

NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER
AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Family Caregiver Awareness Month. This November, let us take a moment to celebrate the 90 million family caregivers in the United States. During this month, it is important that we not only thank these selfless individuals, but that we also raise awareness and increase support for caregivers.

While some care for parents, veterans, or even children with special needs, we must recognize the important tasks that caregivers perform. Whether it is managing multiple medications, providing wound care, operating home medical equipment, family caregivers work tirelessly each day. Family caregivers provide nearly \$450 billion worth of unpaid care each year and should be recognized as the backbone of our nation's long-term care system.

More than 15 million family caregivers provide care to 5 million individuals with Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's disease rapidly increases the total number of family caregivers in this country. Overall, two out of every five adults are family caregivers. Approximately 39 percent of all American adults are considered family caregivers in some capacity, an increase from 30 percent in 2010.

There are many different types of caregivers and each deserves recognition and support. Many do not realize that they have become a family caregiver and need additional support and guidance. Others have been the primary caregiver for years and struggle with the stress of caring for a loved one. Some are part of a family care giving team and provide support from far away. Whatever role a caregiver takes, it is vital that we not only thank them but also commit to supporting their efforts. I urge my colleagues to recognize National Family Caregiver Awareness month and to support the caregivers of our nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CANADIAN
CITIZENS WHO SERVED IN THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED
STATES DURING THE VIETNAM
WAR

HON. JOHN KLINE

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the thousands of Canadians who selflessly served in the Armed Forces of the United States during the Vietnam War.

These Veterans swore to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and served honorably as members of our Armed Forces at a time when America faced many challenges at home and abroad.

Of the thousands of Canadian citizens who were drafted or volunteered to serve, over three thousand became naturalized U.S. citizens between 1967 and 1975. Others became citizens later, but many, with their obligation

completed, returned in obscurity to their homes in Canada. Additionally, more than one hundred Canadians lost their lives in service to our country.

Canadians who served honorably in the Armed Forces of the United States are deserving of the recognition they have earned—their service to this country is worthy of our highest regard.

To my fellow Vietnam Veterans, thank you for your dedicated service and sacrifice. Your devotion to the cause of freedom has not gone unnoticed.

END PERSECUTION OF BURMA'S
ROHINGYA PEOPLE AND OTHER
ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORI-
TIES

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today, Representative JOE PITTS and I introduced a bipartisan resolution to protect Burma's Rohingya minority and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma. While Burma has begun a gradual transition from decades of military rule to a fledgling democracy, Burma's Rohingya minority has experienced a shocking rise in targeted attacks at the hands of Burma's Buddhist majority, along with increased instances of arbitrary arrests, detention, and extortion of Rohingya and other Muslim communities across the country.

All signs indicate that the Rohingya and other Muslim communities in Burma remain at extreme risk to further forms of persecution and violence. My colleagues and I therefore introduce this resolution to call for an end to the persecution of Burma's Rohingya minority and the protection of all ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma.

I urge my colleagues to join us on this resolution calling for an end to the persecution of the Rohingya people and the protection of Burma's ethnic and religious minorities.

IRS AND THE TEA PARTY

HON. BILL FLORES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

MANASSAS TEA PARTY,
Virginia.

On behalf of the Manassas Tea Party and the disaffected constituents that you represent, we wish to remind you of the angst, as well as the damage that we experienced in our quest for non-profit status for our organization, an organization dedicated to preserving Constitutional principles.

The process began on May 14th, 2010 and concluded on December 4th, 2012—more than a two year wait. As our status remained in flux and with the IRS's threatening and unwarranted behavior, our community impact weakened. We found it difficult to keep people engaged, members became uncomfortable participating, our organization became paralyzed, membership numbers declined, and our fundraising suffered.

The IRS is truly an intimidating force. In their multiple requests for information pertaining to group and individual politics, postings on social networks, and contributor affiliations, we felt threatened and bullied. Their language and tone intimated that anything short of full cooperation and disclosure in all aspects of the IRS demands would be reviewed under the threat of perjury. The IRS even informed us that our private responses would be made public.

