



The Space Coast Tusk



A Newsletter for Conservative Republicans

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

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BOLD REFORM IN MOMENTOUS TIMES, SCOTT SAYS

Editor's Note By Stuart Gorin



The current issue of Space Coast Tusk has plenty of information – Governor Rick Scott's scene-setting State of the State address; the opening of the 2011 state legislative session, in which we sure hope the Republican majority sticks to its conservative principles; the decision on the wasteful rail project; union activities; reports on militant Islam; and more.

One subject not included – that I would like to comment on – is the recent U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church's hate speech over the family of a slain military hero that was upset over the radical group's disruption of their burial service. Intellectually, I can understand the high court's strong support of the First Amendment's free speech right for this fringe religious group. Emotionally, I am appalled that this kind of activity can be protected. What's next? Free speech right to threaten a U.S. official? To publically denounce someone's race, religion, sexual orientation or political preference? Does this decision now mean that "anything goes"?

We will 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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Governor **Rick Scott**, delivering his first State of the State address to the Florida Legislature and a state-wide television audience March 8 – the opening day of the two-month legislative session – said "bold reforms are underway" during a "momentous time in our state's history."

Focusing on job, government reform and education, Scott said, "The first step to better times is acknowledging that government cannot afford what some have come to expect."

He said the 1.1 million Floridians who are out of work are running out of options, and he is working continuously to bring new private sector jobs to the state. One example, Scott said, is Bing Energy, a California-based company that agreed to come to Florida – despite being courted by several states – because of "our plan to eliminate the corporate tax."

Scott also mentioned three Florida firms that are adding new jobs by announcing expansions – aviation parts manufacturing company Chromalloy; Vision Airlines, that helps put tourists onto Florida's beaches; and medical devices manufacturer Arthrex.

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The governor urged the legislators to join in making job recruitment “a daily task,” and direct new prospects to him, and he called on them to pass his jobs budget promptly.

Scott also said there is a need to improve Florida’s K-through-12 education system by stressing that student learning “must be the touchstone for all our decisions, and the state has to recruit, train, support and promote great teachers, principals and school superintendents. He called for an end to the practice of guaranteeing educators a job for life regardless of their performance.

Regarding state government, Scott called for streamlining the functions of agencies to save money and provide better service, and for bringing the state retirement system in line with other states by having government workers start to contribute towards their own retirement.

Scott also said there is a need for lawsuit reform. “Every Floridian should have access to the courts for redress of harm,” he added. “At the same time, we can’t allow frivolous suits and unreasonable awards to give our state a reputation that frightens away new jobs.”

Commenting that his proposed budget has plenty of critics, he said some of them “are accustomed to big government and will fight to protect special interests,” and there are others who say the agenda is “too bold – that we need to trim the sails of our imagination and settle for small improvements.” The governor added, “They’re wrong.”

A vast majority of legislators, he said, “were elected, as I was, on our promise of smaller government, lower taxes, less regulation, support for job creation, individual opportunity, individual accountability, and more freedom.” He admonished them: “Don’t blink. Don’t let special interests persuade you to turn your back on the people who elected you.”

Scott closed his 25-minute address, which was interrupted by applause numerous times, by saying, “With new jobs and an education system full of new energy, we’ll plot the course for a brighter future.”



Earlier in the day, Senate President **Mike Haridopolos** and House Speaker **Dean Cannon** opened their respective chambers’ sessions by citing the federal



government as a model that Florida lawmakers should avoid.

Stressing that the political system in the nation’s capital “is broken,” Cannon said, “Washington has become addicted to foreign debt. We are like a fiscal heroin addict and the Chinese government is the main supplier.” He urged House members not to follow the example of good intentions but bad decisions set by Congress.

Haridopolos said Congress has given him a new appreciation for home rule.

“The arrogance and reckless disregard for unfunded mandates with which the new federal health care regime has been imposed on us has made me rethink relations between state and local governments,” he said.

Haridopolos also spoke about his proposed state constitutional amendment (SJR 2) designed to thwart a key provision in President Barack Obama’s health care overhaul – prohibiting the requirement for most people to buy health insurance. Even though some legal experts say such a state measure cannot trump federal law, Haridopolos said, “It’s up to the individual Floridians, not the government, to decide their health care choices in the future.”

