

# Northwest Democrats News



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

## June 18<sup>th</sup> Program: Legislative Wrap-up

Don't forget to attend our June 18<sup>th</sup> meeting when we will hear from our State Legislators including State Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, State Rep. Jose Menendez, and State Rep. Mike Villarreal.

Hopefully we will have all (as well as some additional legislators), but also be aware that if they are unable to be there it is because of the Special Session going on right now.

Please join us for this important meeting at 8:30 am at Luby's at Ingram Park Mall.

### 2010-2012

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## Special Projects: Wounded Warrior

The Warrior and Family Support Center (WFSC) provides coordinated services to patients, next-of-kin and extended Family members with a primary focus on Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom Warriors. It provides a friendly, comfortable environment in which to take a break, watch a movie on big-screen TV's, play video games, check email or use the Internet, select a book or magazine to read, make a phone call or just grab a cup of coffee.

Wounded Warriors and their Family members visit the WFSC to maintain contact with other military members or extended Family members, to receive emotional support and answers to their questions, and to extend their rehabilitation away from the hospital. The rehabilitation involves learning to cope with war related disabilities as individuals, as couples and as Families.

Items needed include: bottled water, snacks (cookies, popcorn, chips), diapers, toiletries, books, magazines, puzzles, games, CDs, DVDs, and monetary donations

Any questions, contact Adam Castillo, adamcastillo55@yahoo.com

**Authorized & Paid for by the Northwest Democrats**

To submit an article or other info, email Jacob Middleton at:  
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## A Few 'Joyce' Words

by Joyce Dorrycott

Deliver me from any more Republicans being elected Governor of Texas!! It has been one stupid bill after another this session – all designed to make life more painful and difficult for the poor and the working class. Now, it's not just cut education, cut transportation, cut nursing homes, cut Medicaid, but let's "exempt the state of Texas from the Affordable Care Act, freeing it to reform and recreate a health care system in its own image." <http://www.texaswatchdog.org/2011/05/texas-businesses-seek-waivers-from-health-care-act-and-its-costs/1305920717.story> (*Texas Watchdog, June 5, 2011 11:41 pm, in Houston, TX*)

We can all imagine what a health care system created in the Texas image could look like. You know like our tax system, our education system, our nursing home system - well, you get the idea. This bill is sponsored by – guess? Yeah, you got it, A REPUBLICAN!! - Representative Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham is the sponsor of House Bill 13 which seeks this waiver for Texas.

So many people I know need the health care system passed by Congress - young college graduates who have been unable to find full time jobs with benefits, those who work at small businesses with no health insurance as well as those who work for companies that don't offer health insurance.

I have always been a strong believer in government. For the past 40 years I have devoted a major share of my time to working for people I believed would be strong, effective leaders for everyone, including the working class and the poor. Some have disappointed me. Occasionally, I even saw a Republican or two who made a good officeholder. But, in recent years, I have seen an animosity by Republican officeholders toward those less well off than themselves that grows every year.

What happened to our constitutional responsibility to provide a good education for our children in Texas? When did we decide that it was okay to take tax money designed to provide a good transportation system for our people to use for any other purpose? What gave our officeholders the idea that it was a good idea to cut back on nursing homes for our elderly who have nowhere else to go? Why would any thinking Texan believe that the state of Texas with its history of stinginess would do anything that would be better for us than the president and congressional Democrats would do?

And, does anyone really believe that Rick Perry has been a good steward of our state? Is there anyone who does not recognize that his only goal is protecting himself and his political career? I still have trouble believing that enough voters cast their vote for him last November for him to get another term. See what those voters gave us – the destruction in one legislative session of so many things we had worked so hard to achieve over the past 40 years – smaller class sizes, providing for students with different needs, restrictions on the rights of women and so many other things.

I don't how we educate voters who fail to see the importance of caring about the person's party as well as the person. You can't elect a Republican without getting the Republican philosophy. And, while individual Democrats may fail us from time to time, having a dominant Democratic Party in government is critical if you truly believe in those rights promised to us in the national and the state constitutions. 2012 will provide each of us the challenge to work for what we truly want our government to do for us. One thing I don't want to see happen is to have Rick Perry run – and win – the presidency of our country. So, when those letters reach you asking you to sponsor or buy a ticket to our August dinner please do so.

This is OUR country, too. It's time for us to act like it.

## Paul Ryan's Express

by Jacob Middleton

If Democrats play their cards right, they could be sitting in the director's chair of a sequel to that Frank Sinatra movie *Von Ryan's Express*. Except in this version Sinatra's role is taken over by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI) and instead of a group of escaping Allied troops we can all watch a bunch of Republicans ride off on a train into oblivion. Republicans rode in on the Tea Party Express and are about to ride off on the Paul Ryan Express.

This attack on Medicare by Paul Ryan is just the latest assault on the welfare state by a combination of Republicans, conservatives, and corporate interests. As someone who would be affected by the changes to Medicare by changing it to a voucher system that wouldn't cover all the costs and where we the people are supposed to rely upon the benevolence of the insurance companies, I think there are better ways to improve and change Medicare.

This is how far to the right the Republican Party has gone. It isn't just some taxes aren't good, it's that all taxes are bad. Wall Street is perfect and should takeover Social Security. Banks are too big to fail and need to be made bigger. Insurance companies need to be protected. Oil companies need those subsidies.

If you haven't already seen it, check out the list of *101 or 102 Things Not to Do if You Hate Taxes*. Among the items: Do not summon the fire department to save your burning home and Do not use the internet, which was developed by the military.

The item about not summoning the fire department is particularly interesting because last year we were able to get a glimpse into a future if the Republicans got their way on no taxes.

In Tennessee, a fire occurred. What happened next? Well, let's let local NPR affiliate WKMS summarize: *Firefighters in northwestern Tennessee did something unusual last week: They refused to put out a house fire and stood and watched as it burned down. The firefighters were apparently under orders not to act, because the homeowner had not paid a \$75 fire service subscription fee.*

A little background, the house was in an unincorporated part of the county where people have the option to pay or not to pay a fire service fee. *The unfortunate couple claimed they forgot to pay the fee, so why were the firefighters there: A neighbor had paid the fee so firemen showed up because the fire was threatening their property. The neighbors offered thousands of dollars to the firefighters, who wouldn't budge.*

This is the future that Republicans would impose if they had the chance. No more taxes, just fees, fees, and more fees. Not to get sidetracked but this is one of the reason I don't like toll roads. I just don't like this general idea of public goods and services only being available to those that can afford them. Republicans like the idea of personal responsibility over the idea of shared responsibility. The "best healthcare in the world" is available...but only to those that can afford it, etc.

This is the bigger reason why the Ryan Plan is dangerous. It's going to get introduced again and unless it is halted in its tracks, as long as it keeps getting introduced it will likely gain credibility. We likely won't see Medicare eroded in one fail swoop, but instead it will come gradually. A little piece here, a little piece there. Take abortion for example. Pro-life groups haven't been able to outlaw it, but they have been very successful at slowly picking away at it year after year. Democrats need to do all they can to hang Republicans' re-election chances on this Medicare plan. Otherwise the American people are going to continue to be carrion slowly picked away by the vultures and buzzards in the Republican Party.

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# **SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!**

Aug. 9<sup>th</sup> - 6 pm - 9 pm, Omni Hotel  
PAT MALONEY SR. ANNUAL DINNER  
Honoring Bill Sinkin

Sponsorship now being accepted.