



PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

Still seeking the conservative choice, not an echo



Schlafly at 90: Still comforting the afflicted conservative, and afflicting the comfortable Republican

By **CHERYL WETZSTEIN**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

"I've had a fun life."

So says Phyllis Schlafly, the prolific writer, speaker and conservative thinker who, at age 90, is still fighting to comfort the afflicted conservative while afflicting the comfortable. Especially the kingmakers.

She's not done yet, either.

Mrs. Schlafly, the author of 25 books, still writes a weekly column, radio commentaries and a monthly newsletter, "The Phyllis Schlafly Report," on current affairs.

Asked in a recent interview what it will take to see President Ronald Reagan's "morning in America" again, she replies instantly with the candor that is her hallmark: "A change in the administration, for starters."

But then there will be a lot of hard work disincentivizing welfare, re-incentivizing marriage and tackling the many forces — feminism, family courts, gay rights — that are undermining America's "mom-and-pop" family culture and the powerful benefits it brings, she warns.

The nuclear family — i.e., mother and father, with father as provider — "is an economic entity that can support itself, and did support itself and built the greatest middle class in the history of the world," says Mrs. Schlafly, the founder of Eagle Forum.

Reviving a strong, self-sufficient family culture is the only way out of the nation's financial mess, she says.

"The social issues are the reason for the big, unbalanced budget and enormous spending," she said, recalling one statistical estimate that President Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty" has now "cost more than all the wars our country ever fought."

When fathers aren't in the home, she says, women and children look to "Big Brother Government" and its costly welfare programs.

So, to cut the budget, "you've got to restore the family," says Mrs. Schlafly, who is widowed after 44 years of marriage and has six children and 14 grandchildren.

Mrs. Schlafly famously crashed Republican boardrooms and backrooms in 1964 when she self-published a brisk little paperback called "A Choice Not an Echo."

"I sold 3.5 million copies out of my garage," she told The Washington Times.

The book exposed and named "kingmakers" who were picking Republican candidates and propelling them forward with the help of paid political workers, media cheerleaders and "propaganda blitzes" that made a credulous public believe the anointed candidate was there by public acclaim.

The book was "the major thing that invented the conservative movement,



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because it showed them the game plan, inspired them to go for a goal and to stick together afterwards," she said.

"A Choice Not an Echo" galvanized support for Arizona Sen. Barry Goldwater, a conservative, free enterprise, Republican "choice," not the "echo" of a liberal, big-government Democrat.

Goldwater lost by a landslide to incumbent President Lyndon B. Johnson, but the events of 1964 sowed the seeds for "our reward in 1980 with the election of Ronald Reagan," Mrs. Schlafly says proudly.

Mrs. Schlafly, whose work will be honored Wednesday night at the Paul Weyrich Awards dinner that kicks off the annual Conservative Political Action Conference, updated her seminal book in 2014, offering her always-succinct reviews of the political conventions since 1968, and even some thoughts about 2016.

The kingmakers of old have given way to the Republican Establishment, she says, but "it's the same thing: The 'big money crowd' is trying to dictate who will be the nominee and control the Republican Party.

Still, the stakes for the next presidential election have "never been higher," she adds.

"What [President] Obama has done to our country is hard to believe, it's so bad. He has taken us into a different kind of country ... he wants to bring us down to the level of all the other countries."

"When I wrote the new [version of] 'A Choice Not an Echo,' basically I predicted Jeb [Bush] would be the candidate," she says, referring to the son of the man the Establishment Republicans heavily backed over California Gov. Ronald Reagan in 1980.

"One of the funniest things to watch" recently was former Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney's effort to return as a 2016 candidate, she says. "That wasn't in the [Establishment] plan at all," she chuckles. "They had to get rid of him as they didn't want their people divided."

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush has several "fatal liabilities," she wrote in 2014, "such as the Bush name and his vehement support of the Common Core takeover of our schools."

"If conservatives want to nominate a real conservative, they must get busy now."

Now the "big factor of money" is making a huge difference in candidate selection, she tells The Times.

"I know that Jeb Bush is having a \$100,000-a-plate dinner. That is so much money I can hardly understand it."

Pick a favorite conservative subject — activist judges, religious freedom battles, military superiority and family breakdown — and Mrs. Schlafly has probably written a book about it.

Activist judges — like those in her 2006 book, "The Supremacists: The Tyranny of Judges and How to Stop It" — have gotten

even worse, she declares.

"These judges think they can do anything, and they are trying to make law and really run the country, and make all these important decisions," she says. There are exceptions, like the "brave judge" who recently wrote the 120-page opinion blocking "Obama's crooked amnesty" program for illegal immigrants, but "that's out of line" with the "supremacists," she adds.

In 2012 she covered the "very important" religious freedom issue in her book "No Higher Power: Obama's War on Religious Freedom."

That, in turn, dovetails into the white-hot social issue of gay rights, she says.

"I have said and thought from beginning that [the] first goal of the gay rights movement was not marriage — their first goal was to shut up everybody that disagreed with them, and accuse them of discrimination," Mrs. Schlafly says.

Their two big arguments have been that they have been discriminated against, and there's an inevitability to their claims, she says.

In fact, however, "there hasn't been a large-scale movement of the people to [gay marriage]," Mrs. Schlafly says. Instead, in most states with gay marriage, the changes were "not adopted by the people, they were adopted by a supremacist judge."

Mrs. Schlafly takes pride in her leadership in the 10-year battle to block state ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment passed by Congress in 1972, arguing it would allow women to be drafted into the military and give federal government "enormous new powers to reinterpret every law that makes a distinction based on gender, such as those related to marriage, divorce and alimony."

But her other major legacy is "making the Republican Party pro-life."

Republicans were pro-abortion under President Richard Nixon since, in the 1970s, people were worried that "we were running out of food on the earth" and needed population control, she said. Now the party is so pro-life, "you can hardly run for office as a Republican without at least saying you're pro-life," she boasts.

Mrs. Schlafly fought for pro-life positions in Republican Party platforms, beginning with the first convention after the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling legalizing abortion. Since 1984 the Republican platform has said that "the unborn child, as an individual, has a fundamental right to life."

