

The Delray Democrat

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June 2022

Juneteenth and the Unrealized Promise of “Absolute Equality”

The Editorial Board

President Lincoln announced the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, 1862, with an effective date of January 1, 1863. Enslaved Texans would not learn of their liberation for nearly two and a half years.

On June 19, 1865, a date subsequently known and celebrated as “Juneteenth,” Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas to notify the populace of the Proclamation. His soldiers circulated throughout town, reading “General Order No. 3,” which explained that henceforth there would exist “an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves.” Not surprisingly, spontaneous celebrations greeted this momentous news.

Official celebrations began the following year and initially involved church-centered gatherings, reflecting the jubilation and the solemnity of the occasion. Juneteenth celebrations spread from Texas throughout the United States and now include parties, picnics, and gatherings with family and friends. Juneteenth is an official holiday or day of observance in all states but Hawaii, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Efforts are ongoing to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

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Marco Rubio: Driven by Blind Ambition, He's Violated His Oath of Office

June Sandra Neal

“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.”

Senator Marco Rubio took this oath on January 5, 2011. He has since abandoned his post more than he has served it and abdicated his responsibility to protect the American people against their cardinal domestic enemy: murder by firearms.

Our bleeding, bullet-ridden nation may face a greater loss of its states' ability to exercise reasonable requirements for gun safety come fall, when the Supreme Court decides the case of *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*. At issue: whether the State of New York violated the Second Amendment by denying applications for concealed-carry licenses. A ruling for the plaintiffs could ripple out, reaching to the essential question of whether

states have any right at all to regulate firearm ownership.

If ever the nation needed its elected officials to honor their oaths and protect the American people, it is now. But Marco Rubio has remained a steadfast retainer of the National Rifle Association, consistently voting against even the most commonsense measures to reign in wanton gun violence.

Rubio spent his first term as Senator in absentia, preparing to or running for the presidency, and unapologetic for all the missed votes. A shapeshifter,

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**You don't need to live in Delray Beach to read or write for The Delray Democrat.*

(*Juneteenth*, continued from page 1)

Juneteenth is often compared to the Fourth of July, but the deliverance of an enslaved people from bondage is an even more momentous event than a colonial people's declaration of severance from the mother country. Moreover, America's independence has never been in doubt whereas the "absolute equality" promised in General Order No. 3 has never been achieved.

The Unrealized Promise of "Absolute Equality"

Since then, there have been brief periods when the formerly enslaved and their descendants were led to believe absolute equality *would be* forthcoming, that is, that they would be permitted to share in the rights enjoyed and celebrated by White America on July 4. Such hopes were always dashed, however.

The first such period was the Reconstruction Era that followed issuance of General Order No. 3 and the ratification of the "Civil War Amendments," which ended slavery (*Thirteenth Amendment*); granted citizenship rights and equal protection of the law to anyone born in the United States (*Fourteenth Amendment*); and prohibited the states from denying or abridging the right of US citizens to vote "based on race, color, or past servitude" (*Fifteenth Amendment*).

For a brief period, formerly enslaved people were elected to local, state, and national offices (at one point, 15% of the office holders in the South were Black, a higher percentage than in 1990). Neither the Reconstruction Era nor its advances were long-lived.

The backlash was swift and sustained, launching a century of terrorism and oppression. Paramilitary groups of heavily armed Civil War veterans attacked Republican officeholders and suppressed the Black vote through violence and intimidation. Democrats ran nakedly racist races, winning elections by framing the choice as between "white supremacy" or "Negro rule." If that sounds familiar, it's because the modern Republican Party took lessons from the post-Civil War Democratic Party. Mitch McConnell likes to brag that he's a student of history.

As soon as the losers of the Civil War regained control of their legislatures, they passed "Jim Crow" laws and amended their Constitutions to "legally" disenfranchise Blacks. (The provision in Florida's Constitution was eliminated when voters approved Amendment 4 in 2018, but Republicans responded by passing what is effectively a modern poll tax so they could continue to suppress the Black vote.)

