



The Space Coast Tusk



A Newsletter for Conservative Republicans

FLYING HIGH...AND DIGGING AND BORING TO KEEP BREVARD COUNTY RED AND GET CONSERVATIVES ELECTED

Editor and Publisher: [Stuart Gorin](#)

Designed by: [Frank Montelione](#)

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FLORIDA LEGISLATURE ENDS SESSION; BUDGET BILL SENT TO GOVERNOR

EDITOR'S NOTE

By **Stuart Gorin**



The work of the Media Research Center (MRC) proves that when it comes to coverage of conservatives vs. liberals, there is a double standard by the left-wing, lame-stream media. The questions asked only of a conservative can be compared to that loaded, false assumption: "When did you stop beating your wife?"

As an MRC associate, I attended the conservative watchdog group's annual meeting and "Dishonors" Gala in Washington, DC, May 7. My report on the festivities appears in this edition.

We continue to cover activities of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, Republican clubs in the county, and conservative organizations, so both elected officials and the typical "man-in-the-street" are kept abreast of what is happening at the local, state and national levels.

All back issues of The Space Coast Tusk, and its predecessor The Tusk, are available in the archives at www.brevardgop.org.

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By Space Coast Tusk Designer Frank Montelione

The State Legislature ended its two-month 2011 session May 7, after passing and sending to Governor **Rick Scott** a \$69.7 billion budget for his signature. But first, the legislators wrangled over numerous cuts in spending to close a roughly \$4 billion budget deficit.



Section 19 of Florida's Constitution requires the Legislature to balance the budget rather than mortgage the state's future by running deficits.

Many issues of interest to Floridians – including cuts in the Education budget, contributions by state employees to their pensions, Medicaid changes, and others – are part of the budget rather than being "stand alone" bills.

A major problem with the current budget bill is there is no stimulus money as there was last session to supplement the short-fall. However, it does prioritize spending on education, health care and public safety; and maintain the state's top AAA bond rating by including \$2.2 billion in reserves. It does not raise taxes or fees on Floridians.

On the subject of education, the budget included a \$1.35 million reduction in funding – doing away with teacher tenure and fully paid pensions, and allowing expansion of charter schools with less oversight from school districts. The effect on schools varies from District to District. Broward has recently been forced to lay off 1,400 teachers, most 1 and 2 year contract teachers.

Health care legislation protects individual liberties by affirming that no Floridian should be compelled by government to purchase health insurance. The Florida Health Care proposal would authorize managed care plans and large health care networks to oversee nearly Florida's entire \$21

billion Medicaid program. Virtually all of the state's 2.9 million Medicaid beneficiaries, including the elderly and disabled, would be moved into private plans, starting in July 2012, at a \$1.1 billion savings the first year, according to the governor's office.



Florida House Speaker Dean Cannon, R-Winter Park, said upon the bill's passage that Medicaid is a "federal entitlement program run amok that has become the single-largest cost driver in our state's budget." He added that the "transformational legislation will reform our state's broken Medicaid system."

Maintaining the Legislature's commitment to public safety, there are no cuts in the budget bill for the Florida Highway Patrol, and funding is provided to help replace the patrol's aging fleet of vehicles.

Other bills:

"Pill mill" legislation provided for enhanced criminal and administrative penalties targeting doctors and clinics engaged in prescription drug trafficking.

Lawmakers passed a comprehensive insurance bill that allows companies to raise homeowners' rates up to 15 percent to cover their own higher costs to buy back-up coverage against massive hurricane losses. Another proposal failed – that was to increase the rates for, and shrink the number of homes covered by, the state-run Citizens Property Insurance.

Regarding immigration reform, while tea party adherents were looking for an Arizona-style bill for the state, and Senate President **Mike Haridopolos** and the Brevard House delegation pledged that E-Verify would be on the table, that didn't happen because of pressure from Chambers of Commerce, agriculture interests and other groups.



Approximately \$10 million was appropriated for Space Florida to recruit new business, expand existing business and create jobs on the Space Coast.

