



Vol. 11 Number 10

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From the President's Desk:

By Mary Lou Ambrose



As I write this, the first of the Impeachment Inquiry interviews is behind us: two amazing patriots, William Taylor, the Chief Envov to (appointed by Trump's they were fact witness-Secretary of State), and es only. Republicans in-George Kent (Deputy As- sisted on treating them sistant Secretary of State both with disrespect. for European and Eura- Republicans kept comsian Affairs. Both men plaining about the fact

have sterling resumes, especially Taylor. graduated 5th in his West Point Class (out of 800) and volunteered to fight in Vietnam at the height of the war there. He is a decorated veteran and a life-long Public servant as were his father and Grandfather.

They repeatedly told Ukraine hostile Republicans that that there were no witnesses who had spoken directly to the President while ignoring the fact that the President, like the Dictator he wants to be, ordered everyone who worked for him, previously worked for him or wanted to work for him to ignore legal Congressional Subpoenas. Frankly, that alone should be enough to Impeach him. He refuses to accept that he is the head of only one of the three parts of government. He our thinks he is the Dictator

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Desk	1
Upcoming Speakers	4
MEMBERSHIP	4
HOLIDAY POTLUCK	5
District 66 news	6
Pinellas Dem Party	7
Charlie Tucker	8
Florida Dem Party	9
News of Congress	10
Opinion & Letters	11
Representatives	14

of the United States of America. (The cartoon in today's Tampa Bay Times showed Marlon Brando of Godfather fame sitting at



Our OCTOBER speaker Jessica Ehrlich, Esq.

Monday, Oct 21 — 6:30—8:45 pm Acropol Family Restaurant, 1170 Starkey Rd, Largo, Florida 33771

Our speaker will be Jessica Ehrlich, a St. Petersburg, Florida attorney. She was the Democratic nominee for Florida's 13th congressional district in 2012 losing to long-time incumbent Bill Young. Along with her law practice, she is a political analyst for Fox News and the Fox News Business Channel.

Con't —> JE page 3

Con't —> M LA page 2

Page 2 November, 2019

MLA From Page 1

the President's desk saying, "I want you to do me a favor, though.") That is the whole story. We have a Mafia Boss in the White House.

While the Democrats are doing a very lawful, professional Job, under the burden of the Republicans' irrational support of Trump, Democrats are likely to lose in the Senate unless a Republicans remember what they were sent to the Senate to do. They are supposed to uphold the laws of the United States. There is also the fact that the terrible tax law they put in place was done to benefit the wealthy donors of Republicans who now are generous with their contributions to those who handed them this windfall.

Right now, Benjamin Franklin's answer to a woman's question about "What kind of a government have you given us?" He answered, "A Republic, Madam, if you can keep it." We are very likely to lose that Republic if Donald Trump is not removed from office. If we somehow manage to either Impeach him or vote him out of office in November 2020, he will likely refuse to leave the Presidency. After all, he is making a lot of money for numerous Trump Enterprises (or whatever they call it). In addition, he must remain in office to avoid being arrested and put on trial in New York for all the

crimes which were uncovered in the Mueller report. He could be tried, convicted and sent to jail for these crimes, largely related to his business.

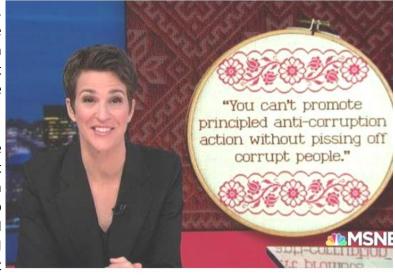
Trump has repeatedly said that, if he is thrown out of office, even by an official vote of the people, there will be a civil war. He has riled up his "no changes to gun laws" supporters and believes they will pick up their guns and travel to DC to protect him and put him back in office. It is possible that he is correct. If you remember, in 2016 he said that, if Hillary won, he was unlikely to concede because the election was subject to all kinds of fraud. Actually, he was correct, except that the fraud was in his favor. Trump simply will not consider obeying any law or abide by any tradition which does not result in the result he wants. It is all about Trump.

I usually end up a letter like

this by saying, "So now, what can we do?" We can all hope that some of the Republican Senators who have decided not to run again will vote to impeach. wish thought that

were likely. There were three Republican Senators, Collins, Murkowski and Romney who refused to sign Lindsey Graham's pledge not to impeach Trump. I believe that none of them will actually vote to impeach Trump. Romney makes a lot of noise, and voting to impeach would be unlikely to affect his reelection four years from now, but he is already backsliding. There are no John McCains in the Senate anymore.