Noting that half of the millennial generation is pro-life, she says, "I'd like to think it [was due to] all our good work, but it's the pictures, the ultrasounds.

"I didn't see any ultrasound when I was having babies," she says. But today, "even a 4th grader can tell that's a baby."

The Phyllis Schlafly Way

“Longevity plus consistency equals great leadership.”

By Ed Martin

Every day, year after year, Phyllis Schlafly leads her Eagle Forum and, by extension, “the conservative movement.” Trusted for her judgment and instincts, Phyllis is a go-to leader for conservatives in and out of public life. Already this year, she is playing a key role in the 2016 presidential election with her updated book *A Choice Not An Echo* which describes how the fight is yet again between the “kingmakers” and the conservative grassroots.

On the national scene since 1952 (fighting for Taft over Eisenhower!) and a prominent founder of the conservative movement since 1964 (Goldwater), Phyllis has been in the middle of nearly every American policy conversation: from education to defense to the economy and especially the family and our values (ERA). Her many books and thousands of speeches appear the work of a work-a-holic conservative, but they are just a small part of Phyllis Schlafly’s work. Consider this output:

- the Phyllis Schlafly Report mailed to tens of thousands each month (sometimes twice a month) since 1967;
- a weekly nationally syndicated newspaper column since 1976;
- a three minute radio commentary every weekday since 1983;
- a weekly one-hour, live, call-in radio show for the past 25 years;
- hundreds of radio interviews each year.
- dozens of TV interviews each year.
- attendance at every Republican convention since 1952 (that’s sixteen in a row!);
- twenty-six books including the original *A Choice Not An Echo* (over 3 million copies!)
- her organization has over 120 state leaders heading Eagle Forum chapter at the state and local level with a D.C. office since Reagan’s inauguration.

Phyllis founded a pro-life group that drafted, passed and now defends the pro-life Republican Party plank (RNC for Life). She has supported hundreds of candidate for office at every level. She has written dozens of pamphlets, reports and thousands of letters. She ran for Congress twice, ran for national president of the Federation of Republican Women. And she works the phones daily to update and support her Eagle Forum state leaders (over



120 strong). Phyllis even completed law school and was admitted to the Bar during the ERA fight. First among all this, she raised six children and with her late husband Fred.

So, what accounts for her extraordinary output? Yes, Phyllis learned how to work hard during a Depression-era upbringing. A close examination of her work and her decisions reveals remarkable consistency and a method with a few ever-present features.

First, Phyllis never fails to show her sense of humor and smile. People are attracted by humor and joy - and it infuriates the lefties when you are not miserable like they are!

Second, Phyllis relies on carefully

framed arguments. She once told me that she never engages except on the terms she decides are best. This takes careful thought, painstaking planning, and great judgement.

Third, Phyllis demands of herself, her allies, and even her opponents an abundance of facts. Pick up a PS Report and you will see it crammed with facts. Asked about the density of her writing, she smiled broadly and said “More facts per word than any writer - that’s my goal in writing. You win them over with facts.”

Finally, Phyllis loves the fight and she also loves her opponents (although they may not feel this when she bests them!) She refuses to engage in

name-calling or even to question motives. “This is not personal, not ever,” Phyllis told me recently. “It’s always about the argument and the facts - if you give them all the facts, over and over again, you’ll win the argument.”

Phyllis’ own definition of leadership is below. This is wisdom she has shared with her Eagle Forum leaders and which, suffice to say, simply the Phyllis Schlafly way.

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Ed Martin is the President of Eagle Forum and immediate past Chairman of the Missouri Republican Party. He lives in St. Louis, Missouri with his wife Carol, a geriatrics physician, and their four children.

LEADERSHIP

By PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY

My definition of a leader is an ordinary person who accepts the responsibility to complete a job that requires the cooperation of other people. It demands a certain combination of skills that can be developed by practice, and the first letters of these skills spell LEADERSHIP.

A leader must have the virtue of Loyalty - to God, to country, to moral law, and to his followers. Loyalty must be a two way street; it must flow down as well as up.

A leader must have Enthusiasm.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

The keystone of the whole design is that a leader must Accept responsibility. He must make decisions, not be a buckpasser. This is not talent of intellect but an achievement of will.

A leader must have infinite capacity for Detail and follow through. As Michelangelo once said, “Trifles make perfection, but perfection is no trifle.”

A leaders makes Efficient use of his time. He organizes his mind, his day, his week, his year. He can cope with the pressure of deadlines.

A leader must be Resolute. He cannot be dismayed by the heartaches and heartbreaks he encounters.

That is the penalty of leadership and its badge of honor.

A leaders must have a Sense of humor. He doesn’t to be always happy, but he must remain cheerful even in the face of defeat.

A leaders must seek, not avoid, Hard work. Opportunities are everywhere, but they disguised as hard work and that’s why most people don’t recognize them.

ITEMIZE: A leader must Itemize duties and delegate tasks. He must motivate the cooperation of the other people.

PERSEVERANCE: Finally, a leader must have Perseverance. Most problems we face have no instant cures; a leader must gear for the long haul.

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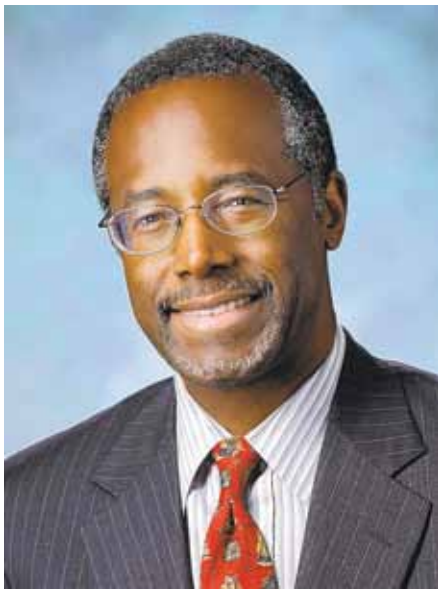
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Applauding a life-long champion of family, marriage and common sense



By BEN CARSON
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Recently, I was temporarily placed on the Southern Poverty Law Center's watch list for extremism simply because I vocally support traditional marriage. I remember thinking when did advocating for lifelong love between one man and one woman become a hate crime? Fortunately, the group saw the folly of its ways and apologized, removing me from the list.