That amendment – similar to one the Legislature passed last year, only to see it removed from the ballot by the Florida Supreme Court – passed the Senate the next day by a 29-10 vote. It now goes to the Florida House, and if passed there, will be placed on the ballot in 2012 and must gain 60 percent of the vote to be adopted into the State Constitution.

Some other issues to be taken up in the legislative session include: the state budget, state workers, redistricting, employment, public schools and insurance.

PORT DREDGING INSTEAD OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL

After the Florida Supreme Court on March 4 unanimously turned down a suit by State Senators Rockledge Republican **Thad Altman** and Tampa Democrat **Arthenia Joyner** to force Governor **Rick Scott** to accept \$2.4 billion in federal funds for a high-speed rail system, Scott’s office said he is “gratified that the court provided a clear and unanimous decision, [and] he is now focused on moving forward with infrastructure projects that create long-term jobs and turn Florida’s economy around.”



Scott informed U.S. Transportation Secretary **Ray LaHood** of the state’s decision to reject President Obama’s Tampa-to-Orlando high-speed rail project, and LaHood announced [he will give the money to other states](#).

Scott’s objections to the program are three-fold:

- First – capital cost overruns from the project could put Florida taxpayers on the hook for an additional \$3 billion.
- Second – ridership and revenue projections are historically overly-optimistic and would likely result in ongoing subsidies that state taxpayers would have to incur (from \$300-\$575 million over 10 years).
- Third – if the project becomes too costly for taxpayers and is shut down, the state would have to return the \$2.4 billion in federal funds to Washington.

He said he believes the risk “far outweighs the benefits.”

Instead, Scott said, the state will contribute \$77 million to deep dredge the port of Miami so that larger ships can use it, and he has directed the Florida Department of Transportation to “amend” its work plan to account for the \$77 million so the state “can take another leap forward in international trade.”

He called the port dredge “the type of infrastructure project that will pay permanent, long-term dividends, and provide a solid return on investment for Florida’s taxpayers.”

UNIONS, WORKERS, AND LEGISLATURES

By Frank Montelione, Space Coast Tusk Designer



Various Unions organized rallies against Governor Rick Scott’s proposed budget on March 8. These rallies had been in the planning stages for the past few weeks, with the assistance of the same group that aided demonstrations in Wisconsin and other states – “Organizing for America,” whose website can be found at www.barackobama.com.

Here in Brevard, we had our own demonstrations near the government center in Viera. I have a few observations about what took place, and my own views on what should have taken place, and they are vastly different. Unfortunately, no one asked for an opinion and none was given. I only found out about the counter demonstrations the night before the rally. The counter demonstration was then scheduled for 30 minutes after the “Wake up Florida” Rally.

Poor planning? That’s being kind. We are still playing catch-up with the greatest community organizer this country has ever seen, Barack Obama and his Organizing for America, and they are pulling away.

Let’s start with the late notice. Some of us are good conservatives. Notice I didn’t say “Republicans.” To me, most conservatives that hold our common views actually work for a living, don’t take stimulus money, and find ways to support themselves and their families without government assistance. That being said, 24 to 48 hours notice doesn’t give conservative groups time to organize properly.

If you have been paying CLOSE attention to what has actually been happening, you would know that many of the demonstrators are not the “teachers” the main stream media has been telling you about. In fact, some are not even from Florida. Think about the close proximity of Georgia to Tallahassee. It was not hard for Organizing for America and “Wake up Florida” to bus or van pool down Apalachicola Parkway to the Capitol from Georgia.

Their timing wasn’t well thought out either. Political Science Lesson Step 1: SESSION HASN’T STARTED YET AND THERE IS NO SOLID BUDGET TO PROTEST.

Having been involved in the process, I can tell you that before there is anything to protest about, we first have to see the budget that will be proposed by the Florida House of Representatives. Next will be the Florida Senate Budget proposal, which I can almost guarantee will be far different from the House proposal. We’ve only seen the governor’s budget.

Step 2: Once all three proposals are on the table, the differences must be reconciled in CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. What comes out of that will be vastly different from what we will be seeing within the next few weeks. So the timing was poorly conceived. The time to hold these protests would be just prior to when the final budget is revealed.

