

The Mid-South Tribune

“Where there is no vision, the people will perish.”

July 2026

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**The
Emergence
of the
Republican
Party***

As the West became more settled, popular pressure grew for the construction of a trans-continental railroad. Stephen A. Douglas, Senator from Illinois and leader of the Democratic Party in the northwest, was strongly in favor of the project as a help to the economic development of his section. Senator Douglas wanted a northern rather than a southern route for the proposed railroad and, to strengthen his position, introduced a bill to organize the area west of Iowa and northwestern Missouri into a new territory, to be called Nebraska.

The bill was bound to engender strong southern opposition. It dealt with territory north of the Missouri Compromise line and would mean the addition of another free state. To appease southern interests, Senator Douglas amended his bill in such

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*Celebrating America's 250th Birthday
and Freedom!*



**The Mid-South
Tribune
Endorsement
for
Ms. Charlotte
Bergmann
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Editorial

Save America Act must be passed to ensure America's culture of Freedom

**By Ms. Arelya J. Mitchell,
Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
The Mid-South Tribune**

Coup. As our nation celebrates its 250th birthday on July 4, 2026, one has to wonder as those revolutionary patriots wondered if they would see freedom as they fought with the tenacity of “Give liberty or give me death.” When they won, they began the hard task of putting forth a framework to ensure the young nation's survival.

America has survived for 250 years. Yet, there are those who are going out of their way to make sure that the best nation in the world does not make it to 251 perpetuating an American culture of freedom to form a “more perfect union.” There are those who feel because this nation had slavery and segregation, it must atone forever and a day, while they proceed to destroy all of

America has survived for 250 years. Yet, there are those who are going out of their way to make sure that the best nation in the world does not make it to 251 perpetuating an American culture of freedom to form a “more perfect union.”

America to reconstruct it not to benefit citizens but to re-enslave under the guise of socialism, communism, and Marxism. All of these isms will ultimately make them lord and master over citizens and will give them carte blanche over livelihoods, property, and free will.

This betrayal from the nation's oldest political party has begun once again, as it had when it wanted slavery and segregation to be legitimized and codified. That party was the Democratic Party.

The 21st Century Democratic Party has gone back to its roots of segregation not to keep its Black slaves but to enslave all American citizens. But first, the Party delegitimizes the word “citizen” and the quickest way to do that is to destroy the integrity of The Vote. During the 1960s Civil Rights Movement, protestors wore around their necks, “One Man, One Vote” placards. That struck at the Constitution's 15th Amendment. Blacks were enfranchised with this Amendment which also further underlined the rights of all American citizens to vote. In spite of the 15th Amendment, the Democratic Party chose and orchestrated ways to take away the Black Vote or degrade it by codifying poll taxes and ridiculous literacy tests. Their tactics and violation of the 15th Amendment lasted until the 1964 Civil Rights Bill was passed.

Fast forwarding to the 21st Century, the Democratic Party is again laying a foundation to re-codify segregation by calling it sanctuary cities and sanctuary states with the same vigor and commitment as it did to legitimize segregation and Black Codes. The Democratic Party is again going after The Vote and the integrity of The Vote to establish sanctuary cities where non-citizens can vote. Sanctuary cities and states work the same as segregated and non-segregated states. And this is why it is astonishing that sanctuary status for any city or state has NOT been outlawed and those Democratic officeholders declaring their states and cities as “sanctuary” should be arrested for treason, violation of the Constitution.

We editorialized in detail and on

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**One Citizen!
One Vote!
Call Your
Congressman
and Senator to
PASS the
SAVE
AMERICA
ACT!**

Signed, sealed, and delivered; The U.S. Postal Service commemorates America's 250th Birthday... so Stamp It!

Feather up with the 1776 Stamp



PHILADELPHIA — As the United States marks the 250th anniversary of its birth, the U.S. Postal Service pays tribute to the document that put America's founding ideals in writing with the release of the Declaration of Independence Forever stamp. A dedication ceremony for the stamp was recently held at the B. Free Franklin Post Office, part of Independence Historical National Park, in Philadelphia.

Adopted on July 4, 1776, the declaration announced the Colonies' break from Great Britain and expressed the bold new idea that government is a social contract based on the consent of the people it governed.

“The declaration has served as a mission statement for our nation that has inspired generations of Americans to do their part in fulfilling its promises for all,” said Lucy Trout, secretary to the USPS Board of Governors. “In the 250 years since ratification of that mission statement, the American people have been engaged in a perpetual and honorable battle to make good on that promise.”

Joining Trout for the ceremony were Will Elston, president, Na-

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tional Society of the Children of the American Revolution; Susan Gillette Meer, Pennsylvania State regent for the Daughters of the American Revolution; and Lauren Gurniewicz, chief of Interpretation and Partnerships, Independence National Historical Park.

The significance of America's founding document has been recognized on U.S. stamps before, including notably during the nation's bicentennial in 1976. This new issuance is part of a broader Postal Service celebration com-

memorating the U.S. Semiquincentennial, or 250 years, of independence, detailed on our website: Postal Service Celebrates America's 250th Anniversary.

The location and celebration honor both the Declaration of Independence's birth and the Postal Service's earliest beginnings under Benjamin Franklin, who was appointed the first postmaster general of the United Colonies on July 26, 1775, by the Second Continental Congress. Philadelphia was not only where the document was written and signed, but it also served as the nation's first capital and Franklin's home.

The B. Free Franklin site did not serve as a Post Office during the Colonial period but now sells stamps and displays historical information about Franklin and the Postal Service's importance in colonial life.

At its core, the declaration affirms that all people are created equal and born with rights that no government can take away. These include life, liberty and the

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USPS rededicates the figures of the American Revolution stamps



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Presidential
Message on the
250th
Anniversary
of the
Virginia
Declaration
of Rights

From the White House

By Pres. Donald J. Trump

On June 12, 1776, Virginia unanimously proclaimed the Virginia Declaration of Rights—the first official declaration of individual liberties in the American Colonies and one of the most consequential documents in the history of human freedom. Its immortal truths inspired both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, forever shaping the destiny of our Republic.

As the flame of liberty spread across the American Colonies, the Fifth Virginia Convention met in Williamsburg in the spring of 1776 to construct a new order of self-governance for a free and sovereign people. Determined to cast off the chains of British tyranny, they fought to secure what no king could take away: the right to govern themselves, to speak freely, to worship as they chose, and to be judged by their fellow citizens rather than the decrees of a distant crown. Leading this extraordinary effort was the great patriot and statesman George Mason, whose extraordinary vision and unwavering devotion to liberty produced a document that would change the course of history.

Inspired by the timeless wisdom of enlightenment thinkers like John Locke, the Virginia Declaration of Rights boldly proclaimed the eternal truth that all men are by nature equally free and independent, possessing inherent rights that are endowed by our Creator and beyond the reach of any earthly power. It declared that all political power is vested in the people and that the government exists to serve the citizen—not the citizen to serve the government. The Declaration also affirmed the time-honored principles of separation of powers, checks and balances, freedom of the press, trial by jury, and the free exercise of religion—enduring pillars of liberty that remain the bedrock of our Republic today.

For most of human history, these truths had lived only in the hearts of men—felt deeply yet never spoken, never committed to law, and never wielded as a shield against the ambitions of tyrants. The Virginia Declaration of Rights changed that forever, establishing in permanent words what Providence had long ordained but no free people had ever before enshrined in the foundations of their government. Just weeks later, Thomas Jefferson would draw upon the language and ideals of this extraordinary document while drafting the Declaration of Independence. Years later, James Madison relied upon its enduring wisdom as the blueprint for the Bill of Rights, securing the fundamental liberties that continue to make America the single greatest beacon of freedom and prosperity the world has ever known.

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of its adoption, we renew our solemn pledge to preserve and defend the sacred principles enshrined in the Virginia Declaration of Rights. We reaffirm our commitment to protecting these liberties bestowed upon us by Almighty God, upholding equal justice under the law, and carrying forward this glorious inheritance of freedom for generations to come.

Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday
and Freedom!

Signers of the Declaration of Independence
Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall, and George
Walton do not have fame of John Hancock



Signers of the Declaration of Independence: Georgia

By David Vergun
Dept. of War

Delegates to the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776. The 56 delegates who signed the formal break from Britain are all considered Founding Fathers; three represented Georgia.

The Georgia delegates included Button Gwinnett, Lyman Hall and George Walton. Their signatures are on the far left of the document.

Gwinnett was born in Gloucestershire, England, March 3, 1735, to the Rev. Samuel Gwinnett and his wife, Anne.

His early work included selling fruits and vegetables and metal work.

On April 19, 1757, he married Ann Bourne. By 1762, the couple had three daughters and began moving to various places in North America in search of opportunities.

In 1765, he moved to the Georgia coast, eventually settling on a plantation on St. Catherine's Island, where he met Hall. He held several political positions, and in

Hall's remains were exhumed in 1848 and reinterred beneath the Signers Monument, an obelisk that stands in front of what is now the Augusta, Georgia, Municipal Center. The obelisk memorializes the three Georgia representatives who signed the Declaration of Independence.

1775, Gwinnett joined Hall in Philadelphia at the Second Continental Congress.

After signing the declaration, he was elected speaker of the Georgia assembly.

In 1777, after the failed attack by Georgia troops on British East Florida, Gwinnett argued with Continental Army Brig. Gen. Lachlan McIntosh.

Reportedly, McIntosh called Gwinnett "a scoundrel and lying rascal." As a result, Gwinnett challenged McIntosh to a duel on May 16, 1777. The two stood 12 paces apart and fired their pistols; both were shot, but Gwinnett's wound eventually proved fatal.

Gwinnett died May 19, 1777, from an infected gunshot wound,

and is buried in Colonial Park Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia.

Gwinnett County, Georgia, is named after him, as was the SS Button Gwinnett, a World War II Liberty ship launched in May 1943.

Hall was born April 12, 1724, in Wallingford, Connecticut. His parents were John and Mary Hall; John Hall was a minister. In 1747, he graduated from Yale College. For a brief time, he served as a minister, following in his father's footsteps.

He married Abigail Burr in 1752, but she died a year later. He married Mary Osborne in 1757, and they moved to South Carolina, where he worked as a physician. Shortly before the Revolutionary War, they moved to Georgia, and in 1783, just before it ended, he was elected governor of Georgia.

Hall later left politics to resume a career in medicine. He died Oct. 19, 1790, and was buried on his land overlooking the Savannah River.

Hall's remains were exhumed in 1848 and reinterred beneath the Signers Monument, an obelisk that stands in front of what is now the Augusta, Georgia, Municipal Center. The obelisk memorializes the three Georgia representatives

who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Hall County, Georgia, is named for him.

Walton was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, around the middle of the 18th century. His parents, Robert and Mary Walton, both died before he was 12, and his uncle adopted him. He grew up poor and apprenticed as a carpenter, but he studied at night.

In 1769, Walton moved to Savannah, Georgia, to study law.

During the Revolutionary War, he was a militia colonel in the First Georgia Regiment.

During the Battle of Savannah in 1778, he was wounded and taken prisoner by the British. In a 1779 prisoner exchange, he was released. He held several political positions, including secretary of the Georgia provincial congress, the Continental Congress and governor of Georgia.

In 1795, he was appointed to the U.S. Senate. He died Feb. 2, 1804, and was buried at Rosney Cemetery in Augusta. In 1848, his remains were exhumed and reinterred beneath the Signers Monument with Hall. Walton County, Georgia, is named after him.

AMERICA

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A Historical
Note: Lift Every
Voice and Sing
(known as the
Black National
Anthem) was
written in honor
of President Abe
Lincoln!

From American History

Lift Every Voice
and Sing

By James Weldon Johnson

Lift ev’ry voice and sing,
‘Til earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of
Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the
rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith
that the dark past has taught
us,
Sing a song full of the hope
that the present has brought
us;
Facing the rising sun of our
new day begun,
Let us march on ’til victory
is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod,
Felt in the days when hope
unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which
our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way
that with tears has been
watered,
We have come, treading our
path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
‘Til now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of
our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us
thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path,
we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the
places, our God, where we
met Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with
the wine of the world, we for-
get Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

Black American
History Notes

- In 1847 Frederick Douglass published the first issue of the North Star newspaper, an anti-slavery newspaper.
- In 1941, the Atlanta Urban League won the right for Black women to be addressed as “Mrs.” in predominantly white newspapers.
- On May 1, 1867, Howard University (Washington, D.C.) was chartered by Congress as one of the earliest institution of higher learning for African Americans.
- On August 8, 1965, the Voting Rights bill becomes law.
- Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi and Morgan State College in Baltimore, Maryland were founded by the Methodist Episcopal Church; and Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee was founded by the American Missionary Association. All three were founded in 1866, making them among the oldest Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Call Your Congressmen and Senators to Pass the
SAVE ACT to Protect the integrity of the VOTE.

“One Citizen, One Vote!”

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility
Act or the SAVE Act
(Introduced in House (01/03/2025))

This bill requires individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.

Specifically, the bill prohibits states from accepting and processing an application to register to vote in a federal election unless the applicant presents documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. The bill specifies what documents are considered acceptable proof of U.S. citizenship, such as identification that complies with the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates U.S. citizenship.

Further, the bill (1) prohibits states from registering an individual to vote in a federal election unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of U.S. citizenship; and (2) requires states to establish an alternative process under which an applicant may submit other evidence to demonstrate U.S. citizenship.

Each state must take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only U.S. citizens are registered to vote, which shall include establishing a program to identify individuals who are not U.S. citizens using information supplied by certain sources.

Additionally, states must remove noncitizens from their official lists of eligible voters.

The bill allows for a private right of action against an election official who registers an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.

The bill establishes criminal penalties for certain offenses, including registering an applicant to vote in a federal election who fails to present documentary proof of U.S. citizenship.



The Mid-South Tribune Endorsement

We Endorse Charlotte Bergmann for U.S. Congress

“A Warrior who was in the battle to unseat a Democrat incumbent when her opponents dared not enter.”



Ms. Charlotte Bergmann

“The rich man’s wealth is his strong city; the destruction of the poor is their poverty.” (Proverbs 10:15)

By Ms. Arelya J. Mitchell, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief The Mid-South Tribune

We Endorse Charlotte Bergmann for Congress. The August 6th Republican primary is crowded with those who did not have the guts to go up against the Democrat Oligarch Steve Cohen when they had the opportunity. Now the Johnny-Come-Latelies have come out of Tennessee crevices to vie for Cohen’s seat after Republicans were victorious in gaining an entryway into the Democratic stronghold of Memphis after redistricting what was originally District 9. Cong. Cohen quickly folded and retired, whining that the redistricting of his long-held seat was bringing back “colonization” of Black constituents. Never mind that Cohen is White and had no problem going up against Tennessee’s first Black congressman, Harold Ford, Sr. who won the seat in the 1970s. Tennessee could not break this “color” barrier until the 20th Century. Mississippi and other southern states had pulled off their “firsts” during Reconstruction—in the 19th Century. Cong. Ford, Senior was from the Old School of Black candidates who when he set foot in the arena to

run knew he had to be twice or thrice as good because he was representing his race and his state. Ford, Senior was so popular and the community was so proud. They felt he was one of them and at times they felt comfortable enough to even go into the Congressman’s office to talk about filling potholes or getting a busted city light fixed, and Ford Senior would see that it was done even though these responsibilities were out of his congressional duties. But Ford Senior was their ‘first’ and they all had been in the battle to get this “first”. Harold Ford, Jr. succeeded his father in an election where the Black community overwhelmingly supported the son. Only when Junior decided to run for U.S. Senator from Tennessee, did Cohen run yet again and was successful. Cohen’s retirement rantings about Memphis going into the colonization of Blacks was a sorry excuse for his sorry tenure of years perpetuating the Democratic Party’s propensity to create profanity and not policy. We endorse Ms. Charlotte Bergmann. She has been challenging Cohen for years and now bears the scars of a political warrior leader which makes her a rare commodity on the leadership front where there are those who now want to lead since the field has been cleared by redistricting. We won’t name names, but just remember her name: Charlotte Bergmann.

We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because she is a warrior leader at the crossroads of Memphis becoming a sanctuary city and this nation becoming a socialist-communist-Marxist nation. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because of her brain cells and not skin cells. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because she has common sense and an economic agenda which will create the “Pursuit of Happiness” for all Memphians and Shelby Countians.