Legislators agreed that a concealed weapon permit holder, who accidentally showed a gun, would no longer be subject to any penalty. This is some of the background on the past Legislative season. The one thing that Florida governors have that isn't found in many states is the "Line Item Veto" authority. The governor has indicated that he will still be cutting spending but has not indicated where. One area where many are watching is what he will do on Sun Rail.

As of this writing, Governor Scott has signed the 2011 Election Bill, which will require that voters who have moved, or for any reason their voter registration does not match their identification, will only be able to cast a "provisional ballot." The new law, which goes into effect immediately, cuts the number of early voting days in Florida

from 15 to eight, and places more restrictions on voters seeking to update their names or addresses at the ballot box. It also requires third-party groups that register new voters to submit forms with those voters' names within 48 hours or face fines.

Scott also signed Senate Bill 408, a comprehensive effort to help Florida's property insurance industry reduce fraud, increase competition and create a sound, solvent insurance industry.

Other legislation signed at this time by the governor include a bill that would set up a merit pay plan for teachers and end tenure, and a bill requiring that women be offered the opportunity to see and hear a description of ultrasound images before undergoing an abortion.

The governor also signed into law that any applicants for Social Services must be drug tested. HB 353 requires all adult recipients of federal cash benefits – the *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program* – to pay for the tests, which are typically around \$35. The screen would be for all controlled substances, and applicants would have to disclose any legal prescriptions.

Recipients who test positive for drugs would lose their benefits for a year. If they fail a second time, they lose the benefits for three years. Parents who test positive must designate another adult to receive benefits on behalf of their children. Those who pass would be reimbursed by having their benefits increased by the cost of the test.

"This is an effort to stop this cycle of drug abuse," said Senator **Steve Oelrich**, R-Gainesville, one of the sponsors, who added the requirement was similar to one that many employers make of workers. The measure provides no money for substance abuse treatment.



In the next few weeks, other bills will be decided upon and be either line item vetoed or signed into law. Important information will be posted on www.brevardgop.org as they occur.



[MEDIA RESEARCH CENTER](#) **HOLDS DISHONORS GALA**

By Space Coast Tusk Editor and Publisher Stuart Gorin





A national gathering of conservatives attending the Media Research Center (MRC) "Dishonors Awards Gala" for 2011 – which roasted the most outrageously biased examples of liberal reporting – elected MSNBC's **Ed Shultz's** "Damn Those Conservatives" award-winning remarks as "The Quote of the Year," for saying on television

that “**Republicans lie! They want to see you dead! They’d rather make money off your dead corpse!**”

The audience then jeered its Shultz quote selection with catcalls and noisemakers.

There were “winners” in four other categories as well at the May 7 event in Washington, DC.

- “The Obamagasm Award” went to Newsweek’s **Evan Thomas**, for saying the president is “above the country; he’s sort of God.” 
- “The Tea Party From Hell Award” went to PBS’s **Tavis Smiley**, for saying tea party members make threats and spit on people.
- “The I’m Not a Political Genius But I Play One on TV Award” went to actor and director **Rob “Meathead” Reiner**, for saying on **Bill Maher**’s HBO program that he fears the tea party would get a charismatic leader – like Hitler.
- “The Ode to Olbermann Award” went to MSNBC’s **Keith Olbermann**, for saying that talk radio’s **Rush Limbaugh** was “responsible” for the Oklahoma City massacre. 

At each annual gala, MRC has a number of well-known conservative leaders introduce film clips of several contestants in each category – and based on the results determined by a panel of their colleagues – mockingly reward these examples of the worst reporting of the year. Since none of the “winners” ever attend the MRC event, other distinguished conservatives accept their awards in jest – and a good time is had by all.

This year the presenters included syndicated radio talk show host **Neal Boortz**, best-selling author and columnist **Ann Coulter**, and novelist and screenwriter **Andrew Klaven**. The recipients, who were not identified in advance, were “RedState” editor **Erick Erickson**, Tea Party Patriots founder **Jenny Beth Martin**, **Tim Phillips** of Americans for Prosperity, Iowa Congressman **Steve King**, and Virginia attorney general **Ken Cuccinelli**.



