



Pima County Republican Women's Club

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer
Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Thank you, very much.

I am absolutely DELIGHTED to be with you today to help you celebrate The Pima County Republican Women's Club 85th anniversary.

I know that your club -- from its very inception -- has NOT been a group of SHRINKING VIOLETS.

Historical notes, for example, tell us that during an organization meeting where a chairman was told to contact all precinct committeeMEN, a Mrs. Emma Parsons was quoted as saying, "Do not let Republican men rest; have them do SOMETHING -- or hand the job over to the WOMEN. "

Now, this is my kind of organization.

Do you have room for one more member?

Eight-five years is a wonderful legacy of achievement, and you should be proud of the heritage that is empowering all you do today.

There is no doubt that I am standing here today because of the hard work -- and help -- that you and other Republicans have provided throughout my career.

You will never know how much your efforts have meant to me over the years.

I deeply appreciate all that you have done -- and I appreciate the opportunity to come here and say "thank you" in person.

It has always been clear to me throughout my 27 years in political office, that the real backbone of this Party is the people behind the scenes.

As someone who has been an elected precinct committeewoman for over 35 years, I know the impact of PC's and Republican Club members.

They are the people who put in the long hours.

They are the people who work for free, stuffing envelopes, working the telephones, and going door to door.

They are the people willing to spend their weekends in the heat -- collecting signatures -- because they believe in the same limits on government that you have been championing for 85 years.

As Republicans, I hope everyone in this room understands that the current fiscal problems we are facing in the state were NOT created by Republicans.

Regardless of what squabbles and infighting we Republicans might have endured these past few months -- it is absolutely essential that we NOT let Democrats off the hook for the poor financial decisions that THEY made.

Let's be honest, THEY are the ones who put us in this mess in the first place.

Too often, it seems, people have forgotten that upon taking office in 2003, Governor Napolitano took control of a general fund budget of about six billion dollars.

Today, just six years later -- that budget has ballooned to over TEN billion dollars in spending.

Not so long ago, we had hundreds of millions of dollars saved away in the State's Rainy Day Fund.

But all of those savings were completely squandered by Napolitano on new government programs.

So, after six years of Napolitano's "leadership" -- also known as a six-year spending binge -- the State of Arizona finds itself weighed down with major overdue obligation.

As we Republicans craft an equitable way to clean up the Napolitano mess, -- and we WILL clean it up -- I am determined that those solutions are in place for the long term, and not just a brief, feel-good, fix.

And, while we are doing that, it is important to recognize – and, yes, celebrate -- the many accomplishments that the Republican-led Legislature and I have made.

I know these accomplishments don't get the attention in the media they deserve - - but we should understand that together -- the Legislature and I cut government spending by more than at any time in Arizona history.

The fact is, Republicans made state government SMALLER.

Republicans passed and signed into law legislation that allows parents of disabled and foster children to continue to choose and utilize the school that best serves the needs of their children.

I formally urged the Secretary of Defense to put up to 400 National Guardsmen on our border to help law enforcement do their part.

That's because we Republicans understand whatever else Arizonans want from immigration reform -- FIRST they want borders that are secure.

While Arizona's border with Mexico is 377 miles long, Arizona's section of the southwest international border with Mexico has the highest rate of interdiction in the nation.

And, just recently, Arizona was awarded over \$12 million to fund a program -- called OPERATION STONEGARDEN -- which provides grants to local and county law enforcement to work side-by-side with Border Patrol agents in their interdiction efforts.

As your Republican Governor, I was pleased to sign an executive order to reaffirm the State of Arizona's longstanding prohibition against mandatory union activity as a condition of employment in Arizona.

We still have a Right to Work in the Grand Canyon State.

Millions of dollars in federal transportation stimulus, or the so-called "shovel ready projects," have been approved.

Arizona became the 34th state to require informed consent, and the 22nd state to require a 24-hour waiting period prior to abortions. My actions are an unmistakable reaffirmation that I care deeply about protecting life and protecting families.

I have a consistent track record of support of the Second Amendment throughout my political career, and have been elected and re-elected with the clear understanding I strongly support the right to keep and bear arms. The gun laws I

signed strike a good balance between the rights of gun owners and private-property owners.

Yes, we have done good things together.

But, our story is not yet complete.

Thank you.

Thank you for the opportunity to be with you, and, again, HAPPY ANNIVERSARY.