Yes, we have been watching for thirty years how Tennessee’s largest city and the city known as the capital of the Mid-South has been wading in the water in the 26th year of the 21st Century. If Memphis does not correct its course with common sense, it will take down all of Tennessee and produce Tennessee as a worthless state reduced further by the Democratic Party’s tradition of race-baiting and little else. Memphis had managed to make itself Number One in crime until the National Guard under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump was sent in to clean up the mess, and the Memphis Safe Task Force (MSTF) was created. If the Memphis Black Democratic Party establishmentarians had their way, the city would have kept its Number One status in crime, not caring that Memphians were begging for help. All that mattered to them was to carry out the dictates of a Woke Democratic Party agenda. This crime issue was one Charlotte Bergmann had been fighting for years before Cohen brought his buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken into the House of Representatives to mock Republicans. Let us be upfront: If Tennessee did not have a Republican Governor (Bill Lee), and two Republican U.S. Senators (Marsha Blackburn and Bill Hagerty), and a Republican President (Donald J. Trump), Cohen and his mainly

Black Democratic local and state officeholders fan club would have continued business as usual--- oh, but NOT as usual, because Memphis was set to be a Sanctuary City (a matter we have editorialized about ad nauseam). President Trump brought in law and order, and the community was thrilled, especially the Black community which makes up over 60 percent of the city. Memphis was drowning under black-on-black crime which was and continues to be a no-no for Black Democratic (now Democratic Socialists of America) officeholders to even hold a worthwhile press conference. Their messages on safety have been mostly about public relations than public policy. For years as a community leader, Charlotte Bergmann has advocated for safety. She lost her grandson to murder, as have many Memphians (Black and White) have lost their loved ones to crime--- and damn it, let’s be blunt, it has mainly been because of black-on-black crime which the Democratic Party continues to ignore. Charlotte Bergmann has not ignored it. These same Democrats has had no problem in embracing Blacks who kill Whites or illegal immigrant criminals who kill Whites. This adds to their race baiting agenda. To reiterate, they have no problem in addressing what would have been a growing black-on-black crime had not the National Guard come in. Charlotte Bergmann and other concerned citizens had no problem in welcoming the National Guard. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann who is NOT that “I am a Black Woman” screeching caricature ala the Angry Black Democrat Woman officeholder akin to Jasmine Crockett, Stacey Abrams, Latitia James, or Fani Willis who run on being “a Black woman Democrat” and little else. We feel strongly that we must point out this about Ms. Bergmann, because she is not about this. She is about developing sound policies and carrying them out, and getting the community’s input to help her decisions come to fruition. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann for the second time NOT because

she is a Black female Republican candidate, but because for years, she has presented a platform that will create economic growth, freedom of choice in education, jobs, businesses, agriculture opportunities for farmers, and entrepreneurship. She herself is a seasoned entrepreneur. Furthermore, she will fight like there is no tomorrow to protect children from the Democratic Party’s politics and policies of radical transgenderization of spaying and neutering children without their parents’ knowledge. Yes, this practice continues to happen with a nod and a wink from the Democratic Party and Democratic Socialists of America Party which are now one in the same to make America a socialist-communist-Marxist nation without borders (through the courtesy of George Soros’ Open Society). The Democratic Party and the Democratic Socialists of America want to defund the police, get rid of private property whereby citizens will not own homes, and private wealth will be redistributed. Of course, today’s Democratic Party believes that there is only one minority that will fall for this, and this is why Soros and the Democratic Party already have in place to make Memphis and eventually all of Tennessee a sanctuary state to fill up with illegal immigrants to vote as non-citizens and to bring in illegal immigrant criminals to create chaos and put fear in citizens. Charlotte Bergmann is for the SAVE Act to protect the vote. Yes, the Johnny-Come-Latelies have barged into the August 6th Republican Primary to preempt Charlotte Bergmann. Yes, perhaps all is fair in politics, seeing these Johnnies have asked for President Trump’s endorsement. Yes, President Trump may or may not endorse anyone in this race and simply wait to see who comes out in the wash. The

Johnnies have stated that they have endorsed President Trump. (For the record, so did this newspaper in 2016, 2020, and 2024). Charlotte Bergmann gave her endorsement of President Trump from 2016 up to 2024. In her case as a Black who is also Republican, she did so at a time when it was controversial and career-killing. In other words, she came out when it was not popular to endorse Trump. We know Charlotte Bergmann is qualified to debate and take on whomever emerges as the Democratic Party’s candidate which will more than likely be a Democrat Black socialist-Marxist who plan to capitalize on race-baiting and yelling “racism,” “white supremacy,” “white privilege,” “Jim Crow” and other descriptions which have nothing to do with sound policies. The Democratic Party’s Black candidate if he wins will take his place in the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and become an instant millionaire or multi-millionaire like so many of CBC members have done with the understanding that put illegal immigrants and criminals above their Black and other constituents. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because she is a warrior leader at the crossroads of Memphis becoming a sanctuary city and this nation becoming a socialist-communist-Marxist nation. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because of her brain cells and not skin cells. We endorse Charlotte Bergmann because she has common sense and an economic agenda which will create the “Pursuit of Happiness” for all Memphians and Shelby Counties. Charlotte Bergmann is not a socialist. She is not a Marxist. She is not a communist. She is an American. Vote for Charlotte Bergmann on August 6!

Charlotte Bergmann’s Public Safety and Community Platform

Profile: Charlotte Bergmann, native Memphian and lifelong Christian

Charlotte Bergmann is a native Memphian, lifelong Christian, and dedicated conservative leader. Born and raised in Memphis as one of ten children, her father served as a Baptist minister. A graduate of Northside High School, she was the first in her family to pursue higher education. She earned an Associate degree from State Technical Institute at Memphis in 1986. She later received a Bachelor of Science degree from Christian Brothers University and a certification in Information Systems Management. Her professional career began at FedEx, where she worked as an Information Technology Project Manager. After leaving FedEx, she became a successful small business owner. Charlotte began her political activism in 2003 while serving in an advocacy role on President George W. Bush’s President’s Club, representing Memphis interests. In that same year, she was awarded the prestigious “2003

- For years, Charlotte was the only Republican willing to challenge longtime Democratic incumbent Steve Cohen in one of the most heavily Democratic districts in the country. While others avoided the race, she repeatedly stepped up and carried the Republican banner in a district that had been gerrymandered to protect the incumbent.
- A strong and early supporter of President Donald Trump, Charlotte is a proud MAGA conservative who is fully committed to America First policies.

Business Woman of the Year” by NRCC Chairman Tom Reynolds. These early experiences in Washington, D.C. gave her valuable insight into how government operates. A strong and early supporter of President Donald Trump, Charlotte is a proud MAGA conservative who is fully committed to America First policies. She has served on the Tennessee Republican Party State Executive Committee, was named “Statesman of the Year” in 2018, and has

been a longtime radio and television political commentator. In 2019, she authored the book The Last Trumpet, which addresses the battle for America’s future and the dangers of government dependency. For years, Charlotte was the only Republican willing to challenge longtime Democratic incumbent Steve Cohen in one of the most heavily Democratic districts in the country. While others avoided the race, she repeatedly stepped up and carried the Republican

banner in a district that had been gerrymandered to protect the incumbent. With the recent redrawing of Tennessee’s congressional maps, she is now widely seen as having her strongest opportunity yet in the newly configured district. She is a passionate advocate for reducing crime, promoting school choice, job creation, economic growth, and putting America First. A mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, her personal experiences — including the tragic murder of her grandson — have deeply shaped her commitment to public safety and strong families. It’s a new day in Tennessee. Vote for Charlotte Bergmann. Source: Charlottbergmann.com

For more information, visit:
<https://www.charlottebergmann.com/>

- Public Safety and Community Stability**
Law and Order
Memphis continues to face one of the most serious crime challenges in America. I believe Washington must support local law enforcement with resources, technology, and policy reforms that empower officers while restoring safety in neighborhoods. I support federal partnerships that strengthen public safety initiatives, protect victims, and ensure communities have the tools necessary to combat violent crime.
Economic Affordability & Small Business Growth
Families and entrepreneurs across the district are feeling the weight of inflation, rising housing costs, and regulatory burdens that make it harder to grow a business. I support policies that:
- Lower the cost of living for working families
- Strengthen small business growth and job creation
- Encourage investment and economic development in underserved communities
- Border Security & Workforce Stability**
The federal government has a responsibility to secure the nation's borders while ensuring lawful immigration systems that support economic stability. I support:
- Strong border enforcement and national security measures
- A lawful and orderly immigration process
- Policies that protect American workers and stabilize local economies
These issues directly impact jobs, public safety, and community resources across Shelby County and the country.

Source: Charlotte Bergmann website
- Protect entrepreneurs and local industries from unnecessary federal overreach**
My approach prioritizes economic mobility, workforce development, and restoring opportunity in Memphis and throughout Tennessee's Ninth District.

One Citizen, One Vote!



Below is the speech by Justice Clarence Thomas, "Remarks on the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence" at the University of Texas on April 15, 2026.

**By Supreme Court Justice
Clarence Thomas**

President Davis, Provost Inboden, Dean Dyer, faculty, and students thank you for the invitation to visit the University of Texas at Austin. It is an honor to be here at one of the nation's finest universities to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. If my memory serves me, this is my second visit to the University of Texas. But, I have hired and worked with a number of outstanding young people associated with this University. My first was now Chief Judge Greg Maggs of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Services who was a fairly new member of the law school faculty when I became a member of the Court. He took a leave of absence to help me as a law clerk during the second half of my first Term. My first UT law graduate to serve as a law clerk was Greg Coleman three decades ago. Greg went on to become the first Solicitor General of Texas. He was simply outstanding as was his son, Reid, also a graduate of your law school. Greg's widow and our very dear friend, Stephanie is with us today. And, they both clerked for my dear friend, Judge Edith Jones, whom I admire greatly and who is here today. And, I have had other UT alumni from both the undergraduate and law school who were similarly outstanding. Several of my former law clerks have joined us and I would ask them to stand to be recognized. I am pleased to join you all today. I hope that my talk today will help in some small way to inaugurate another great initiative, the State of Texas's plan to restore the teaching of civics and western civilization to a central place in its flagship university. And, I am grateful and honored to have been invited by Justin Dyer, the dean of the new School of Civic Leadership. I am also grateful for the assistance of my former law clerk Professor John Yoo who has spent the last three decades at Berkeley law school but is joining Justin Dyer and his team. The school's stated mission is to help students "encounter the distinct inheritance of Western civilization and the American constitutional tradition as part of a larger quest for wisdom about how to live and how to lead." Your plans could not come at a more important moment for our nation, when, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the very values announced in it have fallen out of favor. It is my sincere hope that your work to revitalize the teaching and research of western civilization and the American constitutional tradition will lead the way in the reform of our nation's colleges and universities. And, I hope that your example will help to rejuvenate our fellow citizens' commitment to the principles of the Declaration of Independence. I seem to always enjoy my travels to this amazing state. My wife, Virginia, and I have many wonderful friends and acquaintances here. And, it is so special to have our dear friends, Harlan and Kathy Crow join us today. One of the features of this state that stands out is the way that Texans talk about it. What comes through is the sustained and sustaining affection that they have for their home state. That reverential feeling for and attachment to Texas is to be respected, admired, and, if possible, emulated. This affection is similar to the attachment that I grew to have for my home state of Georgia and certainly for our country, despite the indelible mark of segregation and its companion evils. I was proud to say that I was American by birth and Georgian

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and Freedom!

A Special Note

This Speech for the Record from America's 2nd Black Supreme Court Justice Sets an Example of a Man with a 21st Century Vision of "Character" and Not "Color."

Some years ago, I was honored to have interviewed Justice Thomas in a one-on-one interview and to have endorsed him when there were those who tried to "high tech lynch him." At press time, we applauded The Honorable Clarence Thomas for his strong ethical position on the citizenship issue where he was in the minority, but his words regarding this historic Supreme Court decision on June 30, 2026 will bear witness in time that he was right. We salute this Man of Integrity and wish him well.

**Ms. Arelya J. Mitchell, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief
The Mid-South Tribune, July 1, 2026**



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas delivers what is destined to become a classic speech at the University of Texas at Austin. (Photo/Courtesy: University of Texas).

by the grace of God. And, it was not uncommon to hear others proclaim their allegiance to "God and country" or, as Superman was wont to say, "Truth, justice, and the American way." At our grammar school, St. Benedict's, we started each school day by lining up two by two and class by class in the school yard to watch the raising of the American flag and to say the pledge of allegiance before silently marching to our respective classrooms. Even as so much of our God-given and Constitutional rights were denied us, we still faithfully said the pledge of allegiance, memorized the preamble to our Constitution, and yearned for the fulfillment of its promised ideals. Sadly, these sentiments are not as widely shared among our fellow citizens today. And, they certainly do not seem to have that sustaining strength that they had back then. In fact, all too often the sentiments tend toward cynicism, rejection, hostility, and animus toward our country and its ideals. With the foregoing in mind, I would like to begin by addressing my first encounter with the principles of the Declaration of Independence. It is perhaps not what you would immediately think. The second paragraph of the Declaration proclaims: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..." Throughout my youth, these truths were articles of faith that were impervious to bigotry or discrimination. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language defines "self-evident" as "obviously true, and requiring no proof, argument or explanation." Whether they had a divine source, or a worldly one, they were never questioned. They were the Holy Grail, the North Star, the rock – immovable and unquestioned. Despite the multiplicity of laws and customs that reeked of bigotry, it was universally believed among those blacks with whom I lived and who had very little or no formal education, that "in God's eyes and under our Constitution we are equal." This was also the case with my nuns, most of

whom were Irish immigrants. At home, at school, and at Church, we were taught that we are inherently equal; that equality came from God; and that it could not be diminished by man. We were made in the image and likeness of God. That proposition was not debatable and was beyond the power of man to alter. Others, with power and animus, could treat us as unequal but they lacked the divine power to make us so. Somehow, without formal education, the older people knew that these Godgiven or natural rights preceded and transcended governmental power or authority. When you lived in a segregated world with palpable discrimination and the governments nearest to you enforced laws and customs that promoted unequal treatment, it was obvious that you did not get your rights or your dignity from those governments, but from God. Though not a literate man, my grandfather often spoke of our rights and obligations coming from God, not from the architects of segregation and discrimination. Men were not angels. They were subject to the constraints of antecedent rights. And, we were not subject to them even as we were subjected to their whims. We knew that life, liberty, and property were sacrosanct. These truths were self-evident to the adults in our lives and were taught to us as undeniable truths. Those around us could endure with dignity the insults of segregation because they knew that, in God's eyes, they were equal. All too often, there is an unfortunate tendency, when discussing the Declaration, to make these self-evident truths and first principles of government obscure. Intellectuals want you to believe that our founding principles are matters of esoteric philosophy or sophisticated debate. Even those who support them too often talk about them as if they were academic playthings. They overcomplicate them, take the spirit out of them, and discuss them in a manner that puts us to sleep. But the principles of the Declaration of Independence, as I encountered them, are a way of life. They are not an abstract theory that you learn in college or law school but the

basic premises of our Constitution and government that you learn from the people all around you. When Alexis de Tocqueville visited early America from France, he was struck that there was "no country in the civilized world where they are less occupied with philosophy than the United States." But there was likewise no country where the principles of the Declaration were more deeply ingrained or more fiercely defended than those same United States. That is the sense in which I knew the principles of the Declaration in my childhood; that is the only sense in which those principles can sustain our country; and that is the sense in which I will speak to you about those principles today. I still believe now, as I did then, that the Declaration of 1776 provides us with the principles to guide us as citizens of our great Republic. Even in this time of questioning and criticism of our founding, we should not forget that the Declaration established the principles that produced – despite all of our imperfections, miscues, and tragic mistakes – the freest, wealthiest, and most powerful nation in the history of the world. It provided the moral principles by which Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. could criticize the institutions of slavery and segregation. The Declaration is, in fact, along with the Gospels, one of the greatest antislavery documents in the history of Western Civilization. It did not establish a form of government – that was the job of the Constitution that followed – but it stated the purpose of government. The Declaration made clear in clear prose that the purpose of government is to protect our God-given inalienable rights, rights that all individuals equally possess. As Abraham Lincoln declared in 1858, in the midst of his great debate with Stephen Douglas, "drop every paltry insignificant thought for any man's success. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. But do not destroy that immortal emblem of Humanity – the Declaration of American Independence." The ideas of the Declaration were so powerful that our nation could

not coexist with the contradiction created by the great evil of slavery. Those principles were so powerful that hundreds of thousands of Americans fought and died in the Civil War to make men free. Those ideas have been so powerful that they convinced our nation to finally end segregation. They continue to be so powerful today that they have inspired people throughout the world to throw off the shackles of their oppressors. And, it all began with our Founders declaring in 1776 in the Declaration of Independence that: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." We should also not forget the important sentence that follows: "That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." The principle of consent follows from the principle of equality. We the people can never legitimately consent to the violation of our Godgiven equality. However, when I encounter the Declaration of Independence anew today, I am most struck by the final sentence. It can be easy to forget, 250 years later, the courage it took for those 56 men to sign the Declaration. Arguably, these men committed treason against the King, risking death at the hands of an empire far mightier than the newborn United States. They thus concluded with the memorable final sentence: "And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor." I will say that again: "we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor." Recently, I came across a definition of "courage" that is attributed to President Franklin D. Roosevelt: "Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." In essence, the signers of the Declaration were saying that they were

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"Your plans could not come at a more important moment for our nation, when, as we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the very values announced in it have fallen out of favor. It is my sincere hope that your work to revitalize the teaching and research of western civilization and the American constitutional tradition will lead the way in the reform of our nation's colleges and universities."

