

# INSIDE NEWS

from the President

December 2025

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112 Elden Street, Suite P  
Herndon, Virginia 20170  
703.318.0730  
www.cblwomen.org

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## Thank You for a FANTASTIC 2025!



**University of Dallas** student **Mercedes Skidd** (left) and **Thomas More College** student **Anastasia Shanahan** (right) meeting with their summer internship mentor, **Catherine Hendershott** (middle), assistant to the President, at the **Washington, DC Summit**.

As we wrap up 2025, we would like to say thank you for a fantastic year of preparing and promoting conservative women leaders! Because of you, Gen Z women from across the country:

- Heard from exciting conservative women leaders, including **Isabel Brown, Riley Gaines, Harmeet Dhillon, Mollie Hemingway, Alex Clark, Liz Wheeler, Mary Margaret Olohan, Reagan Conrad, Reagan Reese, KT McFarland, Emily Jashinsky, Erika Donalds, Paula Scanlan, Clare Morell, Sarah Cain, Sarah Bedford, Elisha Krauss, Antonia Cover, Rachel Greszler, Becky Norton Dunlop, Stella Morabito, Leslie Manookian, Susan Hanssen, Seohyun Lee, Beverly Hallberg, Stephanie Holmes, Kerry and Kady Bedard, Lynn Williams, Brenda Hafera, Dawn Hawkins, Michelle Easton, Marji Ross, Kate Obenshain Keeler, Jessica Jensen, Kelleigh Clarke, Lauren Husmann, and Kimberly Begg.**
- Attended **National Student Summits** in **Washington, DC** (our largest summit ever!) and **Scottsdale, Arizona**, connecting with our nationwide network of strong, conservative women leaders.
- Participated in life-changing internships, receiving training in leadership, media, speaking, writing, journalism, etiquette, finances, firearms safety and marksmanship, self-defense, career readiness, and America's founding principles.
- Hosted and heard from campus speakers at **Hillsdale College, Belmont Abbey College, Muhlenberg College, Grove City College, Biola University, University of Dallas, UC-Berkeley, and Kenyon College.**
- Spent a 'Day at the Range,' receiving firearms safety and marksmanship training, at the **University of Notre Dame, Texas A&M, Clemson University, Liberty University, Grand Canyon University, and University of Dallas.**



Because of you, the Luce Center's voice is clearer, stronger, and reaching further than ever before. Across **Instagram**, **Facebook**, **YouTube**, **X**, and **LinkedIn**, you helped us share more original content and videos than ever before—introducing our mission to new audiences and deepening engagement with young women nationwide.



That reach expanded even further when **YETI Coolers** canceled a custom mug order because it included the words “conservative women.” Within hours of sharing the story, your support helped spark national attention and widespread outrage—resulting in major coverage by **Fox News**, **Newsmax**, **CBN News**, **The Washington Examiner**, **Blaze Media**, **New York Post**, and dozens of other outlets. The moment culminated with our message displayed on a billboard in **New York City's Times Square**—introducing millions to a simple truth: *conservative women will not be silenced*.

You also helped shape the national conversation about conservative women. A feature story in **The Wall Street Journal**, which has nearly 4 million subscribers worldwide, examined the attitudes of Gen Z women toward family and the future, following the Luce Center's work firsthand. The reporter who wrote the article attended our Scottsdale Summit and highlighted the voices of **Isabel Brown**, **KT McFarland**, **Reagan Conrad**, **Emma Waters**, and **Kimberly Begg**—bringing national attention to our speakers and the women you help form and support.

In addition, **C-SPAN**, which reaches more than 100 million television households, covered Luce Center talks by **Sarah Bedford**, **Reagan Reese**, **Becky Norton Dunlop**, **Paul Kengor**, **Clare Morell**, and **Rachel Greszler**—bringing serious, national visibility to the ideas shaping America and the conservative movement.

And this year, you helped us launch a brand-new platform: **Gen Z Unplugged**. The podcast now reaches listeners on **YouTube**, **Spotify**, **Apple Podcasts**, and all major podcast platforms—creating space for long-form conversations with young women and the leaders shaping their generation.



EXCLUSIVE: Young women's leadership nonprofit responds to YETI 'political' order cancellation: 'Do better'





















# “Principles Matter”: Becky Norton Dunlop on Conservatism in the Age of Trump



*(Left) **Becky Norton Dunlop** addresses a standing-room-only audience at the Luce Center, grounding her remarks in the first principles of American conservatism. (Right) Following her talk, Dunlop continues the conversation with attendees, engaging one-on-one on the ideas raised during the program.*

A standing-room-only crowd filled the Luce Center on December 12 for a conversation with **Becky Norton Dunlop** on “The Conservative Movement in the Age of Trump.” C-SPAN covered the event, with special guests **George Dunlop** and Luce Center board member **Marji Ross** in attendance.

