

Message from

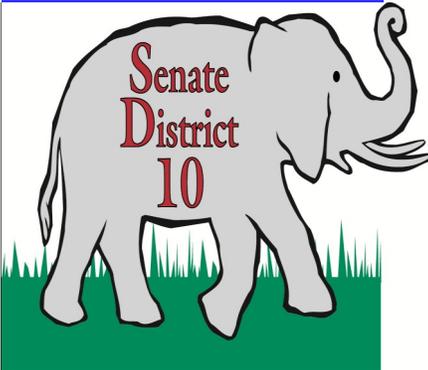
State Republican Executive Committeewoman

for Senate District 10,

Leslie Recine

3rd Quarter 2010

WWW.SenateDistrict10.com



Senate District 10

Dear Republican Friend,

Congratulations to both our winning Republican candidates and our winning Republican grassroots! We couldn't have had the overwhelming victories without the combination of hard-working candidates and hard-working grassroots. I salute you.

We saw huge Republican gains on election night throughout the state and locally. Congratulations to David Porter, Railroad Commissioner-Elect, Barbara Nash and Bill Zedler, State Representatives-Elect, Mary Louise Garcia, Tarrant County Clerk-Elect, Andy Nguyen, Tarrant County Commissioner-Elect and Matt Hayes, Justice of the Peace-Elect. Congratulations as well to our many returning Republican elected officials!

With 99 Republicans in the Texas House in the upcoming legislative session, we can expect to see a lot of conservative legislation passing and becoming law! At the September 25th State Republican Executive Committee meeting, both Jim Borchert and I, State Republican Executive Committeeman and Committeewoman for Senate District 10, voted for the "Resolution Supporting a Unified Republican Caucus Choice for Speaker of the House." You can read the Resolution on page 5 of this newsletter.

Speaking of the State Republican Executive Committee, during this two-year term, I am chairing the Volunteerism Committee, and Jim Borchert is serving on the Rules Committee. It is a joy to serve our Party within the State Republican Executive Committee.

Grassroots Republicans were very much involved in the November election, and it's important that you stay involved during the legislative session. Communication with your legislators and legislators-elect is essential. Contact information for the legislators and legislators-elect who represent parts of Senate District 10 is on pages 6-9 of this newsletter. Thank you for working to preserve our conservative principles.....protecting pre-born life, liberty, supporting limited government, low taxes and traditional family values.

Very Truly Yours,

Leslie Recine



Leslie Recine
State Republican Executive
Committeewoman for
Senate District 10

Please feel free to contact me anytime I may be of assistance at Leslie@LeslieRecine.com or 817-925-3420 (cell).



Bill James

Grassroots Focus on Bill James

Precinct Chair, 2281

Election Judge

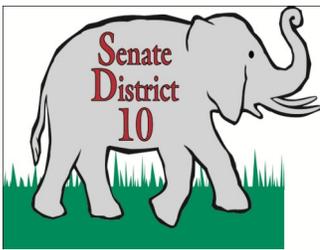
Delegate to both district and state republican conventions

Served on the Credentials Committee at the SD 10 district convention

Worked on local candidate races

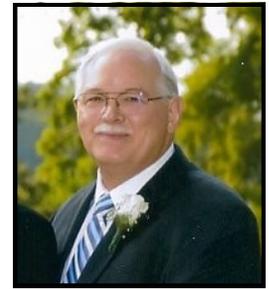
I am Texan by birth, born in Fort Worth and raised northwest of Weatherford in Parker County. By the time I began school my family moved into a house where my grandmother grew up in a rural farm community in Peaster, TX. I spent all twelve years in the Peaster ISD, graduated from Peaster High School and began college at Weatherford Jr. College.

(continued on page 2)



Grassroots Focus on Bill James

(Continued from Page 1)



As luck would have it, I was running out of money and laid out of school during the wrong semester and received a draft notice in the summer of 1966. At that time, the Vietnam War was building up, all draftees were being sent directly to Fort Polk, LA and then to Vietnam. My younger brother had already served a tour there in the Navy. I enlisted for four years in The Army Security Agency, a branch of Army Intelligence. Fortunately, that worked to my advantage. After basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, I spent the rest of the first year training at Fort Devens, MA and was honored to join 27 of my fellow classmates on a year long tour at Shemya Alaska. Shemya is a 2 ½ X 4 mile island located at the western tip of the Aleutian Islands where we monitored and tracked Soviet intercontinental ballistic missile tests. I spent the last two years of my military duty at Two Rock Ranch Station, Petaluma, CA, about 50 miles north of San Francisco. After completing my military obligation I moved back to Texas, finished college at UTA, receiving a BBA in Accounting, and have lived in Arlington since. Along the way, I married, had two sons but was single again in the early eighty's. I was single almost twenty years but remarried and have now been happily married eleven years to my wife Sandy.