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willing to die for the principles they were asserting, the supreme act of courage. Nothing in the Declaration of Independence, I now realize, matters without that final sentence. Without that sentence, the rest of the Declaration is but mere words on parchment paper. Nice words, but, nonetheless, just words. What changed the world was not the words, but the commitment and spirit of the people who were willing to labor, sacrifice, and even give their lives—what Lincoln at Gettysburg called “the last full measure of devotion”—for the Declaration’s principles. It is that devotion to which we owe our rich inheritance. It was that devotion that sustained the Founding Fathers and the Continental Army as they fought and won the Revolutionary War, braved the winter at Valley Forge, crossed the Delaware, and defeated an army many times their number and firepower to win their freedom. It was that devotion that Nathan Hale expressed when, before being executed by the British, he reportedly stated: “I only regret that I have but one life to give for this country.” It was that devotion that Patrick Henry invoked when he stood before the Virginia Convention and asked, “Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, almighty God. I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.” That devotion has driven the great achievements and heroism of Americans in the 250 years since. Think of the frontiersmen who settled the west. Think of the families who built little towns on the prairies. Think of the women who raised their boys to love God and country and sent them off to war. Think of the soldiers on the battlefields of the Civil War, who sang together “as he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free.” Think of the innovators and laborers and engineers who, Tocqueville observed, were so infused with patriotism that they felt every triumph for their country as a triumph in their personal lives. Think of how that devotion carried us from Independence Hall to the Alamo to Flanders Field and the beaches of Normandy. Think of the memorable scene in Band of Brothers when the American soldiers arrived at the concentration camp, saw the suffering, emaciated, desperate prisoners, unlocked the gates, and gave them food and blankets and warm embraces. The soldiers looked around and knew in their hearts, as the episode is titled, “why we fight.” Think of the passengers of Flight 93 that crashed in Shanksville, Pennsylvania on 9/ or the young men and women whom we send into harm’s way, even as we sit here today. Think of my grandparents who heroically, quietly, without fanfare sat my brother and me down at the kitchen table in August of 1955, and committed the rest of their lives to us so that we would have a chance. They said: “We didn’t have no education and no chance but you boys are going to have a chance. But, we goin’ to devote the rest of our lives to you boys.” It was their devotion, their love, their dedication to raising us right that has made the difference -- not the words -- though the words expressed as best they could what they intended to do. Similarly, it is the devotion expressed in the final sentence of the Declaration, the willingness to do anything for our principles that has, throughout American history, been most indispensable. It is that devotion that we are missing today, and that we must find in our hearts if this nation is to endure. I arrived in Washington, D.C., 47 years ago. I arrived as a staffer for Senator Jack Danforth in 1979, telling myself that the job on Capitol Hill would be a short stop on my way home to Savannah. I then joined the executive branch during the Reagan Administration, served in two federal agencies for



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“It provided the moral principles by which Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr. could criticize the institutions of slavery and segregation. The Declaration is, in fact, along with the Gospels, one the greatest antislavery documents in the history of Western Civilization. It did not establish a form of government – that was the job of the Constitution that followed – but it stated the purpose of government. The Declaration made clear in clear prose that the purpose of government is to protect our God-given inalienable rights, rights that all individuals equally possess. As Abraham Lincoln declared in 1858, in the midst of his great debate with Stephen Douglas, “drop every paltry insignificant thought for any man’s success. It is nothing; I am nothing; Judge Douglas is nothing. But do not destroy that immortal emblem of Humanity – the Declaration of American Independence.”

what others have sacrificed so that this nation exists and endures. I will state this more poignantly, do any of us have what it took our young soldiers to storm Normandy Beach, to fight Guadalcanal or later at Chosin Reservoir. If we can’t say we have the courage of these young men in battle to defend our founding principles, then how do we preserve them and this republic? Until we find a devotion that matches the courage of those who made this country possible, I doubt any amount of study or development of insights about our Constitution will make much of a difference. There is a world of difference between what it takes to score academic points and what it takes to protect and defend the Constitution as we are sworn to do. I have faced this struggle myself. About 43 years ago, in the early spring of 1983, I was at the lowest point in my life. I had just buried both of my grandparents, the man and woman who raised me and the two greatest people that I had ever known. I was broke. I was living in, and nearly evicted from, a cockroach-infested apartment. I could not pay my credit card bills on time. I would soon sell my only car to pay for my son’s tuition. I was being constantly attacked by the media and Congress because, as Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, I did not bow to the prevailing orthodoxy on race. At this point, I asked myself a simple question: what are your principles worth to you? The answer I gave then is the same I would give today. It is worth life itself. What are those principles? They are the same principles in the Declaration. They were bequeathed to me by my grandparents and reinforced by my nuns and my faith. In God’s eyes we are equal. We are all equally created in the image and likeness of God. We are all endowed with natural rights to life, liberty, and property. Our rights and our dignity are inherent. They do not come from others and that they do not come from the Government. And, our Government derives its legitimacy and authority from our consent; we do not get ours from it. The primacy of our rights in relation to our government is crucial in reconciling the immortal words of the Declaration with our Constitution and our history. None of our rights come from the government; all of the government’s authority comes from our consent. And, the structure and limited role of government is to assure that it does not exceed the authority that to which we have consented or intrude on our natural rights. The Constitution is the means of government; it is the Declaration that announces the ends of government. The Constitution achieves this purpose by protecting our natural rights and liberties from concentrated power and excessive de-

mocracy. Our Constitution creates a separation of powers and federalism – truly for the first time in modern history – to prevent the government from becoming so strong that it threatens our natural rights. Federalist No. 10 proposed the idea that the great threat to our rights comes from majority faction. Human history teaches us, alas, that numerical majorities frequently seek to control government, and use the state to violate the rights of the minority. Because man is fallen and the desire for power was, as James Madison described it, “sown in the nature of man,” government had to be limited. For, as Madison said, “if men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.” But men are not angels. The slaveholders used the power of government to deny the fundamental natural rights of the slaves; the segregationists used the state to oppress the freed men and women – including my ancestors. As we meet today, it is unclear whether these principles will endure. At the beginning of the 20th century, a new set of first principles of government was introduced into the American mainstream. The proponents of this new set of first principles, most prominently among them the 28th President, Woodrow Wilson, called it progressivism. Since Wilson’s presidency, progressivism has made many inroads in our system of government and our way of life. It has coexisted uneasily with the principles of the Declaration. Because it is opposed to those principles, it is not possible for the two to coexist forever. Progressivism was not native to America. Wilson and the progressives candidly admitted that they took it from Otto von Bismarck’s Germany, whose state-centric society they admired. Progressives like Wilson argued that America needed to leave behind the principles of the Founding and catch up with the more advanced and sophisticated people of Europe. Wilson called Germany’s system of relatively unimpeded state power “nearly perfected.” He acknowledged that it was “a foreign science, speaking very little of the language of English or American principle,” which “offers none but what are to our minds alien ideas.” He thus described America, still stuck with its original system of government, as “slow to see” the superiority of the European system. Progressivism was the first mainstream American political movement—with the possible exception of the proslavery reactionaries on the eve of the Civil War—to openly oppose the principles of the Declaration. Progressives strove to undo the Declaration’s commitment to equality and natural rights, both of which they denied

were self-evident. To Wilson, the inalienable rights of the individual were “a lot of nonsense.” Wilson redefined “liberty” not as a natural right antecedent to the government, but as “the right of those who are governed to adjust government to their own needs and interests.” In other words, liberty no longer preceded the government as a gift from God, but was to be enjoyed at the grace of the government. The government, as Wilson reconceived of it, would be “beneficent and indispensable.” Progressives such as John Dewey attacked the Framers for believing that “their ideas [were] immutable truth good at all times and places,” when instead they were “historically conditioned, and relevant only to their own time.” Now, Dewey and the progressives argued, those ideas were to be repealed. Progressivism seeks to replace the basic premises of the Declaration of Independence, and hence our form of government. It holds that our rights and our dignities come not from God, but from the Government. It requires of the people a subservience and weakness incompatible with a Constitution premised on the transcendent origin of our rights. You will not be surprised to learn that the progressives had a great deal of contempt for us, the American people. Before he entered politics, Wilson would describe the American people as “selfish, ignorant, timid, stubborn,” and “foolish.” He lamented that we “do too much by vote” and too little by expert rule. He proposed that the people be ruled by administrators who use them as “tools.” He once again aspired to be like Germany, where the people, he said admiringly, were “docile and acquiescent.” The century of progressivism did not go well. The European system that Wilson and the progressives scolded Americans for not adopting, which he called nearly perfect, led to the governments that caused the most awful century that the world has ever seen. Stalin, Hitler, Mussolini, and Mao all were intertwined with the rise of progressivism, and all were opposed to the natural rights on which our Declaration was based. Many progressives expressed admiration for each of them shortly before their governments killed tens of millions of people. It was a terrible mistake to adopt Progressivism’s rejection of the Declaration’s vision of universal, inalienable natural rights. Wilson’s claim that natural rights must give way to historical progress could justify the greatest mistakes in our history. In Plessy v. Ferguson, my Court upheld Louisiana’s system of racial segregation because “separate but equal,” it observed, was reasonable in light of “the established usages, customs, and traditions of the people, and with a view to the promotion of their comfort, and the preservation of the public peace and good order.” It comes as no surprise that the Progressives embraced eugenics. Progressives believed that Darwinian science – the idea of ever advancing progress written into biology itself – had proven the inherent superiority and inferiority of the races. It was only a small step for Wilson to resegregate the federal workforce. It was only another step for the government to launch sterilization programs on those deemed by the experts of the day to be unfit to reproduce – upheld by my Court in Buck v. Bell in an opinion written by no less a figure than Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. We can argue over whether you believe in immutable, absolute natural rights or the Wilsonian idea of everprogressing history. Indeed, your School of Civic Leadership was created to host such arguments. But let me ask you to consider the consequences. European thinkers have long criticized



America for remaining trapped in a Lockean world, with its weak decentralized government and strong individual rights. They say our 18th century Declaration has prevented us from progressing to higher forms of government. Why has America never had a socialist party, one German sociologist famously asked. But we were fortunate not to trade our Lockean bounds for the supposedly enlightened world of Hegel, Marx, and their followers. Fascism – which, after all, was a national socialism – triggered wars in Europe and Asia that killed tens of millions. The socialism of the Soviet Union and the People’s Republic of China proceeded to kill more tens of millions of their own people. This is what happens when natural rights give way to the higher good of notions of history, progress, or, as Thomas Sowell has written, the “vision of the anointed.” None of this, of course, was an improvement on the principles of the Declaration. Tocqueville’s Democracy in America is largely about how America owed its superiority over Europe to its conscious decision to reject central planning and administrative rule root and branch. Progressivism, in other words, is retrogressive. As Calvin Coolidge said on the 150th anniversary of the Declaration, If all men are created equal, that is final. If they are endowed with inalienable rights, that is final. If governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, that is final. No advance, no progress can be made beyond these propositions. If anyone wishes to deny their truth or their soundness, the only direction in which he can proceed historically is not forward, but backward toward the time when there was no equality, no rights of the individual, no rule of the people. When Abraham Lincoln addressed the assembled crowd at Gettysburg, they had gathered to memorialize the past. But Lincoln’s address urged them to not do so with complacency. Instead, Lincoln said, they would look to the past as inspiration to take them to greater heights in the future. “It is rather for us,” Lincoln said, to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion. That we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation shall have a new birth of freedom, and that this government, of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth. As we are gathered to celebrate this 250th anniversary of the Declaration, it may be tempting to do so as if we are passive spectators. It may be tempting to get out our tea and crumpets, treat the Declaration like a shiny object or a keepsake, and listen to the sound of our own voices. We could get into debates over whose conception of the Founding is better, over how we were so much better than the Founders, over what we would do differently. We could be careful to not do anything that exposes us to criticism, costs us friends, or hurts our career prospects. What we must turn our attention to today is finding in ourselves the same level of courage that the signers of the Declaration had, so that we can do for our future what they did for theirs. Each of you will have opportunities to be courageous every day, whether your calling in life is as a day laborer, a stay-at-home mom, a small business owner, an educator, an office worker, a judge, or a Senator. It may mean speaking up in class tomorrow when everyone around you expects you to live by lies. It may mean confronting today’s fashionable bigotries such as anti-semitism. It may mean standing up for your religion when it is mocked and dispar-

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aged by your professors. It may mean not budging on your principles when it will mean losing friends or being ostracized. It may mean running for your school board when you see that they are teaching your children to hate your values and our country. It may mean turning down a job offer that requires you to make moral compromises. One thing I know to be true: It will mean waking up every day with the resolve to withstand unfair criticism and attacks. These are the choices that will confront you, and you must decide whether to respond with timidity or with courage, as the signers of the Declaration did. It will, of course, not be easy. It never is. But, if, like me, you need a greater source of strength than your-

These are the choices that will confront you, and you must decide whether to respond with timidity or with courage, as the signers of the Declaration did. It will, of course, not be easy. It never is. But, if, like me, you need a greater source of strength than yourselves, you will need to rely on your faith to guide and sustain you through it. You will disappoint people you thought were friends and endure personal attacks as well as attacks on those you care about. But, if you stand, you will find that courage, like cowardice, can be habit forming – a part of your life and who you are.

selves, you will need to rely on your faith to guide and sustain you through it. You will disappoint people you thought were friends and endure personal attacks as well as attacks on those you care about. But, if you stand, you will find that courage, like cowardice, can be habit forming – a part of your life and who you are. And, I may dare say, it is liberating. You will also be a living example for others to emulate. So by all means, celebrate the Declaration of Independence. It is the most important act in American history, the foundation of our Constitution and, as Lincoln said, “the sheet anchor” of our republic. But, I implore you to celebrate it by standing up for it, by defending it, and by recommitting yourselves to living up to its ideals. Channel the courage of the men who faced down a king and signed it and, or of a President who led the nation in a Civil War rather than permit this house to be divided by the great contradiction of slavery. Take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave their last full measure of devotion. And, “... with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence... [let us] mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” Thank you, and may God continue to bless this great nation.

End

A note from the University of Texas at Austin

This is a lightly edited transcript of a speech delivered by Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, at the University of Texas at Austin on April 15, 2026

Memphis is a safe city because of the Memphis Safe Task Force!
THANK YOU, MSTF!

Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and Freedom!



The Emancipation Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America

I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States of America, and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy thereof, do hereby PROCLAIM and DECLARE that hereafter, as heretofore, the war will be prosecuted for the object of practically restoring the Constitutional relation between the United States and the people thereof, in which States that relation is, or may be, suspended or disturbed; that it is my purpose upon the next meeting of Congress, to again recommend the adoption of a practical measure tendering pecuniary aid to the free acceptance or rejection of all the Slave States so called, the people whereof may not then be in rebellion against the United States, and which States may then have voluntarily adopted or thereafter may voluntarily adopt the immediate or gradual abolishment of Slavery within their respective limits; and that the effort to colonize persons of African descent with their consent upon their continent or elsewhere with the previously obtained consent of the Governments existing there, will be continue; that on the first day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, all persons held as slaves within any State, or any designated part of a State, the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be thenceforward and forever free, and the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authority thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of such persons, and will do no act or acts to repress such persons, or any of them, in any efforts they may make for their actual freedom; that the Executive will, on the first day of January aforesaid, by proclamation, designate the States and parts of States, if any, in which the people thereof respectively shall then be in rebellion against the United States, and the fact that any State, or the people thereof shall on that day be in good faith represented in the Congress of the United States by members chosen thereto at elections wherein a majority of the qualified voters of such State shall have participated shall in the absence of strong countervailing testimony, be deemed conclusive evidence that such State and the people thereof have not been in rebellion against the United States.

That attention is hereby called to an act of Congress entitled “An act to make an additional article of war,” approved March 13, 1862, and which act is in the words and figures following:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled: That hereafter the following shall be promulgated as an additional article of war, for the government of the army of the United States, and shall be obeyed and observed as such:

Article. All Officers or persons in the military or naval service of the United States are prohibited from employing any of the forces under their respective commands for the purpose of returning fugitives from service or labor, who may have escaped from any persons to whom such labor is claimed to be due, and any officer who shall be found guilty by a court-martial of violating this article, shall be dismissed from service.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That this act shall take effect from and after its passage.

