

Northwest Democrats News



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Northwest Democrats, P.O. Box 681911, San Antonio, TX 78268; TXDemocrat@satx.rr.com

July 19th Program: City Council

Don't forget to attend our July 19th meeting when Delicia Herrera (City Council District 6) and Justin Rodriguez (City Council District 7) will discuss achievements and goals with regards to the City Council.

Christian Archer will also present a brief introduction to the term limits proposition that will be on the ballot this November. We *will* have a longer program on term limits at a later time.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's, Floyd Curl and Huebner.

Special Projects: Stuff the Bus and Eckhert Road Clean-up

A **big thanks** to all who contributed to the Warrior and Family Support Center. After the June meeting your representatives, Ruth Stewart, Beverly Freeman, and Gene Marck took the cookies, Pampers, bottled water, 1500 minutes of phone cards, and other goodies plus monetary contributions of over \$200 to the Center. Your generosity is **greatly appreciated** by the Warriors and their families.

Stuff the Bus kicks off at the July meeting. Stuff the Bus is the annual collection to provide school supplies to needy families. Please bring **pens, pencils, filler paper, rulers, scissors, calculators, folders**....any kind of school supplies for this worthy cause. The supplies are distributed to families in need by the local schools. I noticed that Walgreen's already has many school supplies on sale at very cheap prices. The name "Stuff the Bus" comes about because the organizers will actually stuff a yellow school bus full of supplies on August 8.

The quarterly **Eckhert Road clean-up** follows the **July meeting**. New volunteers are invited to join the hard-core neat-niks of past clean-ups. Join the fun on Eckhert Rd.

Call Gene Marck, chairman-Special Projects, if you have any questions...273-9201 (cell).

2006-2008

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A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

In going through Don's paperwork recently, I came across a letter to the editor which he had written and which was published by the Express-News on Sunday, June 6, 2004 - a date which means much to the World War II generation - for it was on that date in 1944 that the Allies landed on the beaches of Normandy. But that was not the subject of Don's letter and, as always, he spoke so well for himself.

The 'great' question

San Antonio Express-News, June 6, 2004

You call us the "Greatest Generation." All right, we accept that name - we who were born and raised in the "Great Depression," worked our country back to prosperity, manufactured "great" amounts of arms to protect the free world, sent 16 million men to fight in the Second "Great" War, won the "great" victory, then with the "greatest" example of compassion by man rebuilt our former enemies' nations.

We then became the "greatest" industrial and "greatest" military power the world has ever seen. All of this was our bequest to you. Now we deserve an answer to our "great" question. What have you done with this "great" America we entrusted to you?

- Donald F. Green, veteran

As I went through the 4th of July and Don's birthday on the 6th, I thought of how much he gave to his country. First, he gave through 30 years of military service; then, through 34 years of service to our party and to our community. How saddened he was as he saw the misuse of our military in Iraq - a military established to defend our country from attack - not to attack another country without real provocation.

He was a man who loved his country enough to criticize its actions when he thought they were wrong. But, more than that, he believed that it was our responsibility to try to right those wrongs wherever we see them.

And, so, I approach this political season determined to try to finish what he so bravely started during his illness - to help elect a Democrat to the White House; to help elect Barack Obama to the presidency of the United States.

We hear so much about how we should honor John McCain's service to his country - and the majority of Americans do honor that service. But, no one has yet explained to me how being a fighter pilot and spending 5 years as a military hostage prepares you for the presidency. Pilots by their training are not in the foxholes. They are not doing the strategy as to how to win a battle or the war. Military service is a great asset to public service. But, it is not the only or even the most valuable asset one can have. The presidency is not a present to be bestowed because of such honorable and devoted service. And, if military service is to be a prerequisite to becoming president, we will opt out an extremely large number of highly qualified and experienced candidates.

Every time someone says to me - "I'm not going to vote for the presidency in this election" or "I can't vote for Obama" or "I'm going to join 'Democrats for McCain'" - I want to ask them, "What has been so great about the past 7 years that you want to continue or to repeat it?" "What do we really want in a president - intelligence, vision, dedication to the task of governing, commitment to restoring the rights we are guaranteed by our Constitution, and, yes, the ability to inspire this generation as John F. Kennedy inspired so many of us in 1960?"

