



The

# Elephant's Ear

Vol. 2 No. 6

June '09



## CELEBRATE AMERICA! AMERICANISM PROGRAM – JUNE 25



On June 25, our annual Americanism program will have four features you will not want to miss.

Lt. Col. Bill Connor received his bachelor of arts degree from The Citadel in 1990. After serving more than 10 years as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army, he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of South Carolina in 2005. He is currently an attorney with the Murphy and Grantland law firm in Columbia.

In May 2008, he returned from a yearlong combat deployment in southern Afghanistan. During that time, he served as joint operations officer for the southern region of Afghanistan developing and implementing the U.S. advisory effort for Afghan National Security Forces. This effort occurred during the 2007 Taliban spring and summer offensive.

Due to success in that position, he was promoted to take command of the U.S. advisory effort in the volatile province of Helmand, the center of the poppy drug trade. Shortly after his arrival in Helmand, he was promoted in rank from Major to Lieutenant Colonel.

In addition to command of U.S. advisory teams, he was the senior American working with the United Kingdom senior staff. During Christmas 2008, Britain's Prince Harry was also serving as part of the combat missions with him and his team. Prince Harry was serving in one of the most dangerous spots in the most hostile province of Afghanistan, deserving much respect.

Bill was awarded the Bronze Star for his efforts and leadership in Afghanistan. Upon his return from Afghanistan, he published a book, *Articles From War*, a memoir of his experiences and thoughts in Afghanistan. You can order his book at [www.billconnoronline.com](http://www.billconnoronline.com). All proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to Christian schools in South Carolina.

Bill lives in Orangeburg with his wife Susan and their children Peyton, Brenna and Will. He is an attorney and also serves as the chairman of the board of Orangeburg Christian Academy. Bill and his family regu-



Lt. Col. Bill O'Connor (left) and Britain's Prince Harry in Afghanistan.

larly worship at Christ Church of the Carolinas in Columbia.

### Wounded Warrior Project

More than 30,000 troops have been injured in recent conflicts, many of them suffering traumatic brain injuries, amputations and severe burns. Wounded Warrior Project provides services and programs to ease their burdens and aid in the transition back to civilian life.

Thousands of Wounded Warrior backpacks have been delivered to the hospital bedsides.

They contain items such as a tee shirt, shorts, toiletries, a phone card, CD player and more.

We need your help in assisting these wounded warriors and showing them that their sacrifices are remembered.

Your donations provide hope to thousands of our warriors who were severely injured in the line of duty.

Stamped, addressed envelopes will be available at the meeting should you want to contribute.

### Presentation of Colors

Air Force Junior ROTC will present the Colors under the leadership of Maj. Joseph Windley, who retired from the U.S. Air Force after 20 years of service. Maj. Windley is the senior aerospace science instructor of the Air Force JROTC at Southside High School.

The goal of AFJROTC is to instill values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment in high school students.

Patriotic music will be **Glenn Christianson** on the piano, and soloist Sharon Cochran. The prayer will be given by Marine **Bob Davis**, husband of Kathy Davis. *Patty Stoner, Americanism Program chairman.*



## About Our GCRWC Family

# Reunited Sweethearts United in GOP Cause

Once in a while, in the middle of an ordinary life, love gives us a fairy tale. Two of GCRW's newest members, **Clayton and Patricia McManaway**, have such a tale. Moreover, they have joined forces to fight for the very life of the conservative traditions of our nation.

Clayton and Patricia have been concerned about the turn our country is taking and the way the new administration is going.

Clayton said, "We were tired of throwing our shoes at the TV and decided to go to precinct reorganization meeting." Clayton became president, and Patricia became the treasurer of the Thornblade precinct in hopes of making a difference. Both attended the county and state convention this year for the first time. Both feel they have a lot to learn concerning local politics, but are willing to help in any way they can.

The pair first met in Junior High School here in Greenville at the age of 12. Both attended Greenville High School and graduated in 1951. They dated off and on in high school. Through the years they kept in touch.

Clayton attended USC and graduated in 1955 with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Then he took a tour in the U.S. Navy and also attended the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Glendale, Arizona, to earn a masters degree in Foreign Trade. He worked for the U.S. Foreign Service for 30 years. His career in government included service in the departments of State and Defense, and the Intelligence community, with assignments in Southeast Asia, the Caribbean and the Middle East. As U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, he was instrumental in helping to end the violent uprising against the Duvalier dictatorship.