Our experience represents a shameful example of government harassment and abuse, and an orchestrated attempt to disenfranchise citizens of The United States of their Constitutional rights. Intrusions such as these are not just 'Tea Party' issues. For when government abuses its power and authority, it should sound an alarm for all Americans.

You gentlemen, have been charged with guarding our liberty. What will you do to right this gross injustice?

Respectfully,

THE MANASSAS TEA PARTY.

OKC TEA PARTY AND PATRIOTS

IN ACTION ASSOCIATION,

Oklahoma.

PATRIOTS EDUCATING CONCERNED

AMERICANS NOW (PECAN),

California.

In early 2010 we formed Patriots Educating Concerned Americans Now as a 501c3 non-profit. PECAN provided a support network for a dozen patriot groups in Northern CA and while waiting for the official IRS approval we operated as a 501c3 non-profit. It became clear, however, that most donors wanted proof of our official non-profit status. An accountant volunteered his time to create and manage our non-profit but his generosity was repaid with hundreds of unpaid work hours because our group was targeted by the IRS.

Our largest group in Redding had 500 people attending every Monday night through the 2010 election but donations from the group just covered the cost of the meeting room. There was no way to raise enough money to bring teachers, speakers, trainers and other organizations like Wounded Warrior Project to our rural area. Lack of significant fundraising has suppressed outreach to build supporters, disseminate information and get out the vote. The IRS has essentially limited us to word of mouth rather than the growing and thriving non-profit we have been poised to be for the past three and a half years.

Individuals and businesses have been concerned about targeting by the government since the tea party began. The actions of the IRS have confirmed their worst fears. This has translated into lower attendance at meetings and events while destroying our ability to raise funds; donors fear IRS harassment. The actions of the IRS have suppressed voter education from Sacramento to the Oregon border in not one but TWO elections!

BOARD OF
DIRECTORS PECAN.

ROANE COUNTY TEA PARTY,

Tennessee.

The Roane County Tea Party was originally loosely formed on April 10th, 2009 and formally organized in October of 2009. On January of 2010 we started the paperwork to apply to the IRS for 501(c)(4) status and submitted the paperwork on March 20th, 2010. We heard nothing from the IRS (even though we kept calling every month) until January of 2012 when a letter came from the IRS requesting additional information.

This information was quite extensive and, at that time, we believed it was quite intrusive but we worked on it (eight of us) for

about six weeks. Upon completing a massive amount of paperwork we took everything to a CPA with forty years experience doing business to make sure we had completed everything correctly.

The CPA looked over our documents briefly and then asked who we had angered at the IRS. She went on to comment that a major portion of the documentation was not needed, required or, even legal for the IRS to even ask. The CPA then went through everything over the next couple of days, removing about 80% of the papers, advising us to submit the rest.

On March 20th, 2012 we submitted the remaining documents per her instructions and waited for a reply.

By August of 2012 we received an additional set of questions from the IRS and took them directly to the CPA for clarification. Based on guidance from the CPA we responded to these second set of questions and sent them back to the IRS.

What followed was, what I would characterize as a series of harassing, intimidating phone calls from one Grant Herring, an agent of the IRS to both myself and the RCTP chairman, Val McNabb over the next few months. I personally spoke with Mr. Herring at least three times by phone with the calls lasting up to 45 minutes each. Val McNabb did receive at least that many calls and possibly more.

Finally in January of 2013 we received one last letter from the IRS with only two additional questions. We answered those questions and notified the IRS that we would not be responding to any more questions and for them to approve or deny us.

On March 28th, 2013 we received an approval letter dated March 15th, 2013 that we were approved. On June 17th, 2013 we received another letter that our status was revoked. A number of calls to the IRS followed resulting in RCTP receiving a letter of apology on July 11th, 2013 from the IRS telling us they had made a mistake and we were being reinstated.