They legalized segregation, and the U.S. Supreme Court did nothing, holding in *Plessy v. Ferguson* that

segregation was constitutional so long as the separate facilities were "equal" in quality. It took over 60 years for the Court to rule that "separate but equal" is unconstitutional as applied to education. Even then, *Brown v. Board of Education*, did not explicitly overrule *Plessy*, failing to address segregation in other contexts.

Brown also had limited impact on school segregation because towns across the South created inexpensive private schools to keep Whites from having to attend integrated schools. According to a 2020 study by the National Center for Education Statistics' National Assessment of Educational Progress, Black children are "five times as likely as white children to attend schools that are highly segregated by race and ethnicity" and more than twice as likely to attend "high-poverty schools."

It took another decade after *Brown* before Congress dismantled legalized segregation with the passage of Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Southern officials reaped political advantage attacking these laws as intrusions on states' sovereignty and Civil Rights protesters as "lawbreakers" because of the civil disobedience tactics used to demand their rights. Of course the real criminals were the racist officials who defied federal laws and beat and murdered peaceful protesters.

Nixon's "Law and Order" campaign and Southern Strategy began the process of turning the "Solid South" from Democratic to Republican. "The War on Drugs," launched by Nixon and expanded under Reagan, has been so disproportionately applied to people of color that it is more appropriately titled "The War on Black People": as Noam Chomsky once commented, "if you've been fighting, and losing, a war for 40 years, the stated purpose is not the real purpose."

The final era of dashed hopes began with the election of Barack Obama, which led to the ludicrous claim that we had become a "colorblind" society. What actually happened is that the election unleashed an unapologetic racism not seen since the heyday of Bull Connor and George Wallace, one that is still polluting our discourse today through the septic tank that is Donald Trump. And absolute equality? Well, that's like the football Lucy keeps pulling away. But like Charlie Brown, we must keep believing.

So we celebrate Juneteenth with the same mixture of jubilation and solemnity that attended the earliest celebration, for we are as far as ever from that day when, as Bob Marley sang, "The color of a man's skin is of no greater significance than the color of his eyes."

The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project in collaboration with Palm Beach County and the City of Delray Beach invite you to participate in...

Soil Collection Ceremony for *Mr. Samuel Nelson*

— Lynched on September 26, 1926 —

June 18, 2022



10:30 a.m. event start
(part of a larger Juneteenth event at the site)



Pompey Park Gymnasium

1101 NW 2nd Street
Delray Beach FL 33444

"In this soil, there is the sweat of the enslaved. In the soil there is the blood of victims of racial violence and lynching. There are tears in the soil from all those who labored under the indignation and humiliation of segregation. But in the soil there is also the opportunity for new life, a chance to grow something hopeful and healing for the future."

Bryan Stevenson,
Equal Justice Initiative
Executive Director

The ceremony will remember Samuel Nelson who was lynched on September 26, 1926. He was being held in the Delray jail on a charge of attempted assault of a white woman in Miami. The next morning, the steel door of his cell was found battered open and Samuel Nelson's body was found riddled with bullets on a canal bank west of Delray Beach. No one was held accountable for his murder.

The soil that was collected near the site of the lynching will be put into glass jars and on display at the Equal Justice Initiative's National Memorial for Peace and Justice, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum and other sites around Palm Beach County.



To learn more about Samuel Nelson and the Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project, visit pbcremembrance.org.



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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaisson-Cantwell, David Kulick, Char Lane, June Neal, and Rob Resnick.

(Continued from page 1)

calling Trump “a dangerous con man,” then bending his knee when Trump won. And, like all Republican extremists, he’s become downright irrational about guns.