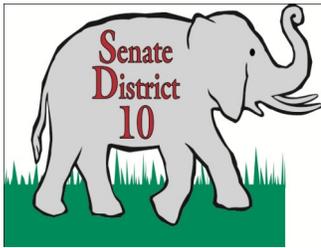
I often wonder if my military experience, especially the experience I had working with military intelligence, or the turmoil of the 60's and 70's molded my conservative thinking. The process of copying and tracking Soviet missals was an eye opening experience that has stayed with me to this day. I had studied the wars of the world in school but with the experience of actually witnessing a country at war, as we were with Vietnam, and another country shooting missals and testing war heads that can wreck havoc on the rest of the world; I began thinking much more globally than the rural farm community where I grew up. The era of the 60's and 70's was a bit different experience but the looting of schools, destruction of private property and public buildings by the protesters was definitely not the way I had grown up. Destruction of property, especially property of others was not the way to express or settle your grievances. I was curious about the hippies in and around the San Francisco area, so much so that my first stop on my first trip to the "City" was the infamous intersection of Haight and Ashbury Streets. Our military haircuts made us a bit of an oddity for the Haight-Ashbury area but not so much so that a fellow Texan from Houston, seeing the Texas plates on my car, walked up and wanted to know where I lived in Texas. Maybe the novelty was because I was actually driving a car when most of them seemed not to have one, but I think it was the haircut. As it turned out, they weren't the rowdy, destructive bunch we were used to seeing on the evening news, just different. It was definitely a period of growing up and learning that the world was not so simple and that all people on this earth do not share the same views of life as this country boy from Peaster, TX.

If there was a defining moment, more than anything else, I think the military experience drove me to become more active in politics. I remember the 1960 Kennedy-Nixon election while in high school, only because Kennedy was Catholic, and I was a first semester freshman college student when he was assassinated. I'm relatively sure that both my parents voted Democrat, more so because, for all general purposes, there wasn't a Republican party in Texas until the early to mid seventy's. You were either a conservative Democrat or a liberal Democrat. My parents, both devout Baptists, had a real problem voting for John Kennedy, "a Catholic," but the addition of Lyndon Johnson on the ballot as Vice President sealed the deal. Voting Republican for Richard Nixon was not an option for my parents. However, for them, it must have been a very serious moral dilemma. It wasn't until the 1967 election of Richard Nixon that I really took notice of the presidential election. By that time I had served a year in the military and was witnessing the escalation of the Vietnam War. My vote, much to the dismay of my parents, was for a Republican and I've never turned back. I attended my first district and state Republican convention in 1975 and was first elected as a precinct chair in the late 1980's. As best I remember, I was a precinct chair in North Arlington for about 5 years. Then I moved to South Arlington. It wasn't until I remarried and moved back to North Arlington that I became more active in Republican politics and was graciously handed the precinct chair by Ralph Brotherton.

Do you know the Legislative Priorities for the Republican Party of Texas?

Read them on pages 30-32 of the 2010 State Party Platform:

<http://www.senatedistrict10.com/2010FINALPLATFORMSTATECONVENTION.pdf>



Arlington Republican Club by President Lisa Callaghan

The Arlington Republican Club is one of the oldest, largest and most active Republican Clubs in Tarrant County. It has members from all over Tarrant County, and a large number of elected officials and precinct Chairs attend our meetings every month.

The Arlington Republican Club meets **the 4th Thursday of every month at Rolling Hills Country Club, Rolling Hills Country Club, 401 East Lamar Blvd, Arlington, TX 76011.** The main meeting is at 7:00 pm, but if you would like to join us for dinner, then come at 6:30. The cost is \$15.00. We have no November meeting due to Thanksgiving, and our December meeting is our Christmas Party.

The Christmas Party is December 7th, 2010, at Rolling Hills. The Cost is \$15.00. Our special guest is U.S. Rep. Joe Barton. Please feel free to attend and join in the festivities!

Our website may be found at <http://arlingtonrepublicanclub.com>. Upcoming events, our monthly speakers and news about our Club are posted here. Please feel free to sign up to be on our Club email list, so you can directly receive news about upcoming events.