Also, to the ninth and tenth sections of an act entitled “An act to suppress insurrection, to punish treason and rebellion, to seize and confiscate the property of Rebels, and for other purposes,” approved July 17, 1862, and which sections are in the words and figures following:

Sec. 9. And be it further enacted, That all slaves of persons who shall hereafter be engaged in rebellion against the Government of the United States, or who shall in any way give aid or comfort thereto, escaping from such persons and taking refuge within the lines of the army; and all slaves captured from such persons or deserted by them and coming under the control of the Government of the United States; and all salves of such persons found on (or being within) any place occupied by Rebel forces and afterward occupied by the forces of the United States, shall be deemed captures of war, and shall be forever free of their servitude and not again be held as slaves.

Sec. 10. And be it further enacted, That no slaves escaping into any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, from any of the States, shall be delivered up, or in any way impeded or hindered of his liberty, except for crime or some offence against the laws, to be due, is his lawful owner, and has not been in arms against the United States in the present Rebellion, nor in any way given aid and comfort thereto; and no person engaged in the military or naval service of the United States shall, under any pretense whatever, assume to decide on the validity of the claim of any person to the service or labor of any other person, or surrender up any such person to the claimant, on pain of being dismissed from the service.

And I do hereby enjoin upon and order all persons engaged in the military and naval service of the United States to observe, obey, and enforce, within their respective spheres of service, the act and sections above recited.

And the Executive will in due time recommend that all citizens of the United States who shall have remained loyal thereto throughout the Rebellion, shall (upon the restoration of the constitutional relation between the United States, and their respective States and people, if the relation shall have been suspended or disturbed) be compensated for all losses by acts of the United States, including the loss of slaves.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the City of Washington this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two, and of the Independence of the United States the eighty-seventh.

By the President,
Abraham Lincoln
Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State



Americans proudly wave flags to greet President Donald J. Trump at opening of Fourth of July events in D.C. (Photo/Courtesy: White House)

Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or the S.A.V.E.Act.
Call Your Congressmen and Senators to Pass the S.A.V.E. ACT
to Protect the integrity of your VOTE— To SAVE AMERICA!
“One Citizen, One Vote!”
A Call to Action by The Mid-South Tribune



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday
and Freedom!



Young, Gifted, and American

First Lady Melania Trump and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent host an event to launch “Fostering the Future Accounts” for youth in foster care

Youth through AI Challenge and Fostering the Future Accounts
The White House
June 12, 2026

First Lady Melania Trump had a remarkable week focused on empowering children and youth through two major accomplishments: the first ever Presidential AI Challenge National Champion Awards Ceremony at the White House and the launch of Fostering the Future Accounts for youth in foster care.

Presidential AI Challenge: On Tuesday, June 9, Mrs. Trump honored the next generation of America's top AI talent when she recognized the achievement of six student National Champion Teams at a historic Presidential Artificial Intelligence Challenge National Champion Awards Ceremony at the White House. Click here to read more.

Fostering the Future Accounts: On Thursday, June 11, Mrs. Trump launched Fostering the Future Accounts, a new financial resource established to empower foster youth to be fiscally autonomous in adulthood. Developed in partnership with the Department of the Treasury, these accounts are America's first savings and investment vehicle for youth in foster care, providing them with greater opportunity to build long-term financial stability and independence. Already, twenty-three Governors have pledged to set up Fostering the Future Accounts for children within their states' care.

First Lady Melania Trump at center of multi-talented students in the Presidential AI Challenge National Champion Awards.
(White House photo by Andrea Hanks)



First Lady Melania Trump and US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent launch Fostering the Future Accounts, June 11, 2026. (White House photo by Andrea Hanks)



President Trump Rings in Trump Accounts with Historic Opening Bell Ceremony from the Oval Office, July 6, 2026

WASHINGTON, D.C. , July 6, 2026In a historic first, President Donald J. Trump today rang the opening bells of both the New York Stock Exchange and NASDAQ from the Oval Office, marking the official launch of Trump Accounts and igniting a new era of American prosperity

for millions of children. Created under President Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts Act, Trump Accounts give every American child a powerful, tax-advantaged path to build generational wealth and own a direct stake in the greatest economy on Earth.

Key leaders from government and the private sector joined President Trump to herald the milestone: President Trump: "With the ringing of the opening bell for the stock market, [Trump Accounts] will now begin to grow right along with our booming econ-



Pres. Trump welcomes 'mini' Wall Streeters with Trump accounts to ring in a new bell for generations to come (Photo/Courtesy: The White House)



omy... Between individual contributions and the seed funds, \$800 million in new capital will be invested in the stock market for America's children this week."

Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent: "The American Dream belongs to every child, and today we are equipping the next generation with the right to claim their rightful share of it. Through Trump Accounts, President Trump is creating an ownership economy where all citizens become shareholders. 38% of

American families do not have any exposure to our great equity markets, but with Trump Accounts, over time, we can get that number to zero."

Michael Dell: "Today, every newborn American child will start their life with \$1,000 invested in America's greatest companies, compounding for the future... To every business leader out there who hasn't already joined us, please join us."

NASDAQ CEO Adena Friedman: "Part of that promise of the

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If you can't stand law enforcement to find these kids, who are you?



By Harold Pease, Ph.D.

June 17, 2026 - DHS Secretary Markwayne Mullin, greatly disturbed by the slow walk, or no walk, on the subject of pedophilia and child sex slavery in the United States by the Democrats and RINO's in Congress said, "We found at least 146,000 migrant children that were unaccounted for during the Biden administration," adding, "We're investigating reports to where some of these kids claim that they were raped 600 to 700 times." One had a venereal disease at age 8.

"We found at least 146,000 migrant children that were unaccounted for during the Biden administration," adding, "We're investigating reports to where some of these kids claim that they were raped 600 to 700 times."

He then uttered the most profound statement on the subject possible. "I don't care who you are. I don't care if you have kids. You don't have kids. I don't care if you're a liberal, you're independent, you're a Democrat. You're Republican. IF YOU CAN'T STAND FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT TO GO FIND THESE KIDS, WHO ARE YOU?," he told reporters ("Trump admin has found 146K migrant kids who went missing under Biden: DHS chief," by Josh Christenson, June 11, 2026, New York Post). That should unite to action every honorable person in this country. Will it?!! It has been known for some time, that nearly 450,000 unaccompanied children went missing under former president Joe Biden's four year immigrant invasion. Of these "nearly 300,000" are still unaccounted and likely experiencing the same horrifying abuses as those already rescued. Mullin fumed. "And do you know where we're finding most of them: sanctuary cities." He continued, "between fiscal years 2019 and 2023, more than 448,000 unaccompanied minors were in Immigration and Customs Enforcement's custody before being transferred to the custody of the Department of Health and Human Services for resettlement with domestic sponsors, the IG's report found" (Ibid.). Apparently in the transition is where they were dropped out of sight.

That said, he next reminded us of the insanely horrifying documentation that Senator Chuck Grassley obtained last year, May 2025, from the Department of Health and Human Services, data showing "that 65,605 reports regarding migrant children were ignored or dismissed under President Joe Biden, including 7,346 reports of human trafficking." What if any of these reports were from the victims who had escaped their enslavement hoping to get help from a government phone

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A simple pledge with plenty of faith and power



"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and Freedom!

Tennessee bridge is named in honor of President Donald J. Trump



U.S. Sen. and TN gubernatorial candidate Marsha Blackburn (second from right), U.S. Secretary Treasury Scott Bessent (first from left), join other special guests to name bridge in honor of Pres. Trump. (Photo/Courtesy: Office of Sen. Blackburn)



Cong. John McGuire calls on Congress to codify Pres. Trump's Executive Order on Citizenship

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 9, 2026 — On July 9, Rep. John McGuire, R-Va., introduced the Birthright Citizenship Clarification Act, legislation to codify the core policy of President Donald Trump's executive order ending the abuse of birthright citizenship.

The bill follows President Trump's call to act on the statutory path identified by Justice Brett Kavanaugh in the Supreme Court's birthright citizenship decision *Trump v. Barbara*. In his opinion, Kavanaugh made clear that the legal obstacle was not the Fourteenth Amendment itself, but a conflict with existing federal law that Congress has the authority to amend.

"American citizenship is a privilege, and an honor that must be protected," said Rep. John McGuire (VA-05). "For too long, foreign nationals have exploited the process of birthright citizenship through loopholes like birth tourism, devaluing what it means to be an American. My Birthright Citizenship Clarification Act

"As Justices Thomas, Alito and Gorsuch made clear, President Trump's executive order was consistent with the Citizenship Clause and the Supreme Court's 1898 decision in United States v. Wong Kim Ark," said Fred McGrath, President of the Institute for Legislative Analysis. "Justice Kavanaugh has made clear that Congress holds the authority to resolve the statutory conflict. By moving through Congress, the Birthright Citizenship Clarification Act directly addresses that concern..."

safeguards the privilege of being a citizen of our great nation. Republicans are committed to securing our borders and ensuring the people coming to our great country value and follow the ideals that make America so special."

"The Institute for Legislative Analysis is proud to have worked with Congressman McGuire and his team to quickly bring the Birthright Citizenship Clarification Act before Congress," said Ryan McGowan, CEO of the Institute for Legislative Analysis. "This bill was carefully crafted to follow the instructions provided by Justice Kavanaugh while still implementing every goal President Trump sought in his executive order. Calls to fix this crisis through a constitutional amendment do not acknowledge politi-

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Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair celebrates America 250 with patriotic attractions and activities at fair, August 13-22

LEBANON, TN – The Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair will celebrate America's 250th anniversary during the 2026 Fair, August 13-22, with a variety of patriotic attractions, exhibits, competitions, and special events honoring the nation's history, heritage and the people who have helped shape it.

As part of the Fair's 2026 theme, "Tennessee Voices and Volunteers Celebrating America 250!" fairgoers will experience a unique tribute to our nation's semi-quincentennial throughout. Visitors will discover patriotic displays and themed activities across the fairgrounds, including a breathtaking **Field of Flags**, special photo opportunities and patriotic decorations celebrating the red, white and blue. Many of the Fair's exhibits and competitions will be featuring a "Most Patriotic" category, encouraging participants to showcase their creativity and American pride through art, crafts, photography, floral displays and more.

One of the most anticipated features of the Fair's America 250 celebration will be the arrival of the **America 250 Freedom**

Fairgoers of all ages will have the opportunity to step inside this one-of-a-kind exhibit and experience a powerful tribute to America's past, present, and future and even sign the Declaration of Independence.

Truck, a traveling interactive exhibit that is making stops across the nation as part of the country's 250th anniversary commemoration. This unique attraction brings American history to life through interactive displays, inspiring stories and educational experiences that showcase the people, events and ideals that have shaped the United States over the last two and a half centuries. Fairgoers of all ages will have the opportunity to step inside this one-of-a-kind exhibit and experience a powerful tribute to America's past, present, and future and even sign the **Declaration of Independence**. The celebration will officially begin with a special **America 250 Grand Opening Ceremony** on Thursday, August 13, at 6:00



Experience America's story like never before in the Freedom Truck, an incredible traveling exhibit that brings the nation's past to life through immersive, interactive displays at the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair. Don't miss this unique opportunity to celebrate America250 and explore the moments that shaped our country. (Photo/Courtesy: Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair)

p.m. in front of the **Made in Tennessee Building**. Fairgoers are invited to join community leaders, volunteers and special guests as the Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair kicks off ten days of patriotic festivities and family fun. Meet America's fastest stock car built by legendary engine builder **Joey Arrington**. This car set the stock car land speed record at 253 mph on the **Space Shuttle Landing** facility at Cape Canaveral. Drive special simulators so you can experience the thrill of speed. Stroll the fairgrounds to find more areas dedicated to celebrating America 250. Take a trip down **Freedom Way** that begins at the **Freedom Gate** and finishes at the **Checkerboard Gate**. Experience many opportunities to learn, have fun, take photos and make memories along this special road. **Fiddlers Grove** will also bring history to life with their recently carved work of art next to the **General Store**. This specialty chainsaw carved eagle surrounded by an American flag and the Grove's signature fiddle is incredibly eye catching and patriotic! Fairgoers can also be part



The American flag is raised during last year's Fair Grand Opening Ceremony. Fairgoers are invited to attend a special America 250 Grand Opening on August 13, 2026, as the Fair begins its ten-day celebration of the nation's 250th anniversary. (Photo/Courtesy: Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair)

of creating a wooden American flag when they visit **Town Hall**. This flag will become a permanent part of Fiddlers Grove as it will hang on the side of the General Store.

The America 250 celebration will complement the Fair's wide variety of attractions, including livestock shows, exhibits, educational programs, live entertainment, historical demonstrations,

carnival rides and agricultural experiences. For more information, visit wilsoncountytntatefair.com

We'll see YOU at the Fair!

Complimentary military tickets are available for FedEx St. Jude Championship, August 12-16. For more information, visit FedExChampionship.com/military.



By Matthew Olay
Dept. of War

June 19, 2026 - President Donald J. Trump and Secretary of War Pete Hegseth lauded the intrepid valor of three servicemen whom the commander in chief awarded the Medal of Honor to at a White House ceremony yesterday.

During formal observances in Washington yesterday afternoon and in Arlington, Virginia, this morning, Trump and Hegseth recounted the heroic actions of three awardees: retired **Marine Corps Maj. James Capers Jr., Marine Corps Col. John W. Ripley** — both Vietnam War veterans, with Ripley receiving his medal posthumously — and retired Army Maj. Nicholas Dockery, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

"As we approach the 250th anniversary of our founding, we remember that we owe everything to heroes like those we celebrate today: men who went willingly

"As we approach the 250th anniversary of our founding, we remember that we owe everything to heroes like those we celebrate today: men who went willingly into the darkest and most dangerous corners of Earth to defeat evil, so we could live free," Trump said just prior to presenting the medals.

into the darkest and most dangerous corners of Earth to defeat evil, so we could live free," Trump said just prior to presenting the medals.

Following the awarding of the Medals of Honor, all three men were inducted today into the Hall of Heroes — a room in the Pentagon that lists the names of all 3,500-plus service members who have received the prestigious award since President Abraham Lincoln signed legislation creating it in the early 1860s.

During both the awarding and the induction, Trump, Hegseth and others recounted the courageous acts that ultimately resulted in them receiving the highest military award for valor in action.

"James Capers Jr. and John Ripley proved that the breed of patriots who stood [during the Battles of Lexington and Concord] and on the banks of the Delaware River did not die out, and those kinds of patriots still guard us today," Hegseth said. Ripley, who was serving as a senior Marine advisor, destroyed a critical bridge to halt a North Vietnamese advance, April 2, 1972. Despite facing enemy fire and physical exhaustion, he suc-

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and Freedom!



Secretary of War Pete Hegseth is shown here awarding Marine Corps Major James Capers, Jr., a Vietnam veteran, with the Medal of Honor. (Photo/Courtesy: Dept. of War)

A Presidential Message on the 251st Birthday of the United States Army

The White House (June 14, 2026)

By President Donald J. Trump

Today, our Nation celebrates the 251st birthday of the United States Army, the oldest branch of the most storied and feared fighting force the world has ever known. For over two and a half centuries, the courage and sacrifice of our soldiers have defended our homeland and kept our Nation sovereign, strong, and free in the blessings of liberty. Our Republic salutes these heroes, and on this glorious anniversary, we stand as one people, bound by gratitude, humbled by their sacrifices, and unwavering in our commitment to the brave men and women who will always defend her.

The United States Army was established on June 14, 1775, when the Second Continental Congress authorized the creation of a unified Continental Army under the command of General George Washington. From the birth of our Nation the next year and the brutal winter of Valley Forge to the triumphant fields of Saratoga and the victory at Yorktown that secured our freedom, the United States Army has been at the center of our great national story from the very beginning. In the 251 years since its inception, the Army has answered every call history has placed before it: preserving the Union through the perils of civil war, liberating the long-suffering people of Cuba during the Spanish-American War, and crossing vast oceans to deliver absolute victory in two World Wars. Our warfighters stood firm in the frozen hills of Korea, endured the unforgiving jungles of Vietnam, and answered the call to defend freedom in the scorching deserts of Kuwait and Iraq and in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan. Today, our Army remains on the front lines in the fight to preserve America's peace, prosperity, and security

Just as the Army has always fought for us, we must now stand up for them. My Administration has proposed historic investments to rebuild our Army like never before and ensure our warfighters have every tool at their disposal. Combined with hundreds of billions of dollars in Army investments already delivered through the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, we are upgrading critical Army infrastructure, rapidly delivering advanced weapons systems to our Soldiers, increasing the lethality of our joint force, expanding our defense industrial base, and bolstering our Nation's strategic deterrence through an unwavering America First agenda.