Step 3: Remember also, it isn’t the state that negotiates the contracts with the Teacher’s Union; it’s the local School Districts in most cases.

What amazes me is that we’ve had all through the primary process and the general election process to listen to what Governor Scott proposed to do. The Democrats and the Independents heard the same message we all heard, and Scott is keeping his word and doing exactly what he said he would. He’s operating this state as a business and not as a political entity. Why did the opposition think things would be different once the elections were over? How refreshing to see a “new” politician keep his word! Do we have to agree with him? No! Should we be surprised as what he’s doing? In the words of the Geico advertisement, “What? Have you been living under a rock?”

Finally, Follow the Money. The Democrats seem to think “they have a lock” on the next gubernatorial and legislative elections because of the Republicans’ effort to “union bust.” The union bosses can encourage their members to “wildcat,” or walk off the job in order to participate in protests. Of course they won’t be penalized; they are “the union bosses,” but the youngest and brightest of the teachers in that union’s case will be faced with layoffs if an agreement can’t be reached.

They are being asked to contribute to their pensions and their medical benefits. They are being told this is tantamount to a pay cut. In actuality, they will have a slightly (5% maximum) lower pay check, continue to receive medical benefits and upon retirement, receive a pension. The alternative – LAYOFFS and no pay check.

They will continue to pay union dues, part of which will go into the campaign coffers of those politicians who promise to deliver what the union wants. The “union bosses” will still be receiving their pay checks and have a job, which can’t necessarily be said for their members.

The union bosses are badly misreading the “tea leaves” and leading the membership down the path to perdition. The union members are happy to hear what they want to hear and

are deaf to the real possibility of losing their jobs, rather than, like many, take a pay cut that would not drastically affect their family or their lifestyle.

To me the choices are clear: Pay check (maybe a LITTLE smaller) or Increase the unemployment rolls. I know where I'd be.

Now, let's remember how Unions were formed. At one time child labor was common, sweat shops were widespread, and wages were so low that if the one bread winner of the family were hurt or worse, the family was destitute. Abuses by supervisors and managers were common. So who protected these unfortunates and pushed for fair labor laws? It certainly wasn't the employers, who exploited the worker at every turn.

There is no argument that Unions turned to violent tactics at times, but the retribution of the major companies with the government backing was far worse. Neither side is innocent when it came to violence.

Child Labor laws were instituted, minimum wages were established, and organizations such as OSHA (Occupational and Health Administration) were organized, all to protect the minimum wage workers.

And who was responsible for these reforms – Unions. If you are over 40 and have worked at one place for any amount of time, you have had to deal with managers who were intolerable and demanding. In a right-to-work state, you have no recourse but to look for another job and leave the abuser in place to mistreat your replacement.

Have the collective bargaining agreements gone too far in wage negotiations? In some cases, yes, absolutely.

The Teachers Union now seem to be the focus of many of the news stories, so the question has to be asked, "how much do you think a good teacher is worth?" The problem is that the Unions were able to negotiate tenure and now there are far too many bad teachers with tenure that we are unable to get out of our classrooms because of a Union which out-foxed the School District negotiator.

You can't blame the Unions for all the problems the government now faces, but I will admit that Unions have changed and have brought about intolerable situations. However, there were two sides sitting at the bargaining table. We wouldn't be in this predicament if the side representing the employers (the taxpayer) did their job and stood strong. Fair hourly wages, reasonable health insurance, partial payments into pensions systems and realistic number of days off are all negotiable items. It wasn't the Unions who failed the taxpayers, it was the government negotiators who failed.

MARCH BREC MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Brevard Republican Executive Committee (BREC) unanimously approved resolutions to express support for Governor **Rick Scott**'s proposed state budget as well as his refusal to accept funds for high-speed rail in Florida. An amendment that also was approved was to ask the county legislative delegation to sign off favorably on the resolution and report that information back to BREC by March 24. Another resolution unanimously passed by the committee called for reform of immigration laws in the state.
- State Committeewoman **Carlie Rogers** said Republican National Committee officials were concerned about a plan by the State Legislature to move up the date of Florida's primary election in 2012, and that she was told "don't break the rules" of the Iowa caucuses and New Hampshire primary going first. They said Florida's primary should be held no earlier than March 6. Rogers urged BREC members to let the Brevard legislative delegation know how important it is to obey rules. 
- County Commissioner **Trudie Infantini** said she is opposed to the Commission adding to the county budget by approving projects she deems unnecessary, and using some reserve funds to cover them. She said BREC members should let the other commissioners know that we do not want projects that will increase the budget. 
- **Cheryl Olsen** was sworn in as a new member of BREC.