While the main purpose of the Gala is to have fun at the expense of liberals, there also is a serious aspect of the event – presentation of the annual “**William F. Buckley, Jr. Award for Media Excellence**.” This year the honor went to syndicated columnist **Cal Thomas**.

Master of Ceremonies and MRC founder and president **Brent Bozell** – a nephew of the late “National Review” magazine editor and “Firing Line” host – introduced Thomas as a “longtime intellectual leader in the



conservative movement.”

In accepting the award, Thomas said Buckley had broken through “the iron door which segregated conservative thought to a place outside the mainstream market place and made it possible for succeeding generations to follow in his wake.”

To gain his own foothold – which eventually reached publication in more than 500 newspapers – Thomas said he convinced one syndicate that “if they carry me, I can increase their circulation among disaffected conservatives.”


Noting that God gave him the gift of writing, Thomas said he asked God to “part the liberal mind,” which would be “a greater miracle than parting the Red Sea.” Adding that he seeks to honor Him with the platform He has given me, Thomas said, “I hope He is pleased with His servant.”

Prior to the Gala, MRC held its annual meeting for trustees and associates, where Bozell reviewed the organization’s accomplishments last year and detailed plans for 2011.

MRC is carrying its message to the American people, Bozell explained, through websites, television and radio appearances, videos, the [Cybercast News Service](#), the [NewsBusters](#) blog, [Eyeblast.tv](#), and numerous publications and special reports.

All of this is accomplished out of its Alexandria, Virginia, office, Bozell said, on an annual operating budget of more than \$11.7 million, which is raised through contributions.

He stressed that regarding political campaigns, MRC’s work is not designed to turn elections. “We merely lay out the truth, documenting how the media are skewing their reports during a campaign,” he added. Bozell makes weekly appearances on **Sean Hannity**’s “Media Mash” segment on [Fox News](#).

The chairman of the Board of Trustees, **Seymour Fein**, told the meeting attendees that, “the conservative movement is far larger, stronger, articulate and more politically savvy these days,” which is due in no small measure to organizations like the Media Research Center and committed patriots. 

“America is under assault from both foreign and domestic enemies,” Fein said, referring to Islamic fundamentalists, illegal immigrants, drug cartels, regulatory czars, activist judges and statist politicians.

“Our culture is under attack by radical secularists and multiculturalists,” he said. “The battle rages and we know from experience there is no final victory or permanent peace, only perpetual engagement and vigilance.”

Fein said, “The vision our Founder Fathers had of a press as guardian of the people’s liberties has been inverted by a media largely dedicated to leftist ideology, and journalists

willing to subordinate professional standards to ideological objectives.” He noted that for the past 25 years, only the MRC has confronted and exposed this escalating media bias for the American people to see.



Following the annual meeting, Ann Coulter served as the light-hearted luncheon speaker and signed copies of her book “Guilty” for the attendees.

Noting that liberals criticized former Alaska Governor **Sarah Palin** for allegedly not being able to explain the Bush Doctrine, Coulter asked, “Can anyone explain the Obama Doctrine?” She added that liberals are against any doctrine that serves the interest of the United States.

Discussing the war in Afghanistan, she said, “our bombs cost more than anything they could hit” there.

Pointing out that prisoners at Gitmo have such a comfortable time that they each have gained 20 pounds, Coulter said First Lady **Michelle Obama** should take her “Let’s Move” program there.

Regarding the president’s focus on filling out basketball brackets and playing golf, Coulter said, “At least when he’s doing that, he’s not socializing another aspect of the economy.”

The media has changed, Coulter said, from being “the people’s watchdog” to “the government’s guard dog.”

In 2012, MRC celebrates its silver anniversary of being the watchdog of the media. It is a research and education organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the International Revenue Code, and contributions are tax-deductible. For additional information about the Media Research Center and/or to contribute to its effort in “Creating a Media Culture in America Where Truth and Liberty Flourish,” visit the website www.mrc.org/donate/member.html.

RACE FOR REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION UNDERWAY

The 2012 Republican presidential race is slowly getting underway, with most political pundits saying the quest for the nomination is wide open.