Following last month’s massacre of school children in Uvalde, Texas, The Miami Heat urged fans to call Senators Rubio and Scott. “The Heat urges you to contact your state senators by calling 202-224-3121 to leave a message demanding their support for common sense gun laws. You can also make change

In the past, the NRA’s PAC, the Political Victory Fund, gave Rubio an “A+” for his pro-gun voting record. (We don’t have current scores for legislators since the NRA pulled them from its website after the Parkland, FL massacre.)

And why not? Rubio voted *against* prohibiting the carrying of firearms in vehicles, prohibiting the sale of assault weapons, limiting firearm magazine capacity, requiring background checks for sales at gun shows or on the internet and denying firearms and explosives to terrorists. He even voted against a proposal by the Social Security Administration to put

The bullets from the AR-style rifle used at Uvalde blew apart the 10-year-olds’ bodies like grenades; parents had to wait for the results of DNA tests to identify their children. Yet the NRA stands by such weapons and Marco Rubio stands by the NRA.

at the ballot box. Visit heat.com/vote to register and let your voice be heard this fall.”

Rubio’s loony response? He called The Heat hypocritical because the NBA recruits potential players from China which is repressing Uyghur Muslims. “The NBA doesn’t like to talk about the billions it makes from a China that enslaves Uyghur (sic) Muslims and harvests their organs. But they have no problem politicizing a horrific tragedy in America.” What?

It’s true that Rubio has called out China for its human rights violations against the Uyghurs, but the NBA’s recruiting practices don’t cancel out The Heat’s concern for America’s gun violence. It’s an example of “But Johnny does it” thinking, common to those with limited understanding of complex social issues.

The bullets from the AR-style rifle used at Uvalde blew apart the 10-year-olds’ bodies like grenades; parents had to wait for the results of DNA tests to identify their children. Yet the NRA stands by such weapons and Marco Rubio stands by the NRA.

Indeed, he’s the NRA’s current favorite son, so he gets the biggest allowance; far and away more than other Republicans on this year’s ballots, as reported by the Washington Post:

\$3,303,355 Senator Marco Rubio -FL
\$1,269,486 Senator Ron Johnson- WI
\$226,007 Senator Chuck Grassley - IA
\$104,456 Senator Rand Paul – KY

some restrictions on gun purchases by people deemed unable to manage of their SS benefits.

After Uvalde, The PBS News Hour asked every US senator what each thought should be done about gun violence. Most Republicans did not respond. Rubio’s office simply referred to an earlier tweet about the Luke and Alex School Safety Act and Safe Schools for All, neither of which have anything to do with gun controls.

Other than guns, Rubio spent all his first term, and a good part of his second, blowing off roll calls. *The Sun Sentinel* has called him on his “Where’s Waldo” reputation since he took office, and especially in 2015 when he was running for the presidential nomination. “You are paid \$174,000 per year to represent us, to fight for us, to solve our problems,” the editorial said. “You are ripping us off, senator.” *That year, Rubio missed a third of the roll call votes.* Other publications slammed him for the same thing.

According to *GovTrack*, “From Jan 2011 to May 2022, Rubio missed 345 of 3,703 roll call votes, which is 9.3%. This is much worse than the median of 2.2% among the lifetime records of senators currently serving.”

Florida’s Indian River for Democrats even drew a cartoon of Rubio’s face on the side of a milk carton.

In 1999, Rubio was elected to the Florida House of Representatives. When America faced its worst domestic crisis in decades on 9/11, he bailed. First, he scrambled to secure a coveted spot on the state

legislature’s newly formed Select Committee on Security. After all, the hijackers had their flight training in Florida. Yet, the Washington Post reported, “He skipped nearly half of the meetings over the first five months of the panel’s existence, more than any of his colleagues, according to Florida legislature records. He missed hours of expert testimony and was absent for more than 20 votes — prompting the state House speaker who had given him the assignment to express concern.”