DAKDOK, FRANK DISCUSS MILITANT ISLAM



Two men who have extensively studied the Qur'an – **Usama Dakdok** and **Marshall Frank** – spoke recently to separate groups on the dangers of militant Islam.

Addressing a Space Coast Chapter meeting of [ACT! For America](#) February 8, Dakdok, who was born into a Coptic Christian family in Egypt, said that Islam is a political-religious movement mixed together, and it is deceiving Americans by claiming to be peaceful, when the Qur'an and the Hadith (the recorded saying of Mohammed) show otherwise.

The world-wide goal of Islam, he said, is a jihad (holy war) to kill Christians and Jews, enslave them, or convert them, and this is spelled out in the Qur'an, especially in Chapter 9, verse 5, which abrogates earlier peaceful verses. He said the Qur'an tells Muslims it is lawful to deny their faith and to lie

if necessary in order to gain power. Americans who have not read the Qur'an or who have only seen "sanitized" translations, have no clue, Dakdok said. He has translated the Qur'an into English.

A student of Islam who founded The Straight Way of Grace Ministry to expose Islam and to reach out to Muslims, Egyptian-born Dakdok, who is now a U.S. citizen and lives in Venice, Florida, said Islam is growing fast in America "like a virus," because the Islamic leaders are spreading lies. The problem, he said, is not the Muslim people themselves, whom Christians are commanded to love, but the religion, which is to be hated as sin. Muslims are victims of Islam, he added.

Dakdok said Islam means surrender or submit, not peace. Every Friday when Muslims pray, he said, they are led by the Imams; they shout about death to America. Because of political correctness, he added, the Administration does nothing about it, the media says Islam is as good as Christianity and Judaism, and in schools our children are being indoctrinated and could lose their freedom.

If you don't know the enemy – Islam – you will never win the war, and that war cannot be won with bullets, Dakdok said, it must be exposed. The Qur'an must be translated into other languages to show it to the world, he said.

The present day war on terrorism is nothing new, because Mohammed's dream in the 7th century was to take over the entire world, Dakdok said.

ACT! For America is a nationwide network of 600 local chapters of 155,000 concerned Americans who are uniting to resist Islamofascism and the political correctness that excuses it. For additional information, visit www.ActforAmerica.org.

Frank, a retired Miami police captain and author now living in Melbourne, told the Ronald Reagan Clubs February 24 that radical Islam is making in-roads inside the borders of the United States, and many Americans do not realize how big this threat is.



He said that Islamberg, in upstate New York, is one of more than 35 Muslim enclaves located throughout the United States that are closed to visitors. "We can't get in and don't know what is going on there," he said. Since it opened in 1984, neighboring residents say they hear gunfire, and there have been numerous reports that the camp is used for terror training.

Frank, who spent nearly 30 years as a police investigator in Miami, began researching Islam after the 9/11 attack, and quickly realized that Muslim extremists were not just a small faction of a religion that proclaimed itself to be peaceful.

He said the Qur'an encourages Muslims to use deception, and appear to be non-radical to achieve their goals, but their

true positions will emerge when they are fully entrenched in society.

While Muslims say that Islam means "peace," Frank points out it really means "submission." Islam certainly is peaceful, he said, as long as you are a devoted Muslim, and not deemed an infidel, or a non-believer who does not accept Islam and Allah as God, and thus become a target for Jihad.

The Muslim Brotherhood, he said, has been there since 1928, pulling the strings behind the scene. He stressed that its manifesto is jihad to eliminate and destroy western civilization from within.

Information is out there, Frank said, and what we can do is be informed and teach our children about militant Islam. It is also important, he said, to inform liberals of what is really going on – to get them "off the cloud of unrealism."

Frank has testified before Congress, traveled extensively across the United States and abroad in various police and security management capacities, and authored over 1,000 editorials and articles and nine books, including "Brutally Frank: Militant Islam in America." His website is: www.marshallfrank.com.