You all know my answer. I stand with Don - a man who took his oxygen tank, went on his walker, and spent 12 hours in a confused convention, unwilling to leave till we had done all that we could to get an Obama delegate or alternate out of our precinct. He believed in Obama before I did; he never saw that military service was a pillar of strength to anyone's candidacy. But, he saw and heard from Barack Obama a real hope for restoration of the America our generation - the "Greatest Generation" - had fought for, believed in, and worked to leave to the generation to come.

It is time for each of us to step up, to renew our strength, to draw upon our courage and to commit ourselves to the election of a Democrat this year. We cannot afford to be complacent. We cannot afford to be too busy. We cannot afford to blind ourselves to what four more years of Republican leadership can bring to America. WE MUST DO THIS ONE FOR OURSELVES - AND FOR DON WHO IS NO LONGER HERE TO DO IT WITH US.

Judge and Jury

by Jacob Middleton

Last month I was summoned downtown for jury duty (tell you your friends: *we're called for jury duty based on our driver's license, not whether we register to vote*). I ended up getting called to possibly be on a jury (I was number 42 of 42). Thankfully we weren't needed because the parties settled; I say thankfully because I had tickets to the Majestic that night. But I digress... I just wanted to make some observations about my experience.

First I want to say what a good job Judge Larry Noll did that morning. He made sure to let the potential jurors know about the assault on juries and jury verdicts. One other thing he mentioned was how often we unknowingly sign away our right to a jury trial when we sign these credit card agreements or other such documents with gobs and gobs of small fine print. Check the fine print on some of your agreements and notice how it says that by signing you wave your right to a jury trial and instead will go to arbitration.

AT&T was sued in 2002 for having an arbitration clause (case of *Ting v. AT&T*). From the plaintiffs' brief: *In the last several months, AT&T has sent plaintiff Ting and its other customers a "Consumer Services Agreement" that would eliminate their ability to obtain compensation for most wrongs AT&T might commit against them by, among other things, requiring plaintiff Ting and AT&T's other customers to submit to mandatory, binding, secret arbitration and prohibiting them from participating in class actions.*

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the plaintiff and against AT&T saying that the arbitration clause violated California's Consumer Protection Law. In addition the Supreme Court refused to overturn the appeals court's ruling.

Back to jury duty. After being called, we had to go upstairs and wait, and wait, and wait.

Having said all that, I have some suggestions. First, could you not have jurors waiting in the hallway where the courtrooms are? Among other things, people are constantly going in and out of courtrooms and I just felt like I was in the way. In addition, I didn't really need to hear the numerous conversations that took place between attorneys and defendants. We were standing around for about an hour to an hour and a half. Maybe because it was Republican Judge Raymond Angelini's courtroom was the reason, I don't know (I could have made a mean DUI joke at this point, but thought better of it).

Second, I would recommend allocating some money to clean up the courthouse (actually the Justice Center). While upstairs some of the granite portions of the walls looked like there had been something or several somethings on them, but they were not properly removed. Like pulling a price tag off a book too quickly. (FYI, I heard several of the jurors comment on the physical condition upstairs.)

Finally, tickets will be available at the July meeting for our dinner honoring Mayor Phil Hardberger; 1 for \$55 or 2 for \$100. In addition, you will also be able to sign the "Thank You Mayor" page for \$20 a signature. Speaking of the mayor, I'm glad to see the term limits coming up again. Personally I favored 2 four year terms, but I understand that compromise is a necessary part of the political process. That being said, I personally plan on voting for relaxing the current term limits. San Antonio is the 7th largest city in the U.S. and 2nd largest city in Texas. We need to be able to plan for the long-term. The next thing I'd like to see changed is the salary for the mayor and council. Council members are paid \$20 a meeting (not per day, per meeting) and the mayor only makes \$4000 a year. The council pay can't exceed \$1,040 per year.

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SAVE THE DATE

Our upcoming dinner will be on August 20th. Individual tickets are \$55 or 2 for \$100.

Remember, all funds raised go towards our campaign in the fall to help all the Democrats on the ballot.