

# THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House,  
To Appear Friday June 12

Nancy Pelosi, the first woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, will appear at The Progressive Forum Friday, June 12, at The Wortham Center at 7:30 p.m. She will discuss the broad range of issues facing the nation and the world in a lengthy conversation with Progressive Forum president, Randall Morton. She will also discuss her book, *Know Your Power: A Message To America's Daughters*, sharing her personal story, encouraging women to join the political process. She will sign books and greet fans at the end of the evening.

All attendees will receive a complimentary copy of her book. Tickets start at \$19 for orchestra level seats and range up to \$144, a level including a pre-event reception. Tickets are at [www.progressiveforumhouston.org](http://www.progressiveforumhouston.org) where patrons can select exact seats and print tickets at their computer. Phone sales are at 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, "In these difficult times, this is a rare opportunity for Houstonians to engage a top governmental official at this level. I encourage people to offer questions for the Speaker at our website at [www.progressiveforumhouston.org](http://www.progressiveforumhouston.org).

"This should also be an inspiring for families, especially women and young

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girls. Ms. Pelosi will discuss the joys of political life with a special message to women that the political process needs them.”

Nancy Pelosi entered Congress after winning a special election in California’s 8<sup>th</sup> District in 1987 which includes much of San Francisco. She was named Minority Leader in November 2002, becoming the first woman to lead a political party in the U.S. Congress. After Democrats won control of the House of Representatives in national elections in November 2006, she was elected Speaker for the session beginning in 2007.

Brookings Institute Congressional scholar, Thomas Mann, said, “She’s probably gained the reputation of one of the strongest and most effective speakers in decades.”

Some of her accomplishments include tough ethics reform legislation, an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in ten years, the largest college aid expansion since the GI bill in more than 60 years, the largest increase in veterans health care funding in the 77 year history of the Veterans Administration, as well as a new GI education bill for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. In the current 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, Speaker Pelosi worked with President Barack Obama to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act whose goal is to provide relief for American families and to create or save 3.5 million jobs.

Pelosi graduated from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. in 1962, then married businessman Paul Pelosi and moved to his native San Francisco. They have five grown children and nine grandchildren.

Her late father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. was a congressman from Maryland (1939-47) and mayor of Baltimore (1947-59). Her brother, Thomas J. D'Alesandro III, was also mayor of Baltimore from 1967 to 1971.

The Progressive Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting seven events a year at The Wortham Center. It's the only civic speaker organization in the nation dedicated expressly to progressive values. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by striving to present the greatest minds from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities as well as politics and public affairs, great minds it believes are advancing the success of individuals, our species, and life on the earth.

This year of 2009 marks the fourth full year of The Progressive Forum. Past speakers include Al Gore who launched *An Inconvenient Truth* at The Progressive Forum, his first U.S. book event for that title. Others have included Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. Jared Diamond, Seymour Hersh, Molly Ivins, George Soros, Edward O. Wilson, Frank Rich, Garrison Keillor, Joe Klein, Tim Flannery, Anna Deavere Smith, Gloria Steinem, James Hansen, Ken Burns, George Lakoff, Robert Redford, Bill McKibben, Elizabeth Edwards, Larry Wilmore, T. Boone Pickens, and Lester Brown.

All Progressive Forum events are carbon neutral through a donation from DrivingGreen.com which offsets 51 tons of greenhouse gasses per event including the speaker's air and ground transportation, venue air conditioning and power, and audience driving to and from the theater.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model in the field of public affairs in Houston to deliver a higher quality experience to much larger audiences that typically attends speaking events. The Progressive Forum operates as a performing arts company

by using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to top intellectual stars (but not elected officials), and marketing throughout the region. It offers convenient box office services through its website allowing ticket buyers to print tickets at their computer, in addition to traditional phone sales.

The Progressive Forum premiered on June 13, 2005, with Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and Houston Mayor Bill White in a program called our “Environmental Challenges.”

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc.

for 33 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included

leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton

created and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum in 1994 and produced it for nine years,

a speaker platform which is still going as the largest in the oil industry. While earning a

degree in government from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C., he served as an

issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.