REPRESENTATIVE TOM GOODSON VISITS HERITAGE ISLE REPUBLICAN CLUB

State Representative **Tom Goodson** told the Heritage Isle Republican Club in Viera on March 4, that a \$3.6-5 billion shortfall in state revenues means that "blood-letting is coming" as legislators fight for the programs and projects they want to retain.



By law the budget has to be balanced, and there have to be cuts, he said, but when you start cutting, there have to be concessions made. Looking at several options, he said it would be difficult to target education or the elderly, and that leaves cuts in the various departments and pension reform for those state government employees who perhaps have worked ten years or less.

"We have been raised in a society of entitlement, and people want to keep their benefits," Goodson said, adding that the whole system is broken, not only in Florida, but also in Washington. He said things cannot change overnight, but in time, "we can make change." Bills, he added, have a tendency to be watered down with amendments.

Because of rampant lawsuits that are filed in Florida, tort reform is desperately needed, he also said.

Goodson is beginning his first term representing District 29, which runs from Mims to St. Lucie County, but could change for the next session with redistricting coming up. A self-identified "very conservative businessman" who owns a paving company, Goodson said he wants to see Florida as

“a better place for us,” and he is not going to vote to please the newspapers or other legislators, but will vote for what he feels is right. He added he would compromise on some issues “if it helps Florida.”

In the Legislature, he has been assigned to the Department of Natural Resource and Agricultural Appropriations Committee, the Agriculture Subcommittee, the Consumer Affairs and Business Regulations Committee, the Policy and Rulemaking Committee, and the Judiciary Committee.

He said he doesn't have career political plans – other than to run for re-election in 2012 – and just wants to be a good legislator for his constituents. The only way to be effective is to get help from those constituents, he added.

Goodson asked the club members several times to let him know their concerns and thoughts. He stressed that he needs and wants feedback from his constituents, and that they should pay attention to what is happening and become well-informed.

On his website – www.electtomgoodson.com – he lists his position on a number of issues:

- Illegal Immigration – Florida needs to pass its own laws to crack down, just as Arizona has, and state and local law enforcement need to help enforce immigration laws already on the books.
- Economy – Jobs and wealth creation depend on a well-educated workforce and fostering a diversified, flexible economy.
- Taxes – Government needs to avoid tax increases and leave the money in the hands of those who earn it.
- Education – There is a need for accountability, high standards, and spending on things that bring the best results in the classroom.
- Crime – Allowing criminals to leave jail early would only lead to communities that are less safe.
- Freedom and Values – There is an individual right to bear arms, and the government should promote the sanctity of life and uphold marriage as the union it has always been known to be.
- Environment – This is no time for schemes like cap-and-trade, which has substantial costs without doing anything meaningful to improve the environment.

To communicate with the legislator, his email address is: electtomgoodson@gmail.com.

RPOF ISSUES NEW CODE OF ETHICS

The Republican Party of Florida (RPOF) has issued a new code of ethics to set forth standards of behavior for party leaders at the state and county levels, plus executive committees and all organizations chartered by RPOF. General responsibilities include striving to avoid even the appearance of impropriety, and conducting all personal and professional

activities with honesty, integrity, respect, fairness and good faith.

State committeemen and committeewomen and county chairmen are to work to promote ethical concepts among members of county executive committees, who also should strive to avoid even the appearance of impropriety in all affairs and disclose perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest.


Additionally, RPOF has created a new Oath of Party Loyalty and Ethical Conduct for officials at the county, district and precinct levels to sign, stating they will abide by the principles in the Code of Ethics and swear or affirm they will not support the election of any candidate other than the Republican Party's nominee in a partisan general election and a registered Republican in a non-partisan election.

The oath also states that the signee will not use his or her title or office to support the nomination of one Republican over another in a contested primary election, but can support his or her personal choice as an individual.