Fox News kicked off the campaign with a nationally televised candidate debate on May 5, and even though no Republican had yet officially announced he or she was running, five potential candidates appeared on stage in South Carolina – former Minnesota Governor **Tim Pawlenty**, former Pennsylvania Senator **Rick Santorum**, former New Mexico Governor **Gary Johnson**, Texas Congressman **Ron Paul**, and retired pizza executive **Herman Cain**.

Rather than attack each other in the debate, all five declared their opposition to Obama administration policies.

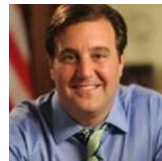
Pawlenty also declared the United Nations a “pathetic organization,” and said he was wrong when he earlier supported a cap on greenhouse-gas emissions. Santorum said that anyone who would suggest that “we call a truce on the moral issues doesn’t understand what America is all about,” and that Islam is “stuck in the seventh century.” Johnson argued for eliminating the minimum wage and corporate taxes, and for cutting Medicare nearly in half. Paul said prostitution and heroin should be legal in the United States, and the Department of Homeland Security should be eliminated, and all foreign aid should be ended. Cain said the Internal Revenue Service should be abolished, that people who would allow abortion in cases of rape and incest are “pro-choice,” and Obama’s action on gay marriage is “bordering on treason.”

A focus group organized by pollster **Frank Luntz** saw Cain as the big winner in the 90-minute debate.

It wasn’t until days after the South Carolina debate that several people announced whether or not they would run for president. Among those officially throwing their hat in the ring to date were Pawlenty, Cain, Paul and former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich**. Former Arkansas Governor **Mike Huckabee**, former Indiana Governor **Mitch Daniels** and businessman **Donald Trump**, who were considered potential candidates, announced they would not run.

Former governors **Mitt Romney** of Massachusetts and **Sarah Palin** of Alaska; Minnesota Congresswoman **Michele Bachmann**; and the other debate participants, are expected to announce their intentions shortly.

HASNER, RUSHING, MCCALISTER STRESS ISSUES FOR SENATE CAMPAIGNS



Three of the Republicans seeking to challenge Democrat Senator **Bill Nelson** in 2012 – former State House Majority Leader **Adam Hasner**, businessman **Ron Rushing**, and retired Army Colonel **Mike McCalister**

– spoke before groups in Brevard in recent weeks to stress their campaign issues.

Hasner, a Boca Raton attorney, told the Ronald Reagan Clubs April 28 he is a strong advocate for a federal balanced budget amendment and term limits for members of Congress, just as there are in the Florida legislature. Identifying himself as a strong Reagan conservative, Hasner said he will fight to save the country, and our founding principles, because of the anger and frustration among Americans about where our country is going.

He said people are energized and are holding officials accountable, noting that “2010 was just the first wave of limited government conservatives going to Washington, and 2012 is about sending reinforcements.”

Nelson “rubber stamps the Obama administration and we need someone to fight for Florida,” Hasner said, adding that his “line in the sand” is to not raise the debt limit, to stop spending and pay down the debt.

The number one reform issue is entitlement cuts – an issue that will not be popular in Florida – but “if we don’t have courage, we are going to watch America go down,” Hasner said.



Appearing before the Brevard Republican Executive Committee May 12, Ron Rushing, the owner of a software services company, stressed that he is not a “professional politician,” and “politics is not a spectator sport.”

Rushing pledged to champion, support and work to implement Fair Tax legislation, energy production to keep money and jobs in America, and to secure borders and oppose all forms of amnesty. The Windermere resident also said he favored constitutional amendments to balance the federal budget without raising taxes and to establish congressional term limits of 12 years in both chambers of Congress.

Bans that Rushing said he supports are on all corporate bailouts, on taxpayer funding of all abortions, and on all legislative earmarks. He added that he opposes all efforts to eliminate or restrict 2nd Amendment rights.

Mike McCalister, who spoke before BREC on April 14, and again before the Republican Men’s Club of Brevard on May 19, also said he is not a politician, but he wants the Senate job to be able to help instill conservative values in it. “The U.S. Senate is the last line of defense in the United States; it is the only body that confirms military officers, ambassadors, and cabinet members,” he said.



