

+February 2011



West Charlotte County Republican Club



“One Nation Under God ”

WCCRC * PO Box 271 * Placida, FL 33946

www.charlottecountygop.com

Editor—Peter Watson
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**Location: American Legion
3436 Indiana Road,
Rotonda West , FL 33946
3rd Tuesday each month
Cash Bar 6:00 to 6:30 PM
Dinner & Meeting 6:30 PM**

President’s Message

2011 Officers

President—Douglas Tucker

1st V.P.—Lou Spacco

2nd V.P.—Dennis Curtis
dcurtis@ewol.com
(941) 697-6274

Secretary—Nina Stamoulis

Treasurer—Dick Wieland

Past President—Ray Corcoran

Director—Peter Watson

Director—Walt Fatz

Director—Debra Rodi

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Chaplain—Ed Lines

Parliamentarian—Open

Candidates—Ray Corcoran

Membership—Debra Rodi

Ways and Means/
Socials—Julie Cotton

Legislative—Walt Fatz

Newsletter—Peter Watson

Webmaster—Peter Watson

Dear Fellow Republicans,

As we begin a new year, we always have a tendency to look back and reflect on the positives and negatives of the prior year. Nationally we saw a wave of Republican support that swept state houses and the halls of Congress.

However, we saw a deepening divide across the nation between the two parties that some say will get even worse over the next two years.

One thing that we can say was a positive was that people across this great nation stood up and said, “The path that the Republicans were going down wasn’t the GOP way anymore.” We had lost our way with spending, the constitution was being torn apart, and we needed to take a stand and say NO MORE! The Tea Party, along with other groups like the 9/12’ers showed us that this country was still a center right nation, and we needed to instill the trust lost.

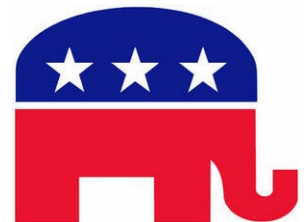
Without the fire from these groups, would we have changed course so fast? Would the people have supported good candidates, and worked hard to convince the other folks that conservative political leaders would cut spending?

This was a team effort. Both the Republicans and the Tea Party worked to help get good conservatives elected, and if we continue our success will continue.

The only thing that would act to stop the momentum is our own Arrogance and Pride on the part of both sides.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Tucker, President



The opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the West charlotte County Republican Club, it's Board, Officers, or Members. They represent the views of individual writers who are solely responsible for the content. Not responsible for typographical errors.

★ **Membership Drive, Special Deal for membership meetings.** ★
★
★ We are currently starting a membership drive, and we have a special offer to our members: If ★
★ you bring in a new member (someone or a family that has not been a member in the past) **You** ★
★ **and the new member eat for free!** ★
★ This is limited to one meal for the current member and one meal for the new member. If you ★
★ have 2 in your party and 2 in the new member party only a total of 2 get to eat for free out of the ★
★ 4. This is a 50 to 100% meal discount based on the number in the party. ★
★
★

Next Meeting — February 15th

- Menu Choices:**
Pot Roast
Fried Shrimp and Scallops
Tuna Salad

For reservations: Denny Curtis dcurtis@ewol.com
(941) 697-6274

Please get reservations in by Sunday February 13th

Program for Meeting

This month:

**We will have a discussion on
“Government’s role in creating jobs.”**

Join us at the next WCCRC Social

March 1st

Johnny Leverock's
7092 Placida Rd, Cape Haze

5:00-7:00 PM

\$5.00 includes 2 drink tickets and appetizers
Bring your Republican friends

Stay for dinner after the social and the club receives 15% of what
you spend

It is time to pay your 2011 membership dues

Couples \$30
Singles \$20

Mail checks to:

West Charlotte County Republican Club
P.O. Box 271
Placida, FL 33946

THE WEST CHARLOTTE COUNTY REPUBLICAN CLUB EXTENDS
A WARM WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Robert Jason
Betty Hawco
William & Jean Steinman

GOVERNOR SCOTT UNVEILS HIS BUDGET PLAN

February 7, 2011

Governor Rick Scott unveiled his first budget today for Florida. The two year plan reinforces Governor Scott's commitment to run our state's government like a business.