Later, in 2015, CNN reported that Rubio has “the worst voting attendance record in the US Senate this year.” NBC News noted that, by the beginning of October, he had “missed 59 votes since declaring his run for president in April [2015], or 42%.” And the Washington Post highlighted his hypocrisy when Rubio attacked Veterans’ Administration workers for absenteeism:

Marco Rubio blasts slacker government workers — after missing his seventh of seven votes this month. As senator, his job is to be one of the two voices the state of Florida has in the Senate. That voice is expressed in a few ways, including in his advocacy for legislation and solving problems as he can for the state's residents. But the job also demands that Rubio exercise that voice *explicitly*, by voting for or against items that come before the body.”

As usual, Rubio just brushed it off, claiming he was too busy running for the presidency.

His truancy continues today. The Palm Beach Democrats recently called him on it:

No-Show Rubio skips more committee meetings, votes against aid for struggling restaurants & small businesses, & is once again using the taxpayer-funded resources of his Senate office to promote himself and his campaign. Floridians deserve a real Senator who shows up and will fight for them and their interests, not Marco Rubio!

OK, many legislators miss votes when running for office. But most do so to attend campaign or fundraising events. The Question About Marco, then and now, is—where is he when there are no such events? The Washington Post revealed that, from the time he announced his 2016 presidential run on April 13 through the beginning of October, he was a no-show on 15 of the 34 days that Senate votes were

held — with no explanation of his whereabouts.

We know some of the time he’s just trying to boost his profile. On May 8, 2022, he skipped the confirmation hearings for ambassadors to various Latin America countries and on funding for the Environmental Protection Agency. He was busy doing an interview on Fox news.

As the senior member of the Senate Intelligence Committee and a member of the Gang of Eight, Rubio receives on-going, sensitive intelligence information about the war in Ukraine. And he tweets about it constantly, which is odd because the war is covered by the press daily in granular detail. It’s clear he wants to establish his presidential chops to handle foreign affairs.

That ambition apparently drives him too far. Some foreign-policy experts were taken aback when Rubio played armchair psychologist regarding President Putin’s mental state. “I wish I could share more, but for now I can say it’s pretty obvious to many that something is off with Putin,” he wrote in one tweet. He speculated that Putin suffered from a neurological problem, later walking it back by footnoting this was merely his opinion. Further, Politico noted, “Rubio’s frequent and uncensored updates on Russia’s Ukraine invasion have led some to question whether he’s revealed closely held US intelligence information,” although his colleagues on the Committee have made no charges. But Committee member Eric Swalwell (D-CA), just wants Rubio to shut up. “We don’t need your play-by-play. Who are you? John Madden?”

We know who Marco Rubio is. He’s the US Senator who tweets about foreign human rights violations (who can argue that?) but refuses to do a damn thing about the slaughter of innocents in America despite the fact there have been 250 mass shootings—and counting—since the beginning of 2022 and 20 after the May 24 massacre in Uvalde (he’d lose the backing of the NRA and the Republican extremist base).

He’s a hollow man, fueled by blind ambition. In 2016, we learned what blind ambition can do once it gains power. The primary elections are August 23, 2022.

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These Buttons Never Went Out of Fashion

Michael K. Cantwell

It's a testament to the depravity to which this country has succumbed since Donald Trump first announced his candidacy that George W. Bush and Dick Cheney are treated as elder statesmen and not war criminals.

Cheney was praised for sitting with his daughter, the only Republicans to attend a House ceremony marking the one-year anniversary of the storming of the Capitol and attempted coup on January 6, 2021. There was no mention of his suborning the deliberate lie behind America's illegal invasion of a country that had neither attacked nor posed a threat to the United States. And there was no mention of his support for the use of torture, again in violation of international humanitarian law.

Similarly, when George W. Bush recently bungled his condemnation of Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine, referring instead to the "wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of *Iraq*," his audience responded with genial, polite laughter. Forgotten were the 4,431 American soldiers who had died and the 31,994 who were wounded, many grievously, in that unnecessary and illegal war. Forgotten too were the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians who died and the millions more who were displaced. And that brings us to two of my favorite political buttons from the early Aughts.



