

Standard online reader survey



Q: Do you think we're heading toward gasoline prices over \$3 a gallon?

YES 71 percent
NO 29 percent

GUEST EDITORIAL

Bush touched hearts, showed compassion

Anyone who doubts that Barbara Pierce Bush was a force in her own right never saw her speak live. On one occasion we caught her at an event at Texas A&M where the crowd roared to life the moment the emcee said, "And here she is, the Silver Fox herself."

Bush, who died Tuesday at age 92, occupied that rarest of positions in American life: The wife of one president and the mother of another. Only Abigail Adams — married to the second president and mother of the sixth — shared that distinction. But to note this is also to risk casting Bush in the shadow of two presidents and that doesn't do justice to the woman whose husband affectionately called her "Bar."

Born and raised in New York, she possessed an inner strength that undergirded an extraordinary life. Married in 1945 at age 19 to George H.W. Bush, she would move to West Texas and become a force within one of the most successful political families in American history.

Although sometimes known for her sharp wit, Bush's legacy will be found in the compassion she demonstrated for other people. As first lady, at a time of fear about the spread of HIV/AIDS, she famously pushed against stigmatizing those with the disease. She visited a home in D.C. for HIV positive children, where she cradled an infant and kissed a toddler. She

said it was safe and the right thing for everyone to do. "There is a need for compassion," she said. Instantly recognizable for her gray hair and pearls, few today know her hair first turned when her daughter Pauline Robinson Bush, known as Robin, tragically died at age 3 after battling leukemia.

Among the many initiatives she championed, Bush may be best known for her work on literacy. She launched the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy while in the White House and continued the work the rest of her life. The foundation has awarded more than \$40 million as of 2014 and helped more than 1,500 literacy programs.

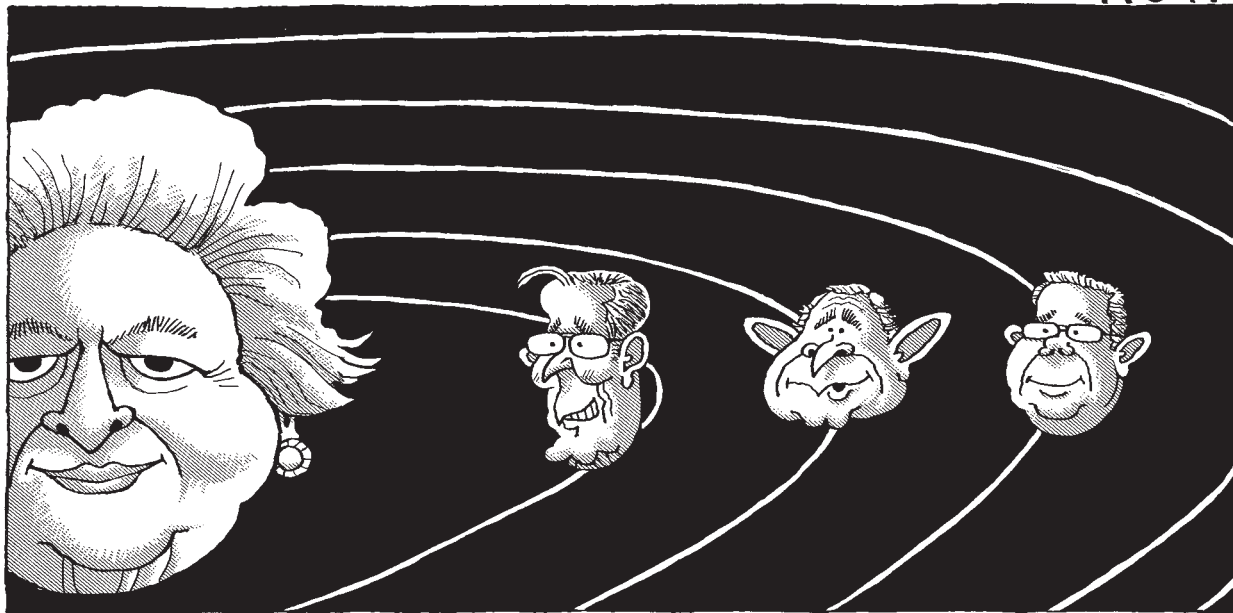
This kind of work doesn't generate the headlines or controversy often associated with the policy agenda of presidents, but it is the kind of effort that can improve millions of lives. "I still feel that being more literate will help us solve so many of the other problems facing our society," she wrote in her memoir in 1994.