It was a small battle, a blip in the daily life of someone who has entered the political arena. And I enjoyed the support of many who rallied in the conservative media to my cause to help reverse such a silly distinction. But it wasn't that long ago when liberal extremism tried to suffocate traditional values, and there were

few media voices to come to the rescue. There was one though, so powerful and elegant, persistent yet graceful. Her name is Phyllis Schlafly. And for the last 90 years she has been a tireless advocate for the nuclear family, for traditional marriage and for common-sense conservatism that resists injecting government into every aspect of our lives.

She fought battles most lacked the courage to fight, and time and again she won. She has been credited for single-handedly stopping the Equal Rights Amendment, which in the 1970s was racing on a media freight train toward ratification. Phyllis stopped it dead in its tracks, not because she didn't believe women deserved rights. But rather because she recognized ERA was skewed toward favoring young professional woman and that it would punish middle-aged and older women who chose to stay at home and raise their families by taking away "dependent wife" benefits under Social Security and alimony.

In those days, it took courage and lots of hard work to roll back what a liberal media had started in motion. But Phyllis succeeded because she was intellectually honest, impassioned and skilled in not only communicating the fight but also in waging it. Likewise, she has relentlessly fought for life, recognizing early on the Roe v. Wade decision would be one of the courts' worst decisions.

Through good and bad economic times,

and the ebb and flow of conservative activism, Phyllis has remained a steady voice for common sense and traditional values. Her speeches, books, TV appearances and radio commentaries blazed the way for

Through good and bad economic times, and the ebb and flow of conservative activism, Phyllis has remained a steady voice for common sense and traditional values. Her speeches, books, TV appearances and radio commentaries blazed the way for modern conservatism while also protecting the rights of traditional families from the onslaught of Hollywood's culture wars.

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Her voice is as relevant and strong today as it was more than a half century ago when she made the famous case for

Barry Goldwater's conservatism in her great book "A Choice, Not An Echo." In her 2014 book "Who Killed the American Family," she eloquently touched my heart with her keen insights on how the Obama agenda and decades of prior liberal tax code changes and court interference had substituted government intervention over parenting, and federal dependency over self-reliance.

Like she has for most of her 90 years on this planet, Phyllis cut right to the chase in diagnosing the problem with America today. In plain, simple and compelling language she rightfully declared that "the government is making ordinary decisions about what the kid does that ought to be made by the mothers and fathers." So simple a declaration, yet so true.

For those who believe this battle is already lost or isn't worth fighting any more because the cards are stacked against conservatives, I implore you to step back and examine the extraordinary life of Phyllis Schlafly. She has proven that what seemed impossible can be achieved. She has lived a life of virtue, and never been tempted to compromise.

And she has made the most compelling case that the family unit must be preserved in order for America's greatness to extend into future generation. And for that extraordinary contribution, I salute her.

A Founding Mother of the Conservative Movement

By James C. Dobson

What can one say about my good friend Phyllis Schlafly. I have known her for more than 30 years and have marveled at her courage and commitment to issues in which she believes.

In the 1970's, the radical women's rights movement promoted a leftist Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Momentum surged around the document. Eventual passage in only three more states would have made it the law of the land and America would never have been the same.

The feminists and their supporters were ready to celebrate their approaching victory when Phyllis rose to the challenge. She was up against truly formidable opposition in two U.S. Presidents and their First Ladies, a sizable majorities in both the House and Senate, the federal judiciary, the liberal news media, the entertainment industry and the rest of the governing elite. It was no contest.



Phyllis Schlafly speaking at University of Nebraska at Omaha with Sarah Weddington.

I watched on television as Phyllis took on Phil Donohue in his heyday. She fought him to the ground. When the battle was over, the ERA had been crushed and it never recovered.

Phyllis had won the fight without any federal money or other powerful support. It was the first time, but not the last, that she was victorious in defense of families, marriage, faith, and freedom. It is why I strongly believe that if Phyllis Schlafly had been born 200 years earlier, she would have been remembered as one of our "Founding Mothers."

Clearly, I have profound admiration for this great lady. I hope millions of our countrymen and women will join us in celebrating this tribute to Phyllis Schlafly. There is none quite like her.

James C. Dobson is the founder of Focus on the Family and the current head of Family Talk.

Young America's Foundation Salutes Phyllis Schlafly



Throughout her career, Phyllis Schlafly has been exemplary in reaching and inspiring young people—as were Ronald Reagan, William F. Buckley Jr, and Barry Goldwater.

Young America's Foundation salutes her lifetime of work for the Conservative Movement and for our country.

To get involved with Young America's Foundation's continued efforts to reach young people on college and high school campuses, visit our website, www.yaf.org, or call 800-USA-1776.



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When Phyllis Schlafly Went to Berkeley

By Jiesi Zhao

Phyllis Schlafly went into the belly of the beast, the University of California–Berkeley, six years ago this month to give a lecture on the failures of the modern-day feminist movement.

Mrs. Schlafly has long been a champion of conservatism and a leading figure in the fight against the Equal Rights Amendment, an act proposed in 1923 that would have taken away women's exemption from the military draft, made unconstitutional single-sex schooling and activities (including sororities, Girl Scouts, and mother-daughter school functions), eliminated veterans' preference for employers, and removed insurance companies' rights to charge women less than men, amongst other measures to achieve "equality."

In a packed lecture hall of undergraduate students at UC-Berkeley, Mrs. Schlafly held her own during an event hosted by the conservative club on campus, which I served as chairwoman at the time. The crowd barraged her with questions from the expectedly liberal feminist point-of-view, although maintaining a semblance of respect for the speaker. Mrs. Schlafly never wavered in defending her strongly-held beliefs.

She may have even inspired some of the students in attendance to think about women's rights from a different viewpoint—a perspective the students were



never going to get from their professors.

Perhaps just as important as what happened when Mrs. Schlafly visited Berkeley is how this conservative leader got to be on campus in the first place.

Young America's Foundation provided my campus club with the resources, connections, and know-how to host an event featuring Mrs. Schlafly at Berkeley.

After attending my first Foundation seminar at the Reagan Ranch Center in Santa Barbara, California, the previous year, I was determined to bring an alternative voice to campus. The Foundation provided me with logistical and other support every step of the way to ensure that I would reach my peers with Mrs. Schlafly's important speech.