The focus of the budget is to get Floridians back to work by reducing state spending and by holding government accountable. The plan includes five billion dollars in reduced spending and starts the process of getting government focused back on its core functions. Governor Scott also announced his plan to cut the business tax and individual property taxes to help make Florida attractive to employers looking to relocate or start up a new enterprise here in Florida.

This budget is only one of many proposals to help create 700,000 jobs in Florida.

[Click here to Read Governor Scott's Budget](#)

February 4, 2011

Representative Roberson supports Governor Scott's decision to review federal high-speed rail dollars

"I support Governor Scott's decision to await a feasibility study on the high-speed rail project between Tampa and Orlando before deciding to accept 2.4 billion in federal dollars for the project. The study which is due this month will address the financial viability of the project.

If the Governor decides to accept the federal dollars, private investors need to cover the difference. Private investors also need to assume any risk related to future deficits due to operating costs or low ridership.

The Florida Constitution requires a balanced budget each year. The projected state budget deficit for 2011-2012 fiscal year is 3.6 billion dollars. We cannot afford to spend money we do not have!"

Ken Roberson - Dist. 71

WHO LOST EGYPT?

By Dick Morris

In the 1950s, the accusation "who lost China" resonated throughout American politics and led to the defeat of the Democratic Party in the presidential elections of 1952. Unless President Obama reverses field and strongly opposes letting the Muslim brotherhood take over Egypt, he will be hit with the modern equivalent of the 1952 question: Who Lost Egypt?

The Iranian government is waiting for Egypt to fall into its lap. The Muslim Brotherhood, dominated by Iranian Islamic fundamentalism, will doubtless emerge as the winner should the government of Egypt fall. The Obama Administration, in failing to throw its weight against an Islamic takeover, is guilty of the same mistake that led President Carter to fail to support the Shah, opening the door for the Ayatollah Khomeini to take over Iran.

The United States has enormous leverage in Egypt - far more than it had in Iran. We provide Egypt with upwards of \$2 billion a year in foreign aid under the provisos of the Camp David Accords orchestrated by Carter. The Egyptian military, in particular, receives \$1.3 billion of this money. The United States, as the pay master, needs to send a signal to the military that it will be supportive of its efforts to keep Egypt out of the hands of the Islamic fundamentalists. Instead, Obama has put our military aid to Egypt "under review" to pressure Mubarak to mute his response to the demonstrators and has given top priority to "preventing the loss of human life."

President Obama should say that Egypt has always been a friend of the United States. He should point out that it was the first Arab country to make peace with Israel. He should recall that President Sadat, who signed the peace accords, paid for doing so with his life and that President Mubarak has carried on in his footsteps. He should condemn the efforts of the Muslim Brotherhood extremists to take over the country and indicate that America stands by her longtime ally. He should address the need for reform and urge Mubarak to enact needed changes. But his emphasis should be on standing with our ally.

The return of Nobel laureate Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei, the former head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has to Egypt as the presumptive heir to Mubarak tells us where this revolution is headed. Carolyn Glick, a columnist for the Jerusalem Post, explains how dangerous ElBaradei is. "As IAEA head," she writes, "Elbaradei shielded Iran's nuclear weapons program from the Security Council. He [has] continued to lobby against significant UN Security Council sanctions or other actions against Iran...Last week, he dismissed the threat of a nuclear armed Iran [saying] 'there is a lot of hype in this debate'."

As for the Muslim Brotherhood, Glick notes that "it forms the largest and best organized opposition to the Mubarak regime and [is] the progenitor of Hamas and al Qaidi. It seeks Egypt's transformation into an Islamic regime that will stand at the forefront of the global jihad."

Now is the time for Republicans and conservatives to start asking the question: Who is losing Egypt? We need to debunk the starry eyed idealistic yearning for reform and the fantasy that a liberal democracy will come from these demonstrations. It won't. Iranian domination will.