If you believe that this saga is over you are mistaken. Shortly after that on August 12th, 2013 we received notice from the IRS that our active status was revoked again for failing to file for three consecutive years a 990N form. What followed were calls to four different IRS offices all over the US by Val McNabb to rectify this problem. After many, many hours on the phone with a half dozen IRS personnel we were returned to active status with the IRS.

Only the good Lord knows exactly how long our current active status will last.

GARY JOHNSTON,
Roane County Tea Party.

SHELBY COUNTY LIBERTY,
Ohio.

Shelby County Liberty was formed by local citizens concerned about our government diminishing our constitutional liberties and behaving fiscally irresponsible. To positively impact this destructive course we feel a fact-based understanding of our United States Constitution is necessary to understand the freedoms and liberties we are in danger of losing.

Shelby County Liberty is dependent on donations and the generosity of other non-profit organizations to accomplish Constitution Classes and informative Town Hall meetings. Our group has been told, confidentially, by other tax exempt groups, that they fear loss of their 501(C)3 status if they support us. Private business tell us they fear repercussions. It is nearly impossible to conduct Town Hall meetings, speakers and trainers without money or a meeting venue. When we received the first letter from the IRS Cincinnati office demanding the name of every attendee

of every meeting, plus many additional intrusive questions on individuals, we clearly understood why the government is feared.

Ironically, the very rights the Liberty groups rose up to protect, have been so assaulted that Americans fear retaliation if they exercise those rights, from the government that is suppose to protect and defend those rights.

Clearly people fear reprisal from our government and this has limited Shelby County Liberty educational activities, hampered support and slowed donations. What kind of a nation do we live in when its citizens fear their own government?

In Liberty,

H.R. PENCE,
*Shelby County Liberty
Communications Director,
And the entire membership.*

UNITE IN ACTION, INC.,
Nashville, TN.

Imagine for a moment the most notorious bully ever known to man suddenly sets their sights on you and for three long years that bully in your path every day. That is exactly what Unite In Action has endured. What did we do to deserve such attention? We tried to educate people on the history of America's founding, the Constitution, civics and issues that have an impact on millions of Americans. That raised the ire of someone in a position of power who then directed the IRS to point their guns directly at us.

The IRS has buried our organization in mounds of paperwork with long lists of extremely intrusive questions totally outside the normal information required for a 501(c)(4) application. They demanded printed copies of everything we, and anyone associated with us, have ever said, distributed, posted, personal information about our board members and a list of our donors.

We publicly disclosed the demand of the IRS. Our openness has resulted in most of our supporters fleeing for fear of retaliation by the IRS. And who could blame them? Even the most honest taxpayer fears scrutiny by the IRS.

By cutting off our funding through intimidation, the IRS has effectively silenced our voices and severely hampered our mission to educate the American public about things that should be, but are no longer, taught in our public school systems. Why would anyone want to silence those trying to educate our citizens on how government works and how we became the United States of America?

As of this writing, our organization has endured the injustice of having our application held hostage for 1225 days and counting. Our government should not target its citizens with whom it may disagree or because of what they say. We would expect to see this behavior in China, Russia or Venezuela, not in America where speech is a protected and sacred right. We urge Congress to act swiftly to put an end to such oppression, not just for Unite In Action, but for all Americans.

Semper Vigilantes,
JAY DEVEREAUX,
*President,
Unite In Action, Inc.*

WETUMPKA TEA PARTY,
Alabama.

Thank you for reading my letter. And I thank you again for pursuing the source of this IRS corruption.

I've been asked to recount the IRS' mistreatment of the Wetumpka Tea Party. I've already done that. In previous testimony, I've explained in detail how the IRS turned a simple 90-day application process into a multi-year bureaucratic debacle. Then, oddly enough, our legal problems suddenly van-

ished without explanation shortly after the 2012 election cycle. As we've learned, hundreds of tea parties and like-minded organizations suffered the same fate.

The political targeting conducted by the IRS is a national outrage. Those aren't my words. Those words came from President Obama.

So who gave the order?