Our soldiers and their families deserve the full support of a grateful Nation, and last Christmas, I was proud to deliver a Warrior Dividend to more than 1.5 million Service Members, a tax-free \$1,776 bonus in honor of the year our Nation was born and a fitting recognition of the sacrifice and valor these Americans demonstrate every day in defense of our freedoms and way of life. Under my leadership, we have also purged the anti-American DEI ideologies that took root in our ranks, restored the warrior ethos to its rightful place at the center of military culture, and rebuilt our Army on the foundation it has always thrived upon: merit, grit, and strength. Today, our soldiers are once again united by a commitment to this Nation's founding principles, the American people's shared and glorious history, and an unbreakable devotion to duty. The results speak for themselves: Recruiting has surged to historic levels, with the Army reaching its 2026 goals 4 months ahead of schedule.

As we celebrate 250 glorious years of American Independence, we greet the arrival of a new Golden Age for the United States Army. We commit to always standing with our incredible Service Members, their proud families, and the loved ones who support them. Above all, we honor every soldier who has ever answered the call to serve and reaffirm the timeless pledge that has guided generations: This We'll Defend.



cessfully positioned and detonated explosives. His son, Tom, spoke on his late father's behalf. "After the bridge was destroyed and the invasion halted, my father was asked to provide an update via radio a few days later. ... He captured the moment perfectly: 'Leatherneck, this is Leatherneck Delta. Report: powder dry, morale high, Semper Fi,'" the younger Ripley said. Capers, 88, sustained multiple injuries while coordinating the evacuation of his men under heavy enemy fire at Phú Lộc, Vietnam, in 1967. Despite being wounded extensively, he refused to leave the battlefield until all of his fellow Marines were safely evacuated.

"Your applause reminds me of some dark days, of some brave men — so I'll speak for them," Capers said. "This is the greatest country in the world. I fought for that flag. I believed in it. ... So, thank you all for being here today, and thank you all for coming here. This is very important to us, to keep our legacy going," he added. Dockery received his medal for confronting a well-armed Taliban force that ambushed his platoon, leading to a lengthy fight. Despite the difficult Afghanistan terrain, Dockery was able to continually engage the enemy, per-

During both the awarding and the induction, Trump, Hegseth and others recounted the courageous acts that ultimately resulted in them receiving the highest military award for valor in action. "James Capers Jr. and John Ripley proved that the breed of patriots who stood [during the Battles of Lexington and Concord] and on the banks of the Delaware River did not die out, and those kinds of patriots still guard us today," Hegseth said.

sonally risking his life on numerous occasions to protect and evacuate three wounded members of his platoon.

"Our nation is filled with great moments of unity every day. There are moments of respect and compassion shared between one another. ... I love my country, and if we all remember this, the best of America is yet to come," Dockery said, following his induction.

All three men are now immortalized in the Hall of Heroes with thousands of other courageous service members.

Patriot Lee Greenwood brings back award-winning Soldier Valley Spirits to honor veterans and celebrate America's 250th Birthday

NASHVILLE, Tennessee - June 9, 2026)— As America prepares to celebrate its 250th birthday, country music icon Lee Greenwood is bringing back Soldier Valley Spirits, an award-winning collection of American-made bourbon, whiskey, and vodka created to honor veterans, support charities, and celebrate the values that unite the nation.

The relaunch comes as communities across the country prepare to celebrate America's 250th birthday, creating renewed interest in American-made products that reflect craftsmanship, patriotism, and support for those who served.

America's beloved performer, Lee Greenwood, known for his patriotic anthem "God Bless The USA," is celebrating veterans and the birthday of the United States by bringing back his award-winning signature bourbon, whiskey, and vodka. All



Lee Greenwood, known for his patriotic anthem "God Bless The U.S.A.," will relaunch the Soldier Valley brand which will benefit charities and celebrate values of nation. (Photo/Courtesy: Soldier Valley Spirits)

spirits are in military-inspired canteen-shaped bottles embossed with the number "6," as a reminder that we always have each other's backs. Each bottle includes a hanging military-style dog tag showcasing the letters "LG".

"I've spent much of my career honoring the men and women who serve our country ever since my first USO tour in 1989 with Bob Hope," says Greenwood. "Soldier Valley Spirits is another way to say thank you. These are premium, American-made spirits that celebrate our shared values while helping support organizations that serve veterans and first-responder families."

Since its founding, Soldier Valley Spirits has supported organizations dedicated to serving U.S. veterans who have served our great nation. A portion of the proceeds from every bottle sold

helps support veteran and first responder charities, including Helping a Hero, Tunnels to Towers Foundation, and Folds of Honor.

Soldier Valley Lee Greenwood Signature Bourbon

A true American Bourbon worthy of the name of a true American iconic artist. Soldier Valley Lee Greenwood Signature Bourbon is made with a traditional mash bill of corn, rye, and malted barley, distilled in Indiana and aged to perfection in new American oak barrels, giving it rich flavors of caramel, vanilla, and oak. This 90 Proof bourbon is perfect for bourbon lovers, patriotic gifts, America 250 celebrations, and veterans and military families.



An Excerpt from
The Negro
Encyclopedia:
The Emergence
of the
Republican
Party*
from the front page

a way that the Missouri Compro-
mise was almost nullified. The
territory was divided into two
parts, with the southern half to be
called Kansas. Each territorial

*The Whig Party ceased to
exist as southern Whigs joined
the Democratic Party while
their northern counterparts
began to look elsewhere.
Democrats and Whigs who
opposed Senator Douglas' bill
called themselves Anti-Ne-
braska Whigs. In 1854, these
elements joined the Free-
Soilers to form the Republican
Party.*

legislature would decide whether
slavery would be permitted in its
territory. This, in effect, made in-
operative the Missouri Compro-
mise, which stated that slavery
would be permitted in no terri-
tory in that area. The bill passed
with the support of almost the
entire southern delegation, Dem-
ocrats, and Whigs. The northern
Democrats split the bill, and al-
most all the northern Whigs op-
posed it.

The northern reaction outside
Congress was extremely hostile,
for the dominance of the slave-
holders over the national govern-
ment had been demonstrated
again. The Whig Party ceased to
exist as southern Whigs joined
the Democratic Party while their
northern counterparts began to
look elsewhere. Democrats and
Whigs who opposed Senator
Douglas' bill called themselves
Anti-Nebraska Whigs. In 1854,
these elements joined the Free-
Soilers to form the Republican
Party. Their campaign in 1854
was an astounding success: they
elected a majority to the House
of Representatives and captured
various state governments.

*This excerpt is from the Inter-
national Library of Negro Life
and History" and found in the
"In Freedom's Footsteps: From
the African Background to the
Civil War" by Charles H. Wes-
ley, published in 1968.

Email letters to the Editor to MSTnews@prodigy.net

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DeepThink
Editorials & Opinions

Credo of The Mid-South Tribune
and the
Black Information Highway

By Mr. Frederick Douglass, Editor
of the
North Star, an African American Newspaper (1845)

"Let me give you a word of the philosophy of reform. The whole history of the progress of human liberty shows that all concessions, yet made to her august claims, have been born of earnest struggle. The conflict has been exciting, agitating, all-absorbing, and for the time being putting all other tumults to silence. It must do this or it does nothing.

If there is no struggle, there is no progress. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground. They want the ocean without the awful thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the awful roar of its many waters. This struggle may be a moral one, or it may be a physical one, or it may be both moral and physical; but it must be a struggle. Power concedes nothing without demand."

The Mid-South Tribune Endorses U.S. Senator
Marsha Blackburn for Governor of Tennessee

"Blue states are inviting voter fraud. Here's how
Congress can stop it," says U.S. Sen. Blackburn



By U.S. Sen. Marsha
Blackburn
and Candidate for
Tennessee Governor

America has been a free country
for 250 years thanks to our rep-
resentative system of govern-
ment. We the People are in
charge of our destiny because we
choose our mayors, council
members, lawmakers, governors,
and presidents. At the foundation

Opinion

of it all is a simple principle: one
citizen, one vote. It's what gives
legitimacy to election outcomes.
It's what empowers elected
leaders to serve their consti-
tuents. And it's what ensures we
can safeguard our liberties as
free and equal citizens.

Yet for years, we have watched

"It is against the law for noncitizens to vote in state or federal elections. One of the best ways for states to enforce that restriction is to compare their voter rolls with the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database. This registry allows local, state, and federal agencies to quickly verify the immigration status of anyone in their jurisdiction. Across the country, 26 states—overwhelmingly red—are working with DHS to use the SAVE database and clean up their voter rolls. In Tennessee, we have led the way on voter verification for years and rank number one in the nation for election integrity, according to the Heritage Foundation."

this principle come under attack.
Across the country, blue states
have practically invited fraud by
taking few precautions to secure
their elections—including by
failing to verify the citizenship
of the people on their voter rolls.

It is against the law for noncitizens to vote in state or federal elections. One of the best ways for states to enforce that restriction is to compare their voter rolls with the Department of Homeland Security's SAVE database. This registry allows local, state, and federal agencies to quickly verify the immigration status of anyone in their jurisdiction. Across the country, 26 states—overwhelmingly red—are working with DHS to use the SAVE database and clean up their voter rolls. In Tennessee, we have led the way on voter verification for years and rank number one in the nation for election integrity, according to the Heritage Foundation.

Thanks to President Trump, this process is easier than ever. Under his leadership, states can now use the registry for free, eliminating millions of dollars in charges that had been planned under the Biden administration. Agencies can also verify the citizenship of a voter using the last four digits of a Social Security number, rather than all nine. Under President Trump, state voting agencies have submitted more than 46 million verification requests through the database.

While Democrats call voter

fraud a myth, the states that use the SAVE database have discovered thousands of noncitizens on their voter rolls. When Texas checked its voter rolls against SAVE, the state's secretary of state identified more than 2,700 potential noncitizens. Ohio found

Website for Marsha Blackburn
for Governor
<https://marshablackburn.com>

more than 1,000 potential noncitizens on its voter rolls, including 160 who had cast ballots since 2018. Louisiana discovered more than 400 potential noncitizens registered to vote, dozens of whom had already voted.

With many recent races decided by just hundreds of votes, such fraud has the potential to decide election outcomes. Yet nearly half the states—especially blue ones—do not take the basic step of checking their voter rolls against the SAVE database. That includes California and New York, home to more than 3.5 million illegal aliens combined. We can only imagine how many noncitizens sit on their voter rolls because they take little to no measures to verify voters' citizenship.

New Jersey is another blue state that refuses to use the SAVE database. Just last week, public records requests revealed that there have been hundreds of cases of noncitizens placed on the state's voter rolls. Many had

no idea they were registered to vote. Some had cast ballots in elections as far back as the year 2000.

This failure to uphold our election laws is inexcusable. The American people do not want voter fraud. They want to have confidence in election outcomes. They want to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat—which is why Congress should do everything possible to encourage states to use the SAVE database to secure our elections.

Alongside Senator Graham, I recently introduced the Election Security Partnership Act, which would provide increased grant funding to states that submit their voter registration lists to DHS to identify ineligible registrations, including those of noncitizens. The bill would also strengthen election administration, technology, and security. Without enforcement, our election laws are a dead letter. Our legislation would give states more reason to enforce the rule of law and secure their elections.

Every member of Congress should support this legislation. Instead of enabling fraud, Democrats should stand with Republicans to clean up voter rolls, back election integrity measures, and make certain that only American citizens can vote. As we approach America's 250th anniversary, it's one of the most important things we can do to remain a free people and a free nation.

Cong. John McGuire calls on Congress
to codify Pres. Trump's Executive Order
on Citizenship ... from page 8

cal reality. This bill represents the most feasible path for conservatives to actually stop birth tourism and restore the proper meaning of American citizenship."

"As Justices Thomas, Alito and Gorsuch made clear, President Trump's executive order was consistent with the Citizenship

Clause and the Supreme Court's 1898 decision in United States v. Wong Kim Ark," said Fred McGrath, President of the Institute for Legislative Analysis. "Justice Kavanaugh has made clear that Congress holds the authority to resolve the statutory conflict. By moving through Congress, the Birthright Citizenship Clarification Act directly

addresses that concern. If this legislation faces another court challenge, we are confident it would meet the constitutional standard recognized by the Court's conservative justices." The Institute for Legislative Analysis is a national data and policy hub that houses the largest ideological voting data sets on the U.S. Congress.



The
Star-Spangled
Banner
By Francis Scott
Key

O say, can you see, by the
dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed
at the twilight's last gleam-
ing?

Whose broad stripes and
bright stars through the
perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we
watched, were so gallantly
streaming?

And the rockets' red glare,
the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the
night that our flag was still
there;

O say does that star-span-
gled banner yet wave,
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen
through the mists of the
deep,
Where the foe's haughty
host in dread silence
reposes,
What is that which the
breeze, o'er the towering
steep,

As it fitfully blows, half
conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of
the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected now
shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled
banner, O long may it wave
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave.

And where is that band
who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of flight and
the battle's confusion,
A home and a country
should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out
their foul footsteps' pollu-
tion.

No refuge could save the hi-
reling and slave,
From the terror of flight, or
the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled
banner in triumph doth
wave,
O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave.

O thus be it ever, when
freemen shall stand,
Between their loved home
and the war's desolation,
Blessed with vict'ry and
peace, may the heav'n res-
cued land,

Praise the power that hath
made and preserved us a
nation!

Then conquer we must,
when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto: "In
God is our trust."

And the star-spangled
banner in triumph shall
wave,

O'er the land of the free
and the home of the brave!

Read Justice Clarence
Thomas' Excerpt on
"Citizenship"
on
page 14 .

One Citizen! One Vote!



Save America Act must be passed to ensure America’s culture of Freedom...from front page

numerous occasions what the Democratic Party wanted to do when it tried to pass the “For the People Act”. We read and studied the nearly 800-page bill and editorialized strongly against it and were grateful and jumping with joy when it did not pass. But what we saw and have been editorializing about for nearly 30 years was what we called the Black Shield of the Democratic Party. The Black Shield has been growing immensely to accommodate the Democratic Party to advance an agenda of socialism. This Black Shield consists of Black elites and scholars who aid and abet socialism. The Black Shield under the auspices and direction of the Democratic Party is now advancing socialism into communism and Marxism. As a political scientist, I have maintained that segregation, socialism, communism, and Marxism are the same. Why? Because at the end of the day these “isms” produce two classes—the classic “Haves and Have Nots.” Before and during the Civil Rights Movement, the Black community did not have an arrogant elite group that was interested in enslaving other Blacks. You had uneducated Blacks, educated Blacks, teachers, preachers, farmers—those from all walks of life working on the same page which was to get the promise in the 15th Amendment.

When Blacks were elected to office and became the “Firsts” of the race, the community was elated and trusted them to do the right thing. To advance the Black community to obtain the fruits of capitalism, to obtain the American Dream—you know, that Dream Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. made the centerpiece in his 1963 March on Washington “I Have a Dream” speech. Dr. King epitomized those Blacks who had the opportunity to go to college and get an education. If you were a Black who got a high school degree, you were respected because at that time “Education” was a value in the Black community and not some pass to be arrogant and to lord your achievements over other Blacks and your Black constituents if you became an officeholder.

Today, these Black elites are the very fabric of the Democratic Party’s Black Shield. In short, they comprise the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, the NAACP, the Urban League, and sadly too many Black sororities and fraternities. They HATE America. They HATE Black conservatives and Black independents—any Black they cannot control. Look what they took Supreme Court Clarence through because he was a Republican. Yet, they embraced America’s first Black female Supreme Court when she could not even define “a woman”. In the history of my life, I have met many of these Black elites, talked to them, and dared to disagree with them. As a collective the Black community is no longer about “Say it Loud, I’m Black and Proud” as made famous by the late James Brown. This Black Shield has produced a culture of dependency, victimhood and rage and have the audacity to call it “black excellence.” One has to only look at Jasmine Crockett, Maxine Waters, Rep. Ilhan Omar, Kamala Harris, Letitia James—yes, mainly what we have labeled The Angry Black Democratic Woman. Back then there were Angry Black Women but their anger was used in a positive way to make changes. Think Mrs. Rosa Parks. The feminization of the Black community is growing. Also, that feminization continues well into a White com-

munity via the White liberal female. This negative feminization is now part of advancing sanctuary cities via socialism, communism, and Marxism. It is not by accident that White liberals via the Democratic Party support Black Lives Matter (BLM) which was founded by self-avowed Black female Marxists.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” This statement is from Cong. James Clyburn, a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), asserting his quasi-vision of socialism and support of the Marxist organization known as Black Lives Matter (BLM) and his weak will of going along to get along to the detriment and disregard of his Black constituents who want safety and who want to pursue happiness, who do not want these illegal immigrants and illegal criminals in their neighborhoods!

Today’s Democratic Party is NOT your daddy’s and mama’s Democratic Party. Those Democrats who see this are now drowned out. Why? Because most are weak.

This brings us to what is going on in the Republican Party which in trying to get the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or the SAVE Act or as President Trump has called it “The Save America Act.”