Becky Norton Dunlop has been a driving force in the conservative movement for decades. A veteran of the Reagan administration, she served as Deputy Assistant and Special Assistant to **President Ronald Reagan** and held senior roles in the **White House**, the **Department of Justice**, and the **Department of the Interior**. She served for nearly 25 years at the **Heritage Foundation** as a Vice President and Ronald Reagan Distinguished Fellow and has been a member of **Young America’s Foundation’s Reagan Ranch Board of Governors** for more than 27 years.

Dunlop grounded her remarks in first principles, returning early to the roots of the modern conservative movement and to the Sharon Statement, which she described as a “foundational document” of modern conservatism. Reading the statement aloud, she urged attendees to revisit it for themselves, calling it “timeless” and essential for understanding what unites conservatives across generations.

She placed those principles in the broader context of America’s founding, reading from the Declaration of Independence and emphasizing that its language applies universally.

One of Dunlop’s clearest clarifications was that the conservative movement cannot be reduced to party labels: “The modern conservative movement is not the Republican party.” Conservatives may often work within the Republican Party, she noted, but “we cannot equate the two.”

She also cautioned against branding without substance. “It’s not enough to call yourself a conservative,” she said. What matters is if you “accept, believe, and operate by these key principles.”

She drew an important distinction between political and philosophical movements. “The age of Trump is a political movement,” she said. “It’s not a philosophical movement.” Politics, she acknowledged, can involve compromise on preferences—but not on core principles: “**We don’t compromise our core principles.**”

From there, Dunlop walked through current debates and policies through the lens of constitutional conservatism—welcoming honest disagreement while insisting on principled boundaries.

## **Tariffs: taxes or a foreign policy tool?**

On tariffs, Dunlop said there are two positions among conservatives: one that tariffs function as taxes, and another that they can serve as a foreign policy tool. She noted that President Reagan was a committed free trader but pointed out that his administration did, at times, use different tools when confronting unfair trade practices.





(Left) Luce Center member **Patti Lardin** enjoys a conversation with Dunlop following her remarks. (Middle) Dunlop spends time with intern **Lucy Evich**, underscoring the Center's commitment to mentoring the next generation. (Right) President's Club member **Barbara Coward** poses a question during the audience Q&A.

Some conservatives, she explained, argue that President Trump is using tariffs in a similar way today—to respond to unfair trade and to advance what Dunlop called “the just interest of the United States.”

### **Antisemitism and Israel: dignity and national interest**

Dunlop addressed antisemitism through the lens of America's founding principles, stressing that unalienable rights apply to every individual. Jewish people, she said, are entitled to that same dignity and protection, and “antisemitism violates that very principle.”

On Israel, Dunlop urged attendees to consider U.S. foreign policy in terms of America's just interests. Israel, she said, remains a vital ally—one that cooperates closely with the United States, shares intelligence, allows access to military bases, and contributes to regional stability. Supporting Israel, she argued, aligns with conservative principles and America's national interest.

### **Education: parental authority at the center**

On education, Dunlop acknowledged an ongoing debate among conservatives between those who support school choice within a federally managed system and those who emphasize parental authority and reduced centralized control. “I would argue that the winning argument is parents,” she said. “Parents should have the decision about how best to educate their children.”

### **Health Care: individual control and liberty**

On health care, Dunlop noted differing views on government involvement, highlighting health savings accounts as an approach that emphasizes individual control. “When you can control your own money and make your own decisions about health care,” she said, “I think this is a very good policy to pursue.”

### **The 10th Amendment: power returned to states and people**

Dunlop also emphasized federalism and the importance of the 10th Amendment. “The 10th Amendment in the Constitution says, leave it to the states or to the people,” she said, arguing that fidelity to the Constitution—not centralization—should guide governance.

### **Perseverance, Leadership, and the Work Ahead**

Dunlop concluded by returning to the importance of perseverance rooted in conviction. “Principles matter,” she said. Citing Winston Churchill, she closed with a reminder: **“Our job is to never quit, never, never, never quit.”**

During the question-and-answer period, Dunlop was asked what she learned about leadership from President Reagan. **Reagan, she said, “knew what he believed and why he believed it,”** and paired that clarity with humility, patience, and a willingness to listen before deciding.