This is a very exciting time for the Republican Party- we have regained the House and are gaining the momentum we need to retake Washington. If you would like to be a part of it, please join us in December and in the coming year!



The Arlington Republican Club

3rd Quarter 2010 State Republican Executive Committee Meeting Republican Party of Texas Headquarters, Austin September 25, 2010



Chris Howe from SD12, Georgia Stapleton from SD10, Jean McIver, State Republican Executive Committeewoman for SD12, and Jen Hall from SD10



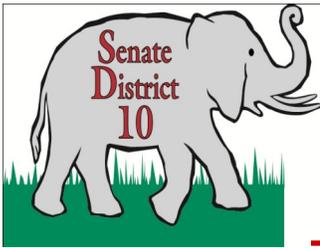
State Republican Executive Committee members: Jim Borchert & Leslie Recine, SD 10, Neal Katz, SD 8, Melinda Fredericks, Republican Party of Texas Vice Chairman, Steve Munisteri, Republican Party of Texas Chairman, Tom Washington, SD 9, Rena Peden, SD 30, David Halvorson & Jean McIver, SD 12



Susan Combs, State Comptroller and Chairman of Victory Texas 2010



Elizabeth Ames Jones, Railroad Commissioner



Northwest Tarrant Republican Club by President Matt Krause

The Northwest Tarrant Republican Club meets the second Thursday of every month . In 2011 the Club will meet at Alba’s Italian Restaurant (6401 Boat Club Road, Fort Worth,76135). Our meetings start at 7:00, but we encourage everyone to come out earlier to enjoy good food and fellowship before the meeting starts.

The Club is focused on bringing in informative and interesting speakers, while also focusing on making a difference in the political community.

In just the past three or four months we have heard from some terrific speakers such as: Pat Hardy, the State Board of Education representative from District 11. She gave us an inside look at the battle over Texas history books that sparked nationwide attention.

Congresswoman Kay Granger also visited the Club. She spoke to a packed audience about what the Republicans should do if they gain control of the House of Representatives, (which we did!!) and she also answered questions from her constituents.

Michael Smith of Heritage Alliance gave a very informative and helpful presentation on how to mobilize the grassroots and how each of us can make a difference in every election cycle.

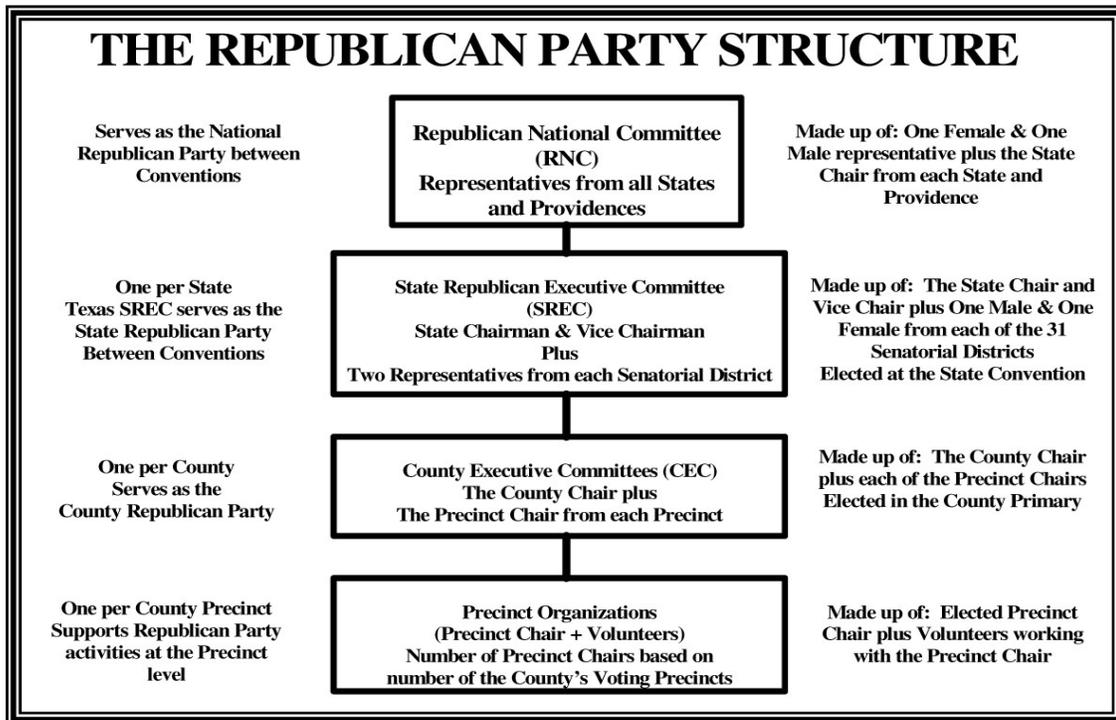
And Pastor Stephen Broden was our featured speaker at our November meeting. Pastor Broden ran a hard fought campaign against Eddie Bernice Johnson, and came up short. But Pastor Broden is an incredibly articulate and passionate man and we hope he makes another run for public office.