Poll after poll has shown that American voters want the SAVE America Act passed, but what the American citizen wants has fallen on deaf ears in the Democratic Party and on political impotence in the Republican Party Senate leadership under Sen. John Thune who will not do what needs to be done at this critical time in America’s history. One Citizen, One Vote should be enacted immediately and in same spirit as One Man, One Vote!

If that means nuking the traditional filibuster to get this bill through, then it must be led by Thune who, in our opinion, is a tall man with a tiny spine. Thune must develop a backbone; however, I am not surprised that he will not move on this matter as the minute he was chosen, my opinion and observation of him was that he was weak, that he is in the ilk that he is one of those who is so careful that stagnation sets in—not wisdom, not prudence. Like the rest of us voters (regardless of party affiliation or non-affiliation), we see how radical the Democratic Party has become and is becoming. Its members, with the exception of a rare few, have rabies. They must have raw power and controlling

The Democratic Party has become bolder and bolder on the federal, state, and local levels. They have tried to codify Defunding the Police, melt I.C.E., mock the National Guard, force Homeland Security to open its doors to millions of illegal immigrants and illegal immigrant

“This is a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” This statement is from Cong. James Clyburn, a senior member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), asserting his quasi-vision of socialism and support of the Marxist organization known as Black Lives Matter (BLM) and his weak will of going along to get along to the detriment and disregard of his Black constituents who want safety and who want to pursue happiness, who do not want these illegal immigrants and illegal criminals in their neighborhoods!

dressed black-on-black crime and the murders of Black children via that black-on-black crime or the murder of any American citizen by criminals. To reiterate, the Democratic Party has already put in place means for illegals to vote without being citizens. The Democratic Party has already put in place in Sanctuary cities and states means for illegals to overwhelm the vote count in their favor by utilizing tools to get it done such as buying votes, fraudulently utilizing vote-by mail, etc.—the proof has been there since Trump won the first time, something they did

Editorial

not count on. The Democratic Party has had in place that America must become socialism on steroids (communism and Marxism). I have written for years that this Party wants to make the United States of America into the United Socialist States of America and to make the USA a satellite of China and pattern itself after the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and for the Democratic Party become an operative extension of the CCP. Yes, that might sound like an overreach, but proof everyday verifies what the Democratic Party is doing. It has now allowed the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) to run in its primaries; it has allowed itself to be interfaced with the DSA. Many of the Democratic leadership, officeholders, have endorsed and or continuing to endorse DSA candidates. Or is that our imagination? Not our imagination, but our nightmare. It, too, has shown us how far the Black Shield will go to accommodate the Democratic Party and be an enabler of White liberal Democrats who need and want black victimhood to advance socialism.

In world history, Blacks have no exclusivity when it comes to slavery. Races have also enslaved their own throughout the history of humankind. Blacks have sold Blacks. Whites have sold Whites. Browns have sold Browns. Reds have sold Reds. Yellows have sold Yellows.

All throughout history there have always been those who want to rule the world. Multi-billionaire George Soros is one of them and he has what I have called a “blackprint” to get it done. This blueprint “blackprint” lays out a proverbial map of mainly southern states and other states where a sizable Black population resides. Soros supports BLM; he supports the open border to destroy America’s sovereignty. Had not President Trump cleaned up his mess and the Democratic Party’s mess, there would be no America today. This is why the Black Shield was utilized to take out President Trump via the Black Shield female such as Le-

titia James and her plan not only to imprison Trump but to confiscate his property. We had editorialized how this was going to come about and that the Democratic Party must make Trump the poster boy for the White male and put him in his place. We had editorialized about this before it happened. Harsh! Our imagination? Paranoia? No, reality. This Mid-Terms is the deadline for the Democratic Party (aka Democratic Socialists of America) to simply take America and to do it quickly. Under the Black Shield it will continue to put out lies that the SAVE ACT is Black Voter suppression, when it is not. The SAVE ACT is exactly what it says—to SAVE AMERICA from the Democratic Party which is no longer pro-American or pro-America. The Black Shield consists of the prototype of African warlords who took over and continue to be in place in many Third World black nations headed by leaders who manage to get billions from America’s coffers not to help their poor and hungry constituents but to distribute these billions among themselves and their cronies. This is what is happening in today’s Black community where its Black elites in their arrogance have chosen socialism, communism and Marxism over the “pursuit of happiness” and “freedom.” They are indeed African American warlords of the Democratic Party and have put themselves in place to call the shots in the Black community, to push and keep the Black Vote exclusively in the Democratic Party (DSA).

The Democratic Party also utilizes the Black Shield to play on Whites who just want to go about their lives as Americans. If you are White, you must now be ashamed of your “whiteness” (what?). They use in their political rhetoric (propaganda) that all White people are “racists,” “Jim Crow,” “White Supremacists,” and must feel “White Guilt” if they are to be redeemed of America’s sin of slavery and segregation which has given them White Privilege. Really? They have to convince Whites that Blacks cannot provide an I.D. to vote, because Blacks don’t know how to get an I.D. Why not assert this? The Democratic Party and the likes of George Soros and his bunch know that the Democratic Party must continue to use Blacks as fertilizer to grow socialism.

Soros has stated: “I’m going to bring down the United States by funding Black hate groups. We’ll put them in a mental trap and make them blame white people. The black community is the easiest to manipulate.” George Soros (interview with Germany’s BILD – September 2014).

Soros told the truth, and the truth hurts. But what he did not count on were White people who use common sense. The MAGA group and independents and Black people who have common sense did not fall for this race card-baiting. In fact, it is the White liberal who is now becoming the new KKK member in the Black community and this is a phenomenon the legacy media, Black elites, White elites, and even the White community as a whole are not aware of. There is a prejudice inside the Black community toward the White liberal which has been growing silently but now is beginning to voice itself. The “Walk Away Movement to Get Off the Plantation” is evident of that. Blacks are flocking into the Republican Party or going independent. You see even the once hard-core Black Democrat leaving the party. Just check out “X” and “Truth Social” or

other social media outlets).

Yes, a Great Division is being born inside the Black community, and the ‘common sensical Black” now has begun to fight the Black Shield and other Black elite Democrat officeholders. The wise ones have learned that once the Democrats and Democratic Socialists get what they want they will throw out Blacks and put them back in the briar patch where the

The Republican Party must become stronger in letting Black Voters know what the SAVE America Act is and that it is not Black Vote suppression. It must form truth squads comprised of Americans who have lived under the real suppression of socialism, Marxism, and communism. As for the White who cannot be bullied by the Democratic Party, they must rise up, too, and demand that this bill is passed to SAVE America! The Republican Party must go back to its “freedom” roots founded in its anti-slavery and anti-segregation platforms.

Senator Thune must develop a backbone or simply sit his backside down. Just as it was 250 years ago, hard decisions must be made and implemented. One cannot think conventionally in unconventional times. Leaders take calculated chances; they see

Senator Thune must develop a backbone or simply sit his backside down. Just as it was 250 years ago, hard decisions must be made and implemented. One cannot think conventionally in unconventional times. Leaders take calculated chances; they see what is down the road and if they do not act, the nation will go off the road....

what is down the road and if they do not act, the nation will go off the road. Majority Leader Thune may sit gutless on his backside and give the Democratic Party-Democratic Socialists of America the opportunity to pull off this coup to put itself in place to destroy the Constitution. If he does this, America will more than likely not come back. Testimony and testament to this are found in those nations where their citizens went to bed free one night and woke up in the morning to grab what they could to escape, or to be imprisoned, or to be out right killed or witness torture and slaughter of their loved ones if they don’t submit to the will of the Party.

In the history of my life, I have found that when you have a stupid vs. weak scenario, the stupid will always win, because the weak will wither. Also, this scenario explains why the Democratic Party has at the top in leadership positions the stupid, the insane, and the intellectually elite dummies such as Bernie Sanders who has yet to redistribute his wealth!

Blacks, Whites, Reds, Yellows who believe themselves to be Americans, who are proud of being Americans must now pick up the American Flag, fling their hands over their hearts and Pledge Allegiance to America – to keep America—to protect America and its children. The strength is NOT in the precarious propagandized adjective called diversity, but in that noun called Freedom.

God, Bless America! Please, God, continue to bless America and S.A.V.E America!

Sec. Rollins announces \$500 Million for Fertilizer Investment & Expansion Program from page 15

“Food security is national security,” Rollins added. “A strong domestic fertilizer industry is essential to a strong agricultural economy. This investment will help ensure American farmers have access to a secure, reliable, and domestically produced fertilizer supply for generations to come.”

turing while ensuring each facility adheres to the strict environmental standards required by law.”

“President Trump’s promise to restore commonsense to America’s energy and climate policy continues to deliver. While past leaders harmed America’s agriculture industry with anti-hydrocarbon policies that drove up the cost of our food, the Trump administration will continue to take actions across the federal government to make fertilizer more accessible and affordable,” said Secretary of Energy Chris Wright. “I’m proud to be working hand-in-hand with Secretary Rollins on these important initiatives.”

Individual awards will range from \$15 million to \$150 million, with funding focused on projects that strengthen domestic fertilizer manufacturing and deliver meaningful benefits to American agriculture.

Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. on August 15th, 2026. Additional information, including eligibility requirements and application materials, is available through USDA Rural Development at www.rd.usda.gov and on Grants.gov.

Administered by USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business-Cooperative Service, the program will support projects that expand domestic production of nitrogen, phosphate, potash, sulfur, and other critical crop nutrients, strengthen competition, improve supply chain resilience, and increase fertilizer availability for American farmers. Unlike previous fertilizer funding efforts, FIELDS emphasizes project readiness, financial strength, realistic construction timelines, and measurable production outcomes.

The FIELDS Program complements the Administration’s broader fertilizer strategy to lower input costs and strengthen domestic production. In recent months, President Trump suspended countervailing duties on phosphate fertilizer imports to improve fertilizer availability and lower costs for farmers, designated phosphate and potash as Critical Minerals, established a USDA-Department of Justice Memorandum of Understanding to address anti-competitive practices affecting agricultural input markets, improved fertilizer transportation flexibility during supply disruptions, and created USDA’s first dedicated Agricultural Economist focused on fertilizer markets and crop inputs.

“Food security is national security,” Rollins added. “A strong domestic fertilizer industry is essential to a strong agricultural economy. This investment will help ensure American farmers have access to a secure, reliable, and domestically produced fertilizer supply for generations to come.”

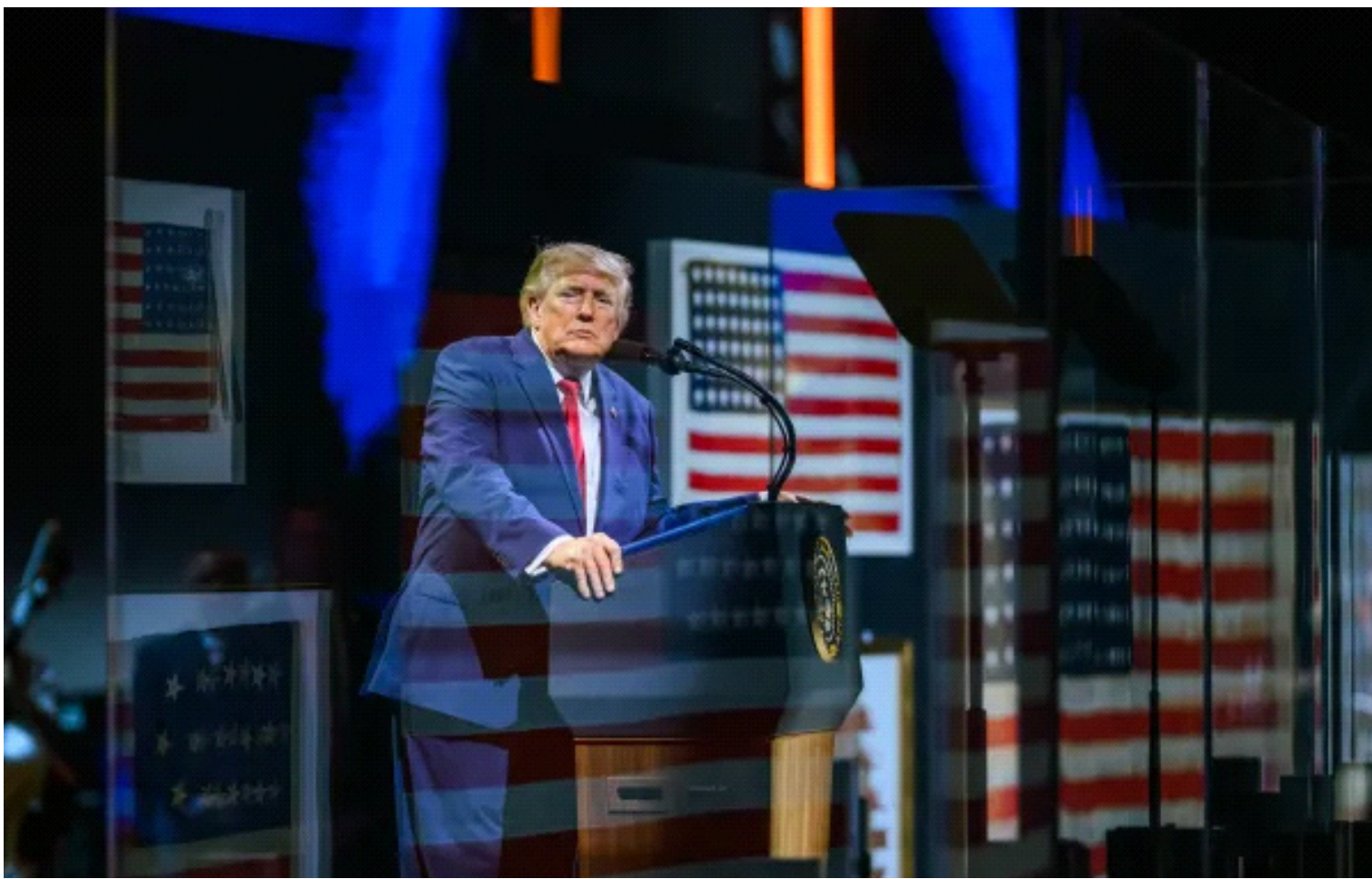
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*Celebrating America's 250th Birthday
and Freedom!*

AMERICA
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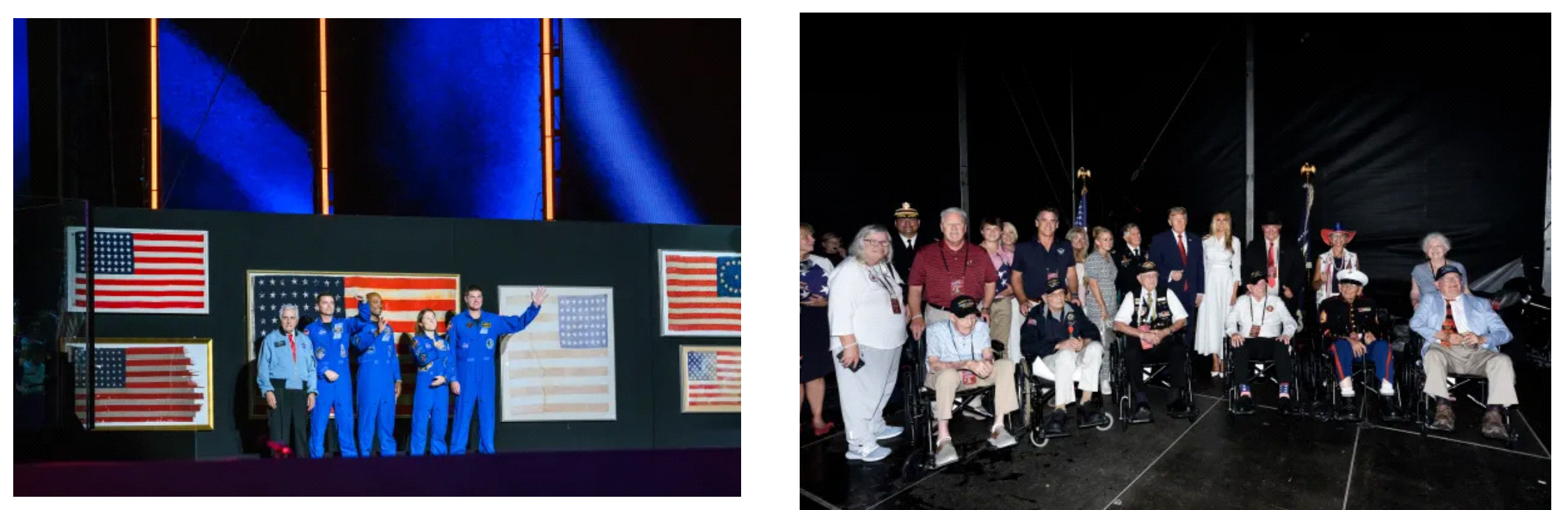
Scenes from the nation's 250th Birthday Party hosted by President Donald J. Trump and celebrated by all!