Here is the link to the Oath and Code of Ethical Behavior:

[RPOF Oath of Party Loyalty and Ethical Conduct](#)

POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

- **The Republican Men's Club of Brevard**, at its last meeting, filled the following officer vacancies: vice president – **Tim Thomas**; secretary – **Josiah Gattle**; treasurer – **Roman Scharf**; and director – **Rob Lattig**. 
- **RPOF (the Republican Party of Florida)** is kicking off a six-month, six-city “Greatest Generation” Tour of our state beginning April 2 to honor all Floridians who served during World War II and thank them for their heroic sacrifice and service to the country. There are currently more than 189,000 World War II veterans living in Florida, a state that played a pivotal role during the war as military bases expanded across the state. The tour will come to Orlando on June 25.
- **The Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)** has convinced the University of South Florida to reverse a denial of recognition to the conservative Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) student group. The school had argued that YAF was too “similar” to the libertarian Young Americans for Liberty to warrant recognition, but FIRE explained there were significant differences in ideology and mission between the two groups.
- A nationwide poll of union members commissioned by the National Right to Work Foundation and conducted

by nationally-known pollster **Frank Luntz** shows a majority oppose their union bosses' political spending, view the stimulus bill as a resounding failure, oppose future government spending and debt to rejuvenate the economy, and support the Right to Work principle that would protect workers from paying union dues just to get or keep a job.



- Here's a great example of unintended consequences: in San Francisco, those mandated environmentally friendly low-flush toilets -- which were designed to save water use -- have so much sludge backing up in sewer pipes, that the city has spent \$100 million to upgrade the system and reduce the smell. But it hasn't worked, and the backup plan is pouring \$14 million of bleach down city drains and into the drinking water supply. The Patriot Post (www.patriotpost.us/subscribe/) notes that, "As the city's population is one of the nuttier collections of leftists in the country, we've often wondered if there was something in the water. Now we know."

EDITORIAL EXCERPTS

“[The Wall Street Journal](#)” on Florida’s railroad check:

Florida Governor **Rick Scott** avoided a costly train wreck...by hitting the brakes on his state's high-speed rail project. Alas, the White House continues to charge full-speed ahead. Mr. Scott rejected \$2.4 billion of federal money for an 84-mile line from Tampa to Orlando, saying that it would likely end up costing state taxpayers an additional \$3 billion when the state's budget deficit this year is \$3.6 billion. Then there's the half a billion dollars in operating subsidies that the train would need every decade, which could be more depending on how much the state has inflated ridership projections. The state has estimated that about 2.4 million people would take the train in its first year, which is about two-thirds of the ridership for Amtrak's Acela, which travels along a far more populated urban corridor. Call us skeptics, but we think most people would prefer to drive from Tampa to Orlando. It's cheaper and only takes half an hour longer....House Republicans in Washington are already proposing to cut Mr. Obama's high-speed rail request by billions of dollars. The Senate will try to keep irrational hope alive, but more governors would be wise to follow Mr. Scott and cut their inevitable railroad losses.”

“[The Wall Street Journal](#)” on Hurricane Charlie (Crist):

“In a mere four years, he (former Florida Governor **Charlie Crist**) crippled the private insurance market and socialized taxpayer risk into two public institutions: Citizens Property Insurance Corp., an insurer, and the Florida Hurricane

Catastrophe Fund, a reinsurer. They are structured to fail under pressure. This is a Category Five fiscal problem that would ultimately mean demands for a Washington bailout, so the sooner Florida’s policy makers fix it the better....It’s clear that reforming Florida’s insurance market is the single biggest challenge facing new Republican Governor Rick Scott. His instincts are good: On the campaign trail last year he pledged to “level the playing field so that solvent insurers are allowed to compete with each other for business, not with the subsidized and financially unsound government-run insurance company.” He has started to sound out advisers about how to move ahead. But the politics will not be easy to navigate because any reform will have to reinsert price signals into the market – meaning higher premiums for Floridians, at least in the short term....Florida voters did the country a favor when they refused to send Mr. Crist to the Senate. Now Republicans have an obligation to clean up the looming fiscal catastrophe his policies have left behind.”

[The Heritage Foundation’s “Morning Bell”](#) on government unions:

“Government unions are inherently different from private-sector unions. The purpose of private-sector unions is to get workers a larger share of the profits they helped create. But government is a monopoly and earns no profits. All government unions do is redistribute more tax dollars from taxpayers to unions....By granting government workers the power to collectively bargain, government unions have completely politicized the civil service. State and local employees in 28 states are required to pay full union dues or get fired. Using this government coercion, government unions have amassed tremendous financial resources that they use to campaign for higher taxes and higher pay for government workers....Across the country, from Arizona to California to Minnesota to Maine to New Jersey and more, government unions have pushed legislation and ballot measures that raise taxes and spending....Conservative governors across the nation should absolutely work to reform the way public-sector unions drain our economy.”