Egypt, with 80 million people, is the largest country in the Middle East or North Africa. Combined with Iran's 75 million (the second largest) they have 155 million people. By contrast the entire rest of the region -- Algeria, Morocco, Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Syria, Tunisia, Jordan, UAE, Lebanon, Kuwait, Oman, and Qatar combined-- have only 200 million.

We must not let the two most populous and powerful nations in the region fall under the sway of Muslim extremism, the one through the weakness of Jimmy Carter and the other through the weakness of Barack Obama.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Just go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) and search for West Charlotte County Republican Club. This site was created by our First Vice President Doug Tucker who also does the maintenance and updates. — Thanks Doug!

Visit our facebook page.

NEEDED - "SEPARATION OF THE PARTIES"

Republicans ⚡ **Democrats**

**There are clear reasons why we are
Republicans and NOT Democrats!**

Yet, some Republicans seem to forget why we elected them and start morphing into the pathetic "moderate" camp.

Let the Democrats be the sissies. We want candidates with back bones! No swaying, swinging or morphing. Just stand firm for the right principles. Nothing could stimulate a third party creation more than Republicans morphing to the left. (And, I am totally opposed to a 3rd party).

When the slightest indication emerges that our old, or new, candidates are smoozing with the left, we must immediately - and loudly - retaliate against them. Because they will have

made fools of us and our support. This working together, sitting together and holding hands is a Democrat plan to weaken the deployment of our Republican principles. It was only schemed by Democrats because of our new House strength. Right now, they need our friendship more than we need theirs.

Any Republican who falls for the Democrats' latest reaching scam, and sissies-up to their leanings, must be exposed, scorned and fiercely booted!

I, and MILLIONS of other GOOD Republicans, will do everything in our power to eliminate ALL Republican sell-outs.

Jim Graham

PARADOXICAL THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Fathom the odd hypocrisy that the government wants every citizen to prove they are insured, but people don't have to prove they are citizens.

WRONG ON THIS ONE

Wrong to tell the GOP to "reach out" to Hispanics or risk permanent defeat

Hispanics are the fastest growing and largest voting minority. But, any transparent effort to "appeal" to **any** group just to get their votes, is insulting. Dems are famous for this just before elections.



After elections they ignore these groups until just before the next election. Like the DREAM Act. That bill was so important to Obama, Reid, and Pelosi. But, they wouldn't bring it up until just before the 2010 midterms. Further, any special "reach out" would be misinterpreted and misused by the wrong segment of their group. (To the peril of America and the GOP). "Reach outs" are Democrat trade-marks. They're now seen for what they really are: big promises; little delivery. With Hispanics' growing sophistication, they will not be fooled by either party.

Why not treat Hispanics just like any other group of Americans? The surname or skin color shouldn't make a person any more - or less - worthy of lawmakers'

attention. 80% of Hispanics recognize the Democrats' condescending farces. Republicans must realize that Latinos are conservative in about every way that that's significant. (Our biggest struggle is for our officials to live up to the conservative roots in our platform).

Only 20% of the US population consider themselves liberal. A recent Texas poll showed that 18% of Hispanics consider themselves liberal. That means Republicans should forget "pandering" to Latinos. It won't work and is not needed. 80% of Hispanics have high standards that parallel Republican principles.

Culturally, Hispanics are very hard-working. Democrats don't relate well to that mantle and are better known as the party of welfare. Hispanics believe in being able to keep more of their hard-earned money so they can support their families and give to the charities of their choice. Contrast that with Democrats who focus on taking from the hard-working and giving it to the non-working, for votes.

I'm a Jeb fan. But he's wrong on this one.

Jim Graham



Remember 9/11!



The prestige, privilege and burden of command at sea

BY R.L. SCHREADLEY

Friday, January 7, 2011

Only a seaman realizes to what great extent an entire ship reflects the personality and ability of one individual, her Commanding Officer. To a landsman this is not understandable and sometimes it is even difficult for us to understand. But it is so!

A ship at sea is a distinct world in herself and in consideration of the protracted and distant operations of fleet units the Navy must place great power, responsibility and trust in the hands of those leaders chosen for command.