Possibly, there will be some piece of information that will change the minds of Republican Senators. Possibly, Trump will do something so outrageous that enough Senators will remember why they are Senators. I just do not know.





EVENT DETAILS

When: November 20, 7:00 PM Where: Seminole Community Library, Program Room B 9200 113th Street, Seminole, Florida 33772

Climate Reality is presenting 24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action, a global conversation about the truth of the climate crisis and how we solve it.

For one full 24-hour period, Climate Reality Leader volunteers like myself, trained by former Vice President Al Gore, will hold public presentations and conversations on our changing climate in schools, community centers, workplaces, and more across all 50 US states and in countries worldwide.

This event is the perfect opportunity to find out what the climate crisis means for our community and to start learning how we'll solve it together.

Thank you, in advance, for being a part of this global conversation.

J E From Page 1

You met Jessica Ehrlich when she was running against Bill Young for the U S Congress in 2012. She spoke to the Club during that campaign. In addition to her law practice, Jessica is a television and radio commentator. She appears regularly on the FOX News and FOX Business Networks on shows such as "The O'Reilly Factor", "Cavuto" and "America's Newsroom". She is nationally recognized for her insight and analysis on political, legal, and business topics.

About Jessica:

Experience

- Commissioner, City of St. Petersburg Development Review Commission
- The Law Offices of Charles W. Ehrlich (St. Petersburg, FL), Associate
- U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida, the Hon. Elizabeth Kovachevich, Intern
- U.S. House of Representatives (Washington, DC), Legislative Counsel
- Bloomberg, LP (New York, NY), Bloomberg Law & Bloomberg Government
- Goldman Sachs (New York, NY), Investment Research
- The Estee Lauder Companies, Inc. (New York, NY), Executive Management
- Cartier, Inc. (New York, NY), Corporate Communications

Recognition

- "Leaders in the Law" Florida Association of Women Lawyers, 2013
- "Women of the Year Award (Politics)" Glamour Magazine, 2012

Certifications

- Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator
- Collaborative Divorce Practitioner

Bar Admission

• Florida, 2006

Activities

- Florida Bar Association Family and Government Law Sections, Member
- Florida Association of Women Lawyers, Member
- International Association of Collaborative Professionals
- Florida Association of Collaborative Professionals
- St. Petersburg Bar Association, Chair Family Law Section 2019-2020
- St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, Member
- Canakaris Family Law Inn of Court, Member
- St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts Stuart Society, Member

Education

J.D., Southern Methodist University (SMU Dedman) School of Law, 2005

B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1995

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

JANUARY— Plan to hear from the candidate for Clearwater Mayor and Council This is a

FEBRUARY— An associate of CAIR—Council On American-Islamic Relations will speak on issues handling and safety concerns of Muslims in the USA.

Don't forget that **DECEMBER** is our annual Holiday Potluck. This dinner is always nonpolitical, just a gathering to enjoy each other's company and a fun evening.







Dues are \$15 per year, payable in January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of the prior year will carry forward into the new year.

Pay now and you will be paid for 2020!



Page 5 November, 2019



As always, it's a potluck. Please remember to sign up with Bob Glass—Monday night—so we have an idea of what dishes will be included, and so we can figure out what we still need to have. There will be turkey, ham lots of side dishes and desserts! Wine, soda, tea and other beverages will be available.



District 66 News

LARGO OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE

Come march with the TUESDAY MORNING GAME CHANGERS AND RIDGECREST YOUNG LIFE!

Let's make our parade message be <u>"Register to vote-then vote your values."</u> I will check into the possibility of having a table there to register voters in addition to marching.

Please let me know if you have any ques-

tions. Also, let me know if you plan to be in the parade with us.

Ginny Nelson 970-481-6615 727-400-6068



https://www.facebook.com/LargoParade/

We will start lining up at 10:30 am and you need to be in place by 11:35. The Parade starts promptly at noon and it will take until about 1:20 pm for the last participant to reach the end.

The Old Fashioned Christmas Parade is just a mile long and proceeds at a walking pace.

There will be FOOD TRUCKS at Ulmer Park. So plan to stay for lunch.







https://www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec/





https://pinellasdemocrats.org/ events/

CONTACT US

2250 1st Avenue North St Petersburg, FL 33713 Office hours vary based on volunteer ability. Please call or email for more information.

office@pinellasdemocrats.com

727.327.2796



Join the In It to Win It Team

Become an **In It to Win It** sustaining donor! By committing to a monthly, recurring donation, you will make the critical work of the Pinellas Democratic Party possible.

How does it work?