Photos; /Courtesy:
The White House



"No person except a natural born citizen or a citizen of the United States, at the time of the adoption of the Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of the president; neither shall any person be eligible to that office who shall not have attained the age of thirty five years, and been fourteen years a resident within the United States."

(Article 2, Section 1 of the U.S. Constitution)



The U.S. Treasury Dept. permanently renews tax incentives in qualified Opportunity Zones

By Lee Barney,
Financial Editor
Newsmax.com

July 1, 2026 - The U.S. Treasury Department Wednesday permanently renewed tax incentives in Qualified Opportunity Zones. These Opportunity Zones allow states to nominate distressed communities for tax-advantaged private investment under President Donald Trump's Working Families Tax Cuts.

The program builds on the Opportunity Zone tax incentives created by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act during President Donald

"Under President Trump's leadership, the Working Families Tax Cuts permanently renewed and strengthened Opportunity Zones — giving investors, entrepreneurs, and local leaders the long-term certainty they need to commit capital to communities that have been overlooked for too long," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

Trump's first administration. "Under President Trump's leadership, the Working Families Tax Cuts permanently renewed and strengthened Opportunity Zones — giving investors, entrepreneurs, and local leaders the long-term certainty they need to commit capital to communities that have been overlooked for too long," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

"With the nomination period now open, governors have the opportunity to help direct private investment to communities that stand to benefit most," Bessent said.

U.S. Rep. Mike Kelly, R-Pa., chairman of the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Tax, highlighted the success of Erie's Opportunity Zones during a Ways & Means Committee hearing on June 4.

Kelly also invited Treasury Secretary Bessent to Erie to tour the city's projects.

"Opportunity Zone investments have expanded housing, supported small businesses entrepreneurship, spurred innovation, and revitalized long-forgotten communities," Kelly said.

"Erie, Pennsylvania, demonstrates the transformative potential of Opportunity Zones," Kelly remarked.

Bessent noted: "Treasury looks forward to working with states to expand economic opportunity, support job creation, and unlock long-term growth in communities across the country."

To support the process, Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund has launched an online Opportunity Zone Nomination Tool to help governors identify eligible communities and submit nominations.

The current nomination period will determine which census tracts are eligible for new investments, beginning January 1, 2027.

The designations will occur only once every 10 years.

Lee Barney, Newsmax's financial editor, has been a financial journalist for 30 years, covering the economy, retirement planning, investing and financial technology.

AMERICA
250

Celebrating America's 250th Birthday
and Freedom!

AMERICA
250

Dr. Carol Swain's Congressional Testimony on
the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

Prepared Statement for House Judiciary Congressional Hearing on The Weaponization of "Hate" Labels and the Influence of the Southern Poverty Law Center

Chairman, Ranking Member, and distinguished Members of the Committee:
Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.
I am Dr. Carol M. Swain, a former tenured professor of political science and law at Vanderbilt University. I am a woman who rose from rural poverty in southwest Virginia, earned five degrees, and built a career as a scholar of race, politics, and representation. My 1993 book Black Faces, Black Interests won national awards and was cited by the U.S. Supreme Court. Yet, starting in 2009, I became the target of a sustained smear campaign by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) — an organization once respected for fighting real hate but which I believe has become a weapon against conservatives, Christians, and dissenting voices.

In September 2009, I found myself in the SPLC's crosshairs after I published an article in the Huffington Post titled "Mission Creep and the Southern Poverty Law Center's Misguided Focus." I argued that the SPLC had drifted from its original mission of monitoring genuine hate groups — such as the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis — toward targeting mainstream conservatives, immigration reformers, and anyone challenging progressive orthodoxy on race and immigration. I specifically criticized the SPLC's attacks on figures like Lou Dobbs and organizations like the Center for Immigration Studies. I concluded: "Rather than monitoring hate groups, the Southern Poverty Law Center has become one."

Retaliation: The Smear Campaign

Within weeks of my article, the SPLC retaliated. In October 2009, SPLC spokesman Mark Potok publicly labeled me an "apologist for white supremacists." This stemmed from my

endorsement of the documentary A Conversation About Race (directed by Craig Bodeker), which I recommended for classroom use because it offered perspectives rarely heard on university campuses and could spark productive debate. My photo appeared on the front page of The Tennessean with Potok's quote. Potok's justification for attacking me was based on racist comments that Mr. Bodeker had allegedly made at some point in his life. The story went viral. The attack on me was not an isolated incident. The SPLC has used guilt by association, cherry-picked quotes, and fabrications to damage reputations and organizations.

Crucial Early Support

At a time when I had very few resources to fight back and mainstream outlets were silent, James Taranto's October 26, 2009, Wall Street Journal article "In Defense of Carol Swain" was one of the first major pieces to present my side of the story. Taranto directly challenged the SPLC's smear tactics and helped bring national attention to its unfair attack on a prominent black scholar. Taranto's piece was a lifeline that allowed my perspective to reach a broader audience when institutional power was stacked against me.

Long-Term Professional Harm

In my September 11, 2017, Wall Street Journal op-ed, "What It's Like to Be Smeared by the Southern Poverty Law Center," I detailed the real-world consequences. Offers from other universities dried up. Speaking opportunities declined. I became "kryptonite" in certain academic and media circles. Being called an apologist for white supremacy was particularly damaging — it undermined my credibility on race issues and isolated me from institutions that might otherwise have valued my perspective. The SPLC seems to focus its arrows on groups and individuals who are outspoken advocates of traditional family values as well as the rule of law. My experiences with them have exposed how a powerful, tax-exempt or-



Carol Swain, PhD.

ganization with enormous influence over media, corporations, law enforcement, and government can chill free speech and academic freedom without any meaningful accountability for its actions. Hopefully, that will change.

Broader Implications

The SPLC's tactics — mission creep, guilt by association, and weaponized "hate" labels —

have broader consequences. They distort public discourse and equate policy disagreements with bigotry. They influence tech companies, public and private schools, and federal agencies in ways that marginalize conservative and religious voices. Their smear tactics undermine individuals and organizations that are fighting for the public good. Individual targets have included Dr. Benjamin Carson and Dr.

Charles Murray, among others. Targeted organizations include Alliance Defending Freedom, Liberty Counsel, Focus on the Family, D. James Kennedy Ministries, and many others. The SPLC smears institutions and individuals with the label of hate group that are not aligned with its progressive agenda. Its mission creep has now been dramatically exposed. Decades ago, the SPLC could

"The SPLC's tactics — mission creep, guilt by association, and weaponized "hate" labels — have broader consequences. They distort public discourse and equate policy disagreements with bigotry. They influence tech companies, public and private schools, and federal agencies in ways that marginalize conservative and religious voices. Their smear tactics undermine individuals and organizations that are fighting for the public good. Individual targets have included Dr. Benjamin Carson and Dr. Charles Murray, among others..."

have declared victory after having helped stamp out the virulent hate groups it once targeted — such as the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Nations. However, it became a victim of its own success. Its continued existence and massive fundraising apparatus required an endless number of new bogeymen. Legitimate mainstream groups were smeared. We are here today because of the revelation that the SPLC secretly financed leaders of the kinds of groups it once sought to dismantle.

I urge this Committee to examine the SPLC's practices, its financial operations, its influence on government partnerships, and the lack of transparency and accountability surrounding its "hate group" designations. Real civil rights work requires truth-telling, not retaliation against scholars who challenge orthodoxies — and certainly not the alleged financing of the hate the organization claims to fight. I hope Congress will deal with the SPLC appropriately, using all available means to hold accountable this once-vital institution. Thank you for your time. I stand ready to answer questions and provide any additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Carol M. Swain
May 19, 2026

Dr. Carol Swain visits the White House at a Turning Point USA event



Editor's Note: Below are references from Dr. Carol Swain on her recent trip to the White House.

Some Notes from Dr. Swain

Yesterday I had the incredible honor of attending a White House meeting arranged by

@TPUSA

Yesterday I had the incredible honor of attending a White House meeting arranged by @TPUSA

It was a privilege to be in the room with so many great Americans and to directly ask questions



and offer suggestions to cabinet staff.

I raised my concerns about Big Tech suppressing conservative voices and the ongoing crisis of black youth crime — and explained why I believe algorithmic throttling of conservative content will play a major role in the 2026 midterms.

Here I am at the event (just posing — not speaking from the podium).

What are your thoughts on Big Tech censorship and its impact on elections?

Source: Dr. Carol Swain's X account at @carolmswain



"The young black man photographed with me is Pierre Wilson who is the Vice President of Community Engagement and the Senior Director of TPUSA RISE at Turning Point USA."

Author, Speaker, Commentator, Consultant, and Entrepreneur

You may follow Dr. Carol Swain at the following: carolmswain.com ,<http://carolmswain.com/> , carolmswainnews.com

Her books are available wherever books are sold and online. Visit her website for complete list of books.



What is **SAVE** America Act and **Why** is it the most popular election reform in decades?

President Donald J. Trump is urgently calling on Congress to pass the SAVE America Act immediately and safeguard America's elections from illegal voting. The legislation includes straightforward protections to safeguard America's elections and enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support — except from Radical Left Democrats in Washington who are putting their own political power above the will of the people.

FACT: Voter ID requirements are extremely popular with the American people.

- The bipartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, co-chaired by former President Jimmy Carter, noted that “IDs currently are needed to board a plane, enter federal buildings, and cash a check. Voting is equally important.”

- Charles Stewart, Founder and Director of the MIT Election Lab: “Regardless of how you poll, voters like a requirement for photo ID... I mean it's kind of a no-brainer for a large swath of the American public ... including most Democrats.”

- Harvard CAPS/Harris: 81% of Americans favor voter ID, including 79% of independents and 70% of Democrats.

- Pew Research Center: 83% of Americans — including wide majorities of Democrats, independents, Whites, Blacks, and Latinos — favor voter ID re-

President Donald J. Trump is urgently calling on Congress to pass the SAVE America Act immediately and safeguard America's elections from illegal voting. The legislation includes straightforward protections to safeguard America's elections and enjoys overwhelming bipartisan support — except from Radical Left Democrats in Washington who are putting their own political power above the will of the people.

quirements.

- Gallup: 84% support voter ID, with 98% of Republicans, 84% of independents, and 67% of Democrats on board — while an equally robust 83% back proof of citizenship for voter registration.

- Rasmussen Reports: 75% support voter ID, with support increasing over the past decade.

- Additional surveys, including from Napolitan News Service and The Center Square, consistently reveal extraordinary bipartisan support for voter ID.

FACT: Voter ID laws have no measurable negative effect on turnout.

- Following Georgia's 2021 voter ID law, the state achieved record turnout in both the 2022 and 2024 elections.

- A 2021 review by the National Bureau of Economic

Research, analyzing a decade of data, determined voter ID laws “have no negative effect on registration or turnout, overall or for any group defined by race, gender, age, or party affiliation.”

- A 2014 study in the Election Law Journal found “little support for the hypothesis that notification of ID requirements depresses turnout.”

- A 2023 report by the America First Policy Institute stated voter ID laws are “not a significant cause for decreased turnout” and “do not negatively affect minority or demographic-specific turnout,” noting that several states (and entire countries) with photo ID laws actually had higher turnout than those without.

- A 2009 study in PS: Political Science & Politics concluded voter ID laws “have not had a significant impact on voting” and show “little to no effect on aggregate or individual-level

turnout.”

- A 2006 study by the Crime Prevention Research Center found “[i]t is hard to see any evidence that voting regulations differentially harm either minorities, the elderly, or the poor,” and that “[r]egulations that prevent fraud are shown to actually increase the voter participation rate.”

- A 2007 analysis by the Heritage Foundation found that “voter identification requirements, such as requiring non-photo and photo identification, have virtually no suppressive effect on reported voter turnout.”

FACT: Voting by mail increases the risk of fraud.

- The Commission on Federal Election Reform warned that voting by mail is “likely to increase the risks of fraud and of contested elections,” that “absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud,” and that “vote buying schemes

are far more difficult to detect when citizens vote by mail.”

- A 2012 New York Times investigation revealed that “votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth.”

- In 2024, the House Republican Policy Committee found that mass mail-in voting “increases opportunities for error in fraud in states that do not maintain clean voter rolls” and “brings about an inherent set of risks that jeopardize the integrity of American elections and create absurdities that dampen faith in our electoral system.”

- MIT Election Data + Science Lab: “[E]ven many scholars who argue that fraud is generally rare agree that fraud with [voting by mail] voting seems to be more frequent than with in-person voting.”

- A 2023 Heartland Institute/Rasmussen poll found that 21% of mail-in-voters admitted to at least one form of voter fraud in the 2020 election.

- A 2020 report by the Heritage Foundation described widespread absentee and early voting as “vulnerable to being misdirected, stolen, forged, and altered,” with voters susceptible to intimidation, unlawful assistance, or pressure from campaigns and activists.

- In 2008, the U.S. Su-

preme Court, citing absentee ballot fraud in an Indiana primary, affirmed that “not only is the risk of voter fraud real but that it could affect the outcome of a close election.”

FACT: Proving citizenship to vote is a no-brainer.

- 85% of Americans agree that only U.S. citizens should vote in our elections and three quarters support proof of citizenship to vote.

- Commission on Federal Election Reform: “The right to vote is a vital component of U.S. citizenship, and all states should use their best efforts to obtain proof of citizenship before registering voters.”

FACT: Americans overwhelmingly support the SAVE America Act

- Harvard CAPS/Harris Poll: 71% support the SAVE America Act — including 69% of independents and half of rank-and-file Democrats.
 - o 80% want states to purge non-citizens from voter rolls.
 - o 60% call the SAVE America Act a “commonsense way to stop fraud and protect the security of our elections.”
 - o 58% recognize at least some voter fraud exists in the U.S.

One Citizen!
One Vote!
Pass the SAVE
America Act, Congress!

An Excerpt from Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on citizenship in Donald J. Trump, President of the United States *et al*, Petitioners v. Barbara, *et al* on the Writ of Certiorari before Judgment to the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit (June 30, 2026)

By Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas
(with whom Justice Gorsuch joins, dissenting)

Editor's Note: The following is from Justice Thomas's 91-page dissension. We urge readers to view it on the United States Supreme Court Website.

This Court's decision in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, 19 How. 393 (1857), would have permanently denied citizenship to blacks as “a subordinate and inferior class.” *Id.*, at 404–405. After the Civil War, the Reconstruction Congress overruled *Dred Scott*, first with the Civil Rights Act of 1866, then with the Citizenship Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Both the Civil Rights Act and the Citizenship Clause guaranteed citizenship to persons born and domiciled in the United States regardless of their race. Neither guaranteed citizenship to persons who were not domiciled in the United States.

Blacks were entitled to citizenship because they were Americans. They had no other homeland, owed no allegiance to any foreign power, and were subject to no other authority. They “fought and bled in the same battles,” “gained and gloried in the same victories,” and were “liable to be called upon to defend [America] in time of war” along-side every other citizen. 2 *Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass* 256, 266 (P. Foner ed. 1950) (Douglass). The Citizenship Clause thus guaranteed them the “dignity and glory of American citizenship,” so as to ensure that they would never be treated as second class under the law.

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Plessy v. Ferguson, 163 U. S. 537, 555 (1896) (Harlan, J., dissenting).

The same could not be said for the children of foreign temporary visitors. Foreign temporary visitors were attached to their home country, lacked similar bonds to this country, and would not be called upon in time of war. Americans, consistent with their settler ethos, believed that citizens were the people who called a place home. Accordingly, domicile—a person's legal home—played a key role in both state and national citizenship in America. A person was a “citizen” of the state where he had his “domicil.” *Barber v. Barber*, 21 How. 582, 599 (1859). When foreigners temporarily visited, their “national character” was unchanged. *The Venus*, 8 Cranch 253, 278–279 (1814). Such visitors were “strangers,” not “subjects.” *Id.*, at 278. A person born here but domiciled in a foreign land was therefore considered “as much a stranger to the country as his father.” 1 H. St. George Tucker, *Commentaries on the Laws of Virginia* 57 (1836) (Tucker).

That is why, when *Dred Scott* went to court, he argued that to be a “citizen,” “it is only necessary that he should have acquired a domicil.” Brief for Plaintiff in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, D. T. 1855, No. 7, p. 6. (Brief for *Dred Scott*). After this Court held that *Scott* was not a citizen because he was black, Republicans in Congress, such as Representative John Bingham, stated that a person was a citizen if he was “born and domiciled” in the United States. Cong. Globe, 35th Cong., 2d Sess., 983 (1859). *Scott* was a citizen, in their view, because he was born to Americans, not to “temporary sojourners.” Cong. Globe, 35th Cong., 1st Sess., 210 (1858) (statement of Rep. Bliss). As Frederick Douglass had put it, the freedmen sought citizenship “not as aliens nor as exiles,” but as “Americans.” 2 *Douglass* 255 (emphasis added).



Celebrating America's 250th Birthday and Freedom!