Clayton has had numerous important assignments, however, one particular assignment worth noting was his involvement in the evacuation of Saigon. In 1975, when it became inevitable that Vietnam was falling, Clayton returned to the Department of State to organize and direct the evacuation of Saigon, an effort that rescued and resettled 200,000 refugees from Indochina.

After Clayton retired from the U.S. Foreign Service, he worked 10 years in the private sector for a company that specialized in combating white collar crimes. Clayton now has his own consulting firm, Shamrock Consulting Inc., which advises people on international problems.

In 2003, he went to Iraq to assist Paul Bremer, director of the Coalition Provisional Authority. Clayton had to return home when he was diagnosed with lung cancer. While he was in the hospital, Patricia came to see him. "I did not want to let her leave," he said. By this time, both had been widowed. Clayton beat the odds and survived his cancer. He and Patricia began dating again and were married Aug. 17, 2006, Patricia's 73rd birthday. Clayton said "it took 56 years to win her."

Clayton received many awards including the Department of Defense Distinguished Civilian Service Award, Department of State Distinguished Honor Award, Presidential Citation: Certificate of Appreciation, Department of State Superior Honor Award, Presidential Meritorious Award and the Executive Performance Award. He is in the Greenville High



**Patricia  
McManaway**

School Hall of Fame. His "Shaggers Hall of Fame 1994" award is his fun award.

Clayton has a stepdaughter, Alison Latvala, and many cousins who live in Greenville.

Patricia lived in Charlotte for 50 years. She worked at Belk headquarters of Belk in telecommunications for 40 years. She and Clayton moved to Greenville in August 2006 after they were married. She has three daughters, Joni Berry, Jeri Kleckley and Juli Langford, and five grandchildren. **Karen Crane.**

### Calling Cards for Military Personnel

I was asked by the SC Federation of Republican Women to get information on how to purchase the proper calling cards to donate to our wonderful men and women who are serving our country.

The following web pages will answer your questions and guide you through the various options of types of cards and minutes, and how to purchase cards and have them sent to needy troops. Calling Cards for Military.

First, you can visit this web site link sponsored by AT&T: [www.usa.att.com/military/index.jsp](http://www.usa.att.com/military/index.jsp). This provides detailed information to help anyone understand the cards.

Then click on the top righthand link called "Help Our Troops Call Home." It takes you to <https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx> On this page you can purchase the cards and if you don't know a military person to send them to, the options are there to arrange donations through appropriate groups. **Grace Rentiers, SCFRW Hostess & Regents Chair, Capital City RW, (803) 407-0644.**

### Patty Stoner Appointed Trustee John de la Howe School

In May, Patty Stoner was appointed by Gov. Mark Sanford to serve as a school board trustee for the John de la Howe School in McCormick County. The school is a Palmetto Gold School, a residential facility with specialized education programs of forestry, agriculture, wilderness training, an equine program and focused academic classes. Congratulations, Patty. This is a well-deserved honor!

### SCFRW Membership Contest



Congratulations to Charm Altman of the Sea Island Republican Women's Club, who won the SC-FRW's Garden City beach week-end with 24 new members.

Congratulations also to GCRW's **Marlene Dowd** for being first runner-up with 10 new members. Great job Marlene! Other winners will be announced as we receive them.

## Legislative Corner General Assembly Overrides All 10 Vetoes

On Tuesday, June 16, the General Assembly overrode all 10 of Gov. Sanford's vetoes, including his veto of a Ports restructuring bill.



The governor praised Sens. Chip Campsen, Tom Davis and Mike Rose "who stood tall for the idea of accountability, and I thank them for their work in trying to sustain this veto."

The bill eliminates the governor's ability to remove members of the Ports board and attempts to limit the governor's already diminished authority. An article in the *Post and Courier* noted that "the governor already operates under severe constraints in the legislatively dominated state . . . less than 20 percent of operations are under his authority."

The governor noted in his original veto that the bill gives "tenure to every board member at the Ports Authority" and would do more to keep "state government in its antiquated structure of control by unelected, unresponsive and unaccountable boards and commissions." *Jamie Bach.*

## GCRW Extravagant Membership Contest

The GCRW is sponsoring a (new member) membership contest with three delicious prizes to three of Greenville's favorite restaurants.