Click on the image above and under "Make it Monthly" select "Yes, Count me in!" then set your monthly donation amount. Give what you can, every cent counts! You may cancel your donation at anytime by calling the office at 727-327-2796.

Page 8 **Vol. 11 Number 10**



Celebration of life
Celebrating
Charles Tucker

3:00 pm November 26th

Sylvan Abby 2853 Sunset Point Road Clearwater, FL

Service will be followed by dinner at Charlie's favorite restaurant the Acropol at 1170 Starkey Road in Largo.

You are all invited.





From the Chair's Desk

Articles We Are Circulating

These are articles we think are of interest to read or share.

Politico: Florida GOP official accused of 'misdeeds' and retaliation while at VA

Orlando Sentinel: <u>That stink you're smelling is</u> <u>Gov. Ron DeSantis' money problem | Editorial</u>

Washington Post: GOP defense of Trump grows

more frantic

Media Matters: Mark Zuckerberg spread misinformation about Facebook's fact-checking program during his congressional testimony

Our Latest Press Releases

October 23: Matt Gaetz Leads "Phalanx" of "Wingnuts"

October 23: Ron DeSantis Should Return All Money Raised at Events Hosted by Arrested Giuliani Associate

October 22: <u>Timeline of Ron DeSantis's Relationship with Arrested Giuliani Associates</u>

October 22: <u>Trump Administration Hands a</u> Lifeline to Venezuelan Dictator, Nicolas Maduro



One Year Out Weekend of Action

Last weekend we hosted one of the largest weekends of action this far out from a General Election in FDP history! Your hard work translated into over 1,300 registered voters in the first week of November, putting us on pace to make November our largest voter registration month to date. Here are our numbers as of Friday, November 8:

- 18,804 registered voters
- 63.5% are Democrats
- 57.7% are 18-34 years old
- 59.9% are persons of color

A huge thank you to everyone who is working to create the electorate we need to win in 2020!

News of Congress

From the Florida Democratic Party—press release of Oct. 25, 2019

Contact: Alex Morash morash@floridadems.org

A Betrayal Of His Oath of Office; Trump's Quid Pro Quo

• On Tuesday, Bill Taylor - Trump's top diplomat to Ukraine - made it clear that Trump engaged in a quid pro quo.

- Republicans have no more excuses. The Trump administration chose Bill Taylor for this position. Taylor has served under every administration since Ronald Reagan's. He's a West Point graduate and Vietnam War veteran. And he testified that Trump extorted a foreign country in order to sway an election. Trump must be held accountable.
- Despite Trump and his defenders' lies, Ukrainian officials knew the Trump administration was withholding military aid for political reasons at the same time Trump was pressuring Zelensky to make a public commitment to investigate his political enemies.
- In his testimony, Taylor describes a series of conversations with top Trump officials in which it was made clear that the president was withholding aid and a White House visit until Ukraine agreed to help his reelection:
 - Trump pressed for the Ukrainian president to make a public announcement of investigations into Trump's political rival and a conspiracy theory about the 2016 election.
 - According to Taylor, Gordon Sondland said that "everything" was dependent on Ukraine publicly announcing the investigations that Trump wanted.
- In classic Trump fashion, he insisted behind closed doors that he wasn't asking for a quid pro quo while insisting on a quid pro quo as he made clear that the U.S and Ukraine would be at a "stalemate" if he didn't get what he wanted.
- This was a turning point in this impeachment inquiry. It's clear that Trump used the power of the presidency to pressure a foreign government to interfere in our elections.
- The White House has engaged in efforts to cover it up, and to obstruct the congressional inquiry into that scheme.
- Trump has already admitted multiple times to the central claim of his abuse of power. aHe has even reiterated his abuses by asking China on national television to also investigate his political rival and interfere in our election.

The bottom line: Trump has betrayed his oath of office, betrayed our national security and be-trayed the integrity of our elections for his own personal political gain.

Opinion & Letters

This is a Brit's response on a forum as to why British people don't like Trump.

I think he sums it up perfectly. LOL

Kathleen Jamieson

A few things spring to mind.

Trump lacks certain qualities which the British traditionally esteem.

For instance, he has no class, no charm, no coolness, no credibility, no compassion, no wit, no warmth, no wisdom, no subtlety, no sensitivity, no self-awareness, no humility, no honour and no grace – all qualities, funnily enough, with which his predecessor Mr. Obama was generously blessed.

So for us, the stark contrast does rather throw Trump's limitations into embarrassingly sharp relief.

Plus, we like a laugh. And while Trump may be laughable, he has never once said anything wry, witty or even faintly amusing — not once, ever.

I don't say that rhetorically, I mean it quite literally: not once, not ever. And that fact is particularly disturbing to the British sensibility – for us, to lack humour is almost inhuman.

