



National Federation of Republican Women

36th Biennial Convention

September 28—October 2, 2011,
Kansas City, Missouri

Remarks by U.S. Representative Vicky Hartzler

- Welcome to the Heartland—home of BBQ, hard work, love of country, and common sense.
- We're glad you're here to celebrate the gains Republicans have made and to lay the groundwork for more victories in 2012!
- In this room is a special group of leaders. We are moms, and wives, and grandmas, and young women starting careers and when we set our minds to something, we're a force to be reckoned with!
- Last year something needed to be done! Our country was in shambles—the Trifecta team of President Obama-Nancy Pelosi-Harry Reid were systematically dismantling everything we hold dear at break neck speed! By this time last year they had:
 - Taken over America's health care system,
 - Taken over America's banking system,
 - Taken over private automobile companies,
 - Quadrupled our nation's debt with their 'borrow and spend' failed stimulus plans and big Government Spending, and
 - Were lining up to take over America's energy industry with their 'cap and tax' scheme.
- It was time to step up and stop them---and we did! Thousands of American patriots like you got involved, rolled up their sleeves,

and said, "*We love our country. We aren't going to let it be destroyed. We're going to take our country back!*"

- Never underestimate the Power of Principled Patriotism coupled with Prayer! Great things can happen despite all odds.
- I have seen it firsthand. I grew up in a democrat district. The first few years of my voting life, everyone pulled a democrat ballot on Primary Election Day because there were no Republican candidates running in our county. There had only been one Republican state representative during my lifetime that had served our area and that was for only 2 years when I was in Junior High. In 1994, I was teaching school and grading papers one night when the phone rang. It was an older gentleman in the community whom I had known my entire life. He reminded me that the local State Representative was retiring and asked if I'd run. I said, "I can't do that. I don't know anything about running for office and I feel like I'm making a difference working with teenagers. But he asked, "*Would you think about it? Would you pray about it?*" I said I would and the answer I got surprised me. "*Run.*" Why? Because there is a need for ordinary people who have been living with the laws and who love their family, their God, and their country to run for office. If they don't, voters are left no one to vote for who shares their values.

Edmund Burke said, "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing." That is certainly true in politics.

- I ran in 1994. Lots of people joined with me. We worked hard knocking on over 5000 doors and won with 60% of the vote and were re-elected with 69% and 67%.

- I returned home to be a full-time mom in 2000 being active in our community and being more involved in our business and farming operation never thinking I'd run for office again. Then 2008 came and the systematic dismantling of our country, our Constitution, and everything we hold dear. People started approaching me asking me to run for Congress. Once again, I said, "*I can't do this!*" This time, if I ran, it would mean running against a much-respected 34 years incumbent who had been the only U.S. Representative I had ever had in my entire voting life having first been elected when I was a sophomore in high school. Plus, he was the Chairman of the powerful Armed Services Committee. Going up against him with his money and Nancy Pelosi's backing would be like going up against Goliath.
- But, you know what; even Goliath is vulnerable when he stands for the wrong things.
- We worked hard again and people all over Missouri's 4th joined with us and said, "*It is time. We don't want our vote squandered with Nancy Pelosi. We want to be part of the solution and put America back on the right track*"—and we did! On Election Night, we won by 5 points and I now have the privilege of representing the good people of Missouri's 4th district—taking their common sense ideas and Heartland values to Washington and I'm so thankful for that opportunity.
- Thousands of people got involved all over the country last year and made a difference on Election Day. Thank you for all you did. I am proud to serve with the 87 men and women who make up the Freshman Class of the House of Representatives. It is an honor to

be the class who helped remove Nancy Pelosi from power and to turn our country back in the 'right direction'!

- We are bringing that Principled Patriotism to Washington and, with the people's support and the Lord's help, we are turning around our country.
- What are the principles we are fighting for? **Fiscal Responsibility. Faith. Family. Freedom.** They are basic to who we are but foreign to some leaders in Washington.
- As Republicans we are leading the charge for Fiscal Responsibility in our government—As moms, business owners, workers, volunteers, students—we know that you can't spend more money than you have. As families, we have to tighten our belts—Washington should, too.
- Washington is currently borrowing 42 cents out of every dollar it spends. That is unsustainable. A couple of comments attributed to Abraham Lincoln put this in perspective: "*You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn.*" And "*You cannot establish security on borrowed money.*" It's time we listen to one of the greatest U.S. Presidents ever and apply his common sense.
- We need a balanced budget. I used to teach family and consumer sciences before I ran for state representative in 1994. I taught budgeting to my students by explaining to them that *expenses* shouldn't be more than *income*. They got it. I think Washington should, too!
- This fall Congress is going to vote on a Balanced Budget Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. I think this is the best way to force Washington to live within its means. Hopefully, the democrats will get on board, too, because it's the right thing to do!

49 states have some form of a Balanced Budget requirement and it works for them. Our federal government needs it, too.

- In the meantime, Republicans are striving to balance our budget by cutting expenses and increasing revenue by creating jobs. While the President believes we need to spend another half trillion dollars in stimulus spending and raise taxes to create jobs, Republicans know that to create jobs we need to get Washington out of the way! By removing onerous regulations, lowering taxes, repealing ObamaCare, stopping the EPA's cap and tax scheme, and passing the pending Free Trade Agreements, we will see jobs coming back to America.
- Putting these altogether, we are bringing **Fiscal Responsibility** back to Washington and changing the way it does business and the tone of the city. Already, instead of talking about how much more they are going to *spend*, they are talking about how much more they are going to *cut*. It's a new day in Washington!
- In addition to the principle of **Fiscal Responsibility**, we are standing strong for the principle of **Family**. When the family succeeds, our communities, states, and country succeed. I'm glad to be part of the Republican Party who believes that strong families are the backbone of our country and that includes an appreciation for life at all stages, marriage between a man and a woman, and the traditional values of faith, family, and freedom that made our country great. If we abandon these, we abandon what made us the greatest country on Earth. We won't let that happen.
- Lastly, we are standing strong for the principle of **Freedom**. Freedom to live our lives without government looking over our shoulders; freedom to pursue our dreams; freedom to enjoy our 2nd

amendment rights and purchase private property without government interference; freedom to worship, to speak, to start and grow a business without undue taxation or regulation, and, yes, freedom to stand tall for a strong national defense!

- Forces gathering today would take away our freedoms little by little in the name of ‘fairness’ and ‘big government knows best’ until we won’t recognize the country we grew up in. Liberals in Washington want to balance the budget on the backs of our military and slash our defense spending. We won’t let that happen!
- As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, I have been helping to lead the charge to protect defense spending from being decimated. According to the Constitution there are only a few things Congress should be doing and one of them is to ‘provide for the common defense’. Men and women have fought and died to protect our freedoms. They’ve stood with us; now we need to stand with them.
- We can do it. Last year we started a revolution to take back our country. We took back the House of Representatives and we’re not stopping. Next year we will continue our march to take back our country by winning the Senate and the White House.
- **Prayerful Principled Patriotism** is what our country needs and what we can provide. Now is the time to lead the charge and protect our freedoms for ourselves and for our children. Our country needs us. Let’s rededicate ourselves to this cause, roll up our sleeves, and get to work. I am honored to link arms with you in this vital cause and know that, with God’s blessing, we will prevail!