



Liberty Belle

Ellis County Republican Women

Region VII SD 22

Affiliate of the Texas & National Republican Women



December 1, 2023

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God Bless America

Editorial

Here Goes! This is something that has been on my mind for some time now. It is with mixed emotions that I write this last message as the Editor of the Liberty Belle. It seems like only yesterday that the members were deciding on a name for the ECRW monthly newsletter. It is very clear to me that meeting night seated next to our dear friend Gwen Hood who suggested the name of “Liberty Belle”. That was the beginning of the Liberty Belle”.

I trust as being the editor since 2009 that it has been a source of news and inspiring information to those that took the time to read it. To me it has brought me joy and something I look forward to each month to publish the newsletter for your information. In fact, I really loved and looked forward to pushing the send button that sent it on to you.

A “Special Thank You” to you (you know who you are) that always replied with words of “Good Job” and encouragements. I looked forward to those replies.

Here’s another tough note for me. I have decided that my time as a member of the ECRW has come to an end. There are things in my life that I am trying to get control over that its best now that “I Turn the Page”.

When I joined in 1999 the Ellis County Republican Women became a special part of my life but with the changing of times are much different now and that is true with a person’s life. I wish I had the time and space to write about all of those dear ladies that have gone on. I learned a lot from all of them. I will mention Maureen Kennedy and Jane Vineyard who traveled with me to all those SD22 Republican Women Clubs meetings and the TFRW many, many board meetings. Thank You lady so much for being my companion.

Being the TFRW Distinction Women in the October Newsletter and the TFRW Best Newsletter Award meant so much to me and I am very proud to have been a part of this distinguished organization for 24 years. Both Awards involved Teamwork with Club Members. Your monthly articles to the newsletters was what made the newsletter worth a read. All I had to do was to design the format to keep the info that the TFRW required us to follow. I realized that I have failed in letting you know that your contributions each month was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Tommie Worthy

“The magic of Christmas never ends and its greatest of gifts are the family and friends.”

~Unknown

Membership Report

It seems like this year has flown by and here we are again at membership renewal time. If you haven't already, please renew your membership today. Our membership year is from January 1st to December 31st. Let's get all our current members reported to TFRW by the end of the year. You can renew at our December 12 meeting or drop a check in the mail to me. Don't put this off into the New Year. Get your 2024 dues paid and marked off your to do list.

Your ECRW membership also includes membership with The Texas Federation of Republican Women. Check out their website www.tfrw.org. It's a valuable resource of information and education. The monthly newsletter is a great place to start. If you recently joined, please allow another month for your log on credentials. In the meantime, go ahead and check out the public information pages.

Help me welcome our newest members Brooke Grayson and Grace Pandithurai who both joined in November. We are so glad to have you! Let's welcome all our new members and take some time to get to know them and help them get engaged.

The holiday season is upon us. I will be celebrating and reflecting on the birth of Jesus Christ and enjoying some time with family and friends. I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas full of love, hope, and joy.

Jennifer Zarate
3rd VP-Membership Chair



Leadership Day 2024
Uniting Republican Women for Texas

January 27th
7:30 AM to 4:00 PM

SHERATON AUSTIN GEORGETOWN HOTEL
&
CONFERENCE CENTER
1101 Woodlawn Avenue Georgetown Texas

Road To Convention!

