THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN of GREGG COUNTY

JULY 2026 | VOLUME 5, NO. 7 | REGION 5 | DISTRICT 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LINDA BOBO – PRESIDENT

FAITH. FAMILY. UNITY.

Dear RWGC Members and Friends –

As we celebrate Independence Day, we pause to honor the unmatched courage, sacrifice and vision of our founding fathers. Two Hundred Fifty years ago, ordinary men accepted extraordinary risks as they pledged *"our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor"* in pursuit of liberty. They believed our rights come not from government, but from our Creator. They established a constitutional republic founded on the principles of freedom, limited government, personal responsibility and the rule of law.

The freedoms we enjoy today were secured through tremendous sacrifice and have been preserved by generations of patriotic Americans who understood that liberty must never be taken for granted. We Republican women have both the privilege and the responsibility to preserve those principles for future generations.

As our nation begins the celebration of America 250, let us commit ourselves to being informed citizens, engaged voters and faithful stewards of the freedoms entrusted to us. May we honor the legacy of our founders not only by remembering their achievements, but by continuing their work of preserving the exceptional nation they established.

Our organization has experienced several changes in recent weeks, with the resignations of some board members, appointments to positions, and executive committee approval for 1st VP Sharron Fowler, 2nd VP Sandy Garrison, Secretary Deborah Deas, Treasurer Gwen Wuori and CAC Melissa Befort. I appreciate this group of strong ladies who have stepped in to help provide continuity of leadership and operations. I also want to thank Jennifer Kranzman, Teresa Cook, Tricia Oxton and Amy Bridges for their service to RWGC the past several years and look forward to their commitment as members in support of our mission.

Looking ahead, I encourage every member to remain focused on what unites us: our shared commitment to conservative principles, civic engagement, Republican success and the future of our state and nation. The strength of RWGC has always been found in its members and together we will continue to grow, serve and make a positive impact.

We have exciting opportunities ahead. Thank you for your continued support, volunteer spirit and dedication to RWGC.

Linda Bobo, President
Republican Women of Gregg County

"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men." Colossians 3:2



As we celebrate our independence on July 4, 1776, it is important to reflect on the actions of brave men and women who led the fight in establishing this nation. In the information below, note the crucial role women played in the war effort. Their bravery, critical thinking, and encouragement undoubtedly inspired the men as they fought against the British. Imagine the risk they were taking. They were uncertain of the outcome, but held an iron-clad commitment to freedom and self-governance in defiance of the most fearsome military force in the world at that time. Surely, this country was established under Divine Providence.

December 16, 1773 – The Boston Tea Party
American patriots boarded three British ships and dumped 342 chests of tea into Boston Harbor in protest of taxation without representation. **Sarah Bradlee Fulton**, later known as the "Mother of the Boston Tea Party," helped disguise participants and supported them afterward. Women throughout the colonies also pledged to boycott British tea and textiles, making the protest economically effective.

March–June 1774 – The Intolerable Acts
In response to the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts—known in America as the Intolerable Acts—to punish Massachusetts. Boston Harbor was closed, self-government was restricted, and British troops were given greater authority. Rather than isolating Massachusetts, the laws united the colonies against Britain. Women organized relief efforts, collecting food, clothing, and household supplies for families in Boston.

September 5, 1774 – The First Continental Congress Meets
Delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies gathered in Philadelphia to coordinate a united response to Britain's actions. It was the first time most colonies had worked together as one political body. *Although women could not attend Congress, many supported the boycott of British goods by making homespun cloth, producing household necessities, and encouraging their families to buy American-made products.*

April 19, 1775 – The Battles of Lexington and Concord
The first shots of the American Revolution were fired at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts. Colonial militia forced British troops to retreat to Boston, proving Americans were willing to fight for their rights. *Women warned neighbors, hid military supplies, cared for the wounded, and helped transport ammunition. Their courage kept the Patriot cause alive on the home front.*

June 15, 1775 – George Washington Appointed Commander-in-Chief
The Continental Congress unanimously appointed George Washington to lead the Continental Army. Although he had military experience, Washington accepted the position with humility, declaring he did not believe himself equal to the task. *His wife, Martha Washington, would spend many winters at military encampments, encouraging soldiers and helping organize food, clothing, and medical care.*

June 17, 1775 – The Battle of Bunker Hill
Although the British won the battle, they suffered more than 1,000 casualties, demonstrating that American militia could stand against one of the world's strongest armies. The battle strengthened colonial resolve to continue the fight. *Women served as nurses, cooks, water carriers, and seamstresses, supporting the army behind the front lines.* **Dr. Joseph Warren Dies at Bunker Hill** - Dr. Joseph Warren, one of Boston's most respected Patriot leaders, volunteered to fight as a private soldier and was killed during the battle. His death inspired thousands of Americans to join the cause of independence. Today, historians consider him one of the Revolution's greatest heroes, though his name is less well known than Washington or Adams.

