

Charlotte County Florida

Republican Club



FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT

With 2018 behind us and having had a successful mid-term election with both Rick Scott defeating Democrat, Bill Nelson, for the U.S. Senate and Ron DeSantis defeating Democrat, Andrew Gillum, for the Governorship of Florida, we have a lot to be thankful for. We may have experienced a loss with the U.S. House of Representatives, but that was almost predictable from a historic standpoint. Our job in 2019 is to retain our base and expand it to include



those areas of the electorate that we need shoring up. We need to more actively participate in community events to show we are the Party that cares. Not the Party that just uses them during election periods then abandons them afterwards, as the Democrats do.

On Friday, January 18, 2019, we will be meeting with our new REC Chair, Don McCormick, and all the Charlotte County Republican Club's Presidents to plan out for 2019 our events and activities as one cohesive team. We encourage all Republicans to actively participate and support the Club in their area. The Charlotte County Republican Club will be issuing to all its members the event calendar for 2019 immediately after it is finalized. You will know the dates of every Republican event in Charlotte County throughout the year, so you can attend.

Regarding growing of our Club membership, we have a terrific Membership Committee set for this year, and we will be pursuing multiple strategies in contacting potential members. We also ask all existing members to encourage anyone who you think might enjoy becoming a member to join us at one of our monthly mixers. There will be no charge for the new Republican attendees that you invite to the mixer. Just let us know you have a guest and potential member. We want to show the Democrats we are many in numbers and stand unified across Charlotte County. We want to insure our conservative principles are heard and maintained. The larger we are as a unified Republican Party in Charlotte County, the louder our voice and influence will be.

Happy New Year!!

Gene

Gene Murtha; President, Charlotte County Republican Club

Editor's Comments

As Republicans there may be some of us who, in reaction to the negative media, various investigations and the other attacks may question the direction of the party and of our President. I repeat below an excellent editorial addressing directly this issue. Gary Abernathy the author is a contributing columnist for The Washington Post and a long term Republican activist.

"Backers of President Trump are routinely challenged by his critics to defend their support on a line-item basis. It's like being audited by an IRS agent determined to nail you for cheating, the difference being that IRS audits eventually end.

Many Trump voters need nothing more to justify their continued support of the president than the roaring economy, his pick to fill the Supreme Court vacancy and his efforts, successful or not, to keep his campaign promises. For others, the daily joy derived from witnessing the hysteria of the Trump resistance and the apoplectic rage from many on the left over the mere fact that Donald Trump exists is its own reward.

But in the spirit of the season, and in an effort to mollify the sincerely mystified among the general population, allow this Trump supporter to offer the small gift of a few words of sincere criticism of the 45th president of the United States.

During President Barack Obama's two terms, there were always some on the right who proclaimed that Obama was "not my president." In fact, he was. I never voted for Obama, and I opposed most of his initiatives. But he was the duly elected president, and he was my president, too — even if many of the values and beliefs I hold dear were routinely marginalized and disrespected by his administration, just as many on the left now complain is the case for them.

(continued on pg.7)

Robert R. McMillin www.bobmcmillin.net

After the deaths of President George HW Bush last November and Barbara Bush last April, I could not help but relate to my encounters with the Bush family.



In 1988, as George H W Bush ran for President, I was asked by his brother, Jonathan, to run uphill against Pat Moynihan for the United States Senate. Because Moynihan appeared to be unbeatable, no Republicans stepped forward to run against him. Without an opponent the Democratic nominee for President, Dukakis, would never have to campaign in New York.

The strategy worked, because I traveled the state praising Bush more than me. George H W Bush only lost New York by two percentage points.

One event during the Senate race which I will always remember related to an event with Barbara Bush in Rye, New York. Barbara was born in Rye and came back to Rye to campaign for her husband and me, running for the United States Senate. It was raining on the start of the event, and I, being a gentleman, held an umbrella to protect her from the rain, and of course, standing next to Barbara Bush could result in my being photographed with her – a great campaign opportunity for me.

Then, it stopped raining. Barbara Bush turned to me, and said, “Bob it has stopped raining and you can put the umbrella away. But you can still stand next to me”.

There was one point in the race that I will never forget. George H W Bush and I were in a Queens, New York rally where he was the speaker. As he finished his remarks, he reached back to me, and said, “Come stand next to me. We will both be on National TV this evening.” And we were!

Next, I was asked what appointment worked for me in the Bush Administration? Since I had used a lot of my money running uphill against Moynihan, only a part time position would work. I then chose the Board of Directors of the Panama Canal Commission. I was confirmed by the US Senate with Moynihan as a “yes” vote.



I went on the Board in December of 1989 -- just before President Bush ousted Dictator Manuel Noriega in a well-planned invasion of Panama.

These moments with President George H W Bush and Barbara Bush will be with me the rest of my life! George H W Bush was kind and could not have been a nicer person.

H W Bush on: **AMERICA:** “America is never wholly herself unless she is engaged in high moral Principle. We as a people have such a purpose today. It is to make Kinder the face of the nation and gentler the face of the world.”

LIFE: “Be bold in your caring, be bold in your dreaming and above all else, always do your best.”

OUR MONTHLY MIXERS WILL RESUME IN JANUARY

Come join us on Monday, January 14 from 5 to 6:30 pm
at the Lashley Crab House in Punta Gorda.
\$8 pp with wine, beer, & appetizers

Our special guests for the evening are the Charlotte County Commissioners.