First place: \$65 dinner for two at **Soby's**.

Second place: \$40 dinner for two at **City Range Restaurant**.

Third place: \$25 lunch for two at **Mary's** (in Falls Cottage)

Wildcard! A drawing will be held for third place. The more new members you bring in the more changes you have to win. The GCRWC contest will continue to Aug. 12. Go for it, Girls!

## GCRW Women on the Move

Congratulations to **Betty Poe** for being nominated by **Sen. Jim DeMint** to attend the RNC Women's Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 25.



# Executive Committee Meeting June 1



## Officers and Committees Elected

The newly reorganized Greenville County Republican Executive Committee met for the first time at the Hughes Library in downtown Greenville June 1.

The meeting was well-attended with around 95 voting precincts represented and additional concerned Republicans in attendance.

**Dan Herren**, State Executive Committeeman, gave his state GOP report and then presented a plaque to Doug Wavle, his predecessor, honoring his 11 plus years of service.

The following officers were elected for two-year terms at the June 1 meeting:

<b>Geri Warren</b>	<b>Second Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Evert Headley</b>	<b>Third Vice Chairman</b>
<b>Linda Garner</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
<b>Peggy Payne</b>	<b>Secretary</b>

The following committees were elected:

<b>Finance</b>	<b>Patricia Arceneaux</b> Linda Garner Suzette Jordan
<b>Precinct</b>	James Gibney Brentleigh Crow <b>Roxie Kincannon</b>
<b>Rules</b>	Stephen Brown Evert Headley Additional member to be appointed by chairman

## Lawsuit to Require Registration by Party Withdrawn

At the end of the June 1 GOP Executive Committee meeting, a motion was made to pass a resolution necessary to go forward with the lawsuit that was previously filed by the Greenville County Republican Party to force registration and voting in primaries by party. The motion was opposed by attorneys in the Greenville GOP who said that a recent decision made it necessary to rewrite the lawsuit. After a brief discussion, the Executive Committee voted to withdraw the lawsuit.

As a result of the motion having been made, a special committee was designated to review the decision and re-file the lawsuit after the complaint is revised. Attorneys **Stephen Brown** and **Todd Kincannon** volunteered to serve on the committee and also said they were confident that **Samuel Harms** would also be willing to serve. The committee is to be ready at the next Executive Committee meeting in August to obtain approval to refile the lawsuit with a revised complaint.

**GCRW members were well represented at this meeting and played an active role.**

**Members:** Joanne Meadows, Patty Stoner, Patricia Arceneaux, Betty Poe, Geri Warren, Sherry Capitan, Gloria Griffin, Marlene Dowd, Anne Danciu, Wanda Rabenda, Janet Calloway, Harriet Carmichael, Shelly Haddon, Julie Hershey, Faye Jay, Roxie Kincannon, Aurie Latham and Karen Mims. **Associate members:** Bob Dowd, Bob Dill, James Gibney, Patrick Haddon, Dan Hamilton, Glenn Hamilton, Christina Jeffrey, Suzette Jordan, Steve Mauriello, Willis Meadows, Billy Mitchell, Thomas Baker, Jan Williams and Larry Schilz.

Greenville County  
Republican Women's Club  
Geri Warren, President  
P.O. Box 53  
Greenville, SC 29602-0053

Postage



GCRWC web site

**www.gcrwc.com**

*Join Us for our June Luncheon Meeting*

**Thursday — Noon — June 25**  
*Poinsett Club downtown Greenville*



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*Editor: Geri Warren*  
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*www.ThomasHanson.com*

### **MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!**

Please e-mail Cheryl Pressley at [gcrwreply@bellsouth.net](mailto:gcrwreply@bellsouth.net) or call her at 246-6448 by noon, Monday, June 22. To avoid paying \$15, cancellation must be made by 8 p.m., June 22.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

June 25	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club Americanism Program
July 23	GCRWC, Noon at Poinsett Club
Aug. 3	Greenville Executive Committee Meeting Hughes Library, Downtown Greenville
Sept. 10-13	NFRW 35th Biennial Convention Orlando, Fla.
Oct. 15-18	SCFRW Convention Beaufort, S.C.