AMERICANISM – PAGE 2

January 10, 1776 – *Common Sense* Published
Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* made a powerful case for complete independence from Britain. More than 100,000 copies were sold within months, making it one of the most influential publications in American history. *Women frequently read the pamphlet aloud in homes and gatherings, helping spread its message throughout the colonies.*

March 1, 1776 – Abigail Adams Writes, "Remember the Ladies"
While John Adams served in Philadelphia, *Abigail Adams urged him to "Remember the Ladies" as the new nation formed its government. Her famous letter asked that women not be subject to "unlimited power" under the new laws. Although her proposal was not adopted, her words remain one of the most enduring statements of the Revolutionary era.*

May 15, 1776 – Congress Encourages Independent Governments
The Continental Congress recommended that each colony establish its own government independent of British rule. This was a major step toward complete independence, preparing the colonies to become sovereign states.

June 7, 1776 – Richard Henry Lee Introduces Independence
Virginia delegate **Richard Henry Lee** introduced the resolution declaring "that these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States." His motion set the stage for American independence.

June 11, 1776 – The Committee of Five Is Appointed
Congress appointed **Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman,** and **Robert R. Livingston** to draft a Declaration of Independence.

June 1776 – Thomas Jefferson Writes the Declaration
At just **33 years old**, Thomas Jefferson drafted most of the Declaration in less than three weeks. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams suggested only a few changes.

July 1, 1776 – Congress Debates Independence
Delegates debated for hours before voting on whether the colonies should become independent nations.

July 2, 1776 – America Votes for Independence
The Continental Congress approved Richard Henry Lee's resolution, officially declaring the colonies free and independent.

July 2, 1776 – Caesar Rodney's Midnight Ride
Despite suffering from facial cancer and asthma, **Caesar Rodney** of Delaware rode nearly 80 miles through a thunderstorm to Philadelphia, **casting THE deciding vote for independence.**

July 2, 1776 – John Adams Predicts History
John Adams wrote to Abigail that July 2 would be celebrated by future generations with "pomp and parade, bonfires and illuminations." He correctly predicted the celebration—but history chose July 4 instead.

July 4, 1776 – The Declaration of Independence Is Adopted
Congress approved the final wording of the Declaration of Independence. The document listed 27 grievances against King George III and proclaimed that all men "are created equal" and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. **The Declaration includes a bold appeal to God, referring to God in four ways: "Laws of Nature and of Nature's God," the "Creator," the "Supreme Judge of the world," and "divine Providence."**

July 8, 1776 – The Declaration is Read Publicly. Citizens gathered outside the Pennsylvania State House, now known as Independence Hall, to hear the Declaration read aloud for the first time.

July 9, 1776 – Washington Inspires His Army
General George Washington ordered the Declaration read to Continental troops in New York, strengthening their resolve as they prepared to defend the new nation.

AMERICANISM – PAGE 3

July 9, 1776 – King George III's Statue Falls

Patriots pulled down the massive lead statue of King George III in New York City. *The lead was later melted into an estimated 42,000 musket balls for the Continental Army.*

July 15, 1776 – New York Joins the Cause
New York became the last colony to approve independence, making the decision unanimous.

August 2, 1776 – Most Delegates Sign the Declaration
Contrary to common belief, most of the 56 delegates signed the Declaration a month after its adoption on July 4.

1776–1783 – "Our Lives, Our Fortunes, and Our Sacred Honor"
The signers understood they could be executed for treason. Many lost homes, businesses, or family members, but none abandoned the cause of American independence.

July 4, 1826 – A REMARKABLE EPILOGUE
Fifty years to the day after the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams died on July 4, 1826. Once fierce political rivals, they had reconciled at the urging of their mutual friend, Dr. Benjamin Rush. Dr. Rush was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a respected physician, educator, and one of the founding fathers. He was deeply troubled that two of America's greatest patriots had become estranged after years of political conflict between the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans. In 1809, Rush wrote separately to both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, encouraging them to reconcile. He shared with each man a dream he had in which the two former presidents renewed their friendship through correspondence. His gentle encouragement planted the seed.

Three years later, on January 1, 1812, Adams wrote the first letter to Jefferson:
"You and I ought not to die before we have explained ourselves to each other." What an opening!