OUR FIRST MONTHLY DINNER/MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR

On Wednesday, January 23 at the Isles Yacht Club in Punta Gorda.
Social hour from 5 to 6:00 pm with dinner & meeting and guest speaker to follow.

The evening's menu:

*House Salad with Ranch Dressing
Braised Short Ribs with Mashed Potatoes & Vegetables*

Or

Grilled Salmon with Rice Pilaf & Vegetables

For dessert: Apple Crisp

\$26 pp

For reservations contact Theresa Murtha: theresamurtha@hotmail.com 941-916-3540
Please place reservations no later than Friday 01-18-19

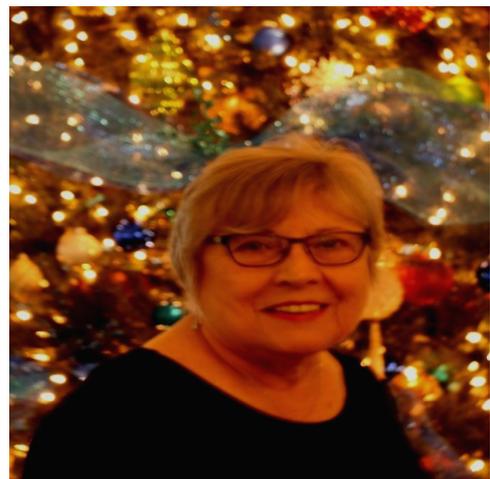
Our guest speaker for the evening is

The Honorable Paul Stamoulis; Charlotte County Supervisor of Elections



Paul has spoken on a variety of topics at several of our past dinner meetings. I know many of you have enjoyed his presentations and I trust you will make a special effort to join us on Wednesday Jan. 23. Paul will focus on the recent general election and examine the results, trends, issues, etc. and as the top election official in the county will provide his insights

This meeting is the annual general meeting required by our by-laws. Included in the evening's agenda will be the swearing in of the officers and Board members elected at the December dinner meeting as well as a general discussion of the Club's plans for 2019. 2019 is an important year and we would hope that all club members will take an active role in working to assure the Party's success in 2020.







NO GOOD REASONS FOR HIGH PREMIUMS

Frank Mazur

The progressives/Democrats (left) argued any health care reform must insure pre-existing conditions. It's an emotional argument and political trick to gain voter's attention. Ninety-six percent of people who buy insurance are currently insurable and only 4 percent have pre-existing conditions.

Republicans are scared of the issue for fear of being accused of abandoning people. The real issue, though, is how to pay for the sickest and lower insurance premiums.

Under Obamacare, both the healthy and the sickest paid the same premium which is called community rating. That's why premiums were so high because the sickest consume 10 times more medical care yet paid the same. Less than 5 percent of Obamacare enrollees consume half of the health care. The healthy rebelled and refused to pay exorbitant premiums.

The Republican plan which they failed to pass, allowed states to opt out of community rating and lower premiums and encouraged states to establish high-risk pools for the sickest. The GOP bill provided money to establish these pools.

The republicans failed to adequately their health care plan and how it's cost effective. They were spineless in standing up to the left's rhetoric that successfully monopolized the issue for political gain.

There's no good reason for high health premiums just the left's poor government policies.

Editor's Comments (continued from pg. 1)

Today, to an even greater extent, countless Americans proclaim that Trump is not their president. And yet, he is just that. But more important than anti-Trump Americans acknowledging that Trump is their president is Trump acknowledging this fact himself.

Trump is president not just of the nearly 63 million Americans who voted for him. He is president of the nearly 66 million who voted for Hillary Clinton and the nearly 8 million who picked another candidate. He is president of all 325 million Americans, whether they voted or not.

I recently had the privilege of meeting with graduate students at the Columbia Journalism School in New York, courtesy of an invitation from professor Samuel Freedman. It is safe to say that most of the students did not have a favorable opinion of the president, and they had many questions about those who voted for him. But an important part of our conversation was the need for all sides to show more respect to those who are diametrically opposed to them politically, even when they stridently disagree.

That example can be fostered by no one as much as the president. Unlike some, I don't want Trump to "pivot" or become "more presidential." Many of the personality traits that drive others crazy are the very reason he is so refreshing to his supporters. But the Trump resistance would be significantly diminished if the president were less inclined to elevate them to his level — the level of the presidency — by engaging with them in petty, back-and-forth insults.

The desire to banish Trump from the Oval Office — or the planet, if possible — is deep and wide among his political opponents and many in the media. But as harmful and irresponsible as many members of the "resistance" can be, Trump is their president, too.

I want Trump to continue to "drain the swamp," enforce immigration laws, undo Obamacare, cut costly regulation, put America first and even criticize journalists when their zeal to be the first to break unfavorable news about him results in inaccurate or poorly vetted stories.

But in so doing, he should remember that he is the president of everyone who vehemently opposes him on all those actions. He is president of every American of all races, creeds and sexual orientations. And most important — this basic fact does not depend on anyone's acknowledgment.

The groundbreaking baseball player Jackie Robinson once said, "I'm not concerned with you liking or disliking me. All I ask is that you respect me as a human being."

My New Year's wish for the president is to lead by example when it comes to respecting those who oppose him. Whether that respect is returned is not particularly important. "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you" is the Golden Rule — and it's not contingent upon anyone else doing the same in return."



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