In each ship there is one man who, in the hour of emergency or peril at sea, can turn to no other man. There is one who ultimately is responsible for the safe navigation, engineering performance, accurate gunfire, and morale of his ship. He is the Commanding Officer. He is the ship.

This is the most difficult and demanding assignment in the Navy. There is not an instant during his tour as Commanding Officer that he can escape the grasp of command responsibility. His privileges in view of his obligations are almost ludicrously small; nevertheless Command is the spur that has given the Navy its great leaders.

It is a duty that most richly deserves the highest, time-honored title of the seafaring world CAPTAIN.'
Joseph Conrad

The recent firing of the commanding officer of the USS Enterprise, a nuclear powered aircraft carrier, by chance coincided with publication in the January issue of the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings of an article titled 'How Are the Mighty Fallen.' The article was authored by retired Navy Capt. Kevin Eyer, an officer with extensive command experience. In it he notes that as of midyear 2010 (when the article was written), 15 Navy commanding officers, six of them ship captains, had been relieved for cause.

'While the total number of ships in commission has continued to decline to what is now the smallest inventory of ships since 1916, the total number of ship C.O.s being relieved is steadily increasing year by year,' he wrote.

It used to be that ramming a pier, a collision at sea, or a grounding led to most firings of ship C.O.s (A story that then made the rounds was that after one such collision, the unfortunate captain deemed responsible was signaled, 'What are your intentions?' To which he replied, 'Buy a farm.')

According to Capt. Eyer, however, this no longer is the case: 'You can still get fired for collision or grounding. Not always, but sometimes. As for personal misconduct, one might also think that a given number of C.O.s, for example, are fired for alcohol-related incidents. Again, this is untrue. Even if alcohol is cited as a contributing factor, it is almost never the central issue. In fact, by far the main reason captains are being fired is for charges connected to fraternization, sexual misconduct, or reasons connected to either of these.

'Casual observers those who have never served in a fully integrated ship's company seem convinced that men and women can serve together in ships with utter disregard for one another's sex. That sounds ridiculous, because it is. It only sounds sensible to people so determined to make something work that they are

able to discount fundamental human nature. Simply put, you cannot put men and women in a small box, send them away for extended periods of isolated time, and expect them not to interact with one another. They're like magnets put into a box and shaken they stick. It is what has kept our species going for 250,000 years.'

What many have thought, but relatively few have had the guts to say!

Capt. Owen Honors, the relieved-for-cause, ex-skipper of the Enterprise, did indeed show appallingly poor judgment by appearing live on camera in videos meant to be morale boosters for men and women deployed too long, crews too often deprived of what the old Navy used to call 'liberty.' Though the videos aired three and four years ago, when Honors served as the ship's executive officer, it was not until the Enterprise was being readied for yet another deployment to the Middle East that someone, as yet unidentified, made them available to the *Virginian-Pilot*, a Norfolk newspaper. Honor's firing came shortly thereafter, and his formerly distinguished naval career almost certainly has come to a less than distinguished end.

At least one other senior officer's head would seem to be at risk in this sad affair the commanding officer of the good ship Enterprise when the videos were first aired, now a Washington-based admiral. For if command responsibility still means anything, he bears prime responsibility for the chain of events that led to his then executive officer's disgrace.

And speaking of responsibility for one's actions, I wonder how many of those now applauding Capt. Honors' relief from command (there have been no allegations that his conduct went beyond ill-considered buffoonery) have considered it in context with former Commander-in-Chief Bill Clinton's *l'affaire Lewinski*? Clinton's transgression was by far more egregious than Honors', and it included what many then considered lying under oath.

What double standards are applied between those who wear their country's uniform and those who never did. The former are shorn of command. Bill Clinton completed two terms as president of the United States and is now a most distinguished senior statesman.

Whoever said life was fair?

R.L. Schreadley is a former Post and Courier executive editor and a retired naval officer whose service assignments included three commands at sea.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY COMMISSION UPDATE

The Charlotte County Commissioners held a public meeting on Tuesday, February 8th, with agenda items including a final decision about how, and whether to proceed with the Placida Road widening project, as well as the Murdock Village land swap proposal tendered by Southwest Land Developers.