An outrage is committed by a human being. Initially, a Cincinnati IRS office was blamed, but offices can't be held responsible. Only individuals can be held responsible. And those agents in Cincinnati said their directives came from Washington.

So who gave the order?

This wasn't a hurricane or an earthquake. This wasn't magic. And the targeting was too consistent and pervasive to be considered coincidental. Someone in Washington, DC decided to target their political adversaries.

So who gave the order?

This scandal is unique in American history. Never before have millions of Americans been targeted by their government for their political views. This is not a partisan issue. Both sides can agree that unaddressed government problems tend to get bigger. At root, the actions of the IRS threaten American freedom and every American citizen's faith in their government. That root cannot be allowed to grow.

It's been more than five months since President Obama promised to hold the IRS accountable. Thus far, no one has been indicted. No one has been fired. And Lois Lerner is taking the fifth.

So, Mr. President, who gave the order?

BECKY GERRITSON,
Wetumpka Tea Party, President.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TEA PARTY,
Ohio.

Who we are:

The Liberty Township Tea Party was founded in the summer of 2009 with a desire to organize with like-minded individuals with an interest to educate ourselves, and others, about significant current events that are negatively impacting our country and families; and with a commitment to work in concert with other concerned citizens to bring about positive, public policies that are consistent with our core values. We are an independent group and speak for ourselves on all issues. We have cooperative and collaborative relationships with other local like minded independent Tea Party groups but are not part of any state or national group.

Statement on IRS

The Liberty Township Tea Party applied for 501(c)3 status with the IRS in May of 2010. Our Tea Party was modeled after the League of Women Voters with the goal of encouraging the community to become educated in the political process and issues of the day. We received our first round of questions in January of 2011; this set of 34 questions rapidly expands to 95 questions when all of the sub-questions are tallied in. After two follow-up letters by us asking for status and several telephone calls it was not until January 2013 that we heard from the IRS again. This time in the form of eleven more follow-up questions with attendant sub-questions to answer. The Liberty Township Tea Party has engaged in this application process in good faith in this government agency to process the application in a timely manner. That faith in the government's ability and sincerity has been tested to the edge.

Summary

It has now been 38 months and we have not been approved or rejected. Our group is premised on the goal of smaller government. The inability of the IRS to make a timely decision, their intrusive illegal politically motivated questioning that went what was

beyond reasonable proves to us that our bureaucracies are bloated and our representatives have failed miserably in controlling the agencies they have created. Our right to free speech and assembly has been abridged.

LIBERTY TOWNSHIP TEA PARTY.

RICHMOND TEA PARTY.

Virginia.

On behalf of the Richmond Tea Party I'd like to express both my outrage over the treatment by the IRS regarding our application for a 501C 4 tax status as well as my concern that when the investigation is over there will be just a slight slap on the wrist along with worthless promises that the IRS will do better in the future. This investigation should not be used solely as political posturing. As you know, we fear big government, from either side of the aisle, and this serves as proof that our fears are well founded. We will be watching to see if Congress will take this abuse of power by the management of the IRS seriously and take substantial corrective action or whether this will just be a political circus show.

Abuse of power is tyranny and we believe the IRS abused its power and we are seeking redress from our elected officials.

Respectfully,

BRUCE A. JAGGARD,

Chairman of the Board,

Richmond Tea Party.

ROCHESTER TEA PARTY PATRIOTS,

Minnesota.

The Rochester Tea Party Patriots wanted you to know that a simple application request for 501c3 took over 3 years. We started the application process on August 11, 2009, which was lost by the IRS. We resent our application and another year passed. After numerous phone calls being ignored by Mr. Ball, in Cincinnati; our CPA filled a Request for Taxpayer Advocate Service Assistance on August 10th 2011. Within a day after receiving our registered letter he returned our phone call. He advised there was nothing he could do for us, all Tea Party type organizations were being held and handled as a group. We were denied our 501c3 status and but were granted 501c4 status on September 6, 2012.

In the last year of our application process we received many requests from IRS agents requesting exceptionally inappropriate questions;

"Please submit statements regarding educational, work and philanthropic backgrounds of the organization's officers . . ."