TEXAS FEDERATION
of
Republican Women

Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas he lived all alone.
in a one bedroom, house made of plaster and stone
I had come down the chimney with presents to give,
and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight did see,
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stockings by mantle, just boots filled with sand,
On the wall hung pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds,
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different it was dark and dreary,
I found the home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
The soldier lay sleeping, silent, and alone,
Curled up on the floor in this one-bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder,
not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a Bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night,
owed their lives to these soldiers. Who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would play,
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.
I couldn't help wondering how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from, home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa don't cry, this life is my choice.
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more,
my life is my God, my Country, my Corps."
The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still,
and we both shivered from the cold night's chill.
I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark, night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, carry on Santa, it is Christmas Day, all is secure."
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right,
"Merry Christmas my friend, and to all a good night."
~~~~Anonymous



## *Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day*

*By Linda Sibley*

Did you know that December 7 is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day? It is not listed on the calendars, and it is not a federal holiday, so government offices, schools, and other businesses do not close. So, what is important about Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day?

On August 23, 1994, the United States Congress, by Public Law 103-308, designated December 7 of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It is a day to remember and honor all those who died in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It is a tradition to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff until sunset in honor of dead patriots.

This story comes from a dear friend, Mrs. LaRue Miller. Mrs. Miller is a retired Midlothian teacher, much loved by the community. The story about the actions of her brother-in-law, Doris Miller on that fateful day, December 7, 1941 at Pearl Harbor.

Doris was born October 12, 1919 in Waco, Texas to Henrietta and Connery Miller. His mother wanted a girl and was determined to call her third child, Doris. So, she named him Doris. While in service friends started calling him Dorie.

On September 16, 1939 he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. He became a Mess Attendant Third Class and in 1940 was promoted to Ship's Cook Third Class on the battleship West Virginia.

On December 7, 1941, he was collecting laundry when the alarm for general quarters sounded. He headed for his battle station, the anti-aircraft battery, magazine at mid-ship, only to discover that torpedo damage had wrecked it, so he went on deck. Dorie was six feet 3 inches and weighed more than two hundred pounds. In fact, he was the ship's heavyweight boxing champion. Because of this physical prowess, he was assigned to carry wounded fellow sailors to places of greater safety. The Lieutenant Commander Johnson ordered him to accompany him to the bridge to assist with moving the ship's Captain who was mortally wounded.

While there he was ordered to help load the unmanned Browning .50 caliber anti-aircraft machine guns. He really was not expected to man one of the guns but that is what he did until he ran out of ammo.

During the attack, Japanese aircraft dropped two armored piercing bombs through the deck of the battleship and

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launched five 18-inch aircraft torpedoes into her port side. Heavily damaged by the ensuing explosions, and suffering from severe flooding below decks, the crew abandoned ship while the West Virginia slowly settled to the harbor bottom. Of the 1,541 men on West Virginia during the attack, 130 were killed and 53 wounded.

Doris (Dorie) Miller was the first African American to be awarded the Navy Cross. He was also awarded the Purple Heart, a Good Conduct Medal, an American Defense Medal with Fleet Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Service Medal, and World War II Victory Medal.

He was killed on November 24, 1943 in the line of duty while serving in action on the USS Liscome Bay (CVE-56) during Operation Galvanic, the seizure of Makin and Tarawa Atolls in the Gilbert Islands. While cruising near Brutalitarian Island, a single torpedo from Japanese submarine I-175 struck the escort carrier near the stern. The aircraft bomb magazine detonated a few moments later, sinking the warship within minutes.

His body was never found but a memorial service was held on April 30, 1944 in Waco, Texas. Mrs. Miller told me that the parents of Doris, her husband, Arthur, and many others from the family are buried at the Doris Miller Cemetery, names in honor of him.

He was a true hero. We must never forget that Doris (Dorie) Miller and others at Pearl Harbor gave of themselves to protect and defend America. Remember this December 7.....remember Doris Miller and his brave deeds.

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### Campaign Activities Report

The end of 2023 and our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter reporting period is upon us and you have all been busy volunteering for campaigns and the GOP. I'll be sending an email and text for you to report those hours. Let's finish the year strong and get those hours in.

Vickie Blair, Chair

## ***My Remembrance***

As we come to the end of the year, there are things we also want to do one more time, say one more time and remember. A lot of people can't wait until the pumpkin drinks come out every year. Some decorate the same every year but others want to remember people, places and things. One of those for me is all the trips I have made with Tommie for Republican Women for training or learning new things. Tommie took me under her wing when I became President and introduced me to people I needed to know. We have sat at conventions and eaten rubber chicken numerous times and had good laughs about them. Our last trip to women's convention was very special and we had a great time. I have told her before that I use her as an example to my own mother because they are the same age but my mom isn't near as active as Tommie.

I am going to really miss her next year. She always writes interesting things for the newsletter and lays it out as a story to follow through the year. I know she can't be replaced but I hope someone will have an interest and can keep us all informed.

When I think of all the things, she just handles it is going to leave a black hole. The newsletter, scholarships, constitutions, tablecloths for everything, decorations for everything. I think we all better be ready to take on extra work next year.

Love you, Tommie. Don't be a stranger!

Cheree' Barrett, Past President, various office positions and committee chairs

### ***Save the Date***

*January 25, 2023*

### ***Biennial Republican Candidate Forum***

#### ***Meet and Greet***

*6:00 pm ~7:00 pm*

#### ***KBEC Radio***

*Broadcast Live on 1390AM~ 99.1FM*

*7:00pm~9:00pm*

***Waxahachie Civic Center***

## **Standing Committee**

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**Legislative** – Cassie Hoyer

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**Public Relations/Newsletter-**

Tommie Worthy

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**Beverly Gatlin**

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## ***Calendar of Events***

**Dec 5- GOP Meeting**

**Dec 7- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

**Dec 7 - First Night of Hanukkah**

**Dec 12-ECRW Meeting**

**Dec 21- First Day of Winter**

**Dec 24- Christmas Eve**

**Dec 25 -Christmas**

***Merry Christmas***

## ***Membership Dues***

Please make check payable to  
**Ellis County Republican Women PAC**

Mail to

**Jennifer Zarate**

PO Box 396

Maypearl, TX 76064

Membership Dues \$35.00

Associate Member \$10.00

Young Republicans 18-40 \$10.00

The Liberty Belle is the monthly newsletter of the Ellis County Republican Women PAC, 202 S FM 55, Italy, TX 76651. Paid for by Ellis County Republican Women PAC is a tax-exempt organization under section 527 of the Internal revenue Code Contributions to ECRW PAC are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income purposes.