“Our country is under attack from within and outside,” McCalister added. “This country has saved the world more than once, and we’re tired of the president apologizing on foreign soil.”

If elected, he said, he would fight to restore the Constitution as the law of the land, not allow sharia law, secure our borders, stop coddling terrorists, end liberal giveaways, have less regulation and fewer laws, and get rid of the U.S. Department of Education.

The Plant City resident also said he would put up signs at Florida airports, train depots and ports, telling visitors, “You are entering a 10th Amendment state, and we will defend it with our 2nd Amendment rights.”

SAUDIS FUNDING STEALTH JIHAD MOVEMENT IN U.S., FRANK SAYS

Saudi Arabia is funding a stealth Jihad movement in the United States, in part by



contributing millions of dollars to American universities, says **Marshall Frank**, a retired Miami police detective who investigates the radical Islamic movement.

Frank, speaking at the ACT! For America Space Coast meeting in Viera May 10, said these funds have been instrumental in opening the door for hiring Muslim instructors, planning and conducting Muslim Student Association indoctrinations, foot bath installations, and obtaining special privileges for Muslim women gym classes.

There are massive conversions to Islam occurring in our prison system, where thousands of Qu’rans are delivered annually, Frank said, adding that new inmates are thrown into a violent environment and offered protection if they agree to consider Islam. These inmates are fully indoctrinated when they are released, he said.

Voicing concern that the recent uprising in Egypt was a direct result of the Muslim Brotherhood and not freedom fighters attempting to establish a democratic form of government as the media suggests, Frank said a large percentage of the population favors Sharia law.

Discussing the Holy Land Foundation trial that exposed information about the Brotherhood’s plan to establish Islam throughout the world, Frank said its intent is a Grand Jihad to destroy America from within. “While we are engaged in chasing the Taliban, Muslims are walking in our back door and are attempting and succeeding in watering down our freedom of speech and the 1st Amendment,” he added.

Frank noted with amazement a recent statement by Director of National Intelligence **James Clapper**, that the Muslim Brotherhood was “essentially a secular group.”

LaRUSSO, FAIR TAX PATRIOTS ADDRESS REPUBLICAN MEN’S CLUB

Melbourne City Councilman **Mark LaRusso**, who is running for mayor in 2012, told the Republican Men’s Club of Brevard May 19 that local elections are critical because the outcome has more of an impact on citizens’ daily lives.



Speaking at the Republican Men’s Club of Brevard meeting May 19, LaRusso said the current Melbourne City Council staff wants tax increases through such proposals as an increase in the millage rate, a tax on water usage, and an additional half-cent higher sales tax for what it calls “future actions.”

He is the only conservative on the non-partisan council, LaRusso said, and his solution to Melbourne’s financial problems is “cost cutting, not tax increases.”

Last year, the food services distribution company owner was elected without opposition to a second full term on the council from Melbourne’s District 2, which extends to

November 2014. However, he said, he felt compelled to give up that seat in 2012 to run for mayor because he does not like the way local government is operating.

Everyone else on the council is liberal, LaRusso said, and with several seats up for election next year – including his own – he hopes several conservative candidates enter the races to change the council’s make-up.

Two representatives of the Fair Tax Patriots PAC were also on the Men’s Club agenda, explaining the benefits of replacing the federal income tax with a fair tax.



Jeff Lawson and **Lou Marin**, executive directors of the organization, said the use of this consumption tax would, among other things, replace all other taxes now on the books, allow citizens to keep 100 percent of their paychecks, create millions of new jobs, encourage savings, and neutralize tax lobbyists.

The fair tax, they said, would only be paid at the time of purchase of products or services, and there would only be the need for a greatly reduced Internal Revenue Service to monitor the merchants who collect the taxes. No one would have to file any more federal tax forms with the government. Asked about the difference between a fair tax and a flat tax, they said with a flat tax, the government would still have to keep the massive tax codes in place.

For additional information about the fair tax, visit www.fairtaxpatriots.org.

POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

- The Republican Party of Florida’s “Presidency 5” event to be held in Orlando, September 22-24, will feature a presidential straw poll and candidate debate. For additional information, or to apply to be a delegate to the state convention-style affair, visit the website www.presidency5.com/ before June 10.

- The American Conservative Union’s new chairman, **Al Cardenas**, is reaching out to hundreds of regional tea party groups. Cardenas, a former Florida Republican Party chairman, said tea party members “have brought a degree of passion and effectiveness to the political battlefield with phenomenal success in incredible short order.” To win the presidential campaign, he said, everyone must come together. The ACU, Cardenas added, will continue hosting the annual Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) in Washington, and with the help of local tea party groups and state think tanks, he also plans to hold regional CPACs across the country.



- There’s a group of rich progressives in our country, calling themselves the “Patriotic Millionaires,” who have pleaded with the White House and Congressional leaders to raise taxes on all income over a million dollars. “Our country has been good to us. It provided a foundation through which we could succeed,” their open letter stated. “Now, we want to do our part to keep that foundation strong so that others can succeed as we have.” A better suggestion for these leftists is to voluntarily send the government a donation of as much money as they would like, and leave the rest of us alone.

- Political consultant **Rob Feltner** says he is looking for conservative candidates to run for office in Brevard County this year. Addressing the New Millennium Conservative Club last month, Feltner noted there are 20 nonpartisan municipal offices up for election this year, and that to be effective, campaigners must “walk the precinct,” call voters, and stick to the issues. There is usually small voter turnout during off-year elections, he said, and well-informed voters can make the difference to bring changes to municipalities.

- The [James Madison Institute](http://www.jamesmadisoninstitute.org) (JMI) reports that Brevard is one of just eight Florida counties to receive an A grade from Sunshine Review for government website transparency this year. The national organization’s “Ten Point Transparency Checklist” covers information on budgets, open meetings, elected officials, administrative officials, building permits and zoning, audits, contracts, lobbying, public records, and taxes. A JMI policy brief notes that transparency promotes public trust and accountability, and acknowledges that governments exist to serve the people, and they benefit from an informed citizenry.



- Former Florida Governor **Jeb Bush** is one of four winners of the prestigious Bradley Prize for 2011. The Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation honored Bush for his work in education reform in the Sunshine State. He currently serves as Chairman of the Foundation for Excellence in Education. The Bradley Foundation is devoted to strengthening American democratic capitalism and the institutions, principles and values that sustain and nurture it. Its programs support limited, competent government; a dynamic marketplace for economic, cultural activity; and a vigorous defense, at home and abroad, of American ideas and institutions. The prize carries a stipend of \$250,000.



POLITICAL REPORTING EXCERPTS

Reporter **Ralph Z. Hallow**, writing on Republican debates in “The Washington Times”:

“Key GOP activists have come out in support of a drive by the Republican Nation Committee to wrest what has been

exclusive control of the presidential nomination debate process from what they see as the liberal-leaning television networks and national press....RNC officials said the idea is for the party organization itself to take control this year of the debate schedules, the selection of moderators for each debate, and the issues to be discussed, as Republicans pick a challenger to President Obama next year....Candidates and their campaigns who agree to participate in RNC-sponsored debates would be free to accept additional debate invitations from news and other outside organizations, according to a plan offered by a newly formed debate committee within the RNC....The RNC hopes to turn the old debate format characterized by 'gotcha' questions from liberal reporters into something more like a televised session in which experts from think tanks and other sources interview candidates on specific issues as if the candidates were interviewing for a job....The plan being developed by Republican National Chairman **Reince Priebus** and the RNC's newly formed Debate Committee, would limit RNC-controlled debates to one a month, starting in August."