After lengthy discussion, and input from the public as well as the project engineers, a vote was taken on the Placida Road widening project. It came in the form of a motion made by Commissioner Steven R. Deutsch, in which he proposed to shelve the Placida Road project for a period of five years, with the exception of creating one turn lane at a high traffic location, as well as shifting money from that project to address the more urgent need for the widening and improvement of Gasparilla Road between SR 776 and Rotonda East Blvd.

Commissioner Deutsch voted in favor of his motion, as well as Commissioner Constance. Voting NAY on this motion was Commissioner Duffy, and County Commission Chairman Bob Starr. Commissioner Skidmore recused himself from the vote on the advice of county attorney Jannette Knowlton because of a conflict of interest stemming from his father's business being located on Placida Road in the affected area.

Thusly, the motion to shelve the project failed, and will now proceed as planned with the possibility of changes being made to the engineering to downscale parts of the widening in order to save money.

The need for the widening of Gasparilla Road was discussed, and given priority in the quest to seek funding for that project. According to the county administrator, Ray Sandrock, the concurrency for failure of the Gasparilla Road corridor was pegged at 2016, and the concurrency for Placida Road was not until the year 2022 because of the economic recession bringing construction of homes there to a halt.

On the question of moving ahead with the land swap proposal of 135 acres at Murdock Village in exchange for 35 acres in the airport commerce park, there was lengthy discussion and input from the developers, as well as the public, and from all of the Commissioners. When the motion was made to proceed with the proposal in its present form, Commissioner Constance questioned the proposed land use restrictions as not possibly being adequate. Any change to the land use restrictions now contained in the proposal would ultimately be the prerogative of the county commission, so the question was called to a vote. The motion passed, with Commissioner Constance being the only dissenting vote. The green light has now been given for Southwest Land Developers to proceed to the next step in the process of completing the land swap in preparation for the development of part of the Murdock Village property.



BUS TRIP???

Stay tuned for more information

Recent Senate Votes

Secret Holds Elimination - Vote **Agreed to** (92-4, 4 Not Voting)

The Senate spent much of the week debating procedural rules. One of the rule changes the chamber passed was this one that ends the practice of “secret holds,” where a senator anonymously blocks legislation or a nomination. The rule change requires a senator to notify his or her party leader within 2 days of placing a hold.

Sen. Bill Nelson voted **YES**

Sen. Marco Rubio voted **YES**

Health Care Repeal - Vote **Rejected** (47-51, 2 Not Voting)

During the debate over the Federal Aviation Administration bill, the Senate rejected this amendment that would have repealed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The text was similar to the bill the House passed on January 19, 2011.

Sen. Bill Nelson voted **NO**

Sen. Marco Rubio voted **YES**

Recent House Votes

Non-Security Discretionary Spending Limit - Vote **Passed** (256-165, 13 Not Voting)

The House approved this resolution directing the chair of the Budget Committee to reduce non-security spending to 2008 levels for the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year. The Budget Committee sets spending levels but does not appropriate funds. The continuing resolution currently funding government operations expires on March 4, 2011.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **YES**

Presidential Campaign Fund Termination - Vote **Passed** (239-160, 35 Not Voting)

The House voted to end a program put in place in 1976 that provides taxpayer funds to presidential candidates and the major parties for their nominating conventions. The bill's future in the Senate is unclear.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **YES**

Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act - Vote **Passed** (245-189, 1 Not Voting)

The House voted to repeal the 2010 health care law. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has vowed to block the bill in the Senate.

Rep. Vern Buchanan voted **YES**.

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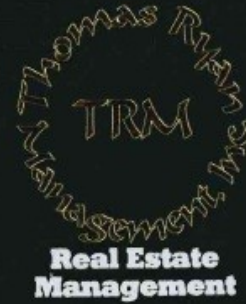
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be because we destroyed ourselves."

Abraham Lincoln

