

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR NORTH TEXAS DEMOCRATS

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Garland, Texas

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Ask Not for Whom the Bell Tolls, It Tolls for Thee



For whom the bell tolls a poem (No man is an island) by John Donne
www.famousliteraryworks.com/donne_for_whom_the_bell_tolls.htm

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

EDITORIAL

Where in the World Has the VOICE Been?

These past two months I have spent recovering from a health scare, spending a great deal of time snuggled up in my Lazy Boy Chair and enduring a myriad of medical tests. For the most part, the tests show everything is okay — no cancer. Diabetes, yes. Diet and pill treatment is very successful. I have lost over 40 pounds and am feeling more like my [younger] self than I have in a long time. Because I am responding well to treatment, changed my diet, gone on the wagon and am losing weight, my primary care physician holds out the possibility of controlling and even [maybe] kicking the diabetes. I still need some healing with my heart issues, but with medication, diet, exercise and the healing of my sugar issues, there is good news here, as well. Whew.

The most important fact I have learned concerns my own mortality; I have accepted the fact that I must pace myself and take time to rest. Gone are the days of me being able to work for hours at the computer without a break!

Also during this time, AOL decided to wipe out my address book. I have been able to reconstruct the list, but there will be errors. In addition, our safety and security of our home has been threatened. We have received some threatening phone calls. Because of some threatening events here in Camelot (our subdivision), we have installed a security camera system. We have taken charge!

The barrage of du-du from the White House, Washington and Austin is without end. The many attacks on immigrants by the U.S. government has cast a pall on our national integrity. Just this morning I read a report concerning the harvesting of crops. Food is rotting in the fields for the lack of folks (immigrants) to do the harvesting.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” www.ushistory.org/Declaration/document/

What has become self-evident is the GOP-pers mostly all white, Anglo-Saxon, Christian fundamentalist males. Everyone else is excluded: women, African Americans, Muslims, Jews, LGBTQ and anyone else who does not fit the GOP-per profile.

In Article 3, Section 3 of the U.S. Constitution, treason is defined.

“Treason against the United States, shall consist only in levying War against them, or in adhering to their Enemies, giving them Aid and Comfort. No Person shall be convicted of Treason unless on the Testimony of two Witnesses to the same overt Act, or on Confession in open Court.” www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript

The recent revelations regarding the activities of the president’s son and top advisor, Jared Kushner certainly gives pause to further investigation: the loss of security clearances for those involved and in the course of customary procedure, and removal from office (if proven). The preponderance of evidence is so much. Kushner’s excuse for not putting 16 different encounters on his application papers? “I forgot.” says Kushner. How many times must the dog eat his homework before he takes responsibility? Daddy is blaming the media. (“crooked media”)

This current issue of the VOICE is a double issue containing April and May 2017. Included in the May section are short articles I have collected during my convalescence. The April section was put together before my medical crisis. Unfortunately, I have not included photos of our great democrats participating in events. Out & About will reappear in the June issue.

Unless there is a special session, the Texas Legislature will adjourn the end of May and not be in session until 2019. The damage done by their ill-guided processes has been well documented. The carnage will end until the next session!

Rachel Baker Ford, editor

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

MEMORIAL DAY – 2017



The Vietnam Memorial Wall at Dawn
Getty Images: National Park Service

Remembering the Brave Soldiers Veterans Statistics on the Vietnam Memorial Wall

There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010. The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 61 years since the first casualty.

- ★ The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- ★ There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- ★ 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- ★ 8,283 were just 19 years old. The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old. 12 soldiers were 17. Five soldiers were 16. One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was just 15 years old.
- ★ 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam. 1,448 soldiers on their last day.
- ★ 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall. Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- ★ 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia.
- ★ Eight Women are on the Wall, killed while nursing the wounded.
- ★ 244 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. 153 of them are on the Wall.
- ★ Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost six of her sons.
- ★ West Virginia lost 711 of her sons — had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation.
- ★ The Marines of Morenci, AZ (pop 5,058), nine graduates of Morenci High, enlisted as a group. Three returned home.
- ★ The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales, boyhood friends, joined together. In late 1967, all three were killed.
- ★ The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 — 245 deaths.
- ★ The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.

Many Americans who read this report will only see the numbers the Vietnam War created. To those of us who survived the war, and to the families of those who did not, we see the faces, we feel the pain that these numbers created. We are, until we too pass away, haunted with these numbers, because they were our friends, fathers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. There are no noble wars, just noble warriors.

Take a moment to remember these brave soldiers and those who gave their ultimate sacrifice that we all can know the blessing of freedom.

— Submitted to the **VOICE** by Mark Edwards

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GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BOOK REVIEW

This Fight Is Our Fight: The Battle to Save America's Middle Class

Elizabeth Warren has published 10 books, including the best seller, *A Fighting Chance*. After I read, *A Fighting Chance*, I realized Warren speaks for me.

