

Northwest Democrats News



July, 2007
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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; nwdemocrats@gmail.com

July 21st Program: Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, (Ret.)

Don't forget to attend our July 21st meeting when Lt. Gen. Claudia Kennedy, (Ret.) will be our guest speaker.

Lt. General Claudia J. Kennedy, is the first and only woman to ever receive this flag rank in the United States Army.

During her career, General Kennedy has received awards and decorations to include the Legion of Merit (three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters), the Army Commendation Medal (three Oak Leaf Clusters) and the Army Staff Identification Badge. General Kennedy is a member of the Military Intelligence Hall of Fame.

Kennedy retired from the military in June 2000 after 31 years in the Army. During the 2000 U.S. presidential election, Kennedy was critical of George W. Bush's military policies, especially as they related to the status of women in the armed forces. According to General Kennedy: "If Mr. Bush becomes president, his campaign platform says he will move us back to a much earlier time."

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 a.m. at Luby's, 6200 Bandera Rd.

Special Projects: Eckhert Road & Stuff the Bus

Eckhert Road Clean Up After July Meeting!

Show your patriotism by participating in our July clean-up. Your Special Projects chairman will have a supply of cool drinks for you. New volunteers are welcome to join our dedicated hard-core. See you there!

Stuff the Bus!!

Many families in San Antonio cannot afford to provide their school children with necessary school supplies like pencils, paper, pens, rulers, and notebooks. "Stuff the Bus" is a community-wide project to collect donations of school supplies for needy children. Please bring school supplies to the July meeting for this worthy effort. Your school supplies will be taken to the Bus after the next meeting. If you have any questions, please call Gene Marck 614-7400 (office)...273-9201 (cell).

2006-2008

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To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:

TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

I know it sometimes seems that the leaders of Northwest Democrats ask a lot of its members. We ask you to participate in cleaning Eckhert Rd. (there's one this month); in contributing to numerous causes such as helping the homeless, donating school supplies for children whose parents cannot afford them (that's also this month); providing bottled water, cookies and phone cards for our servicemen and women; and working with our organization in many ways to ensure the election of Democratic candidates.

But, you always come through. And, you do so with a generosity of spirit that makes all of us proud to be a part of such a hard-working organization. For all this, we thank you. While different people contribute to different things there are enough different activities for each of us to find at least one that really interests us.

Now, we are asking you to dig deep and to participate in our August 9th fundraising dinner honoring the three Democratic congressmen who represent different parts of our community. Most of us are represented by one of them – though a few of you are unfortunate enough to be represented by a Republican. So, please buy at least one ticket to support this great event.

This dinner has two purposes – to honor in a meaningful way these public servants and to raise funds to continue building the resources needed for the 2008 Northwest Democrats' general election campaign. A number of our members have been giving up several hours each Saturday to plan this event and the series of workshops we will be sponsoring to provide needed training for our candidates, their campaign staffs and interested citizens. Please give these dedicated individuals your thanks next time you see them: Ray Baray, Adam Castillo, Anna Dorrycott, Don Green, Verna Blackwell Hilario, Rachel Hill, Al Kaufman, Jacob Middleton, Evelyn Mortola, and Esmeralda Rodriguez. (Surely hope I haven't forgotten anyone.)

If you ever wonder if our work in the general elections does any good, just ask a few of our new judges who were elected in 2002, 2004 and 2006. We don't do it alone, but we do contribute to those victories. In 2002, we took all but two of the county-court-at-law seats away from Republicans and, in 2004 and 2006, we turned a lot of Republican district judges out of office and elected Democrats. In 2008, we need to send John Cornyn back to Texas from Washington and help elect a Democratic president; keep the Chief Justice slot Democratic when Alma Lopez retires; maintain all our current Democratic seats and win as many others as we possibly can.

This takes resources – people, time, and money. Next year we will be asking you to give your time and energy to this cause. Now we are asking you to provide the third resource – the money necessary to keep an office open and to provide the supplies and materials necessary to run a successful campaign.

So, bring your checkbook with you when you come to the meeting on the 21st. Buy a ticket or make a contribution. Be a part of this effort! You will be glad on November 4, 2008 that you did!

Help Needed

For some weeks now a number of us have been meeting on alternate Thursdays at noon to lunch and visit together while also looking up phone numbers for those voters for whom we do not have numbers at present.

The task is so large that we simply must have more help. By working together now we will be better organized for the 2008 General Election.

What we are about is no small task. There are over 150,000 names to be checked. So, if you have the time to assist us, please join us. We meet at my home at 6454 Village Park at 12 noon, every other Thursday. Call me at 680-5701 if you need further information or directions.

I'm Mad as Hell and I Don't Know What to Do

by Jacob Middleton

Do you know what burns my butt? (Aside from a flame about three feet high). It's some of the things our Democratic Congress is doing. Take for example the big energy package. It's so infuriating to see the representatives from Michigan being the mouthpieces for the Big Three.

So now that I've bone of contention, what in the world am I supposed to do? I could easily stay in bed and complain which wouldn't do much. Or I could make my voice heard by writing to my Congressman and Senators (which I did earlier this month on a different issue).

Dear Congressman Rodriguez,

As a constituent I urge you to vote for the Senate version of the Energy Bill (HR6), known as the CLEAN Energy Act of 2007. The Senate version included a provision to increase automobile emission standards, which the House version lacked.

It is time we stopped trying to protect the Big Three automakers who have for years kept their heads buried in the sand in regards to more fuel efficient cars. They are now paying the price for their stubbornness. In June, GM, Ford, and DaimlerChrysler saw their sales drop by 21, 8, and 1 percent, respectively. In that same month, Nissan, Honda, and Toyota saw their sales increase by 23, 12, and 10 percent, respectively.

I say it is time that American automakers caught up with the rest of the world; and I say this as a Ford owner. It disappoints me that China will be enacting tougher fuel efficiency standards than the U.S.

I am disappointed that two provisions were taken out: 1) to tax oil producers and 2) a five-year tax credit extension for those entities that produce wind, geothermal, and biomass electricity. If you can, I would like to see those provisions put back in. On the whole, however, I do think the bill is a first good step considering the closely divided Senate.

When Democrats gain more seats in 2008, I do hope that you and the Democratic Congress will push for a more forward looking energy package that does more.

And just like that, you have a letter that voices your support and disappointment. This lets your representative know that while you understand the situation, you are still none the less upset. This also lets your representatives know that you are paying attention to what they're doing, which will keep them on their toes. So the next time someone tells you to write your congressman, you'll know it isn't such a scary or insurmountable task. Who knows, you might get a response.

*******PLEASE READ THIS PLEASE READ THIS PLEASE READ THIS*******

We are going to have a video tribute at our dinner. We will have a video camera at our July meeting for members to tell us why you belong to Northwest Democrats. This video will be played at the dinner.

If anybody has pictures of Northwest Democrats meetings or activities, please bring them to the July meeting. Just make sure to let us know they're yours so we can get them back to you. These will be used in a slide presentation that will be played continuously prior to the dinner.

Northwest Democrats
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Take Your Campaign to the Next Level! Calling all Candidates and Campaign Staff!

Northwest Democrats Political Workshops 2007. Coordinated by Joyce Dorrycott

Campaign Skills Workshop \$150. Sat., July 28th, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Campaign Law and Finance \$125. Sat., Sept. 8th, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

Role of the Internet and Media in Campaigns \$150. Sat., Sept. 29th, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm

Limited space is available so reserve your place early. Reservations must be made and paid for at least 3 days in advance of each workshop. To register for any of the workshops, please call 210-680-5701 or 210-387-3931.