Jefferson's reply was warm, and over the next fourteen years, through a series of 158 letters, they discussed politics, history, religion, philosophy, family and the future of the American republic. Their correspondence remains one of the greatest collections of letters in American history. Jefferson and Adams came to deeply appreciate one another's character and contributions to the founding of the country. Their renewed friendship ended only with their deaths, occurring within hours of each other, on July 4, 1826.



Mid-term elections will be held in November. We strongly urge members of RWGC to continue to be active in the election process by supporting all our Republican candidates and encouraging their friends, families, and acquaintances to be sure to vote in the mid-terms. East Texas bears the responsibility of balancing out the liberal vote in Texas' major cities. Let's all exercise our right and our duty to vote, and to keep Texas Red!

Every hour you volunteer on behalf of Republican Women of Gregg County makes a difference, and we encourage you to report these hours! TFRW requires us to submit our clubs' volunteer hours, because they play an important role in recognizing the dedication and impact of our club. These hours are taken into consideration when TFRW is honoring individual clubs with special awards. Whether you attend an event, help behind the scenes, make phone calls to encouraging participation and voting, serve on a committee, or support a political project in any way, your time counts. Please help ensure that both your contributions and those of our club receive the recognition they deserve by reporting your volunteer hours monthly. JUNE VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTED: 311. Deidra Keels reported the most hours, with a total of 117.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SANDY GARRISON – 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

FAITH, FAMILY, FREEDOM, WITH UNITY THROUGH LOVE OF THE FATHER, THE SON, AND THE HOLY SPIRIT! That is the goal and aspiration of our regiment, ladies! Let's stand strong together and continue to support our freedoms and families through our faith!

Greetings, Friends -

Happy Fourth of July, or should I say, "Happy Freedom Month," because I think we'll all be celebrating for the entire month on this 250th birthday of our nation! Our club continues to hold at 85 members, plus 7 associate members currently. Membership applications are available at the sign-in table at our monthly meetings.

Our June general meeting welcomed 31 members and 6 guests. Guests included: Matt Allford, Sherrie Arnold, Chris and Jeannie LeMaire, Donna Blalock, and Erich Bui.

Rather than a guest speaker, members Amy Bridges, Melissa Beckett, Marty Rhymes and Gail Apple and guest Erich Bui filled us in on some of their experiences at the Republican Party of Texas convention in Houston. We appreciate their giving us a glimpse into what it's like to attend convention! Evidently, the giant elephant that lumbered down the aisle was a "YUGE" hit and left a memorable "impression."

Please join us for a fun event at Country Tavern in Kilgore on Tuesday, July 21, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for "Trivia and Treason," sponsored by Americans for Prosperity. Participants will be treated to dinner and a fun game of trivia about America's history. You must RSVP to Kay Burton at 903-799-9225 to secure a spot before all the spots are filled.



HAPPY 250th to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – 4th of July

Janie Kelley – 14th Charlotte Blalock – 18th Kelly Anderson – 21st

Sharon Williamson – 24th Judy Frey – 26th Lacy Grubb – 27th Breezy Kelly – 29th

Blessings & Ballyhoo to our birthday girls and to our great nation!



If you are committed to supporting those who have served our nation, we invite you to become involved with the Veterans Committee. There are numerous opportunities to make a meaningful and lasting impact on the lives of veterans throughout our community.

Please contact me at samandheaven@aol.com if you are interested in serving on the Veterans Committee. There is important work to be done, and your involvement can make a difference.

SAVE AND DONATE YOUR PLASTIC BAGS!

The ladies of American Legion Post 302 in Upshur County have taken up a project to create sleeping mats for veterans in need by crocheting recycled plastic bags.

It takes approximately 700 plastic bags to make one 4' x 7' sleeping mat. The mats are available to veterans at no cost throughout East Texas.

If you have plastic shopping bags to donate, please collect them in a stack, flattened out, turned in the same direction. Contact Sharron Fowler at 903-521-2900 to arrange for her to pick them up from you.

This is such an important and meaningful project that makes a real difference in the lives of some of our most vulnerable veterans. It tells them people care about them and provides a place to sleep for those who do not have a home.





On June 23, 2026, during the Joint Forces Wrestling event in Carthage, 8 Vietnam veterans and one surviving spouse were honored. The annual event raises funds which are donated to veterans to help with medical needs, housing and food.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

MELISSA BECKETT

NATIONAL UPDATE - 2020 Census Weaponized to Favor the Left

The Census conducted every 10 years is supposed to be a constitutional count, not a statistical product. The Constitution requires an actual Enumeration, not an estimate.