I am currently reading, *This Fight is Our Fight*, and it has further convinced me we are in a huge struggle against monied interests to save our middle class. Our Republican Congress and our new President have only one agenda — maintain the status quo — Keep wealth locked up in the hands of the upper one percent.

I have heard the above statement many times, but Elizabeth's explanation of how this has happened over the last 30 years is confirmation. It didn't just happen — it was planned and carried out by the super wealthy. First, by buying our politicians, and then by initiating legislation to benefit the one percent.

Trump's campaign make no secret of their objectives:

- Tax cuts for the wealthy
- Repeal Affordable Care Act
- Roll back pesky regulations (including environmental)
- Weaken (eliminate) the EPA
- Roll back key bank regulations (forget about the billion dollar bailout of banks in 2008)

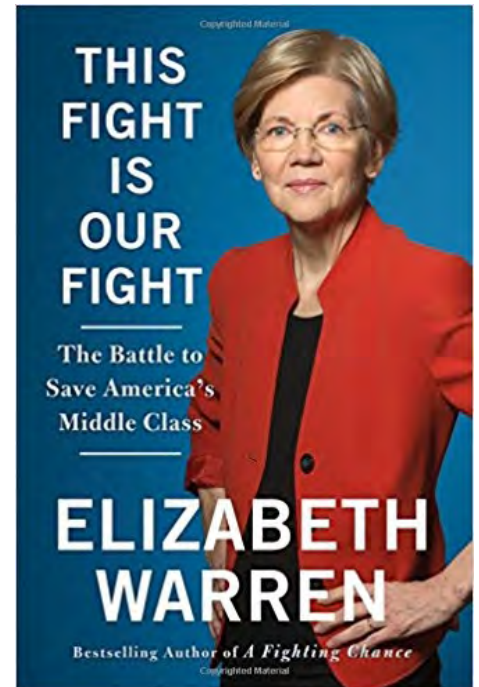
And all the time Trump's campaign was to "Make America Great" again, with no actual plan for creating jobs, raising the minimum wage, nothing to help the middle class.

Warren has a wonderful way of writing and explaining complex issues.

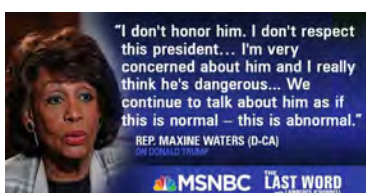
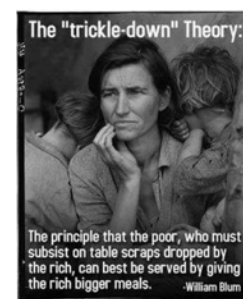
I strongly encourage you to get your copy and read her latest book: *This Fight Is Our Fight*.

— Peggy Henger

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Comments about Trump found on FaceBook



What Do We Want From Our Congressman?

What is it that we want from our Congressman? Some say they want a champion: a David to stand up to the Goliaths of the world...a defender of their side of the argument, whatever that might be about. That is a great idea, but it assumes an arena where conflict is the norm. Remember David and Goliath meet on a battlefield. Is that how we want to picture our Congress ... as two armies in mortal combat?

Now, I know that is what it sounds like but, as taxpayer, does that give us the most bang for our buck? I don't think so. If you want a David, maybe that football player-turned-attorney, who just got in the race, is your guy. I am not into political combat. The Framers got a lot done in Philadelphia to give us a Constitution, not because they came to town to do battle, but to find a middle ground which worked for all sides.

I am a trained, experienced mediator. I have written agreements which have the authority of law; helped divorcing parents find a satisfactory parenting agreement. I have decades of experience getting people to talk and not yell across the room.

If you want to continue the political wars, go for it, but don't elect me.

Do not think that because I don't believe that warfare is how things are settled that I will be a pushover. It takes as much courage to stand for respect as it does to question the integrity of another person.

If you want Congress to work for everyone, to find a middle ground, to cross over bridges built upon mutual respect and compromise, then I'm your guy. But don't take it for granted that I will get elected just because I am trying to be the adult in the room. If you want me, you have to help me with your dollars, your time and your vote!

—Steve Love, candidate for U.S. Senate District 32
posted on Facebook 5/21/17



Steve Love, candidate for
U.S. Senate District 32

On the Two-Party System

In a two-party system, every election is composed of two parts: the Primary — in which the members of the two parties decide who they want their standard bearer to be; and the General — in which all voters decide which of the party standard bearers they want to hold the office. Because who wins is decided by all the voters, smart primary voters vote for the candidate of their party they think will be most appealing to smart general election voters, for whom political party membership might not be the deciding factor.

I will be focusing my attention on 1) convincing primary voters that I am the best person to represent the Democratic Party's historical values because of a lifetime of experience and 2) such a person is best positioned to win the support of smart general election voters of both parties or no party [affiliation].