Today, as part of Young America's Foundation's team, I have the privilege of providing the same assistance to other

students on campus. I am proud to witness all of the triumphs of young conservatives on hostile campuses nationwide.

President Reagan told us, "There is no better way to establish hope for the future than to enlighten young minds."

That is exactly what we are doing through Young America's Foundation's programs.

Young America's Foundation, with the help of our supporters, activates and trains the younger generations to engage in public policy debates at their schools.

Today's young people are becoming increasingly disenchanted with the Obama administration. Now, more than ever, they are poised to join us because of failed government initiatives, a poor job market, and an increasing realization that their generation faces record personal and governmental debt.

Young America's Foundation's on-campus lectures along with our immersive seminars and conferences provide students with access to Conservative Movement leaders and the ideas that will shape their lives.

For me and my fellow club members, Mrs. Schlafly's speech and presence on campus did more than simply give the conservative viewpoint a voice at Berkeley. Something unexpected happened at the close of the lecture.

Mrs. Schlafly missed a step as she was walking down from the lecture podium, causing her to fall and break her hip.

Luckily, the crowd was already gone and the emergency responders came

quickly to take her to the hospital. Thankfully, Mrs. Schlafly would recover and my fellow club members displayed great maturity throughout the unfortunate incident by initially notifying proper authorities and, later, visiting her in the hospital.

While I normally never share that part of the story, I felt it appropriate to mention on the occasion of the celebration of her 90th birthday because of what I learned from Mrs. Schlafly that day.

In the midst of the chaos and considerable pain caused by the fall, Mrs. Schlafly displayed her mental toughness and grace that has inspired conservative women for generations.

She managed to stay calm and collected, even though she could not even stand up. As she was being taken to the hospital on a stretcher, Mrs. Schlafly perked up to smile and wave at me and the other members of our club.

We gave her another round of applause.

Mrs. Schlafly's poise in that moment was an unexpected and important lesson for me. That day, unbeknownst to most of those in attendance, Mrs. Schlafly showed us the true meaning of being a strong and competent woman.

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Jiesi Zhao, Esq. is the director of the Center for Entrepreneurship & Free Enterprise at Young America's Foundation.



By DAVID KEENE

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

As conservatives gather this week to celebrate Phyllis Schlafly, we should take a moment to reflect on the impact this truly remarkable woman has had and is continuing to have on the country, the Republican Party and the conservative movement.

As a young conservative growing up in the 1960s and '70s, I witnessed her emergence as a national figure with the publication of "A Choice Not an Echo" which sold more than three million copies in 1964 and

The Queen of the Conservative Movement

energized those of us who worked so hard in the campaign to nominate Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. Phyllis energized and informed us at a time when there wasn't much out there. I doubt very much that the Goldwater phenomenon would have taken off had it not been for Phyllis and that little but ubiquitous book.

Her political activity neither began nor ended in 1964. The small town housewife had volunteered as a supporter of Bob Taft prior to the 1952 Republican convention, had run for Congress in 1952 and went on to essentially single handedly turn the emerging conservative movement into a grassroots machine the likes of which the country has rarely seen.

Liberals remember Phyllis mainly because she came out of her kitchen again in the early 1970s to give them, and particularly their feminist wing, the political whopping of a lifetime. The Equal Rights Amendment was the feminist dream of the age. And when Phyllis decided to take it on it had already passed both houses of Congress almost but not quite unanimously and had been ratified by almost thirty states. It was

as politically a done deal as anything ever has been, but having read it, Phyllis decided it had to be stopped .. and stop it she did.

They were, of course, beside themselves. Betty Friedan who has thankfully been forgotten in the years since was a leading feminist of the day and shouted that she would like to burn Phyllis at the stake. Phyllis, of course, took delight in the discomfiture of the people Rush Limbaugh was later to dub "Femi-Nazis." She did more than make them uncomfortable, tough, she built a movement that stopped their effort to enshrine their agenda in the Bill of Rights dead in its tracks.

Since that victory she has been steadfast in her support of conservative principles. She's written extensively on defense issues, the judiciary and must be counted as among the greatest champions of the American family in the country today.

She's written 26 books, hosted a radio show, founded Eagle Forum and continues to almost single-handedly make sure that the Republican Party's national platform remains conservative and strongly pro-life. All in all, she has served as an elected delegate to every GOP national convention

since 1952 and is no doubt packing her bags in preparation for a trip to Cleveland next summer.

I haven't always agreed with Phyllis, but the few times I haven't, I have had to make sure I had facts to back me up or suffer the consequences. Her arguments, whether to fellow delegates, the media or in debates with her opponents, are always fact-based and intense. Only a fool would relish engaging this woman who is smarter and quicker at 90 than most folks ever were or ever will be. She's as dynamic today, in fact, as she was back in 1983 when after a meeting with her Ronald Reagan went to his diary and noted that "she's damned effective."

Phyllis is widely recognized by conservatives today as the "Queen" of the movement. She has earned the title. We know we wouldn't be where we are had she not been there from the beginning.

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David Keene is Opinion Editor of The Washington Times, former president of the National Rifle Association and former chairman of the American Conservative Union.

Phyllis Schlafly: A woman who puts principles over party

Update to 1964 book warns of GOP establishment stranglehold, Jeb Bush coronation

By **RALPH Z. HALLOW**
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Phyllis Schlafly has long argued that the American conservative movement's purpose is to influence, not echo, the Republican Party.

Still going strong at age 90, Mrs. Schlafly re-asserts that argument in a highly anticipated update to her landmark book "A Choice, Not an Echo," which in 1964 became the motto of Barry Goldwater's grassroots effort to overthrow a Wall Street ruling alliance inside the GOP.

In her characteristically clear, crisp prose, Mrs. Schlafly leaves no doubt as to why the movement is not the party. Nor does she leave any doubt as to why that party's establishment — the "kingmakers" — has been so antagonistic toward her and the movement she has been so much a part of for more than a half century.

Her party picks losers as candidates too often because, she says, of the stranglehold by the political consultant-big business-Wall Street crowd, which she argues makes a bundle from championing moderates over conservatives.