In the 2020 census illegals and non-residents were counted affecting the number of seats in congress and the electoral votes each state gets. 41 million non-citizens including illegals were counted in violation of the constitution. Remove illegal aliens from the 2020 census and Democrats lose 8 Congressional House seats. Remove all non-citizens and they lose 22.

The Census also contained significant inaccuracies including the Census Bureau's use of "differential privacy". This term refers to the bureau's process of randomly altering correct data into false data by applying an algorithm to the dataset. Differential privacy essentially justifies widespread data manipulation and falsification under the pretense of protecting individuals from having their characteristic data and information exposed.

Source: https://americarenewing.com/issues/the-2020-census-fraud-how-differential-privacy-skewed-representation/

Source: https://x.com/amrenewctr/status/2064412064190226551?s=20

UPDATE - TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (SBOE) – SOCIAL STUDIES TEKS

The Texas State Board of Education adopted new Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) standards for social studies. TEKS provide the foundation for curriculum, textbooks, and state assessments.
The revised standards place greater emphasis on American history, Texas history, the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, civic responsibility, and the historical influence of the Bible and Judeo-Christian principles on the nation's founding. The new standards will be phased into Texas classrooms beginning with the 2030–2031 school year. Thank you to everyone who emailed, called, testified, and prayed throughout this process. The State Board of Education voted to adopt the revised TEKS, making this a significant victory for those who supported strengthening civics education and America's founding principles in Texas classrooms.

TEXAS HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the Texas House Natural Resources Committee held an 11-hour hearing with the primary focus being testimony regarding Data Center Water Use & Conservation. Many county commissioners were present advocating for more county authority to regulate data centers and water use. This hearing was very well attended by Texans from across the state, highlighting the importance of this topic. Many citizens requested/demanded the Governor call a special session to address this issue. Thank you to all of you who submitted electronic testimony.

RWGC congratulates our Legislative Chair Melissa Beckett on her election at the Republican Party of Texas convention to represent SD1 on the state nominations committee. This committee delivers recommendations for leadership positions such as state chair, vice chair, and other statewide party offices within the Republican Party of Texas.

REPUBLICAN PARTY OF TEXAS

2026 CONVENTION ★ HOUSTON, TEXAS ★





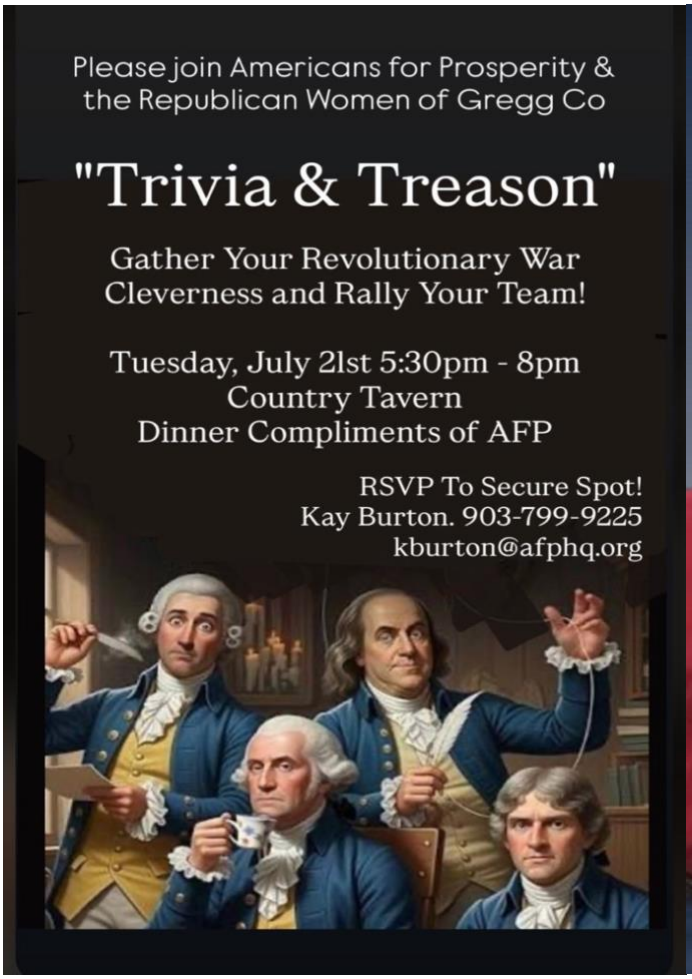
Republican Women of Gregg County and Republican Party of Gregg County represented at Convention.