But with Trump, it's a fact. He doesn't even seem to understand what a joke is – his idea of a joke is a crass comment, an illiterate insult, a casual act of cruelty.

Trump is a troll. And like all trolls, he is never funny and he never laughs; he only crows or jeers.

And scarily, he doesn't just talk in crude, witless insults – he actually thinks in them. His mind is a simple bot-like algorithm of petty prejudices and knee-jerk nastiness.

There is never any under-layer of irony, complexity, nuance or depth. It's all surface.

Some Americans might see this as refreshingly upfront.

Well, we don't. We see it as having no inner world, no soul.

And in Britain we traditionally side with David, not Goliath. All our heroes are plucky underdogs: Robin Hood, Dick Whittington, Oliver Twist.

Trump is neither plucky, nor an underdog. He is the exact opposite of that.

He's not even a spoiled

rich-boy, or a greedy fat -cat.

He's more a fat white slug. A Jabba the Hutt of privilege.

And worse, he is that most unforgivable of all things to the British: a bully.

That is, except when he is among bullies; then he suddenly transforms into a sniveling sidekick instead.

There are unspoken rules to this stuff - the Queensberry rules of basic decency - and he breaks them all. He punches downwards which a gentleman should, would, could never do - and everv blow he aims is below the belt. He particularly likes to kick the vulnerable or voiceless - and he kicks them when they are down.

So the fact that a significant minority – perhaps a third – of Americans look at what he does, listen to what he says, and then think 'Yeah, he seems like my kind of guy' is a matter of some confusion and no little distress to British people, given that:

- Americans are supposed to be nicer than us, and mostly are.
- You don't need a par-

ticularly keen eye for detail to spot a few flaws in the man.

This last point is what especially confuses and dismays British people, and many other people too; his faults seem pretty bloody hard to miss.

After all, it's impossible to read a single tweet, or hear him speak a sentence or two, without staring deep into the abyss. He turns being artless into an art form; he is a Picasso of pettiness; a Shakespeare of shit. His faults are fractal: even his flaws have flaws, and so on ad infinitum.

God knows there have always been stupid people in the world, and plenty of nasty people too. But rarely has stupidity been so nasty, or nastiness so stupid.

He makes Nixon look trustworthy and George W look smart.

In fact, if Frankenstein decided to make a monster assembled entirely from human flaws – he would make a Trump.

And a remorseful Doctor Frankenstein would clutch out big clumpfuls of hair and scream in anguish:

Continued next page —>

Opinion & Letters PAGE 2

Cont'd from prior page

PINELLAS HAS TWO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES UP FOR

RE-ELECTION IN 2020.

HOW DO THEY VOTE ON GUN SAFETY?

'My God... what... have... I... created?

If being a twat was a TV show, Trump would be the boxed set.

"Religious freedom ends when it becomes an excuse to harm other people. " -Pete Buttigieg

U.S. REPRESENTA-TIVE GUS BILI-RAKIS - REPUBLI-CAN - District 12

Elected in 2006 (His father, Michael Bilirakis, held the seat for 24 years before him.)

1. In 2019, Rep. Bilirakis voted AGAINST the following common sense gun legislation:

HR 8 - Bipartisan B a c k g r o u n d Checks Act of 2019 - Provides for universal background checks.

> HR 1112 - Enhanced Background Checks Act of 2019 -Lengthens

> the time the FBI has to conduct background checks from three to ten days.

HR 1585 - Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019

Funds programs to prevent violence against women. (The NRA pushed House members to vote against the bill because of a new

provision in the bill which closes the "boyfriend loophole" by preventing dating partners convicted of abuse and stalking from owning firearms.1)

These bills passed

in the Democratically controlled House, but the Senate

Majority Leader, Republican Mitch McConnell, has refused to bring them up for a vote in the Senate.

2. In 2017, Rep. Bilirakis co-sponsored the Concealed Carry Reciprocity

Act of 2017. This legislation would weaken gun control that is already in

place.2 It passed the House and was referred to committee in the Senate.

1 https:// www.vox.com/2019/4/4/1 8294057/violence-against -women-act-housedemocrats-national-rifleassociation

2 "[T]he bill would allow residents from the 12 states where there are no requirements whatsoever for legal gun owners to carry

concealed firearms to carry concealed guns in the other 38 states that normally require permits." https://thehill.com/blogs/congressblog/

politics/365543-gunowners-and-republicansdont-really-wantconcealed-carry

Opinion & Letters PAGE 3

Miami Herald: The Cost of Not Expanding Medicaid In Fla.? Nearly 2,800 Deaths, A New Report Estimates

November 14, 2019 For Immediate Release Contact: Alex Morash 774-208-8291 morash@floridadems.org

Miami, Fla. — The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that states that expanded Medicaid saved the lives of over 19,000 Americans aged 55 to 64, while states that did not expand Medicaid, such as Florida, saw 15,600 older adults die prematurely.