Again, we invite you to come join us every second Thursday of the month. We are doing our best to grow our Club and make it one of the most influential in Tarrant County. And with the huge gains Republicans picked up on election night, now is the time to make conservative progress in the House and keep our leaders accountable. That will be one of the Club’s aims as we head into the New Year. Our other main focus will be on municipal elections and attempting to make the Fort Worth City Council and Mayor’s office more conservative. Come and be a part of it. God bless!

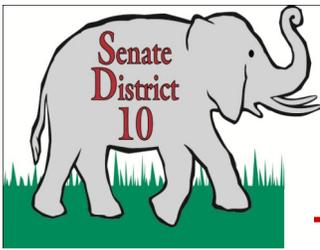


Northwest Republican Club officers at the November 11th meeting: (left to right) Mike Young, Nina Spears & Matt Krause

- | | |
|---|--|
| Northwest Tarrant Republican Club Officers: | Matt Krause – President |
| Mike Young – Vice-President | Diana Overstreet – Secretary |
| Richard Clough– Treasurer | Nina Spears – Godmother of Tarrant County Politics |



4Pol. Ad. paid by Leslie Recine, 2920 Mistletoe Court Pantego, TX 76013 *Title used for identification purposes only. Not paid for by the Republican Party of Texas and not authorized by any candidate or candidate’s committee.



**Resolution Passed By The
State Republican Executive Committee September 25, 2010**

Resolution Supporting a Unified Republican Caucus Choice for Speaker of the House

Whereas, the primary function of the Republican Party of Texas is to elect candidates that embrace the principles articulated by the Republican Party of Texas Platform and to enact those principles legislatively; and

Whereas, grassroots Republicans have worked tirelessly to elect Republicans all across our great State only to have a minority of those Republicans confer with the opposing party in the selection of Speaker of the House, thereby negating the hard work of its grassroots; and

Whereas, the Republican Party of Texas has made great strides in assisting our Republicans in the legislature with more energy and determination to increase our representation of Republicans in the legislature this coming November; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the members of the SREC support, upon the certification of the November elections that House Republicans caucus together before the vote for Speaker of the House is commenced and select from among its Republican members a unified selection for Speaker of the House; be it further

Resolved, that Republican House members and Republican House candidates be given the opportunity to sign this resolution to show support for a unified Republican majority to select the Speaker of the House of Representatives for each legislative session as long as Republicans can maintain the majority representation in the House; and, be it further

Resolved, that at the close of business of the first day of December of each even numbered year, the Republican Party of Texas make note and prepare a tangible commendation of each House Members commitment at the December quarterly meeting of the SREC for those House Members support and defense of the will of the grassroots Republicans in selecting a Speaker of the House from among a unified Republican caucus.

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be delivered by electronic mail to each Republican member of the Texas House of Representatives and Republican candidates for House for their signature or posted on the Republican Party of Texas website in a secure means which allows only those members or certified candidates to sign on electronically.

Adopted by the SREC, September 25, 2010

Read Resolutions of Appreciation for State Senator Jane Nelson, John Larrison & Jim Wiggins passed at the September 25th State Republican Executive Committee meeting on:

http://www.senatedistrict10.com/_07SRECresolutions.html

Join a local Republican Club today!

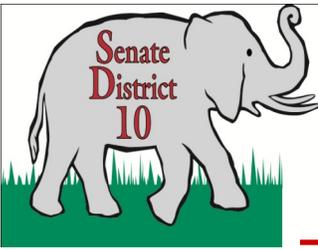
Here's the link to find a local Republican Club:

<http://tcgop.org/contact-us/local-gop-clubs/>

Local Republican Clubs offer:

fun fellowship with Republican activists and Republican elected officials,
informative speakers and programs from which you can learn and expand your knowledge base, and
service opportunities to help our Republicans and conservative causes.

View photos from local club meetings on www.SenateDistrict10.com.