“[The Weekly Standard](#)” on limited government:

“Now begins the great business for which the voters recalled the Republican Party to power in Washington: reestablishing the habits of limited government. Starting with the debate on the 2011 continuing resolution – last year’s Democratic majorities having failed to fund the government for the full year – and the building of the 2012 budget, conservatives will commit to the Sisyphean task of putting America’s fiscal house in order. Republicans will not just resize the government but reshape it, ensuring that Washington does well those jobs it alone must do, and otherwise giving private enterprise and civil society the greatest opportunity to flourish. And the one indispensable task of the federal government – indeed a principal reason why the Founders felt the need to replace the Articles of Confederation with the Constitution – is national defense.”

QUOTABLE QUOTES



Senator **Marco Rubio**, writing on a balanced budget on Townhall.com:

“In my two short months in office, it has become clear to me that the spending problem in Washington is far worse than many of us feared. For years, politicians have blindly poured more and more borrowed money into ineffective government programs, leaving us with trillion dollar deficits and a crippling debt burden that threatens prosperity and economic growth....While Republicans are proposing a variety of ideas to rein in Washington’s out-of-control spending, unfortunately, President Obama’s budget for the upcoming fiscal year proposes to spend \$46 trillion, and even in its best year, the deficit would remain above \$600 billion. Worst of all, the President’s budget completely avoids addressing the biggest drivers of our long-term debt – Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Rather than tackle these tough, serious issues, President Obama is proposing a litany of tax hikes on small businesses and entrepreneurs, to the tune of more than \$1.6 trillion. These tax increases destroy jobs, make us less competitive internationally and hurt our efforts to grow the economy and get our fiscal house in order. A balanced budget amendment would be a necessary step in reversing Washington’s tax-borrow-spend mantra. It would force Congress to balance its budget each year – not allow it to pass our problems on to the next generation any longer.”



Clermont Institute president **Brian Kennedy**, writing on defense policy in Hillsdale College’s “Imprimis”:

“We are often told that we possess the most powerful military in the world and that we will face no serious threat for some time to come. We are comforted with three reassurances aimed at deflecting any serious discussion of national security: 1) that Islam is a religion of peace; 2) that we will never go to war with China because our economic interests are intertwined; and 3) that America won the Cold War and Russia is no longer our enemy. But these reassurances are myths, propagated on the right and left alike. We believe them at our peril, because serious threats are already upon us....Whatever kind of self-deception has gripped the architects of our current defense policies, the American people have proved capable of forcing a change in direction when they learn the facts. Americans do not wish to be subjected to Sharia law, owe large sums of money to the Chinese, or be kept vulnerable to nuclear missiles. Having responded resoundingly to the economic and constitutional crisis represented by ObamaCare, it is now time for us to remind our representatives of the constitutional requirement to provide for a common defense – in the true sense of the word.”

British Parliament member **David Davis**, writing on Republicans in “The Wall Street Journal”:



“The world today is as volatile and dangerous as it has been for a long time, and it needs a strong and coherent Republican Party leading American opinion and policy. With the streets of the Arab world in flames, an ever more ascendant and ambitious China, and a global financial crisis that has not been well managed, let alone resolved, the rest of the world needs American to be a confident champion of Western values. As a political movement, the various strands of Republican opinion have a force and vigor rarely witnessed elsewhere in the Western world. What is more, each strand brings its own wisdom and insight to the political debate....What is needed most is not just a coalition of groups but an amalgam of ideas putting together the best and most attractive components of the Republican family’s beliefs. I suspect that the most successful formula would be a careful fiscal conservatism at home and a quiet idealism abroad. In that way America would re-establish itself as the financial linchpin of the world’s economy and its foremost standard bearer of democracy.”

REAGAN QUOTE

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



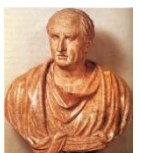
When Ronald Reagan delivered his first inaugural speech as governor of California on January 5, 1967, he included these words:

“Freedom is a fragile thing and is never more than one generation away from extinction. It is not ours by inheritance; it must be fought for and defended constantly by each generation, for it comes only once to a people. Those who have known freedom and then lost it have never known it again.”

