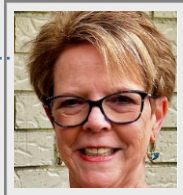




# Texas Democratic Women of Hood County

hood.tdw.org | PO Box 1682 \* 530 Crockett St. \* Granbury, TX 76048 |

## President's Corner



June is here and we have so much positive (and negative) news for Democrats in Texas.

By the time you read this, the Texas Legislative Session will be over. In this newsletter you will read a report from our Action Committee concerning the results. I'm afraid it's mostly negative news for women's health issues, school vouchers, gun violence in Texas, and chaplains? In the schools??? Just take a deep breath. We must remember our purpose. And we MUST get Democrats out to VOTE! Texas continues to be at the bottom of the barrel of all states as far as voting rights.

On a VERY POSITIVE note, TDW was at the Granbury High School Awards Assembly where we greeted our SEVEN smart, brave, and talented recipients with scholarships! It was a fabulous event! I can't tell you how proud we all were to be there and represent Democratic Women in Hood County. These seven high school seniors proudly walked across the stage as their names were called associating them with Democratic values. Thank you so much to the scholarship committee for doing such an incredible job and **thank you to ALL our supporters for your generosity in raising over \$7,700** for these amazing young women. I couldn't stop smiling. 😊

I also want to thank our wonderful Scholarship Committee who spent a lot of time and energy working hard to make all these presentations possible. Many thanks to Rose Simpson, Ann Schuessler, Betsy Agee, Dianna Krueger, and Jenny Ling.

We are already planning our scholarship luncheon for this year which will be held on Saturday, October 7 at DeCordova Bend Estates Country Club. Put this on your calendar!



Rose and Sherry with Isabella Vazquez  
**TDW Scholarship Winners**

### *Glenda Vernon Memorial Scholarship:*

- Isabella Vazquez-Austin College
- Julissa Hernandez-Tarleton University
- Brandi (Lou) Whiting-Academy of Art
- Tessa Fox-University of Arkansas
- Ava Williamson-UT-Austin

### *Glenda Pirkle Memorial Scholarship:*

- Jillian R. Tremble-Trinity University
- Kaitlyn Smith-TCU

(See page 5 for more photos)

## TEXAS DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF HOOD COUNTY

### June Meeting

#### SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The winning Granbury High School students speak on their essay topic "Why I Support Democratic Values"



JUNE 12, 2023  
MONDAY 11AM

SPRING CREEK  
BARBEQUE  
GRANBURY, TX

# HONORING MY UNCLE

*By Jamie Sanders*



The author with her Uncle Dave

My Uncle Dave and I were raised more like brother and sister than uncle and niece. That's because my grandmother gave birth to Dave exactly a year and a half before my mom had me. We were childhood playmates and we grew closer when my grandma died at age 53 when Uncle Dave was only in eighth grade.

In the early 1970's Uncle Dave and I were both students at the University of Illinois and we somehow ended up living in the same dormitory. Just when I had escaped the bondage of daily parental oversight, I now had my uncle living in the same building!

It wasn't until the early '80's when we discovered that my uncle was gay. Someone had spotted him at a gay bar and the secret was out. I would love to say now that we all accepted Uncle Dave and his lifestyle choice without judgment but it took some time. This was during the terror of the AIDS epidemic which seemed to make it even worse. But we all loved Dave so much and as he began to open up and be honest with us about his journey, our whole family became accepting and eventually strongly supportive.

That acceptance came in no small part because of my uncle's choice of a partner, also named Dave. My uncle's partner was one of the most delightful human beings I had ever met. Handsome, witty and bright, Dave was ALWAYS the life of the party. He was so genuine and unafraid and I think he made my uncle braver too.

Uncle Dave and Dave were an absolute blast to be around. They had been a couple for more than 30 years when tragedy struck. Just a few days before Christmas in 2007, someone shot the love of my uncle's life in the head execution style. Neither his wallet nor Christmas gifts in the car were taken so there is no doubt why Dave was killed. This was a hate crime and his killer has never been found.

So I have watched in horror the past few years as the once growing acceptance of the LGBTQ community has been decimated by the hate and violence of the bigots in our midst. I truly feel that we must find the courage to push back . . . even here in deep Red Hood County. So I bought a large Pride flag and I hung it from my front porch this morning. I am ready for the hate that may come because of it.

I love you Uncle Dave.





## JUNE IS PRIDE MONTH

Let's show Granbury that we are accepting of ALL humans made by God. We would like to display rainbow flags during June to show our support of the LBGTOIA community in our town. I bought a lot of rainbow flags, but unfortunately, they are on plastic straws and can't be stuck in the ground, so I am putting them in my flowerpots. My Pride Flag is also in my yard! The flags will be available at the next meeting on June 12th.

-Sherry

## TDW of Hood County Action Committee

We Survived the 2023 88th Legislative Session:  
140 Days of CRAZY

A secretive kitchen remodel, an extramarital affair, alleged corruption, gifts at a Dairy Queen, threats, and the demand by Attorney General Ken Paxton that taxpayers pay his \$3.3 million settlement to a whistleblower suit. These were the basis for 20 articles of impeachment of now- suspended Paxton's alleged misbehaviors that were reported on the floor of the Texas House on Saturday, May 27.