On November 14. the Miami Herald reported that CBPP's the study found that Rick Scott's decision not to expand Medicaid cut short the lives of approximately 2,776 Floridians aged 55 to 64. The decision not to expand Medicaid in Florida, at the time, was made by then-Governor Scott, though Governor Ron DeSantis could have moved to expand Medicaid at any time since he took office.

CBPP noted in the study that one of the reasons for this may have to do with access to treatment for chronic health issues that affect older Americans, stating that "research shows that Medicaid expansion increased the share of low-income adults using medications to control chronic conditions like heart disease and diabetes."

The Miami Herald interviewed a key researcher on the topic who discussed the "tremendous inequality in health by income" — with men at the top of the income bracket that reached the age of 40 would likely live 15 years longer than his low-income peers.

The Herald reported that when the Republican who chairs the Senate's healthcare budget committee, Aaron Bean, was interviewed for his reaction to the lives of 2,776 Floridians cut short he stated: "We

had that debate a few years ago and we've moved on."

From the *Miami Herald* (*emphasis added*):

A report by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities released last week said states that expanded Medicaid showed significant reductions in death rates for older adults who fell into the income brackets that allowed them to gain the coverage. The report cited research estimating that, between 2014 and 2017, some 19,200 people who gained access in expansion states would have otherwise died.

But Florida is on the opposite end of that equation. According to report's the estimates, Florida likely suffered the secondhighest total of deaths in that time period — 2,776 — attributed to not expanding Medicaid, trailing only Texas, which has an estimated 2.920 deaths. The CBBP report used a data analysis by the National Bureau of Economic Research. [...]

Sarah Miller, a researcher from the University of Michigan who co-authored the NBER analysis, said the research was motivated by "tremendous inequality in health by income" in the United States.

Miller said that a man at the top of the income distribution bracket who makes it to age 40 can expect to live 15 years longer than someone at the low end of that bracket. [...]

"The chances [of expansion] are as likely as a foot of snow in Miami," said Sen. Aaron Bean, R-Fernandina Beach, who chairs the Senate's healthcare budget committee. "We had that debate a few years ago and we've moved on."

You can get a study to say anything," he added, of the CBPP report.

Contact your Federal Representative!

Senator Rick Scott Washington, D.C. United States Senate 83 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-5274

Email: help@rickscott.senate.gov

Senator Marco Rubio United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Main: (202) 224-3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202) 228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa: 5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530 Tampa, FL 33609 Phone: (813) 287-5035 Call: (813) 977-6450

Rep. Charlie Crist - 13th District http://crist.house.gov/Washington, DC Office 427 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5961 Fax: (202) 225-9764 District Offices Seminole District Office 9210 113th Street Seminole, FL 33772 (727) 394-6950 (727) 394-6955 (fax) St. Petersburg District Office 696 1st Avenue North, Suite #203 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 318-6770

Rep. Kathy Castor - 14th District Washington Office 205 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202)225-3376 Fax: (202)225-5652 Tampa Office 4144 N Armenia Ave Suite 300 Tampa, FL 33607 Phone: (813)871-2817 Fax: (813)871-2864 Office Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm St. Petersburg Office University of South Florida – St. Pete Williams House 511 Second St. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 873-2817 Office Hours: Please call in advance. Note: Please mail all items to the Tampa District Office address.

Rep. Gus Bilirakis - 12th District Washington, DC Office 2112 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225-5755 FAX: (202) 225-4085 New Port Richey Office 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 PHONE: (727) 232-2921 FAX: (727) 232-2923 Tarpon Springs Office 600 Klosterman Road Room BB-038 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 PHONE: (727) 940-5860 FAX: (727) 940-5861 Wesley Chapel Office 5901 Argerian Drive Suite 102 Wesley Chapel, FL 33545 PHONE: (813) 501-4942 FAX: (813) 501-4944

For the most up-todate information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, Go to:

https://
www.votepinellas.com/
LinkClick.aspx?
fileticket=R9k4r7jkBB4%
3d&portalid=72

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All of the officers were elected March, 2019. Next election is March, 2021

Additional contact information is available on

www.largodemocrats.org.

Why Join the Largo/Mid -Pinellas Democratic Club?

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's 'company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

As a member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club you can:

- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.