82nd Legislature (2011)
Legislator and Legislator-Elect Contact Information
(Within Senate District 10)

To determine in which senate district or house district within Tarrant County you live, go to <https://voterlookup.tarrantcounty.com/>.

State Senator, District 10 Wendy R. Davis (Democrat)

P.O. Box 12068
Austin, Texas 78711-2068
512-463-0110 Fax: 512-475-3745
Email: wendy.davis@senate.state.tx.us

District Office

2421 West 7th Street
Building A, Suite 350
Fort Worth, Texas 76107
817-332-3338 Fax: 817-332-1230

State Representative, District 90 Lon Burnam (Democrat)

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
512-463-0740 Fax: 512-463-1075
Email: lon.burnam@house.state.tx.us

District Office

1067 W. Magnolia Ave.
Fort Worth, Texas 76104
817-924-1997 Fax: 817-924-6788

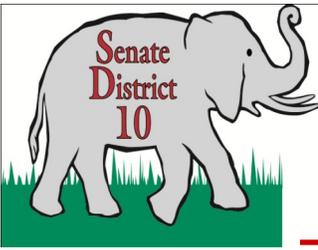
State Representative, District 91 Kelly Hancock (Republican)

P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910
512-463-0599 Fax: 512-463-0751
Email: kelly.hancock@house.state.tx.us

District Office

P.O. Box 185096
Fort Worth, TX 76181-0096
817-590-9280 Fax: 817-590-9281

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82nd Legislature (2011)
Legislator and Legislator-Elect Contact Information
(Within Senate District 10)

(continued from page 6)

State Representative, District 92 Todd Smith (Republican)

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, Texas 78768-2910

512-463-0522 Fax: 512-463-9529

Email: todd.smith@house.state.tx.us

District Office

1608 Airport Freeway, Suite 100

Bedford, Texas 76022

817-283-3131 Fax: 817-283-0003

State Representative-Elect, District 93 Barbara Nash (Republican)

817-235-7743

BNash1@aol.com

P.O. Box 120988

Arlington, TX 76012

State Representative, District 94 Diane Patrick (Republican)

PO Box 2910

Austin, Texas 78768-2910

512-463-0624 Fax: 512-463-8386

Email: diane.patrick@house.state.tx.us

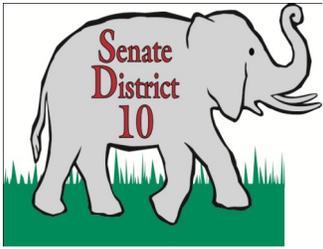
District Office

318 West Main Street, Suite 102

Arlington, Texas 76010

817-548-9091 Fax: 817-548-0971

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82nd Legislature (2011)
Legislator and Legislator-Elect Contact Information
(Within Senate District 10)

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State Representative, District 95 Marc Veasey (Democrat)

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768

512-463-0716 Fax: 512-463-1516

Email: marc.veasey@house.state.tx.us

District Office

TECH Fort Worth Bldg

1120 South Freeway

Fort Worth, Texas 76104

817-339-1430 Fax: 817-339-9352

State Representative-Elect, District 96 Bill Zedler (Republican)

817-478-7295

Bill@BillZedler.org

P.O. Box 175473

Arlington, TX 76003-5473

State Representative, District 97 Mark Shelton (Republican)

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, TX 78768-2910

512-463-0608 Fax: 512-463-8342

Email: mark.shelton@house.state.tx.us

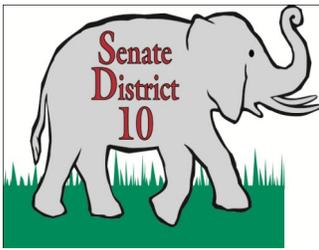
District Office

1050 Forest Park Dr., Ste. 200

Fort Worth, Texas 76110

817-927-0061 Fax: 817-927-0042

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82nd Legislature (2011)
Legislator and Legislator-Elect Contact Information
(Within Senate District 10)

(continued from page 8)

State Representative, District 98 Vicki Truitt (Republican)

PO Box 2910

Austin, Texas 78768-2910

512-463-0690 Fax: 512-477-5770

Email: vicki.truitt@house.state.tx.us

District Office

1256 Main Street, Suite 248

Southlake, Texas 76092

817-488-4098 Fax: 817-488-4099

State Representative, District 99 Charlie Geren (Republican)

P.O. Box 2910

Austin, Texas 78768-2910

512-463-0610 Fax: 512-463-8310

Email: charlie.geren@house.state.tx.us

District Office

1011 Robert's Cut-Off Road

River Oaks, Texas 76114

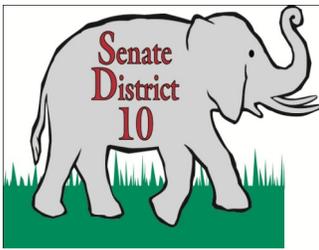
817-738-8333 Fax: 817-738-8362

Congratulations to R. H. Wallace, Jr. !



AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry has appointed **R.H. Wallace Jr.** of Keller as **Judge of the 96th District Court** in Tarrant County to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jeff Walker.

Wallace is a partner of Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff and Miller LLP, and a former assistant U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas. He is a member of the State Bar of Texas, American and Tarrant County Bar associations, Texas Association of Defense Counsel, and Tarrant County Civil Court Advisory Committee. He is a life fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, and treasurer of the Eldon B. Mahon Inns of Court. Wallace served in the U.S. Navy. He received a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and a law degree from Baylor University Law School. The 96th court is a civil district court.



TEXAS REPUBLICAN NEWS

Be a Volunteer for the Republican Party of Texas

Join the Texas Trailblazers:

<http://www.texasgop.org/volunteer.asp>

Dear Texas Republican,

During my campaign for Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, I pledged to ensure that the RPT would be a better steward of the money donated by our contributors.

To accomplish this goal, we are implementing a new way of raising money for the State Party that will greatly reduce costs, so that more of your money will actually go where it is intended - to the work of electing Republicans in November.



Today, we would like to ask you to be part of the launch of this program. Join with us and sign up for the new "**Grassroots Club**" for only \$8.25 a month. [Click here to visit the website and sign up at www.GrassrootsClub.com.](http://www.GrassrootsClub.com)

This program is very simple to use, and it will save both the Party and you time and money. Instead of using annoying telemarketing calls and direct mail solicitations, which cost the State Party a large majority of funds raised from their use, we've come up with an alternative. Our new contribution system allows you to sign up with your credit card for an automatic donation each month, which you can cancel at any time.

Through the **Grassroots Club**, we are seeking to empower the grassroots - this program will ensure that the Party is not dependent on corporate donations or large contributors so that no one person can compromise our principles and electoral success.

The **Grassroots Club** is designed to emphasize that our Republican supporters have as much impact on the Party as anybody else, and will ensure that the Party is acting as a better steward of your money by raising it more efficiently. We have a vendor that will administer the program for an overall cost of 5% - meaning that 95% of your monthly donation will go directly to helping to promote our values, our principles, and our Republican candidates across the Lone Star State.

What we are asking costs less than the price of a movie, less than a drink and hot dog at the ballgame, and less than two fast food lunches. Every day, our troops in the field in Iraq and Afghanistan go without attending movies or baseball games or eating at McDonald's in the defense of our country. **Won't you agree to make an even smaller sacrifice** by giving up some small luxury per month to help fund our Republican Party and defend our freedoms at home that our brave young men and women are fighting for overseas?

[Click here to sign up for the Grassroots Club at www.GrassrootsClub.com.](http://www.GrassrootsClub.com)

In considering this decision to pledge your financial support, please know that we ask because this is a critical moment for the future of Texas and the United States. Our country is standing on a dangerous precipice of financial ruin, and every day we see more reasons to believe that America will rely on Texas, and Texas Republicans to lead the way back from the brink of disaster. **We must unify our support during these crucial times - join with us today!**

Very sincerely,

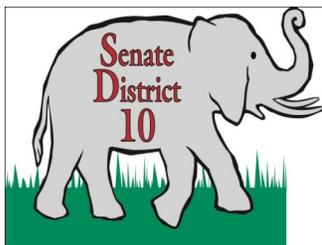
Steve Munisteri

Chairman, Republican Party of Texas

REFLECTIONS OF A CHIEF JUSTICE

by John Cayce

Chief Justice, Second Court Of Appeals (Ret.)



In the fall of 1993, when I first announced my decision to run for Chief Justice of the Second Court of Appeals against a long-time incumbent Democrat with a familiar name (John Hill), few people believed that I had a chance of winning the 1994 General Election. The political landscape at that time in Texas was much different than it is today. Democrats ruled. Ann Richards was Governor, Bob Bullock was Lieutenant Governor, the Texas House and Senate were under Democrat Party control, and with the exception of some seats on the Texas Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals, most of the other statewide offices were held by Democrats. The national scene was much the same. Bill Clinton was our President and the Democrats held the majority in both houses of Congress.