Her son George W. Bush is fond of saying he has his father's eyes and his mother's mouth. That may be true, but we shouldn't let that mask this truth: The depth of Barbara Bush's heart endures in all of the people she has touched.

Dallas
Morning News

THE BUSH GALAXY

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BARBARA BUSH 1925-2018

A rare moment of sanity

Pass the bill. A bipartisan group of four senators has proposed legislation that would shield special counsel Robert Mueller should President Trump decide to order his dismissal. The measure merits strong support from both parties. Yes, the bill is highly unlikely to become law. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says he won't even bring it to the Senate floor, and if it somehow passed Congress, Trump would certainly veto it. But a serious debate on Capitol Hill would sound a loud, clear warning to the White House: Don't mess with Mueller.

The president cannot fire Mueller directly. Ordinarily, he would order the attorney general to do that. But since the current A.G., Jeff Sessions, has recused himself from this case, the order would have to be executed by his deputy, Rod Rosenstein.

The bipartisan bill states a special counsel can only be fired for "good cause." The counsel would have 10 days to appeal a termination to a judicial panel. If the panel rules that the "good cause" standard has not been met, the counsel would be reinstated.

Mueller enjoys broad popular support. In the latest ABC/Washington Post poll, almost 7 out of 10 Americans back the special counsel's investigation into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Moscow. Large majorities also favor Mueller's probes into the president's business activities and payments by his lawyer to silence former girlfriends.

Two co-sponsors of the Mueller shield law, Republican Thom Tillis and Democrat Chris Coons, stressed

public approval in explaining their proposal: "We have heard from constituents — Republicans, Democrats and independents alike — who agree that special counsel Robert Mueller should be able to conduct his investigation without interference. This should not be a partisan issue." Republican leaders say the bill is not needed because Trump won't sign it, and in any case, he would not be foolish enough to fire Mueller. "It's not good politics in the end," Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah told Politico. "It says you don't trust the president."

That's exactly what the bill says, because there's no reason to trust the president. He clearly does not understand the "founding American principles" of an independent legal system, and thinks his appointees should be loyal to him personally, not to the rule of law.

Moreover, many Trump loyalists are urging him to ax Mueller, and denouncing Republicans like Tillis. But the North Carolina Republican refuses to be bullied.

"Courage is when you know you're going to do something that's going to anger your base," he told Politico. "The same people who would criticize me for filing this bill would be absolutely angry if I wasn't pounding the table for this bill if we were dealing with Hillary Clinton. So spare me your righteous indignation."

His bill should pass. It would mark a rare moment of sanity in a capital that seems consumed by craziness. Steve and Cokie Roberts can be contacted by email at stevecokie@gmail.com.

COLUMNISTS

STEVE & COKIE
ROBERTS



THE SCOOP

JAMES
CLARK



We'll always need Animal Control

Anybody who spends much time listening to a police scanner knows Warren County has its share of dog issues.

Just this week, I've heard a call over the scanner for a woman who was attacked and bitten by a dog. The next day, there was a call to 911 from a person angry that a pack of three dogs had killed their family dog. The caller even gave the 911 dispatcher the address of one of the dogs responsible.

Perhaps the most humorous dog-related call I've heard came over the scanner Tuesday afternoon. A resident called 911 to complain that a neighbor who walks his dog every day allows the dog to stop and use the bathroom in his yard every single day.

The caller said he went outside to ask the dog-walker to find another yard to use, but his request was not received with warmth and an argument ensued. The caller wanted a deputy to talk to the dog-walker and provide persuasion with a law-enforcement touch.