Reporter **John Gizzi**, writing on Congressman **Daniel Webster** in "Human Events":

"Conservatives in Florida and nationwide joked that by simply being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives last November, Republican **Dan Webster** had accomplished all he needed to merit a lifetime achievement award as a right-of-center hero. After all, State Senator Webster had won his state's 8th District (Orlando) by unseating freshman Democrat Representative **Alan Grayson**, one of the most obnoxious (and to many, personally offensive) liberal Democrats ever to serve in Congress. In one term, Grayson had likened former Vice President **Dick Cheney** to a vampire and called Federal Reserve Board Chairman **Ben Bernanke**'s advisor, **Linda Robertson**, a 'K Street whore.' Most notoriously, Grayson, with an amazing lifetime American Conservative Union rating of 0%, had taken to the House floor to denounce the Republican alternative plan for healthcare as one that told Americans: 'Don't get sick, and if you do get sick, die quickly'....To Daniel Webster, who had spent much of his adult life as a legislator, Grayson crossed the line....Webster unseated Grayson by a convincing 56% to 38%. One question from many political observers remained: Is Florida's Webster related to the legendary senator and presidential candidate from New Hampshire? 'I had an aunt who told me I was, but I never investigated it,' he said, 'and I don't possess the first Webster's oratorical skills.'"

EDITORIAL EXCERPTS

Columnist **Ann Coulter**, writing on unions in "Human Events":

"For years, Democrats have been using taxpayer money so that their buddies in public sector unions never have to know when there's a recession. People who are already suffering have to suffer more so that those who are doing pretty well

don't have to suffer at all. The high salaries and magnificent benefits paid to government employees are used to fund the public sector unions, which then funnel a portion of that money back to the Democrats, who vote for the pay packages of government workers. The unions function as a pass-through from the taxpayers straight to Democrats running for re-election. As a result, taxpayers are paying people to continually raise their taxes....Liberals don't love big government because they think it's efficient, compassionate, fair or even remotely useful. They support big government because they are guaranteed the support of nearly everyone who works for the government. Public sector employee contracts are written by the union and rubber-stamped by Democrats.... In the private sector, a company that capitulated to ludicrous union demands would go out of business – as would have happened to General Motors if the government hadn't taken it over. Offered substandard products at exorbitant prices, the consumer would buy from a competitor. But with government, the consumer has no choice: We have to buy from the company store."

Editor **Mark Alexander**, writing on American Patriot Defined in "The Patriot Post" (<http://www.patriotpost.us/subscribe/>).

"Today's Patriots are much like those of previous generations. We are mothers, fathers and other family members nurturing the next generation of young Patriots. We are farmers, craftsmen, tradesmen and industrial producers. We are small business owners, service providers and professionals in medicine and law. We are employees and employers. We are in ministry at home and missionaries abroad. We are students and professors at colleges and universities, often standing alone for what is good and right. We are Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and public servants standing in harm's way at home and around the world, who are loyal, first and foremost, to our revered oath to support and defend our Constitution. We are consumers and taxpayers. We are voters. We are not defined by race, creed, ethnicity, religion, wealth, education or political affiliation, but by our devotion to our Creator, and the Liberty He entrusted to us, one and all. We are Patriot sons and daughters from all walks of life, heirs to the blessings of Liberty bequeathed to us at great personal cost by our Patriot forbearers, confirmed in the opinion to God and Country to extend that blessing to our posterity, and avowed upon our sacred honor to that end. We are vigilant, strong, prepared and faithful."

James Madison Institute member **James Taylor**, writing on energy policy in JMI's "Journal":

"According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), the cost of electricity is 20 percent higher in Florida than the national average. This raises the cost of doing business in Florida, and also raises the cost of living for Florida consumers. Cutting electricity prices would boost the state economy as effectively as a tax cut, yet would have

no negative impact on state revenues....The primary reason Florida electricity is so much more expensive than the national average and in neighboring states is that Florida utilities provide far less electricity from cost-effective coal than the national average. While coal powers roughly half the nation's electricity, coal powers only 25 percent of Florida electricity....Rick Scott can dramatically lower business and consumer costs in the state – without affecting the state budget – by sending a strong signal that he will only appoint and reappoint (Public Service Commission) commissioners who support affordable energy.”