(Left) Dunlop and her husband, **George Dunlop**, share a light moment with President **Kimberly Begg** in the Keiser Room. (Middle) Member **Jeffrey Lardin** and **Tamara Crouse** hold signed conservative books won in a raffle, selected from Dunlop's personal collection. (Right) **Rachel Hurley**, Luce Center social media officer, asks a question during the discussion period.



# Karen Buchwald Wright Honored as Woman of the Year



**Karen Buchwald Wright**—honored as the Luce Center’s **2025 Woman of the Year**—lived a life defined by faith, generosity, and a deep love of country.

The Clare Boothe Luce Center for Conservative Women has named **Karen Buchwald Wright** our **2025 Woman of the Year**, honoring a life marked by generosity and an enduring commitment to faith, family, and freedom. Wright passed away on October 15, 2025, leaving behind a remarkable legacy.

Karen Buchwald Wright was a devoted wife and mother, a visionary business leader, and a steadfast defender of America’s founding principles. Through her leadership of the Ariel Corporation and Ariel Foundation, she invested in her employees, passed on her values, and revitalized her hometown of Mount Vernon, Ohio, transforming it into a model of civic renewal built on service and patriotism.

Her philanthropy reflected her deepest convictions. She gave selflessly to causes that strengthen the moral and civic foundations of American life—including the Luce Center—because she believed those values must be lived, taught, and passed on to the next generation. Our event space bears her name in recognition of that commitment.

Within the walls of the Karen Buchwald Wright Room, thousands of students, speakers, and supporters have gathered to encourage one another, celebrate truth, and strengthen the country she loved so deeply. **For generations to come, young women will look to her life as a model of faith, courage, and generosity—and be inspired to follow in her footsteps.**

The 2025 Woman of the Year award was presented posthumously during a Luce Center program on December 12. In her remarks, President Kimberly Begg said, **“Few women have lived with as much purpose, courage, and grace as Karen Wright.”**

Becky Norton Dunlop accepted the award on Wright’s behalf and reflected on the forward-looking spirit that defined her life. She said, “Karen was always looking down the road—how did she improve her family? How did she improve her company? How did she improve her community... how did she improve our country?”

**At the Luce Center, we strive to cultivate the kind of woman Karen Wright was: strong, virtuous, principled, joyful, and generous-hearted.**



(Left) **Becky Norton Dunlop** accepts the 2025 Woman of the Year award on behalf of Wright, reflecting on a life devoted to strengthening family, community, and nation. (Right) Dunlop addresses the audience during the Woman of the Year program, sharing how Wright always looked “down the road” to build a better future.



# On a Personal NOTE

**Thank you for an outstanding 2025.** We are incredibly grateful to you—our phenomenal friends and supporters—for all you do. You are helping today's young women embrace their naturally conservative instincts to become strong leaders who will strengthen America's future.

Because of you, the Luce Center stands as **America's mentorship institution for conservative women**: a place where young women encounter truth, learn conservative principles, and acquire the skills and confidence they need to lead with courage.

Looking ahead, your generosity is already shaping what comes next. In 2026, your support will make it possible for us to:

- Provide life-changing internships that transform inspiration into leadership.
- Organize our most impactful Summits yet—in **San Antonio, Texas**, and **Washington, DC**.
- Bring powerful speakers to college campuses across the country, where countless students will encounter conservative ideas for the very first time.
- Equip young women with practical skills—from public speaking to firearms safety and marksmanship—that cultivate confidence, discipline, and self-command.
- Launch our new mentorship program to support young leaders entering into the world after college.
- Build an enduring community that will preserve a free and prosperous nation.

Thanks to you, extraordinary speakers are already confirmed for 2026, including **Alex Clark, Erika Donalds, Xi Van Fleet, Nicole Parker, Mary Hasson, Mary Margaret Olohan, Marji Ross**, and **Reagan Reese**—women who model conservative principle, virtue, and grace.

As this year draws to a close, please know how deeply thankful we are for you. We are honored to partner with you to shape the next generation of conservative women leaders and secure a stronger, freer America.

In Friendship & Freedom,



President



*As we look ahead to 2026, I am thankful to work alongside **Marji Ross**, a popular speaker and our Board's Treasurer-Secretary.*

P.S. Thank you for standing with the Luce Center and the young women we serve. Your commitment is shaping leaders who will carry truth and conviction into American life for years to come.