The first button distinguished the sins of the president and vice-president (although both belonged in the dock in The Hague, along with Donald Rumsfeld, Condi Rice, and Colin Powell). The second is a riff on the salute gladiators gave to Caesar as they entered the arena to face their death: *Morituri Te Salutamus*, that is, "We Who Are About to Die Salute You."

A story goes with this button, which I had custom-made and began life as a poster I carried to one of the early anti-Iraq war marches in New York City. Having "little Latin and no Greek," but access to the internet, on the morning of the march I posted a query asking for the Latin word for "we curse." Within minutes, someone from Cambridge University responded, "*Malediceremus*."

It was not until recently that I learned the Latin meant "*Let us curse*," not "*We curse*," but as my cousin, David Kulick, pointed out that morning as I was putting the final touches on my homemade poster, "not one in 10,000 people will know what that means."

I responded, "So I'll tell them," and I did . . . several times over, to a variety of fellow marchers and people watching from the sidewalks as we walked from mid-Manhattan down to Washington Square Park. As we neared the park, a bystander came out of the crowd and clapped me on the back, saying, "Latin scholars for peace!" I turned to David and said, "you see!" He didn't miss a beat. "So I was wrong. It was 1 in 100,000."

Republicans are no longer killing civilians in Iraq, but their refusal to support sensible gun legislation is killing Americans right here at home. No one is safe from the random gun violence engendered by the NRA and abetted by Republican lawmakers.

But that atrocity pales before the ecocide for which our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will rightly condemn them: Noam Chomsky nailed it — with Trump's ascendance, the Republican Party has become "the most dangerous organization in human history." Neither the Nazis under Hitler, the Communists under Stalin, nor Genghis Khan's Mongols, however odious and murderous — possessed the power to destroy the planet. "We who are about to die curse you."

Perhaps my favorite button was suggested by the elderly woman carrying a handwritten sign at the first anti-Iraq war rally I attended in Washington DC in October 2002. It was the day after Paul Wellstone died in a private plane accident that might not have been an accident and the sign read:



We dodged bullets in 2008 and 2020, but our time is running out. *The New York Times* observed in an editorial titled Every Day Is Jan. 6 Now, published on January 1, 2022:

Over the past year, Republican lawmakers in 41 states have been trying to advance the goals of the Jan. 6 rioters — not by breaking laws but by making them. Hundreds of bills have been proposed and nearly three dozen laws have been passed that empower state legislatures to sabotage their own elections and overturn the will of their voters, according to a running tally by a nonpartisan consortium of pro-democracy organizations.

Unless we win by margins big enough to prevent Republican apparatchiks from stealing the next two elections, no one will need to ask, “Is It Fascism Yet?” It will be obvious, although no one will be able to say so publicly.

So, as my friend Molly Fitzmaurice pointed out with her own handwritten sign carried at the “Bans Off Our Bodies” March this past May 14 in Salisbury, Connecticut, civilization’s only hope is to



Birds Aren't Real, and Other Conspiracies

David Kulick

I always considered myself a bit of a conspiracy buff. I don't think Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy. I don't think James Earl Ray acted alone in killing Martin Luther King. I know enough about the "Project for the New American Century" to suspect that the Bush/Cheney administration might not have done all it could to prevent 9/11, since that gave them the excuse they needed to attack Iraq, which was their main goal.

But I'm in the minor leagues compared to today's conspiracy mongers. The first one, the pre-Trump one, is that climate change is a hoax. There are two variants of this belief. One is that the earth isn't getting warmer at all, that somehow the measurements have been faked or we don't have a real historical record. The second variant is that the earth is getting warmer but that it's just a natural

video but that could be faked. However, many scientists said that it happened and more importantly, Walter Cronkite and David Brinkley told me that it happened. This is why the destruction of the belief in the "Mainstream Media" has had such a devastating impact.