In her updated book's final chapter, titled "Still Seeking A Choice Not An Echo," she pointedly warns that the GOP-establishment is trying to hijack the 2016 election from conservatives through the persona of former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.

She notes "closed-door events have been held for Republican mega-donors to select who will get the big money that went last time to Mitt Romney" and that the mainstream media is already cheering on Mr. Bush.

As evidence, she cites a New York Times article about how "Jeb Bush is so smart, so intellectual, and so well-read. We were told that he is a 'top-drawer intellect' and a voracious reader who maintains 25 books on his Kindle, books such as George Gilder's 'Knowledge and Power.'"

Mrs. Schlafly urges grassroots conservatives to rise up and resist a coronation of Mr. Bush.

"Do you get the message that the media buildup for Jeb Bush has begun and that the 2016 Republican National Convention may simply nominate for president another Establishment loser candidate?" she writes. "But it doesn't have to be. Some of us remember Everett Dirksen's famous speech at the 1952 Republican Convention when he publicly taunted the kingmakers, 'We followed you before and you led us down the path to defeat.'"

Through countless columns, books, speeches, organizing and behind-the-scenes negotiating to preserve conservatives principles in the GOP Platform every four years, Mrs. Schlafly has remained the ineluctable force of the political right in America.



Phyllis and President Ronald Reagan.

She is why the anti-abortion plank remains part of the GOP platform, presidential cycle after cycle, despite efforts of consultants and kingmakers to kill it.

At a Council for National Policy event on Saturday honoring Mrs. Schlafly, longtime conservative activist Richard Viguerie, said that when he became the executive secretary of the newly formed Young Americans for Freedom in 1961, "Phyllis Schlafly was a major conservative leader."

Whereas now, "in 2015 Phyllis Schlafly is a major conservative leader," a tribute to her tireless efforts to preserve the self-reliant, freedom-cherishing family as the key to American success and strength.

Media Research Center President Brent Bozell says Mrs. Schlafly's impact on American culture and politics is irrefutable.

"To measure what Phyllis' impact has been and is, you reverse the question to: 'What might the world look like without this person?'" Without Phyllis Schlafly, the American family might have collapsed, and with it American society," he said.

To the extent that she accomplished that preservation, it has been through a steely determination that pervades the atmosphere of any space she occupies.

"From free trade and immigration to military affairs, education and pro-life — you name it — Phyllis shows us ways to understand the issues, frame the arguments, and make progress for the movement," said Ed Martin, who officially resigned this month as the elected chairman of the Missouri GOP to take over as the Mrs. Schlafly's hand-picked successor to the presidency of

the Eagle Forum, the conservative interest group-lobby that she founded in 1972.

"Winning matters to Phyllis, not just being correct," Mr. Martin said.

To Matt Staver, dean of the Liberty University School of Law, Mrs. Schlafly is the "is" in "What is conservatism?"

"Phyllis and her leadership birthed not only Eagle Forum but a conservative movement," said Mr. Staver.

But then, as noted in a 2005 profile of her in The Washington Times, few living Americans have done as much to shape the nation's direction as Mrs. Schlafly, who is arguably the most influential woman in American conservative history.

She is the suburban housewife turned best-selling author who heralded the 1964 Goldwater nomination with her celebrated "A Choice, Not an Echo," followed up by becoming an authority on nuclear-missile defense and then, in a stunning upset, led the forces that defeated the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

When asked back in 2005 about her greatest accomplishments, however, Mrs. Schlafly took care to mention perhaps the most important lesson of her long career — "teaching conservatives that we can win."

Along the way, she helped arouse the slumbering giant of American politics — millions of socially conservative but previously apolitical churchgoers. She saw their potential and figured out how to turn them into a separate force on the political right.

What Mrs. Schlafly calls the "pro-family movement" helped elect Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush to the White House

and establish Republicans' decadelong dominance in Congress.

She got an early start — in 1942, at the world's largest munitions plant in St. Louis.

"I went to work on my 18th birthday, on the night shift, firing machine guns and rifles to test .30- and .50-caliber ammunition for accuracy, penetration, hang fire, velocity — and went to college in the day," she says.

She finished her degree a year early and sees "no reason for anybody to go [to college] any longer than three years."

At 81 — she looks 51 — she is sitting poised, tailored and elegant in her office at the suburban St. Louis headquarters of her Eagle Forum Education & Legal Defense Fund. She speaks precisely, without a single thought-collecting "um" or "uh."

Time-wasting is not a Schlafly trait. Hard work is.

One summer back in 2004, she sat through every long, grueling session, every day and evening for a week, of the platform-writing committee at Republican National Convention in New York. She secretly negotiated with presidential adviser Karl Rove and the platform writers to make sure it remained her kind of conservative document on everything from abortion to immigration.

For decades, she delivered, five days a week, a three-minute report on more than 450 radio stations across the country, voicing her amalgam of libertarian concerns about constitutional liberties and religious conservative emphasis on social issues. She aired her views on everything from "battling the gay and feminist agenda" to "protecting freedom against government snooping."

She broadcasted her hour-long radio call-in show, "Phyllis Schlafly Live," every Saturday. For a half century, she published a monthly newsletter. Her syndicated column appeared in 100 newspapers.

She has written 26 books that have sold millions of copies, but never once put her children into day care while she pursued her political career.

After graduating from Washington University in St. Louis and then getting a master's in government from Harvard, she married J. Fred Schlafly and became a full-time mother. She taught her six children to read before they entered school.

When they were on their own, she earned a law degree and admittance to practice before the Supreme Court of the United States.

From the time she entered political activism in the 1950s, she says, the conservative movement was all about economics and national defense. And then came the battle over the Equal Rights Amendment.

In 1971, the proposed constitutional amendment sailed through the House, and

SCHLAFLY

From page D8

the ERA seemed unstoppable — but its feminist backers hadn't reckoned on Mrs. Schlafly's opposition.

"The feminists were not about women's achievement," she recalled. "They were and are about telling women they are victims; men are the enemy; if you go in the workforce, you will never be paid what you ought to be paid; and if you get married, your husband will probably beat you up."

At the time the ERA became an issue, the war in Vietnam was winding down, but the U.S.-Soviet struggle was still a Cold

overwhelming.