QUOTE OF THE MILLENNIUM

“The budget should be balanced, the Treasury should be refilled, public debt should be reduced, the arrogance of officialdom should be tempered and controlled, and the assistance to foreign lands should be curtailed....People must again learn to work, instead of living on public assistance.”

From **Ronald Reagan**? No. From **George Washington**? No, again. The quote is from Roman philosopher and statesman **Cicero**, in the year 55 B.C. (It seems some politicians NEVER learn.)



CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTIONS

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



[NRA](#) ([The National Rifle Association of America](#)) is the country's largest organization dedicated to protecting the Second Amendment, promoting firearm ownership rights, training firearm safety, supporting shooting sports, and protecting hunting and self-defense.

It has more than 12,000 affiliated clubs, associations and businesses throughout the nation. One such group, [www.friendsofnra.org](#) – part of the charitable NRA Foundation – has a Space Coast Chapter which will hold its annual banquet and auction September 17 at the Radisson Convention Center in Cape Canaveral. Information is available by emailing the chapter chairman, Mark Laderwarg, at mladerwarg@aol.com.

Another affiliation, [www.m1forvets.com](#), provides wounded war heroes from Iraq and Afghanistan with refurbished M1 rifles to give them the opportunity to get on rifle ranges and enable them to participate in shooting competition.

Established in 1871, NRA has its corporate headquarters in Fairfax, Virginia, the site of the National Firearms Museum, which contains a collection of more than 2,700 rifles and pistols that cover American history going back to the earliest settler days.

The association's lobbying arm, [NRA-ILA](#) ([Institute for Legislative Action](#)), asserts guarantees of the right of individuals to bear arms, opposes measures which it believes conflict with these rights, and litigates against such measures. NRA-ILA tracks issues at federal, state and local levels of government about legislation involving firearms and hunting.

[NRA-PVF](#) ([Political Victory Fund](#)) is the organization's political action committee, which ranks candidates for office based on voting records, public statements and their responses to a questionnaire.

The [NRA Foundation](#), its charitable organization in support of the shooting sports, provides grants for such programs as youth education, law enforcement training, hunter education, conservation, firearms and marksmanship training, and safety.

In 1988, NRA established the lifesaving [Eddie Eagle Gun Safety Program](#) for pre-kindergarten to sixth grade children, teaching them that if they see a firearm in an unsupervised situation, they should "STOP. DON'T TOUCH. LEAVE THE AREA. TELL AN ADULT."

NRA has nearly four million members, and each receives a choice of a number of monthly magazines that the association publishes, such as "[American Rifleman](#)," "[Shooting Sports USA](#)," and "[America's 1st Freedom](#)".



Wayne LaPierre, NRA's executive vice president, says the members "have a powerful voice in protecting our Constitution, plus a wide range of benefits that add up to savings, convenience and fun." For further information, visit www.nra.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 4 – New Millennium Conservative Club, Viera/Suntree Library, 6:30 pm.

April 6 – Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women meeting, Holiday Inn, Viera, 11 am.

April 7 – Heritage Isle Republican Club, Viera, 7 pm.

April 14 – BREC meeting, Temple Israel, Viera, 6:30 pm.

April 19 – North Brevard Republican Club meeting, La Cita Country Club, Titusville, 7 pm.

April 21 – Republican Women's Network of South Brevard meeting, Eau Gallie Yacht Club, 11 am.

April 21 – Brevard Republican Men's Club meeting, Doubles Hoagies Restaurant, Indian Harbor Beach, 7 pm.

April 26 – Space Coast Florida Republican Winners Meeting, Olive Garden Restaurant, Merritt Island, 11 am.

April 27 – Brevard Young Republicans meeting, Fiesta Azteca Restaurant, Suntree, 6:30 pm.

April 28 – Ronald Reagan Clubs meeting, Jimmy's Restaurant, Rockledge, 7 pm.

April 29 – Republican Hispanic Club meeting, Piccadilly Restaurant, Melbourne, 7 pm.

COMICAL CLOSER

It takes the Bible to explain why conservatives are "right" and liberals are "left." It says in Ecclesiastes 10:2: "The heart of the wise inclines to the right, but the heart of the fool to the left."



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