I never liked the Mainstream Media. I thought they slanted the news to fit a corporate agenda, namely the agenda of the people who owned the media. That slanting would mainly be to uphold the power of corporations. But even given that, there was some measure of integrity. They didn't simply lie about things, they might cover or not cover some event, or view the news in a certain light, but they didn't make things up. Finding myself defending the MSM is almost as weird as finding myself defending the FBI and CIA.

I don't know how to deal with people who simply don't live in reality. And there are so many that it's scary. I'm not a psychiatrist, I don't know how to explain this, and I don't know how to deal with this.

cycle; this assumes that the climate scientists, geologists, and other scientists who have spent their lives studying Climate Change neglected to include natural cycles in their calculations. Considering that we all know about ice ages, this is a pretty tough sell.

Occam's razor — the principle that when facing multiple solutions to a problem, the simplest one is usually correct — comes into this. Adding whole layers of actions to something that can otherwise be easily explained doesn't make much sense. And I'll add my own corollary — the more people involved in a conspiracy, the more likely someone is to spill the beans.

Both Climate Denier variants conclude that somehow huge numbers of scientists and every world government except ours have conspired with China to fake climate change so that they can undermine America's economy. My conspiracy beliefs require that only a few key participants are/were in on the fix. The idea that virtually every scientist on earth is lying so that they can somehow get a payoff requires a rather insane belief in people being able to keep their mouths shut.

We all have to believe someone. I didn't personally see Neal Armstrong step on the moon, I did see

The erosion of decades of trust began with conglomerates buying the networks and placing the news divisions under the "entertainment" divisions of corporate media. News was once an act of responsible corporate behavior, you get the airwaves and you could fill them with pap but the news was a sacred responsibility. Ratings were important, but the reporters and anchors still had gravitas. Once they were just another entertainment show designed to maximize ratings, quality had to suffer.

Still, how do you get from there to believing that Hillary Clinton was running a Satan worshipping cannibalistic pedophile sex ring out of a pizzeria in Washington, DC? Or that JFK Jr. is alive and will be Trump's running mate?

But the biggest nut-show isn't any of these—it's the lie that the election was stolen. I always thought that the federal government should have more say over how elections are run, at least for federal offices. But having various systems in different states, even different counties, does provide a level of protection since it's difficult to hack into different systems or get someone to compromise them. Stealing that election meant being able to change the vote in multiple counties and states, many run by Republicans. The initial big "steal" video showed

election workers taking out a box of ballots, as if there was something unusual about that. There are a lot of ballots, they have to be transported somehow.

Then we have the lawsuits, and the courts all found nothing even though many judges were Republican appointees, even Trump appointees. Occam's Razor says given the complexity of managing all that as opposed to the simple answer that more people voted for Biden, the answer is simple.

So their core beliefs are that an evil pedophile child-eating group, consisting of just about everyone who isn't QAnon, runs the planet. Donald Trump, who

boasts of grabbing women by their private parts, is here to save us from sex offenders. Obama is Satan. The military will remove Biden and install Trump.

I don't know how to deal with people who simply don't live in reality. And there are so many that it's scary. I'm not a psychiatrist, I don't know how to explain this, and I don't know how to deal with this.

If you don't know about "Birds Aren't Real," please look it up and prepare to laugh, and perhaps, cry.

Guttenberg on DeSantis *June Sandra Neal*

Gov. Ron DeSantis punished the Tampa Bay Rays for speaking out about gun violence after the Uvalde massacre by blocking funding for their new training center.

Fred Guttenberg, father of Jaime Guttenberg who was gunned down at the Parkland, FL shooting, responded:

"It is clear @GovRonDeSantis

is a small human being with a Napoleon complex. Governor Desantis, you came to office on the backs of 17 dead in Parkland. I will do everything in my power to make sure you serve only one term you petty whiny little prick."

Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2022 Membership Application and Renewal

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.).

