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EARLY VOTING ENDS NOV. 5

A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People - L.E. Austin



FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA

Support for 'my girl' Clinton is personal, Mrs. Obama says

By Kathleen Hennessey

WINSTON-SALEM (AP) - As first ladies they could hardly have been more different. But as Democrats looking to fire up female voters, Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton were firmly bonded on Oct. 27.

In their first joint appearance on the campaign trail, Mrs. Obama and Clinton talked up their shared respect, common values and singular goal: Defeating Republican Donald Trump. They papered over a somewhat rocky history and their vastly different paths through public life.

With Mrs. Obama aiming to secure her husband's legacy and Clinton needing to propel women to the polls, the two women sought to celebrate their political marriage of mutual interest, and reassure voters it's real.

"Seriously, is there anyone more inspiring than Michelle Obama?" Clinton asked, as a crowd in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, answered with cheers. Mrs. Obama declared the feeling mutual. She referred to Clinton as "my girl" and offered reassurance that her testimony for Clinton is both personal and political.

Since she's emerged as Clinton's headline-grabbing surrogate, people wonder one thing, Mrs. Obama noted.

"Yes, Hillary Clinton is my friend," she answered. It's a reasonable question.

In the East Wing, Clinton dived into policy, undertook a massive project and failed under a harsh spotlight. Mrs. Obama largely steered clear and enjoyed quieter, modest success. Both Ivy League-trained lawyers with their own careers, Clinton bridled under the stereotypes associated with the office, while Mrs. Obama declared herself "mom-in-chief." While Clinton held onto her maiden name, her Democratic successor let it be known she preferred the "Mrs." title.

And when her time in the White House was ending, Clinton (Continued On Page 2)

Liberal voice, long-time NC state Rep. Luebke dies at age 70

(AP) - State Rep. Paul Luebke of Durham, a strong and consistent liberal voice on policy issues, has died at age 70, a close friend said.

Luebke suffered from lymphoma and died Oct. 29, Durham City Council member Steve Schewel said Oct. 30.

Luebke served in the state House of Representatives for the past 25 years, representing part of Durham. He was a strong and consistent liberal voice on policy issues including the death penalty, education, gay marriage, abortion and programs to help the poor.



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He was a persistent defender of low-income residents during debates over tax legislation he believed would disproportionately harm the poor. He also opposed large taxpayer-funded economic incentives to lure specific corporations to the state.

His full-time job was as a professor of sociology at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He wrote two books about the history and practice of North Carolina politics as of 1990 and updated for 2000. The latter described the diverging interests of urban modernizers and small-town traditionalists as the political divide beyond party labels.

Republican Gov. Pat McCrory praised Luebke's "undeniable passion" for public service, which his Democratic challenger Roy Cooper said the lawmaker "never wavered from advocating for justice and fairness."

"Paul had an unprecedented concern for working and marginalized communities and families," said House Majority Leader Rep. Larry Hall, D-Durham. "He always put them first in every public policy debate."

Luebke was one of the longest-serving House members and the heavy favorite to win a 14th two-year term next month in his Durham County district over a Republican challenger.

With Luebke's death, Durham County Democratic leaders can choose a replacement nominee for Luebke's 30th District. His name will remain on ballots.

Complaints hit accuracy of NC touch-screen voting machines

RALEIGH (AP) - North Carolina's elections board says it's received a smattering of complaints about electronic voting machines getting things wrong, but nothing outside the norm for a presidential election year.

State Board of Elections spokesman Pat Gannon said Oct. 25 the complaints involve touch-screen machines used for early voting in less than a third of the state's 100 counties and by even fewer on election day.

The North Carolina NAACP had reports from five counties that the machines wrongly identified a voter's choice, but the voters were able to correct their ballots before casting them. The organization said it happened in Cumberland, New Hanover, Iredell, Mecklenburg, and Catawba counties.

Cumberland County elections director Terri Robertson says five people told her machines initially displayed a wrong vote, but all corrected their ballots after reviewing them.



President Barack Obama flexes biceps with Superman Walker Earnest in the Lower Cross Hall of the White House, prior to welcoming local children to trick-or-treat for Halloween at the South Portico, Oct. 31. Walker is the son of Press Secretary Josh Earnest. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

Civil rights hero from 60s takes criticism as Trump backer

By Tom Foreman Jr.

HIGH POINT (AP) - Clarence Henderson was hailed as a hero nearly 60 years ago when as a young black man he participated in a sit-in at a segregated North Carolina lunch counter.

In 2016, he is again taking a risky stand; he is supporting Donald Trump.

And he isn't shy about it. Last month he gave the invocation at a Trump rally here, smiling as he shook the Republican candidate's hand.

"Donald Trump is certainly not a politician, and politicians are a dime a dozen, but leaders are priceless," Henderson said in an interview.

Trump is deeply unpopular in the black community. He has called on black voters to vote for him because "what the hell do you have to lose?" His support among blacks is less than the margin of error in some polls.

Henderson, 74, has been criticized for his stance, with many taking to Twitter to accuse him of abandoning the principles he fought so hard for more than half a century ago.

Henderson shrugged off the criticism, saying he isn't paying any attention to it.

And he has gotten some support from one of his fellow activists. Jabreel Khazan was one of the first four protesters to sit down at the Woolworth's lunch counter. And though he supports Hillary Clinton, he said he had no problem with Henderson's choice.

"God bless him and all of those who have a second opinion," said Khazan, whose name was Ezell Blair at the time of the protest. "We should not be a one-minded people."

Henderson attended North Carolina A&T State University, when, as an 18-year-old, he joined the original four lunch counter protesters on the second day of their protest. He could no longer live under the official segregation known as Jim Crow, he said.

"I did it because it was the right thing to do," he said.

Angry whites jeered at them, and he wondered if he and his fellow protesters would be brought out in handcuffs or on stretchers.

They were arrested, but their actions inspired similar protests throughout the south that led to the desegregation of lunch counters and other nonviolent protests against racist policies.

(Continued On Page 2)

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