"Suddenly women started to call me, saying, 'Well, Phyllis I took your report to our legislators, and we beat ERA.' And that's when I knew we could do something with it."

So in September 1972, she got 100 friends, mostly from Republican women's clubs in 30 states, to meet her in St. Louis, where she persuaded them to lead the fight to stop their state legislatures from approving the ERA.

Establishment conservatives, however, weren't exactly enthusiastic about the anti-ERA crusade.

"The conservative movement was little help — conservatives in those days were

process, Mrs. Schlafly says, a powerful new alliance had been formed between church-going Americans and those conservatives chiefly concerned about economic and foreign-policy issues.

Over the years, the religious right has "been educated" on such issues by conservative leaders, she says. "At the same time, the pro-family conservative movement has educated economic conservatives about the social issues."

Mrs. Schlafly's credentials as a member of the conservative movement's Old Guard are unimpeachable.

Her first book, "A Choice, Not an Echo," sold an astonishing 3 million copies nationally and helped turn the 1964 Republican presidential nomination away from New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller — leader of the liberal "Eastern establishment" wing of the party — and give it to Mr. Goldwater, hero of the GOP's conservative rank and file.

The Arizona senator stood for free markets, limited government and a military strong enough to defeat Soviet communism. Although he lost in a landslide to President Lyndon Johnson, Mr. Goldwater's 1964 candidacy has since been viewed as the turning point in the rise of Republican conservatism.

The social and religious conservatives among whom Mrs. Schlafly remains a powerful leader are not, she says, part of the same movement as economic conservatives.

"It's really a different movement. It was a coalition of those two movements — the economic-national defense conservatives who were still around after Goldwater and then the social conservatives who woke up in the '70s — that elected Ronald Reagan."

And, she says, the family values movement's message to the economic conservatives has gotten through loud and clear: "You better stick with us or you're not going to win any elections."

For all her social conservatism, Mrs. Schlafly remains very much the Goldwater-Reagan conservative when it comes to limited government and the role of the United States in the world.

Her operational definition of conservatism is "lower taxes, limited government, fiscal integrity — and American military superiority, because everybody is safer that way."

But she says it doesn't follow that the mightiest nation in the world has an obligation to spread democracy by force.

"No, I do not believe it is the mission of our country to tell other countries how to run their affairs," she says. "Our public officials have an obligation to obey the Constitution. They don't have an obligation to reform the world."

Is that an integral part of the definition of conservatism?

"I think so," Mrs. Schlafly says. "It would certainly be an integral part of what Bob Taft believed. And what Goldwater believed. And I think what Reagan believed."



Phyllis Schlafly sitting in her Alton home desk.



Phyllis & Anne Schlafly with Mother Teresa

War stalemate and Mrs. Schlafly was chiefly concerned with national security issues.

Then, in the February 1972 issue of her influential national newsletter, Mrs. Schlafly wrote about the ERA, declaring it a fraud that would have no effect on equal pay but would force women to register for the military draft, serve in combat and lose financial protections as wives and mothers. She also warned the amendment would, among other things, legalize same-sex "marriage."

The response from readers was

defeatist," Mrs. Schlafly recalls. "We had nothing to help us. There wasn't any Internet — any Rush Limbaugh talking about 'femi-Nazis.' There was no Washington Times or Fox News. Conservative publications were ignoring us. National Review never wrote anything about it until after the battle was over."

By 1976, the ERA had been endorsed by Republican Presidents Nixon and Ford and almost all state governors, regardless of party. Indiana was on the verge of becoming the 35th state to ratify the ERA.

Then, Mrs. Schlafly says, she realized she needed to seek support from a new source — the churches. She says she got "1,000 mainline Protestants, evangelicals, Catholics, Mormons and orthodox Jews" to attend an anti-ERA rally in Springfield, Ill., on April 27, 1976.

"That is when the pro-family movement was invented," she says. "It was a coming together of believers of all denominations who would do two things — come into politics for the first time and then work together for a cause they shared."

The newborn movement quickly grew. In November 1977, when feminists held their International Women's Year rally in Houston — attracting 3,000 tax-funded delegates — Mrs. Schlafly organized a counterrally.

"We had 20,000 pro-family women from all over the country," she says. "They rode on buses maybe for 20 hours to our rally, then got back on the buses and rode home."

By 1983, the ERA was defeated. In the



A prolific author

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES

Over her storied career, Phyllis Schlafly has written a total of 26 books with far-reaching impact, from making the case for Barry Goldwater's 1964 campaign to counterpunching feminist efforts to attack stay-at-home mothers. Here they are:

- A Choice Not an Echo (1964)
- The Gravediggers (1964)
- Strike from Space (1965)
- Safe Not Sorry (1967)
- The Betrayers (1968)
- Mindszenty the Man (1972)
- Kissinger on the Couch (1975)
- Ambush at Vladivostok (1976)
- The Power of the Positive Woman (1977)
- The Power of the Christia Woman (1981)
- Equal Pay for UNequal Work (1984)
- Child Abuse in the Classroom (1984, rev. 1985, rev. 1993)
- Pornography's Victims (1987)
- Who Will Rock The Cradle? (1989)
- Stronger Families or Bigger Government? (1990)
- Meddlesome Mandate (1991)
- First Reader (1994)
- First Reader Workbook (1994)
- Allegiance (2000)
- Turbo Reader (2001)
- Feminist Fantasies (2003)
- The Supremacists (2004, rev. 2006)
- The Flipside of Feminism: What Conservative Women Know—And Men Can't Say (2011)
- No Higher Power: Obama's War on Religious Freedom (2012)
- Who Killed The American Family? (2014)
- A Choice Not an Echo (2014)

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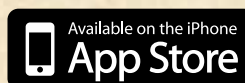
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- Federalists Papers
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We honor, uplift and thank Phyllis Schlafly on her 90th birthday for her heroic leadership to defend the U.S. Constitution and protect the American family for generations to come. May her words inspire greatness and her works empower millions to move America in the right direction.

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-Fisher Ames
(Member of Congress)
Author of First Amendment (1789)

Biblical principles teach our youth and families Good Morals that build a foundation for Good Mental Health. We do not need more gun laws; we just need our schools, families, and churches to start teaching the Bible again! It is through God’s written Word that we find hope and God’s spiritual guidance and meaning of life.