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.



Recently Published Letters

Writing to local papers is a way to influence NPAs and give aid and information to Democrats. Here's another of June's, published in the *Miami Herald*.

DeSantis' Reckless Call for "Open Carry" Gun law

Gov. Ron DeSantis' push for his definition of "constitutional carry," meaning no training or background check, is the most irresponsible step he's taken to date. According to the Violence Policy Center, Florida already has the 26th highest rate of firearm deaths in the United States as of 2022. Some of the shooters had no permits; others did who shouldn't have, due to histories of mental illness or violence, proof that our existing permit screening laws must be toughened. The National Institute of Justice found "Most individuals who perpetrated mass shootings had a prior criminal record (64.5%) and a history of violence (62.8%), including domestic violence (27.9%)."

In 2019, Florida had 15 mass shootings, killing 20 and injuring 54. In 2020, the numbers jumped to 34 mass shootings, killing 26 and injuring 133. Mass shootings are the most visible, but most gun deaths are suicides and domestic murders.

Imagine the increase in such tragedies no constraints on gun possession.

Who will feel safe searching for a parking spot or standing in line for a movie ticket?

DeSantis keeps moving farther to the extreme right. Seems he's now fallen off the cliff.

June S. Neal, Delray Beach, May 3, *Miami Herald*

Vote Out NRA Whores

Michael K. Cantwell

Marco Rubio is not the biggest NRA Whore in the United States Senate, but he's the biggest one who is running for reelection. See June Neal's cover story, "Marco Rubio: Driven by Blind Ambition. He's Violated His Oath of Office."

Marco is currently in fifth place, with \$3.3 million in NRA blood money. He trails Mitt Romney (\$13.1 million), Richard Burr (\$7 million), Roy Blunt (\$4.1 million), and Joni Ernst (\$3.7 million).

With the exception of beating Ron DeRacist, there is nothing more important we can do this November than to send this coward packing.

Trump called him Little Marco, but he was being literal. Rubio is actually a tiny man, not so small in physical stature as in moral compass.

Like the other NRA Whores, his motto is, "Leave the money on the dresser, and no kissing."



Photo by Char Lane.

DeSantis As Nixon

Michael K. Cantwell

It's easy to mock Ron DeSantis as a pint-sized Trump or Trump with table manners (Rebekah Jones might take issue with that characterization . . . more on that below).

But there are several respects in which he differs from Trump, and where the better analogy to Republican reprobates is Richard Nixon. For one, DeSantis is self-made; he didn't depend on his daddy to fund him and clean up his messes or on Russian gangsters to bail him out when his businesses go bankrupt and no one else will lend him money.

DeSantis, like Nixon and unlike Trump, is both shrewd and smart. Even allowing that he went to Yale on an athletic and not an academic scholarship, he graduated magna cum laude, and he graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School. All this makes him more dangerous than Trump,

Finally, DeSantis, like Nixon, has a mean streak, and that could prove to be his tragic flaw. When Rebekah Jones refused to manipulate COVID data, he fired her. She continued to accuse DeSantis of

putting politics above public safety, and was subjected to an early-morning raid of her house by multiple police, armed to the teeth and menacing her husband and infant children. Now she's running against Matt Gaetz for Congress, and leading in the latest polls.

When the Disney corporation spoke out against the "Don't Say Gay" law passed solely as red meat to DeSantis's knuckle-dragging Neanderthal base, he called a special session of the legislature and bulldozed through a revocation of Walt Disney World's special taxing district. It was done hurriedly, without any consideration of who will be on the hook for the \$766 million bond debt Disney's Reedy Creek Improvement District owes. Bullying some children to remove their masks carries little risk except public approbation; taking on Disney is another matter.

And just days after the massacre in Uvalde, DeSantis was back at it. After the Tampa Bay Devil Rays released a statement calling for reform of the gun laws, DeSantis punished them by vetoing a \$35 million grant in the state budget.