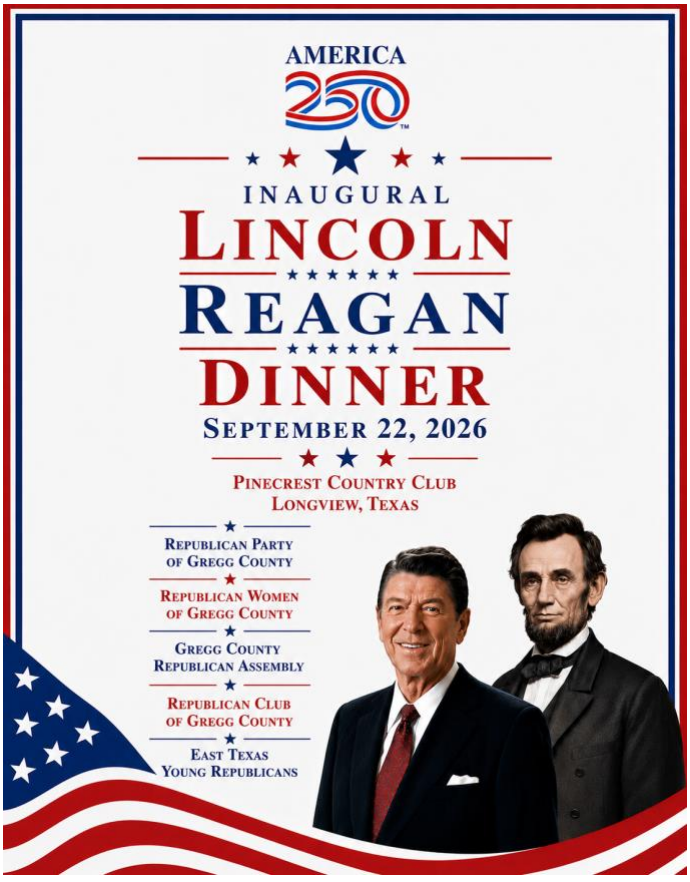


From upper left, David and Deborah Deas awaiting another speaker, Marty Rhymes and Gail Apple in their cowboy hats, RPGC Chair William McWhorter with the elephant, Gov. Greg Abbott and William McWhorter, RPGC Vice Chair Marty Rhymes with newly elected RPT Chairwoman, D'Rinda Randall.









MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EXCITING UPCOMING EVENTS!

THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF GREGG COUNTY PARTICIPATE IN A VARIETY OF ACTIITIES AND EVENTS THAT HELP PROMOTE REPUBLICAN VALUES IN THE COMMUNITY.

HERE ARE THREE GREAT WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH OTHERS WHO LOVE THIS COUNTRY, APPRECIATE OUR VETERANS, AND WANT TO HELP KEEP TEXAS THE CONSERVATIVE LEADER IT IS.

FOR "TRIVIA AND TREASON," GET YOUR RSVP IN NOW TO JOIN THE FUN!

LOOK FOR DETAILS ON THE LINCOLN REAGAN DINNER ON THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF GREGG COUNTY FACEBOOK PAGE.

Please keep the following in your prayers:

- Prayers for Sharon Clark's brother with pancreatic cancer
- Prayers for Larry Holly; Lee Lafferty, Haskell Williamson, Jerry Gipson, & Dave Holly
- Tricia and Tyler Oxton
- Sharon DeHoff, awaiting results of MRI
- Prayers for Michelle Gamboa and baby Isabella
- Those traveling on vacation
- SAVE AMERICA Act passage
- All our active military on duty around the world
- Wisdom, strength, and safety for President Trump
- Party unity in November elections
- Planning for the Inaugural Lincoln Reagan Dinner

QR code for access to our website!!

TO SUBMIT AN ITEM FOR THE NEWSLETTER, CONTACT KAREN CUNDIFF AT TEXININ@GMAIL.COM.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ON THE 20th OF THE MONTH.

Important Dates to Remember in July and Coming Months

July 14 – GUNS & GALS at Top Shot Indoor Range – Noon – Contact Tricia 903-738-7700
July 15 - RWGC General Meeting - Program starts at noon, order lunch at 11:30 am
July 21 - Trivia & Treason w/AFP 5:30-8pm at Country Tavern
Sept 22 - America 250 Lincoln Reagan Dinner, Pinecrest Country Club 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Oct. 28 - First Responders Day – RWGC Outreach Event

THE REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF GREGG COUNTY IS A MEMBER ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXAS FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN tfrw.org and THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF REPUBLICAN WOMEN nfrw.org.

PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE JULY 15th GENERAL MEETING AT THE JALAPENO TREE. PLEASE ARRIVE AT 11:30 TO ORDER LUNCH. THE MEETING STARTS AT NOON.
GUEST SPEAKER
WILEY WILSON, NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS ORGANIZATION

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