As the election year progressed, however, mainstream America developed an “anti-incumbent” mood thanks in large part to Bill Clinton’s liberal policies (sound familiar?) and Newt Gingrich’s “Contract with America.” And, in Texas, we were fortunate to have an exciting political newcomer with a famous name and instant popular appeal at the top of the Republican ticket running for Governor -- George W. Bush. Texans, and the rest of the nation, were ready for change and the 1994 elections proved to be one of the most sweeping in our country’s history.

The year 1994 was certainly a memorable time to be a Republican candidate, and for me, it was a fortunate time as well. Timing is everything in politics, and that is certainly true in my case. Thanks to my surprise “upset” victory that year, and the confidence the people of Texas placed in me by re-electing me twice, I had the singular honor of serving as the Chief Justice of one of Texas’ finest appellate courts for the next fifteen years. While serving in that office, I not only had the privilege to participate in making many important legal decisions, but I had the opportunity to work with many good people of high integrity and commitment to public service. My years in public office rank among the most rewarding years of my life. I dearly loved serving the people of the Second District of Texas as Chief Justice, and the decision I made to retire from the bench last year was one of the most difficult I have ever made.

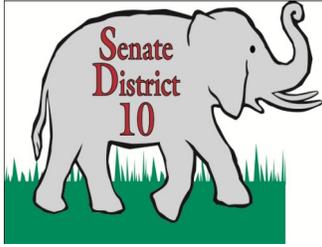
Much like 1994, when I went from private citizen to elected official, my transition this year from public life back to being a private citizen has been an exciting challenge. It has also been humbling. For example, earlier this year my 10 year old status conscious granddaughter told Diane (“Mimi”) that when she heard I was no longer going to be a judge she took me off her “most important people list.” As the late comedian Rodney Dangerfield always said, “I get no respect!”

Seriously, what I feel today as I reflect on my years on the bench is a mixture of immense pride, deep gratitude, and sincere humility.

I feel an enormous sense of *pride* for having had the unique opportunity to serve so many years in what I consider to be the noblest of all professions with some of the best judges and public servants in the state. I am proud of what I, and the other Justices with whom I served, accomplished as an appellate court in administering fair and impartial justice in the literally thousands cases that we decided, and for the improvements that we were able to make to the Court’s efficiency and productivity through the imple-

(continued on page 12)

REFLECTIONS OF A CHIEF JUSTICE



by John Cayce

Chief Justice, Second Court Of Appeals (Ret.)

(continued from page 11)

mentation of new rules and policies, organizational changes, and the modernization of our Court's technology. And I am proud of the fact that during my tenure as Chief Justice, we were able to dramatically improve the morale and livelihood of the Court's staff through better pay and a more suitable facility in which to perform the work of the Court.

I am also deeply *grateful* for the trust that the people of the Second District placed in me to serve as Chief Justice of one of the largest and most respected appellate courts in the state. I am thankful for the support and guidance I received from my many friends in the Republican Party, the members of the Court, the trial judges who serve in the Second District, and the many legislators and other elected officials throughout the State of Texas that I met and worked with over the years. I am also grateful for the prayers, encouragement, and sacrifices that Diane made throughout the years so that I could enter public service. Above all, I am grateful to God for allowing me to realize my dream of being an appellate court judge -- a dream that I've had since my days 30 years ago as a Texas Supreme Court law clerk.

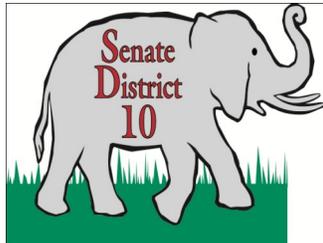
Finally, I am *humbled* by the fact that much of the good that was accomplished while I was Chief Justice was not through my own individual effort alone but, instead, with the able help of many others. To say that what the Court has accomplished over the past 15 years was a "collaborative effort" is not just a cliché, it is a fact. I worked with some of the smartest, most compassionate, and hard-working judges, court lawyers and clerks in the state, and I will always be grateful for my association with them and the lessons that they taught me. Few people get to do what they truly love in life, fewer still get to do what they love with people that they admire and respect. I am one of the fortunate few.