In other words, I will run a campaign focused on policies which have worked to build and sustain a middle class as the consumer base and labor force of a sustainable economy.

—Steve Love, candidate for U.S. Senate District 32
posted on Facebook 5/21/17

Enough, Senator Sanders

Sen. Elizabeth Warren was on Rachel Maddow tonight. I really enjoyed her comments on her new book. She outlined how we built the middle class beginning in 1935 and how we began making it an endangered species in the 1980's. She blamed the Republicans, not Hillary or the DNC for what happened to threaten the middle class.

This is what chaps my chops with Bernie. It is one stream of "gotchas" and "shouldas" and it is all necessary because the Clintons and the Democratic Party sold the middle class down the river. It would be so nice if Bernie got busy making the things, he says should happen, happen instead of whipping a crowd of people in a frenzy. This does nothing to fix anything but does add dollars to his 2020 presidential campaign war chest.

We got the diagnosis, Dr. Sanders, now tell us how you fixed the problem! If you cannot fix the problem, stop telling the world that you are their great savior. Some of us are actually older than you and have watched it happen in real time. It is part of our biography.

— Steve Love posted on Facebook

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE

BITS & PIECES — 2



Statement after the Passage of the American Health Care Act

May 4, 2017 Press Release

WASHINGTON, D.C. Congresswoman Johnson releases the following statement after the passage of the American Health Care Act:

“Today’s vote for the Trumpcare bill is disgraceful and hurtful to the American people. This Republican led bill did not afford the American people time to hear debate while lacking transparency,” said Congresswoman Johnson. “We also never received an official score from the Congressional Budget Office stating how many Americans would be negatively impacted and the amount of money it will cost the nation.”

“What happened today has stripped away the basic fundamental right of health care for everyone. My office received numerous calls from constituents in the 30th district, health care professionals and health care advocates opposing this bill. Additionally there seems to still be a divide because there were a number of my Republican colleagues who opposed this bill as well.”

“This bill is not perfect and it is our job as elected officials to represent the best interests of the American people. So we should not be supporting or applauding the passage of this most recent bill when it makes coverage unaffordable to those with pre-existing conditions and imposes an age tax on seniors who are the most vulnerable.”

“Unfortunately, an opportunity was wasted to really work together to address the current issues of the Affordable Care Act, but it will be up to the Senate to take up this bill. I urge my Senate colleagues to act with humility and do their due diligence to safeguard health care affordability and coverage for everyone.”

#

Trump — Wrong!

Trump believes his Executive Order is sufficient to repeal the Johnson Act which is federal law and part of the United States Code. All any Executive Order can do is to influence the discretion, if any, allowed by the Johnson Act under the Rules issued by the Treasury Department and/or Internal Revenue Service.

“Trump’s order directs the Internal Revenue Service to “alleviate the burden of the Johnson Amendment,” the White House said in reference to a 1954 law sponsored by Lyndon Baines Johnson, then a Texas senator who later became president.

Under that amendment, the tax code prohibits organizations that enjoy tax-free status from participating in a political campaign or supporting any one candidate for elective office.”

— Katherine Savers McGovern
Published on Facebook 5/19/17

GARLAND DEMOCRATIC VOICE BULLETIN BOARD

Talking Points — Reality Check for those who voted for Trump's lies.

SOME OF THE CUTS IN DONALD TRUMP'S BUDGET:

\$880 BILLION

FROM MEDICAID

\$191 BILLION

FROM SNAP (FOOD STAMPS)

\$40.4 BILLION

FROM THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND CHILD TAX CREDIT

\$21.6 BILLION

FROM THE TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES PROGRAM

IF TRUMP'S BUDGET IS PASSED:

17 MILLION CHILDREN
COULD LOSE HEALTH INSURANCE

12 MILLION AMERICANS
COULD LOSE FOOD STAMPS

6.8 MILLION HOUSEHOLDS
COULD LOSE HEATING ASSISTANCE

1.1 MILLION CHILDREN
COULD LOSE AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

200,000 FAMILIES, SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
COULD LOSE AFFORDABLE HOUSING

TRUMP'S PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS

- \$800 billion cut to Medicaid
- \$193 billion cut to food stamp program
- \$72 billion cut to disability benefits
- \$53 billion cut to unemployment benefits
- \$22 billion cut to low-income family support
- \$6 billion cut to National Institutes of Health
- \$1.2 billion cut to U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- \$1 billion cut to National Cancer Institute
- \$838 million cut to National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- \$776 million cut to National Science Foundation
- \$575 million cut to National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute

Sources: White House, Washington Post, NYT

TRUMP & HIS TEAM'S TIES TO RUSSIA



<https://swalwell.house.gov/issues/russia-trump-his-administration-s-ties>

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