“New York Sun” founding editor **Seth Lipsky**, writing on property rights in Hillsdale College’s “Imprimis”:

“Property rights discussion...usually centers around the takings clause of the Constitution – the clause at the center of the landmark case that erupted when condemnation proceedings were launched against the homes in New London, Connecticut, of a woman named Susette Kelo and her neighbors. Under the Fifth Amendment, the government is prohibited from taking private property for public use without just compensation. That is a bedrock principle of American constitutionalism. What was special about **Susette Kelo** is that her property was taken for private use. It was coveted by a private, non-profit development corporation for private, for-profit use near a big pharmaceutical development that the town reckoned would benefit the public. Mrs. Kelo and her neighbors went all the way to the Supreme Court to try to keep their homes. She lost the case, *Kelo v. New London*, albeit by a five-to four vote. On the one hand, it was a terrible defeat for the principle of property rights. On the other hand, the decision was so alarming that states have begun changing their own laws to strengthen protections against the kind of raid on private property that Mrs. Kelo suffered. At least 43 states have already passed such laws. Rarely has the loser in a Supreme Court case established so great a legacy as Mrs. Kelo.”

REAGAN QUOTE

(Each month for the rest of the Centennial year, we will carry a meaningful quote from **Ronald Reagan**’s speaking and writings.)

Addressing the American Bar Association annual meeting in August 1983:

“The explicit promise in the Declaration of Independence that we’re endowed by our Creator with certain inalienable rights was meant for all of us....Trusting in God and helping

one another, we can and will preserve the dream of America, the last best hope of man on earth.”

CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTIONS

(Each issue focuses on a different national organization that is making a difference for the conservative cause.)

INSTITUTE FOR JUSTICE

When over-zealous government agencies threaten individuals’ fundamental constitutional rights, there is a libertarian public interest law firm ready to come to their defense.

Since 1991, the Arlington, Virginia-based [Institute for Justice \(IJ\)](#) has been involved in pro bono litigation and advocacy both in the courts of law and the court of public opinion. Its four-pronged focus covers:

- Economic liberty – filing cases on behalf of small business owners seeking to break down arbitrary government-created barriers to entrepreneurship.
- School choice – fighting bureaucrats who dictate to parents their childrens’ education.
- Property rights – ending the unconstitutional use of eminent domain for private gains.
- Free speech – challenging laws that compel or stifle political speech.

“We wield the hammer of litigation for liberty,” says **William “Chip” Mellor**, IJ’s president. “We seek a rule of law under which individuals can control their destinies as free and responsible members of society.” He adds that the institute “challenges the ideology of the welfare state and illustrates and extends the benefits of freedom to those whose full enjoyment of liberty is denied by government.”



IJ also trains law students, attorneys and policy activists in public interest litigation practices, and it publishes a bimonthly newsletter, “Liberty & Law.”

Branch chapters of the institute are located throughout the United States, and a new one is in the planning stages for Miami.

For additional information or to contribute, visit the website at www.ij.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1 – Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women meeting, Holiday Inn, Viera, 11 am.
June 2 – Heritage Isle Republican Club, Viera, 7 pm.
June 7 – New Millennium Conservative Club, Suntree/Viera Library, 6:30 pm.
June 9 – BREC meeting, Temple Israel, Viera, 6:30 pm.
June 16 – Republican Women’s Network of South Brevard meeting, Eau Gallie Yacht Club, 11 am.
June 16 – Brevard Republican Men’s Club meeting, Doubles Hoagies Restaurant, Indian Harbor Beach, 7 pm.
June 21 – North Brevard Republican Club meeting, La Cita Country Club, Titusville, 7 pm.
June 22 – Brevard Young Republicans meeting, Fiesta Azteca Restaurant, Suntree, 6:30 pm.
June 23 – Ronald Reagan Clubs meeting, Jimmy’s Restaurant, Rockledge, 7 pm.
June 24 – Republican Hispanic Club meeting, Piccadilly Restaurant, Melbourne, 7 pm.
June 28 – Space Coast Florida Republican Winners meeting, Olive Garden Restaurant, Merritt Island, 11 am.
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COMICAL CLOSER

Question: How many Democrats does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Five.

One to hold the ladder, one to climb the ladder, one to confirm that the replacement bulb is compact fluorescent-compliant, one to manage the evacuation of the building, and one to call HAZMAT to take away the bulb being replaced.



Remember Our Fallen Heroes This Memorial Day!