Agriculture is Freedom! Food is Freedom!



4-H Pledge
I pledge my head to clearer thinking,
My heart to greater loyalty,
My hands to larger service,
and my health to better living,
for my club, my community, my country, and my world.



This “garden” photo depicts the work the Woodson Center and Piney Woods focused on to give young farmers lessons in agriculture and life. (Photo from Piney Woods website)

The Woodson Center remembers its founder Robert Leon “Bob” Woodson, Sr. and his works to keep his vision alive



Bob Woodson is shown here at his desk working tirelessly to educate students at Piney Woods and to build the Woodson Center. (Photo: Woodson Center)

EDITOR's NOTE: Read below this remembrance from the Woodson website in honor of their founder, Bob Woodson. ***

From the Woodson Center: “He Built It For 45 Years. Now, We Carry It Forward.”

Bob Woodson believed in the

power of ordinary people to heal their communities. His Center will keep that vision alive.

Robert Leon “Bob” Woodson, Sr. (1937-2026) was one of the nation’s foremost champions of grassroots solutions to poverty and violence, the founder of the Woodson Center, a MacArthur “Genius” Fellow, and a trusted

advisor to presidents and policy-makers across decades. His leadership advanced a vision of self-liberation and community renewal that challenged prevailing assumptions about race and poverty in America.

For 45 years, the Woodson Center’s work has produced measurable victories in reducing

crime, restoring families, and revitalizing underserved communities. Tributes to Bob’s life and legacy have appeared in the Wall Street Journal, Deseret News, The Christian Post, and many other publications. Bob Woodson’s vision will continue to uplift “the least of these” and empower grassroots groups across the nation, sustained by the Center he founded and guided by his successor, Will Crossley. As we approach our nation’s 250th birthday, we honor Bob’s enduring legacy by elevating the transformative American values he championed throughout his life.

“We were broke, but we were not poor.” Hear the remarkable origin story of Bob Woodson and his life’s work in this first episode of Resilience & Renewal on the Woodson website.

Bob describes the moments that shaped his mission: from losing his father at nine, to a experiencing a “burning bush” moment in a juvenile jail, to breaking with establishment civil rights leaders over their exploitation of the

poor. Resilience & Renewal: The Woodson Center Legacy reveals the early life of Bob Woodson, tracing his journey from segregated South Philadelphia to national influence. Born in 1937, the youngest of five, he lost his father—a World War I veteran of the famed Harlem Hellfighters—to war-related injuries at age nine. Raised by his mother in a close-knit, values-rich neighborhood, Woodson learned a defining truth: “We were broke, but we were not poor.”

Episode 1 follows his path from dropping out of high school to serve in the Air Force, through his university education in math and social work, to joining the civil rights movement, where he challenged discrimination but grew disillusioned with policies that left the most vulnerable behind. A life-altering moment came while working in a juvenile detention center, when 65 young men rose to applaud him—and Bob was moved by a deeper calling to serve.

That calling ultimately led to the

Please see page 16

Patriot Lee Greenwood brings back award-winning Soldier Valley Spirits to honor veterans and celebrate America’s 250th Birthday from page 9

Soldier Valley Lee Greenwood Signature Whiskey

A bold yet approachable 86-proof true American whiskey distilled in Indiana, created by putting quality over quantity with the inspiration of hard-working people who liked their whiskey with an “edge.”

Soldier Valley Lee Greenwood Signature Vodka

Distilled six times using premium Midwest grains, this exceptionally smooth vodka offers a clean finish ideal for sipping and for cocktails.

Soldier Valley Spirits Availability

The Soldier Valley Spirits collection is available now at Soldier-ValleySpirits.com and LeeGreenwoodWhiskey.com, and can be shipped to most states nationwide. All three exceptional spirits are available in the America’s 250 Birthday Collection.

About Soldier Valley Spirits:

Soldier Valley Spirits follows the core values of faith, family, and



Lee Greenwood greets soldier to show his appreciation to those who serve their country.

service to the country. The company has worked closely with Lee Greenwood as its brand inspiration and champion since the start. For decades, Lee Green-

wood has inspired Americans through music, service, and unwavering patriotism. Greenwood has entertained troops around the world, supported military fam-

ilies, and become one of America’s most recognizable patriotic voices.

About Lee Greenwood:

Throughout his expansive career, international country music icon Lee Greenwood has earned multiple CMA and ACM Awards, a Grammy Award for Top Male Vocal Performance on “I.O.U.” in 1985, and a multitude of other prestigious award nominations. His discography includes twenty-two studio albums, seven compilation albums, seven No. 1 hits, and thirty-eight singles.

His stand-out hit “God Bless the U.S.A.” has been in the top five on the country singles charts three times (1991, 2001, and 2003), giving it the distinction of being the only song in any genre of music to achieve that feat. Known for his stand-out patriotism and support of the U.S. military, Greenwood has been honored with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society’s National Patriot’s Award and entertained troops on more than 30

Greenwood was appointed to the council of the National Endowment for the Arts in 2008 by President George W. Bush. That Presidential Appointment continued under President Obama (all 8 years), under President Trump (all 4 years), and one year under President Biden. President Trump appointed Greenwood to serve on the Kennedy Center Board of Trustees, which he currently serves.

USO Tours.

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Sec. Rollins announces \$500 Million for Fertilizer Investment & Expansion Program

Individual awards will range from \$15 million to \$150 million, with funding focused on projects that strengthen domestic fertilizer manufacturing and deliver meaningful benefits to American agriculture. Applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. on August 15th, 2026. Additional information, including eligibility requirements and application materials, is available through USDA Rural Development at www.rd.usda.gov and on Grants.gov.

Washington, D.C., July 1, 2026)

– U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the launch of the \$500 million Fertilizer Investment & Expansion for Long-Term Domestic Supply (FIELDS) Program, a new initiative administered through USDA Rural Development to expand domestic fertilizer manufacturing, strengthen America’s fertilizer supply chain, and improve long-term affordability for American farmers.

Utilizing the authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), USDA will make \$500 million available through the FIELDS Program to support construction and expansion of domestic fertilizer production facilities. The program prioritizes shovel-ready, financially viable projects capable of increasing production of critical crop nutrients.

"For decades, American farmers were forced to rely on unstable foreign suppliers for one of the most important inputs needed to feed our nation. Today we are announcing a plan to end this consolidation and bring competition back to the American fertilizer industry," said Secretary Brooke L. Rollins. "Under President Trump's leadership, USDA is rebuilding America's fertilizer manufacturing base, strengthening supply chains, and ensuring our producers have reliable and affordable access to the fertilizer they need to remain competitive. The previous administration chose to prioritize their radical climate agenda when searching for fertilizer projects, and as result let this problem exacerbate by not getting shovels in the ground and only building 6% of their stated goal. The Trump Administration's FIELDS program is solely focused on producing fertilizer leading to lower costs for American farmers and consumers, as well as restoring a critical supply chain for our country. Farm security is national security."

"American natural resource extraction is the safest and most environmentally friendly in the world. It makes zero sense to import fertilizer from foreign competitors when we can make it right here while fueling our economy and protecting human health and the environment," said Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin. "This is an obvious win-win for Americans farmers, families, and businesses. The Trump EPA stands ready to help rebuild this vital arm of American manufac-

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President Trump Rings in Trump Accounts with Historic Opening Bell Ceremony from the Oval Office from page 7

markets is to make it so every American can share in that great economy, and today, with the Trump Accounts, the next generation of Americans — every American — will have the opportunity to be a part of and share in this prosperity of this nation.” NYSE Group President Lynn Martin: “For the last couple of days, we have celebrated the thing that makes this country unstoppable, and that is our freedom — and out of freedom is born the American Dream. And today, under your leadership, is the purest manifestation of that American Dream.” Intercontinental Exchange CEO Jeffrey Sprecher: “The New York Stock Exchange was started to finance a brand-new government and a brand-new vision for our country — so it’s amazing that 250 years later, President Trump is making that available to all Americans, directly.” Altimeter Capital Chairman and CEO Brad Gerstner: “We’re committed to the next 250, and what that means is not a million kids in America, not two million kids in America — EVERY child in America. All 70 million kids under the age of 18 deserve to have one of these accounts. We’re going to get the accounts open for them.” Sen. Ted Cruz: “Trump Accounts are, in many ways, Donald Trump’s New Deal — but instead of having government taking care of everyone, Trump Accounts are about making every child and every American a capitalist. Every one of our kids is now going to be an owner of the biggest producers in our country.”

More than six million Trump Accounts have already been requested, with over 86% coming

In addition to the historic gift from philanthropists Michael and Susan Dell, over 50 additional companies have committed to Trump Account contributions for their employees kids — answering President Trump’s call to action to invest in the next generation of Americans.

from families earning less than \$200,000 annually. The accounts are free to open for every U.S. citizen under 18; children born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028, will receive an automatic \$1,000 seed investment from the federal government.

In addition to the historic gift from philanthropists Michael and Susan Dell, over 50 additional companies have committed to Trump Account contributions for their employees’ kids — answering President Trump’s call to action to invest in the next generation of Americans. As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, Trump Accounts put the American Dream within reach of every child — not just those born into wealth. This is how you build generational wealth, strengthen families, and create an ownership society that will power America for the next 250 years and beyond.

**One Citizen!
One Vote!**

Celebrating America’s 250th Birthday and Freedom!

The Second Amendment is Freedom!

There is gun violence and then there is the politics of gun violence. Know the difference and preserve America’s Second Amendment Rights. If there is no Second Amendment, then there is no First Amendment.
-An Editorial Comment from The Mid-South Tribune-

Supreme Court grants writ of certiorari petitions in SAF assault weapons cases

BELLEVUE, Wash. — June 30, 2026 — The U.S. Supreme Court has granted two of the Second Amendment Foundation’s (SAF) petitions for a writ certiorari in both *Viramontes v. Cook County* and *Grant v. Higgins*, the organization’s challenges to the bans on so-called “assault weapons” in Illinois and Connecticut. Originally filed in 2021, *Viramontes* challenges Cook County’s ban on many commonly owned modern guns, which was the precursor for the nearly identical statewide ban passed by the Illinois legislature. In *Grant*, SAF is challenging Connecticut’s ban on commonly owned semi-automatic rifles — both by name and by feature set. After a troubling and misguided preliminary injunction decision from the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, SAF presented the case to the Supreme Court for consideration. “The Supreme Court’s decision to hear these pivotal cases will finally provide the courts the necessary guidance as it relates to the types of arms protected by the Second Amendment,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “The modern semi-automatic rifles banned in Cook County, Connecticut and elsewhere are among the most commonly owned firearms in the country, placing them well within the scope of the Second Amendment. The Second Amendment protects arms in common use for lawful purposes, and it’s hard to argue that a type of rifle that potentially outnumbers Ford F-150 trucks in America doesn’t meet that standard.” SAF is joined in *Viramontes* by



the Firearms Policy Coalition and two private citizens, and is joined in *Grant* by the Connecticut Citizens Defense League and three private citizens. “Lawmakers have long relied on fearmongering to pass laws that infringe on the Second Amendment, especially when it comes to common, semi-automatic rifles,” said SAF founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb. “We’re hopeful the Court will finally put to rest the idea that these rifles are not covered by the Second Amendment simply because of their look and features. These arms are no different than other

semi-automatic firearms millions of Americans own for self-defense, and we look forward to restoring the right to keep and bear arms for countless citizens through these cases.” For more information visit SAF.org. The Second Amendment Foundation (saf.org) is the nation’s oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution. SAF engages in aggressive legal action to ensure the principles of armed self-defense, personal liberty, and the ownership of arms are defended, secured, and restored. Through public education initiatives, SAF teaches the importance of the Second Amendment to promote a society that values and exercises the right to keep and bear arms.

Signed, sealed and delivered. The U.S. Postal Service commemorates America’s 250th Birthday—so Stamp It! ...from front page



stamps

BOSTON — A special rededication of the Figures of the American Revolution stamps took place today at the 2026 Boston World Exposition as part the stamp show’s honoring heroes theme day. The Figures of the American Revolution stamps are in recognition of the nation’s 250th anniversary being celebrated this year. The stamps feature 25 individual portraits of some of the people whose actions helped shape the American Revolution and establish U.S. independence. The stamps were first dedicated during an interactive exhibit at the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum on April 10. This second dedication at the World Stamp Show is intended to highlight the contributions of these important Americans in Boston, one of the cradles of the revolution. “It’s no exaggeration to say this is one of the most ambitious stamp projects we’ve ever attempted,” said Nicholas Suchich, USPS director of digital communications. “Twenty-five stamps. Twelve different artists using multiple approaches and techniques. Oil paintings, watercolors, chalk, acrylic, graphite, tempura, digital. “The team behind these stamps spent years working with historians and subject matter experts to ensure each figure’s story and portrait was accurate and grounded in scholarship. It was a monumental achievement. ... We at the Postal Service hope you’ll buy the stamps, of course. But more importantly, we hope you’ll

be moved to learn more about these early patriots and the governing principles they established that still guide us today.” ‘Give me liberty or give me death!’ Prior to the start of the Revolutionary War, there was growing resistance to British imperial rule and taxation throughout the 13 Colonies. Defiance of the British came from all socioeconomic levels: writers and activists; women and men (both enslaved and free); Native Americans; and lawyers and legislators. France and Spain also provided crucial international support. Their alliance added legitimacy to the fight, showed the rest of the world the struggle for independence was serious, and strengthened the Colonies’ military position. The American Revolution lasted nearly a decade and reshaped the young nation and global politics. **Artwork** Ethel Kessler, an art director for USPS, oversaw the ambitious project. “It’s unusual to design a pane of stamps featuring 25 different portraits,” she said. “But that number felt essential. How else could you begin to tell the story of the Revolution’s complexity with fewer?” The 25 portraits are arranged in five rows of five. Beneath each is written the person’s name and a short identifying line in black ink. Along the bottom of each stamp, the words “USA” and “Forever” appear in gray. Each portrait draws on a historical image of the person depicted in the artwork. Some figures gaze out at the viewer, while others glance toward their neighbors on the pane. Others look beyond, as if to the future. A single image of the American flag is layered behind the portraits. The flag is screened so its stars and stripes appear softly faded, providing a unifying backdrop for the 25 faces while keeping the portraits visually

dominant. The block of stamps is set on a larger background that features an image of the Declaration of Independence, adding another layer of historical context. At the very top of the pane, a line of text reads, “Forging America’s bold new beginning through courage, leadership, and sacrifice.” The first row features Abigail Adams, John Adams, Agwalongdongwas, James Armistead and Complanter. In the second row are John Dickinson, Benjamin Franklin, Elizabeth Freeman, Bernardo de Gálvez and Nathanael Greene. The third row depicts Alexander Hamilton, Lemuel Haynes, Patrick Henry, John Jay and Thomas Jefferson. The fourth row shows Thaddeus Kosciuszko, Marquis de Lafayette, James Madison, Thomas Paine and Esther DeBerdt Reed. Appearing in the fifth and final row are Paul Revere, Deborah Sampson, Baron von Steuben, Mercy Otis Warren and George Washington. Each portrait was created especially for the Postal Service by one of 12 artists: Julia Bottoms, Kam Mak, Tim O’Brien, Alex Bostic, Gary Kelley, Michael J. Deas, Karla Ortiz, Roberto Parada, Dale Stephanos, Marc Burckhardt, Sharon Irla and Julia Kolesova. The artists’ varied approaches reflect the individuality of the subjects. Some worked in traditional oil paints or egg tempera, others in pastels or digital media, resulting in a collection that balances historical likenesses with fresh, contemporary interpretations. Figures of the American Revolution stamps are being issued in panes of 25. As Forever stamps, they will always be equal in value to the current First-Class Mail 1-ounce price. More information about the individuals represented in the portraits can be found at StampsForever.com.



Remembering Bob Woodson from page 15

founding of the Woodson Center in 1981, and a lifelong mission to advance moral renewal and empower grassroots leaders transforming communities nationwide. The Woodson Center’s Black History & Excellence Curriculum and its American Heroes companion animations—now with over 14 million views across Meta and YouTube—deliver inspirational stories to students of all ages, with lessons featuring slide decks, activities, readings, and even coloring pages for younger students. Together, they bring Bob Woodson’s principles to life through vivid examples of courage, character, and community leadership. Featuring: •Bessie Coleman: Daredevil aviator who defied gravity and the color line, blazing a trail for later pilots and astronauts. •Booker T. Washington & the Rosenwald Schools: Reformer and philanthropist who teamed up to bring education to the segregated South. •Robert Smalls: Formerly enslaved sailor who freed himself in a thrilling escape, fought in the Civil War, and later served in Congress. •Marblehead Regiment: Multi-racial patriots whose skill and heroism helped save Washington’s army at a decisive moment in 1776.

Since 2020, these lessons have been downloaded over 400,000 times for use across classrooms and community programs.