The Republican-lead House voted 121-23 to vote for impeachment (Hood County Rep. Shelby Slawson voting against impeachment). The current 88th Legislature is made up of 85 Republican House members and 64 Democrats. According to the Washington Post, Paxton tweeted after the vote, accusing House Speaker Dade Phelan (R) and the "corrupt politicians he controls" of colluding with Democrats, the Biden administration, "the abortion industry, anti-gun zealots and woke corporations." The attorney general is currently suspended from office and must now await a trial in the Texas Senate.

The Senate panel that will make recommendations on rules of procedure will be chaired by Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury. Seven Republicans and five Democrats make up the board of managers who will handle the prosecution in the trial. The trial will take place in the Texas Senate not later than Aug. 28. The Senate must get a two-thirds majority (21 votes) to remove Paxton from office. On May 31, Gov. Greg Abbott appointed Fort Worth lawyer and former Secretary of State John Scott as interim Texas attorney general.

Lawmakers did pass bills banning puberty blockers and hormone treatments for transgender children, allowing prosecutors to pursue murder charges against people who sell fentanyl and eliminating diversity, equity and inclusion offices on public university campuses. In addition, the legislators passed a \$321.3 billion state budget, allocating money toward tax cuts, mental health access and infrastructure for broadband and water. To help pay for the budget, they allocated half of the record \$32.7 billion surplus they had at their disposal. The House passed a bill without Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's preferred increase to homestead exemptions – then abruptly adjourned for the special session. That basically tells the Senate to take or leave it. As of Wednesday, May 31, there are no meetings scheduled for the Senate.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ June 12 - TDW Regular Meeting; Scholarship Winners
- ◆ June 15 - Hood County Democrats meeting; 7 PM Hood County Annex #1
- ◆ June 19 - Juneteenth Holiday. Look for the winners of the Hood County News contest in your email!
- ◆ July 4 - Democratic float in the parade



- ◆ Saturday, October 7 - TDW Scholarship Luncheon at DCBE. Mark your calendar!

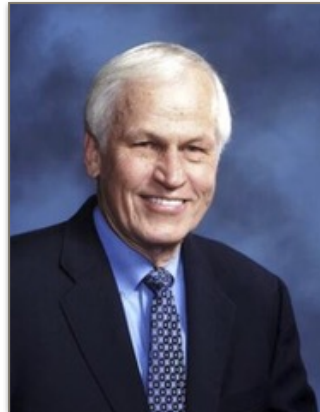
### Cares & Concerns

The family of **Charles Stenholm**

**Lena Martensson** as she deals with health issues.

*With our sympathy*  
**REP. CHARLES STENHOLM, D-TEXAS**

*October 26, 1938 - May 17, 2023*



Representative Stenholm died on May 17 at the age of 84.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Cindy Stenholm on the loss of her husband.

Charlie was greatly admired and touched many lives. He was a distinguished statesman, a dedicated public servant, and a generous friend to TDW. He will be sorely missed.



Join TDW Today!

Go to [hood.tdw.org](http://hood.tdw.org) and scroll down **Join TDW** box ActBlue opens and you can join online

Want to join with cash or a check?  
You can pay in person at our monthly meetings



Want to meet other like minded people?  
Lunch with the Democrats  
Every Wednesday @ noon  
El Chico



### Collecting for Homebound Seniors

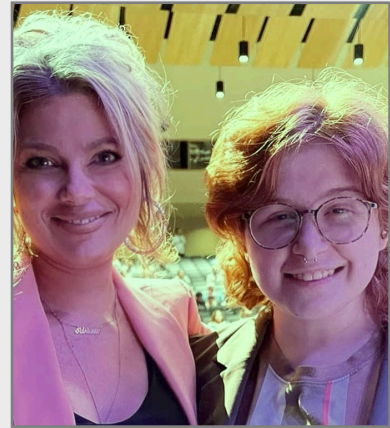
Please remember that we are collecting donations at our monthly meetings. Anything you can bring will be greatly appreciated!

- Microwavable Mac & Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Snack size peanut butter
- Coffee pods
- Ensure or protein drinks
- Juice Boxes or small drinks (Gatorade, etc.)
- Clorox or other brand wipes
- Toilet Paper
- Laundry Pods
- Dog Food and Treats
- Cat food and Litter

## TDW Scholarship Winners



Julissa Hernandez



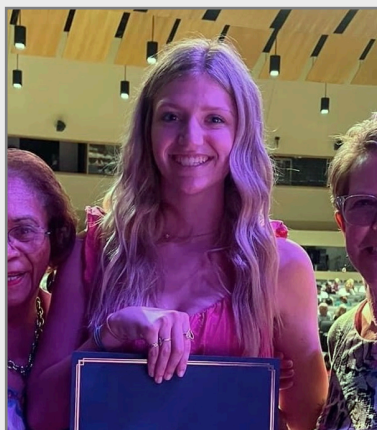
Brandy (Lou) Whiting



Jullian Tremble



Tessa Fox



Kaitlyn Smith



Ava Williamson