The Gathering of the Eagles supports Biblical, traditional marriage between a man and a woman.
It’s the bedrock of America. Working together let’s make healthy, God-centered families our highest priority.

Phyllis Schlafly has always represented what made America the exceptional nation we call “the land of the free and home of the brave.” We are deeply grateful for her faithful, patriotic and wise leadership over many decades. Thank you, Phyllis!

May God bless you,

Dr. Wm. Ames Curtright
Chairman of Gathering of the Eagles

A coalition of tea party groups that meets in Oregon

www.gatheringoftheeagles.com

A conservative whose cornerstones are faith, family and freedom



By DEBORAH SIMMONS
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

If there's a list of American women whose cornerstones are faith, family and freedom, the name Phyllis McAlpin Stewart Schlafly is on it.

While the scroll in the hands of St. Peter is probably lengthier, the American-made is equally undeniable.

Mrs. Schlafly is a remarkable human being, and you learned of her if you became of student of women in politics in the 1960s or '70s, when such college courses were fast becoming de rigueur, like black studies. Or if you displayed your newly-found feminist ways from coast-to-coast, blasting men and traditional marriage as twin evils. Or if you considered God and American patriotism as afflictions created by the male gender for the sole benefit of the Republican Party.

That's where we were in the heydays of the '60s and '70s, with "free" love shattering

the family structure, the "second" wave of the women's liberation movement trying to kick Mrs. Schlafly and her conservative ilk to the curb, and men encouraging women to burn bras as if that particular undergarment were as restrictive on male creatures as it was on women.

And God? Suffice it to say, free love meant that God was an uninvited guest in American life and that believers were discriminatory Jesus freaks. And the U.S. Supreme Court threw down that gauntlet on school prayer.

Onward marched cultural ambiguities. Women stopped identifying themselves by their husband's family name. Then women began hiding their marital identities altogether. Miss or Mrs? Ms. or It Doesn't Matter?

Phyllis Schlafly continued to wear the honorific Mrs. as a badge of wholesome honor, and wear it well she has -- as a Roman Catholic, college graduate, homemaker, mother, wife, Republican, and conservative.

Born and reared in the Bible Belt, she is a lifelong Christian who believes (and preaches in her own way) that prayer, hard work and strong family values aren't options but the tenets of living a Christian life.

A tough-as-eagle-talons pro-lifer, she has said the 1973 abortion-access decision in *Roe v. Wade* was "the worst" in the history of the U.S. Supreme Court and responsible for "the killing of millions of

unborn babies."

Of course, the women's libbers, men haters and followers of the paths cut Betty Freidan and the National Organization for Women would have none of it. For many of them, the best road to freedom was the Equal Rights Amendment, a battle the pro-life, family oriented, freedom-loving Mrs. Schlafly approached head-on.

In 1972, Mrs. Schlafly formalized her anti-ERA stance by helping to organize the STOP ERA movement -- as in Stop Taking Our Privileges. Those privileges were gender specific, including freedom from the draft, girls/ladies/women's restrooms and being a dependent widow/wife.

The ERAers fought hard and had been prepped by the Hollywood and literary crowds that had been paving the way for two generations, preferring the scandal-centric novel and film "Peyton Place" to family-centric "Leave it to Beaver" and suburban stay-at-home mom June Cleaver, and the 1975 novel "Looking for Mr. Goodbar" (a pre-sequel to "Sex in the City" if ever there were one) and the disgustingly whorish "Being Mary Jane," whose main character waffles from being a an incomparable professional TV-talk host to sex kitten to adulterer. Oh, and Mary Jane helps to hide her friend's homosexuality from his parents.

But the women behind the ERA, and the men who supported them, underestimated Mrs. Schlafly, a Barry Goldwater

Republican and grass-roots organizer. She understood -- correction, understands -- that being loyal to the Left means nothing is sacred, including Bible text about the faith and family.

She had read Daniel Patrick Moynihan's seminally prescient 1965 report, "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action," which would also spell wider-spread matriarchal trouble with traditional family values.

As history now has recorded, STOP ERA was a success. The tree has been felled but its roots have yet to die.

Mrs. Schlafly remains unbowed. Amnesty for illegal aliens, free universal preschool, abortions, same-sex marriage, activist judges, Americans as global police, porous borders. Those issues are on one short list. The other includes fighting for religious liberty -- whether the particular instance is disallowing a coach to bow his or her head in prayer prior to a game, or removing a cross from a public place or the abortion mandates of Obamacare.

It's also no coincidence that the eagle is both central to the U.S. government and the logo of her freedom-fighting Eagle Forum.

Mrs. Schlafly has faith in herself, the Constitution and divine intervention. And, at 90, she still dishes good old-fashioned conservatism.

An Instigator Like No Other

By TIMOTHY HEAD

The challenge of history is to recover the past and introduce it to the present. So says American historian David Thelen. If that is true, let us be in the business of recovery and introduction.

Last summer, the Faith & Freedom Coalition honored Phyllis Schlafly with our Winston Churchill Lifetime Achievement Award. Our objective was twofold: to honor an American who has profoundly impacted national thought in culture and politics, and to rekindle discussion on those timeless principles which Phyllis brought to the forefront of American political dialogue nearly 50 years ago. But a third result was to recognize one of the great ironies in all of American political history. By not acquiescing to the feminist movement of the 1970s, Phyllis Schlafly actually became a forerunner for American women

in American politics. In fact, many now hold her as the forerunner for women in conservative political thought.

We marvel at the agility and talent of our founding fathers' talents and abilities. Washington's military strategy and diplomatic grace. Franklin's international negotiation and scientific curiosity. Jefferson's statesmanlike poetry and architectural proficiency. But consider the breadth and depth of Phyllis Schlafly's life and accomplishments.

Devoted wife for over 40 years. Mother of six. Grandmother of 14. Ballistics gunner and ammunition tester during World War II. Ghostwriter and campaign manager for candidates and office holders. Two-time candidate for Congress. Advisor to presidents. Lawyer. Activist and founder of a national grassroots network. Perhaps the greatest American pamphleteer since Thomas Paine. Radio show host. Television commentator. Author of 26 books. And I would add: instigator of a movement.