Those who know me well know the high regard I have for the judiciary and its work. In my view, there is no greater vocational calling than to correctly interpret and apply the law, administer justice, and adjudicate and resolve disputes for the purpose of promoting peace and protecting the welfare of our society. Nor is any other form of public service more important to a democracy governed by the rule of law. I agree with what President Thomas Jefferson wrote about the judicial branch more than two centuries ago: *"The dignity and stability of governments, the morals of the people and every blessing of society depend upon the upright and skillful administration of justice."*

The people of Texas are very fortunate to have so many judges like those in the Second District who are "upright and skillful" in the administration of justice. Because of their service, the state of our judiciary is strong! But, to keep it that way requires a continuing commitment on the part of our state leadership to provide the courts with adequate funding and competent salaries – two critical needs that are currently threatened by our state's current budget deficit.

To put my concerns in historical context, when I took office in January 1995, funding for the judicial branch represented less than one-tenth of 1% of the total state budget. Most courts were understaffed and what staff they had was underpaid. Until just a few years ago, we had to fight tooth and nail for every penny we received from the legislature. On top of this, our salaries were among the lowest in the nation. Although we received a small pay raise in 1999, a comptroller's report published in 2004 revealed

(continued on page 13)



REFLECTIONS OF A CHIEF JUSTICE

by John Cayce

Chief Justice, Second Court of Appeals (Ret.)

(continued from page 12)

that the average tenure of judges on our state's 16 appellate courts was less than one full term. The reason cited for this pattern—low judicial pay.

To its credit, the Texas Legislature attempted to remedy both of these problems during the 2005 session. Thanks to Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Wallace Jefferson's leadership, the legislature appropriated funding during that session that resulted in substantial salary increases placing us among the top five states nationally. In addition, we were fortunate the same session to obtain generous increases in our budgets. Those increases have been supplemented in the last two sessions with incremental increases that have allowed us to add staff and make their salaries more competitive.

Today, however, the judicial funding picture is beginning to look very much like it did before the 2005 legislative session. According to an annual report published by the National Center for State Courts, Texas judicial salaries now rank 25th in the nation. This puts Texas, the second largest state in the nation, well below much less populous and prosperous states like Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee and many others.

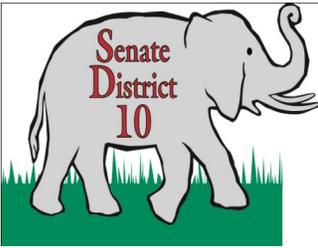
To make matters worse, Governor Perry and other members of state leadership have instructed all state appellate courts to submit budgets for the next biennium that include budget cuts of up to 10% -- reductions that if implemented will have a devastating impact on the courts' ability to function because it would require most courts to cut legal staff. As one Chief Justice from Houston recently observed, when the legislature is talking about court budgets cuts as big as 10%, "they are talking about [cutting] people."

Adding insult to injury, Chief Justice Jefferson has reported that if the proposed budget cuts are implemented they will have a severe impact on the Supreme Court's Access to Justice program-- which could mean that thousands of underprivileged individuals or families will not receive the legal services that they need.

I mention all of this because I believe that, as citizens who care about good government, we all have an obligation to do everything within our power to persuade the leadership of this state to allow the appellate courts to retain their current level of funding during this time of economic crisis. Cutting the funding of the already underfunded judicial branch should be the absolute very last resort after the budgets of all state agencies are examined.

I also believe that we must continue to offer whatever assistance we can in the fight to insure that judicial compensation in this state is proportionate to the size of our state, the weight and complexity of the our courts' dockets, and the overall importance of the work that our judges perform. Two legislative sessions ago the legislature created a commission for the very purpose of making recommendations on judicial compensation and the commission recommended in the 2009 session that salaries be increased. That recommendation, however, fell on deaf ears long before there was any talk of a recession. We cannot let that happen again. The continued strength and independence of our judiciary – both State and Federal – depends on us doing everything we can to make sure that it is supported by the legislative branch through adequate funding and compensation. I pledge to do all that I can in my new role as a "private citizen." I encourage each of you to do the same.

Thank you, again, for the high honor of allowing me to serve as your Chief Justice. Diane and I owe each of you a debt of gratitude for your loyalty and support we will never be able to repay.



A SPECIAL INVITATION FOR YOU



*The honor of your presence
is requested
at the Investitures*

of

*Chief Justice Terrie Livingston
as Chief Justice
and
Justice Lee Gabriel
as Justice, Place 7*

*Special Guest
Justice Phil Johnson
Texas Supreme Court*

Court of Appeals Second District of Texas

*Courtroom, 9th floor
Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center
December 16, 2010
3:00PM*

Reception to Follow