



The National Grassroots Organization of Republicans for Environmental Protection

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FLORIDA CHAPTER OF REPUBLICANS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (REP AMERICA)

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2007

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Florida Chapter of REP America welcomes several new members this quarter. Some of our new friends include:

- Former Florida Governor, Jeb Bush, Coral Gables
- Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite, Brooksville
- Ken LaRoe, Eustis

We'd like to introduce all our new members. So new members please send us a few lines about yourself and we'll highlight you in our next newsletter.

DOUG TAYLOR AND SEAN PARKS MEET WITH FORMER GOVERNOR JEB BUSH

Chapter Vice President Doug Taylor and Chapter President Sean M. Parks presented former Governor Jeb Bush with a Green Elephant Award on Monday, April 9, 2007 for his efforts to help restore the Florida Everglades and support of land acquisition efforts. The Green Elephant Awards are announced each year at the Annual Meeting. The awards go to worthy Republicans who have stood out among their peers in helping protect the environment. This year the Florida REP Chapter nominated Governor Bush because of his support for Everglades restoration and his requested for \$300 million a year to continue the state's land purchase conservation program.

In nominating Bush, Doug Taylor noted that his land-buying efforts, along with his help in getting the Everglades case out of the courts represented significant progress in cleaning up the pollution flowing into the famed "river of grass". The court settlement

between the federal government and the State of Florida imposes a plan to reduce damaging phosphorus levels in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and Everglades National Park. In 2004, the State adopted a 10 parts per billion numeric standard for phosphorus within the Everglades Protection Area, which is comprised of the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, and Water Conservation Areas 2 and 3. The phosphorus run off comes primarily from fertilizer used by sugarcane growers and other agricultural operations as well as construction runoff from the development of coastal areas in South Florida.

The Green Elephant Award program, now in its third year, bestows the honor on Florida Republican officials who are nominated by members of our chapter because of their exemplary job in helping to protect the environment. The nominees are then voted on by the Florida Executive Committee and presented at the Annual Meeting. Other winners included **Sarasota County Commissioner Jon Thaxton**, and Republican activist Betty Talbert, who passed away in 2006.

Meeting with Governor Bush was exciting. He was very welcoming and appreciative of his Green Elephant award. Doug and I had the opportunity to talk with Governor Bush at length about REP America – Governor Bush offered his assistance in helping us build club membership. – Sean M. Parks



ANNUAL MEETING

Our 2007 annual chapter meeting will be held in October. Please hold October 20th as a tentative date. This years Annual Meeting will be held in Orlando to correspond with the Republican Party national meeting. The Executive Committee wants to take advantage of a wonderful opportunity to interact with all the Presidential candidates who will be in attendance for the Republican Party Primary debates.

SPECIAL THANKS TO MS. MELISSA IGLESIAS (Orlando) AND DR. JAMES WHITMAN (Long Boat Key) for offering to assist in planning for this years Annual Meeting in Orlando.

SEAN PARKS MEETS WITH CONGRESSWOMAN GINNY BROWN-WAITE

Chapter President Sean M. Parks and new member **Scott Blankenship** met with Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite (Brooksville) on April 10th. We discussed REP America and presented Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite with a gift membership. We thanked her for supporting bill HR-6 which if enacted, would direct federal money from new oil and gas royalties to funding alternative energies. Congresswoman Ginny Brown-Waite is as nice a woman as you could meet. We believe she'd be happy to hear from our members about environmental issues.



GREEN ELEPHANT AWARD NOMINATIONS

Please submit nominations for 2007 Green Elephant Awards to me at sparks@esinc.cc. The categories include:

- **Municipal**
- **County**
- **State Representative**
- **State Senate**
- **Volunteer**

Please include supporting data and a brief description of your reason for each nomination. Nominees must be Republican.