Prior to new media, there was no way

for conservatives to quickly and easily educate each other on the lessons of the recent past. Fifty years ago, we relied on classic books or a conservative newspaper columnist appearing once a week to provide an irregular trickle of information. Conservative thought was losing its moorings and was drifting. But in 1964, all of that changed. Phyllis Schlafly's release of "A Choice, Not an Echo" sold millions of copies and sparked a grassfire of energy and activism never before seen in conservative politics.

Many pointed to Phyllis' book as winning the Republican nomination for Barry Goldwater. Even though Goldwater went on to lose the general election, a new conservative coalition was born and American politics would never be the same.

The wave generated in the Goldwater years eventually crested and carried Ronald Reagan into office. It is no exaggeration to say that without Mrs. Schlafly, it is entirely possible that Ronald Reagan would never have been elected president.

The intellect, persuasiveness, courage, and determination of Phyllis Schlafly have deeply shaped far more than just the halls of conservative politics or of the Republican Party. And perhaps more than any single lesson, Phyllis has demonstrated for us all that one person can have a revolutionary effect on this country.

Nearly three thousand years ago, King Solomon wrote in Ecclesiastes, "What has been will be done again; what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." I believe that to be true. As we scan the horizon of 21st century American politics, we really see old arguments peddled in new wrappings. So let me urge you to look into a newly updated book? The title... "A Choice, Not an Echo" [Updated and Expanded]. Its contents and suggestions have been proven to work. Plus, I really think you'll like the author.

.....
Timothy Head is the executive director of the Faith and Freedom Coalition.



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A pioneer for women in law, and all things conservative

By CLETA MITCHELL

My first awareness of Phyllis Schlafly was more than 40 years ago, when I was an undergraduate student at the University of Oklahoma. I was cutting my political teeth and was appointed as a student member of a campus-wide committee to study salary inequities between male and female faculty members. That assignment led to my involvement (apologies for being a wayward youth...) in the effort to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in Oklahoma.

What Phyllis did to stop the ERA is nothing short of remarkable. Flooding the state of Oklahoma -- and other states yet to ratify -- were thousands and thousands of flyers emblazoned with the headline: "Ladies, Have You Heard?" Think about what Phyllis did: she organized women across America without television ads, pollsters, microtargeting, SuperPACs, the internet, email, Google, social media or any of the tools that we now think are essential to campaigns and grassroots organizing.

Phyllis was a one-woman force, dedicated to stopping a constitutional amendment that she believed would lead to same sex marriage, co-ed bathrooms, women in combat and the destruction of traditional family values in our country. Think about her warnings from 40 years ago, how prescient she was. How farsighted she has always been.

Because of her determination and her ability to mobilize an army of citizens who made their voices heard in state capitols across the nation, the ERA fell three states short of ratification.

What seemed and sounded like a perfectly innocuous, high-minded commitment to 'fairness' became a fierce fight for traditional values and the preservation of the U.S. Constitution. It took some years - and some straightening out - before I realized that all the things Phyllis warned about, in those "Ladies Have You Heard" flyers were real and were happening before our very eyes. And she saw it coming well before virtually any others.

The battle against the ERA was not Phyllis's first tour of duty in combating the forces of evil, and it certainly wasn't her last.

Phyllis has trained tens of thousands of women - and men - on issues and political tactics. Because of Phyllis's leadership, women such as Bunny



Goldwater tribute.



Phyllis Schlafly speaking at Vote No on ERA, Nov 3, 1992.

Chambers from my home state of Oklahoma became involved in the anti-ERA fight - and then went on to become leaders in their own right. Bunny Chambers, the Eagle Forum Oklahoma state coordinator for the past 15 years, served as Oklahoma's Republican national committeewoman for more than a decade, and was one of the leaders of

the Reagan campaigns of 1976 and 1980.

Because of Phyllis, the Republican platform has strong pro-life, pro-traditional marriage, pro-American sovereignty planks. It is Phyllis who has led the way every four years to ensure that those who would water down the GOP platform are turned back -- so the American people can see what a

Republican officeholder is supposed to stand for -- and how Republicans are supposed to vote when they are elected to offices at every level.

A few years ago, I arrived at the St Louis airport for the National Rifle Association annual meeting. As I deplaned into the gate area, I saw Phyllis - and went over to say hello. She asked what I was doing in St. Louis - and when I told her I was there for the NRA annual meeting, she immediately gave me a message to deliver: "You tell Wayne LaPierre and Chuck Cunningham that they need to be actively involved in fighting this effort for a constitutional convention. Tell them there won't be a Second Amendment in a new U.S. Constitution. Make sure you go tell them I said they need to get busy on this."

And there is one thing about Phyllis: when she gives you an assignment, you better do what she asks, because the next time she sees you, she will want to know if you did as she told you to do.

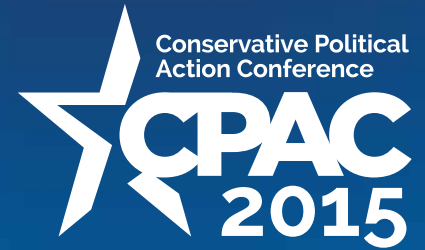
Phyllis is a pioneer of women in the law -- and has kept her attorney's license active through all these years. In 2008, the Republican National Lawyers Association held its annual election law symposium in St Louis. I was a speaker on one of the first panels of the day and as I looked out over the crowd, I saw a woman in the audience that looked like Phyllis. I was supposed to be paying attention to my fellow panelists but I kept looking at that woman and finally realized it WAS Phyllis. She had signed up online so she could get her CLE credits required for licensed attorneys in Missouri.

There are no words to express the gratitude that we all feel for the life and work - the millions of words she has written, spoken, and disseminated -- all in the service of her God and her country and in her devotion to family, America and the protection of the values that have made America great.

There are not many people who can be instantly recognized by use solely of their first names. But for the foot soldiers of the conservative movement, there need only be the mention of this woman's first name, Phyllis. and everyone knows who that is, what she has done, and what she means to America.

There cannot be enough tributes or too many kudos to Phyllis Schlafly. Our debt to her can never be repaid.

Thank you, Phyllis. You are truly an American icon and heroine.



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