These three calls are not isolated incidents. I called 911 dispatch on Thursday to ask how many calls are generally received concerning dogs. I was told there have been 37 calls of an Animal Control nature over the past month. That averages more than one per day.

It's easy to see Animal Control is a vital service and one we must maintain. That's why the suggestion made by Commissioner Michael Martin last week to close the county's Animal Control facility is laughable.

Our community is overrun by so many dog problems, having a functioning Animal Control department is essential. Closing our Animal Control would be a terrible mistake, a move that would only come back to bite us.

Despite the absurdity of closing Animal Control, the suggestion by Martin has created concern and steady feedback. One commissioner I talked with Wednesday said he received an email from a constituent who was pleading to keep Animal Control open.

Commissioner Blaine Wilcher received so many questions about closing Animal Control, he felt compelled to address the full Warren County Commission on Monday night.

"As vice chairman of the Health and Welfare Committee, I would like to tell the concerned citizens of Warren County that the committee does not have any plans to close the Animal Control and Adoption Center," Wilcher said.

That stance should never waver because Animal Control is not a fancy luxury. In a day when people let their pets roam freely, often not spayed or neutered, we have a dog problem in our community.

Closing Animal Control will save a few dollars would be a very short-sighted decision. Thankfully, our Warren County Commission sees the value of Animal Control and the opinions expressed by Martin are not shared by the majority of county officials.

Standard editor James Clark can be reached at 473-2191.



I have been busily perusing the literary reviews of former FBI director James Comey's already famous book.

Somehow I had the idea the tell-quite-a-bit book, "A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership," was about our president, Donald J. Trump, and would help me navigate the swamp. But I'm beginning to think I was wrong. The book seems to be more revelatory of Comey himself.

In one review, *Washington Post* book critic Carlos Lozada sarcastically finds a "sort of geek chorus" in Comey's continued talk about "ethical leadership." He finds an "often preachy and sometimes profound collection of principles that he believes should govern those who govern." And in another part: "Comey isn't just the kind of writer who quotes Shakespeare, but the kind who quotes himself quoting Shakespeare."

Michiko Kakutani's review for *The New York Times* comes across as more serious. She writes: "The central themes that Comey returns to throughout this impassioned book are the toxic consequences of lying; and the corrosive effects of choosing loyalty to an individual over truth and the rule of law."

Later in the full-page treatment, she says the president and the former director are nothing alike.

"Put the two men's records, their reputations, even their respective books, side by side, and it's hard to imagine two more polar opposites than Trump and Comey."

CNN, MSNBC and FOX News have had daily conflicts over the worth of the Comey book in their tire-some panels of experts, which domi-

nate all those TV news programs without real news.

So, what is there to learn, not only from the Comey book, but from the reactions and reviews of it?

First, this is a serious book, with much to absorb, if we would. It is an autobiography of James Comey — an intellectual train ride over his personal mountains and through his moral canyons.

Some analysts have complained he personalized his observations of Trump: the white circles under the president's eyes from his suntan goggles, the fact Trump never laughs, and

COLUMNIST

GEORGIE
ANNE GEYER



his strange responses to the Steele dossier's claim he had two models urinate on each other in his Moscow hotel room for his pleasure.

Second, much of the criticism is, of course, from the

right, from the Trump quarter, from those who would embrace The Donald even if he seduced their own wives. To this group, Comey is a showboating, publicity-seeking liar.

But the criticism from liberals is more disturbing. In some papers and on TV, I see in men and women who are supposed liberals, many of them Democrats at heart or in practice, a visceral dislike of Comey. Why? The left dislikes Comey because he is too moralistic, because they think he robbed Hillary Clinton of the presidency.

Yet, in whatever is to come, it is exactly James B. Comey's principles that we will need to re-embrace. Memorize them, for when the time comes.

Georgie Anne Geyer has been a foreign correspondent for more than 40 years. She can be reached at gigi_geyer@juno.com.

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Patricia Zechman, Publisher
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager
Dale Stubbsfield, Circulation Director

Phone: 473-2191
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110
FAX: 473-6823

Email: standard@blomand.net
Website: www.southernstandard.com

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