2022 Membership

Char Lane

If you're not a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach, please consider joining. If you're already a member of the Club and haven't yet renewed, please renew for 2022.

Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, currently via zoom but we hope to resume live meetings as soon as it's safe to do so.

Our goal is to educate people as to why they should vote Democratic and use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. We need your help with our sign-waving, phone calling, postcard writing,

canvassing and participating in other projects. We'll have to work hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from the manifesting lunacy.

We plan to help turn Florida BLUE by electing a Democratic governor (*to replace DeSantis*) and a Democratic U.S. Senator (*to replace Rubio*) in 2022.

Please visit our website at www.demclubofdelray.org, read current and previous issues of our newsletter *The Delray Democrat* at www.thedelraydemocrat.com and join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>

What Is a Democrat?

Robert Resnick

As we look towards the 2022 midterms and beyond, the Democratic Party must campaign on its core values. Strong candidates will fit their respective districts and the priorities of their voters, but also must connect to national strategy based on these core values that unite Democrats across the nation.

Democrats have been the champions of Social Security and Medicare. While some people tire of this campaign message, imagine a world without these programs that provide such crucial protection to enable seniors to live with dignity and the care they deserve. Republicans continue to threaten these programs through privatization, diverting funds, or reducing eligibility. Democrats will protect Social Security and Medicare.

defend the nation, but we do not need wasteful spending. Republicans push billions to the defense industrial complex on expensive systems that often do not meet standards and come in over budget. Democrats demand that the nation that sends our service members to war must then ensure they are properly cared for when they return. The decision to go to war must always be the last resort when other measures fail.

Reasonable gun control laws are critical to protect the innocent in schools, malls, and walking down the street. Democrats support common sense measures such as banning military style weapons, bump stocks, high-capacity magazines, and ensuring proper background checks so that those who should not

Democrats stand for all of us and our families. We need to stand with them.

Democrats believe health care is a right for all Americans, not a luxury for those who can afford ever increasing premiums. Republicans not only continue their efforts to take away coverage from so many families who benefited from the Affordable Care Act (ACA), they are working with the insurance industry to continue rising costs and lower coverage. Democrats will fight to restore or maintain the benefits of the ACA while continuing to expand coverage for all people.

Democrats stand for a living wage. Americans have never been afraid of hard work and want to earn a living through honorable work. Democrats will fight so that working Americans can support their families. Republicans support big corporations eroding workers' protections and care not that individuals may have to work two or three jobs to provide basic necessities for their families.

Climate change poses an existential danger to our future. and the harm of continued environmental mismanagement is an evil perpetrated against the next generations. Democrats will push for clean, renewable energy and sustainability. Clean air and clean water are basic human rights. Republicans will continue supporting coal and oil, opposing sensible and necessary environmental protection. Democrats understand that the economy of the today and the future depends on clean energy and that sensible regulations help, not hurt, American business.

Democrats stand with our men and women in uniform. We need a strong defense to protect and

possess firearms do not gain access. Republicans distort the truth, scaring people with propaganda that the government is coming to take away their guns. Democrats respect the Second Amendment. The Constitution does not guarantee the right to own military style weapons, nor are such necessary to protect one's home or go hunting.

Democrats will continue to stand for individual rights and give voice and power to those facing discrimination for race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexual orientation. Those who discriminate in housing, employment, and public commerce should be held accountable. Republicans will continue their silence and appease those who preach intolerance.

Democrats believe the economy needs to work for all Americans, not the privileged few. Opportunity should be available to those willing to work hard to achieve success. Republicans stand for a class of elite owners with little concern for average Americans. Education is the great equalizer and Democrats believe talented students should have to ability to go to college without bankrupting their families and sacrificing the future they strive to build due to insurmountable debt.

Democrats stand for a better America and better tomorrow for the next generation.

Democrats stand for a society of respect and equality. Democrats stand for all of us and our families. We need to stand with them.