1% of abortions are performed because a person was raped. I have friend, who was the product of rape. I love her very much and thank God that her mother did not get an abortion. If we lose in 2020... life will be devalued and abortion will run rampant. It is my firm belief that they will come after seniors next. If you are a senior and are costing the system too much money to keep you alive, it has already been suggested that medical services should be denied.

If we lose in 2020, you can kiss your tax decreases good bye. Not only will you lose the tax decrease, but you will have higher taxes...much higher taxes. In addition, all incentives to make it big will be taken from you as the more you make, the more you will be taxed. Bernie Sanders is already asking for a 70% death tax on billionaires. Do you think it will stop with billionaires? So you work hard all your life to build something big to pass down to your children and it is all taken from you.

Fuel independency will be gone. The government will decide that it is not good for us to drill for fuel, so they will let other countries do it. Gone will be our oil, our independence and our jobs.

Jobs will be gone as we know them today. Industry will stop.

There will be Medicare for all at a cost that is higher than what the government takes in. So guess what! More taxes.

There will be open borders and sanctuary cities everywhere to hide criminals from prosecution. Drugs, felons and murderers will come across the border in record numbers. Currently there are 2000 people per day attempting to come across the border. If we don't win in 2020, they won't be attempting...they will be succeeding.

Legal citizens will be paying for the healthcare and education of illegal aliens more than they already do. Illegals will be given a pass on paying back their education expenses. It will be deemed too expensive to pay for the healthcare of our seniors and the legal students will be working to pay off their student loans.

So what do we do about this? How do we win? Come see KCarl Smith and learn how to turn the black vote to the Republicans. Take KCarl's online classes. Educate yourselves. Stay on top of the topics. Reach out. Talk to everyone. Talk to your Hispanic friends. Go to the swearing in ceremonies of the new citizens. Show them that Republicans care about them and welcome them into our country. Attend events that are being held by minorities and get to know them. Make them your friends...for the good of all. Reach out. Educate your friends and family in other states. We can win Florida, but if we don't win the rest of the states, we will get nowhere. Go to your local school boards and hold them to the fire. Start conservative blogs. Tweet. There is a reason that our President tweets. Go to social media constantly to educate people. This may seem like more than you have the energy to do, but if we don't...we ain't seen nothin' yet! Liberalism will destroy our country. I can't imagine life without Trump!

TRUMP 2020...OR ELSE!!!



Abraham Lincoln

Feb 12, 1809 - Apr 15, 1865

The first Republican President was Abraham Lincoln. He took office March 1861. As the 16th President he stood out not only as Republican, but a person who believed in equality for women and slaves. He declared the Emancipation Proclamation to forever free those slaves within the Confederacy in 1863. And yes, he said as early as 1836 that women should have the vote, but that did not happen until 1920.

Some of the little known facts about Lincoln were that he preferred to be called by his last name, not Abe. He liked having pets and his cat named Tabby had a seat at the White House table. Fido was his dog that accompanied the family. He grew up and lived in rural areas where he spent his time reading, as he was not interested in hunting or fishing. In his outdoor time he was a log splitter or rail splitter as was a moniker that is connected to him. He was a lawyer who did not have the schooling credentials but he was a good orator, winning cases with great exception to loosing one. He served one term in the US House of Representatives in Illinois but he ran two times for Senator and lost. He read the Bible daily yet never belonged to an organized church. We can always recognize Lincoln in a photograph as he would wear a black suit and stove pipe hat. The suit was a Brooks Brothers the same label as today and the hat he wore was where he would keep important documents. He had a few firsts as President besides being Republican he was first President to have a beard and the first to use a telegraph.

Life for Lincoln was one of ups and downs, and like many of that time he struggled to succeed. He failed at business, but succeeded as lawyer and politician. His family suffered the loss of the oldest son and he never reconciled to that loss. He spent time in the militia with the rank of Captain in the US Army engaging in the Black Hawk War series of skirmishes in 1832. This was in response to Governor of Illinois Reynolds who wanted the Sauk natives to remain in Iowa where they had been forced to locate.

As President, Lincoln is remembered in history as a leader of men, a man professed to seeking justice for all people to be free to live without bondage. His assassination, the first of any President, was a dark period in our country, but one that has been championed to honor him.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



THE FIRST BLACK MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE ALL REPUBLICANS

THE MONTH IN PICTURES



*Wren Morefield has fun with
Lori Fayhee, current 1st Vice President.*



*All newly elected...Amira Fox, State Attorney
with Kerri Tonkin, club President and
Spencer Roach, State Congressman.*



*Marj Tyrer, past club secretary
sits with Judy O'Donnell,
past club president!*



*To the left, Ashley Winstel and
Mary Ann Hansen sign people
in for the meeting.*



*Cheryl Smith, Book Chat Chair with
Chris Wappes, LRWF Treasurer.*



*Kerri Tonkin, LRWF President with
Ruth Rodrigues, our new Secretary.*



*Steve Russell, Past State Attorney with
Doris Cortese, Past LRWF President.*



*Steve Russell, past State Attorney, tells
us about his push to stop early release of
dangerous prisoners.*

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