"Names and addresses of our members"

"Other than serving as officers for the organization, please provide the names and the addresses of each individual's employer/business, the nature of their employment/business, and the number of hours devoted to their employment/business"

How these intrusive questions related to our 501c3 application has yet to be explained.

During this extended application period, our organization incurred additional expenses. We were not able to take advantage of the 501c3 discounts for our email and website accounts and ineligible to apply for a number grants.

In closing, regardless of any organizations perceived political affiliation, no one should be targeted or intimidated by its own government or agents. We ask Congress to hold the persons and organizations accountable for their actions; it was the Tea Party this time who will be next . . . You?

ROCHESTER TEA PARTY PATRIOTS.

GREATER PHOENIX

TEA PARTY PATRIOTS,

Arizona.

The Greater Phoenix Tea Party was founded as an Arizona non-member/non-profit corporation in late 2009 to educate our fellow citizens about their birthright, and restore America's founding principles to our society and government. At the end of our first full year we filed a 501c4 application with the IRS. In January of 2011, the U.S. Treasury cashed our application check. Months went by with no word from the IRS so we tracked down and queried the agent in charge of our file who provided us with no compelling reasons the delay. In February of 2012, we got one of the infamous IRS letters requesting inapposite information. When several other Tea Party groups across the country got their letters simultaneously, we knew something was up.

In May of this year, the IRS declared that they had indeed been targeting Tea Party and conservative groups leading up to the 2012 election cycle. Ms. Lerner declared when this scandal came to light, that upon discovering the targeting of conservative groups, she ordered a halt to the practice immediately; yet here we are along with several other groups having not been approved or denied.

This harassing of ideological adversaries has vindicated the very founding of the Tea Party movement and has given all of our warnings to the American people credence regarding the dangers of big government. Because of their un-constitutional treatment we have filed suit against the IRS.

Today we are here to urge Congress to act and expose the layers of this very real scandal. We implore you to be relentless in your investigation and administration of justice; being ever mindful of your oaths to uphold the Constitution and the principles of limited government it safeguards. Do this, and all Americans will benefit from your actions, and we will stand beside you and help develop the tools necessary to fight domestic enemies and tyranny. As long as the Federal government continues to expand beyond its delegated bounds and threatens individual liberty, America's standing will continue to

shrink and we will accelerate towards an unnecessary national sunset.

Thank you,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE GREATER
PHOENIX TEA PARTY PATRIOTS.

CONGRESSIONAL RECOGNITION
FOR MR. ART ALMQUIST: WINNER OF A 2013 TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD FROM PEOPLE MAGAZINE

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 18, 2013

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Art Almquist, theater teacher at Tucson High Magnet School, for being awarded one of People Magazine's 2013 Teachers of the Year awards, and the first of its Readers' Choice awards.

As stated in People Magazine, "For the past 17 years, Almquist has been Tucson Magnet's drama teacher. He has built a cutting-edge theater program rarely seen on the high school level. For Almquist, known for staging productions on topics such as AIDS, environmental activism and immigration, theater offers a way to teach his students a variety of skills that go beyond acting. 'He's influenced thousands of students to find the challenge, the love, and the joy of whatever career they pursue,' says former student Julian Martinez."

I couldn't be prouder to have Mr. Almquist inspiring the students of Southern Arizona. It was the students who made this award possible, voting online thousands of times and encouraging others to join them to ensure Mr. Almquist would receive this honor.

Teaching may be the most important skill a person can share. As parents, coaches, educators, neighbors, friends and community leaders, we all are responsible for helping children learn. And if we teach correctly, we give the lifelong gift of continual learning. There is no "finish line" to education. Regardless of the formal process of elementary and higher levels of school, a great teacher endows the love of improvement that continues throughout our lives.

I am proud to recognize Art Almquist of Tucson High Magnet School and all the people who work each day to help strengthen the education system in Southern Arizona. It is our duty to thank our teachers for their significant contributions to our community and ensuring a bright future for our children.