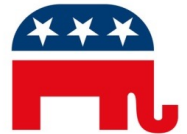


# ELEPHANT TRACKS



## Middlesex County Republican Committee (MCRC) Newsletter

September 2024

Vol. 8, No.2

### Early Voting Begins on September 20, 2024!

Yes, we know that Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2024, and as Good Republicans show up in person on Election Day to cast our ballots. It's not called Election Week or Election Month, it's called Election Day. Got it. We love our traditions and are nostalgic for the good old days. But, we are living in the real world of Virginia in 2024, and we cannot in good conscience continue with outmoded habits when our adversaries have tilted voting processes in their favor. We help The Republican Cause by voting early. Waiting to vote on Election Day adds in additional risk. What if your car won't start? What if there is severe weather, downing trees and cutting power?

It is the duty of Every Good Republican of Middlesex County to go the Registrar's Office at 105 Bowden Street in Saluda on or after September 20 and cast votes for Donald J. Trump for President of the United States, Hung Cao for United States Senator and Rob Wittman for United States Representative. Casting your vote early helps Republican Party of Virginia redirect financial and personnel support to those precincts most in need.

Rob Wittman pleaded with all present during his remarks at Pork and Politics on August 17 to VOTE EARLY! He asked us to make a list of 20 people and to call them to remind them that early voting in-person voting begins September 20. Then, each week, check back to make sure that person has voted, and if not, how can you assist them on getting to the registrar's office to vote. A simple plan, which we all need to adopt to ensure a Red Wave in November.

**JUST DO IT!**  
**VOTE EARLY IN PERSON**  
**BEGINNING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20!**

### MCRC Leaders Visit D.C.

MCRC Chair Gail Mitchell and MCRC Vice Chair Ally Ward were among several First District Republican Leaders who met and toured the U.S. Capitol with Congressman Rob Wittman in early July. This is the sort of solid teamwork that will help get Rob re-elected in November.



### MCRC Website and Facebook Pages

MCRC Vice Chair Ally Ward rejuvenated MCRC's Facebook page and website earlier this year. Follow us on Facebook by [clicking here](#) and check out MCRC's website at [middlesexvagop.org](http://middlesexvagop.org).

Our website has short background sketches of MCRC Officers and Committee Chairs along inspiring stories about Great Republicans, great moments in American History, and other patriotic content. Cheers for Ally! Huzzah!

## Promises Made, Promises Kept

Immediately after Donald Trump made his escalator descent on June 16, 2015, he started making promises about what he was going to do if elected President to Make America Great Again. Once elected in November 2016, he began making good on many of those promises. Some proved difficult to accomplish, but not a single promise made went unaddressed.

Earlier this year, Democrats and their accomplices in the mainstream media repeatedly claimed that The Heritage Foundation's Project 2025 was President Trump's policy roadmap for his second term in office. The Heritage Foundation bundled proposals from over fifty leading conservative organizations to produce the 922 page *Mandate for Leadership 2025: The Conservative Promise*. (Interesting factoid: The first *Mandate for Leadership* was handed to Ronald Reagan in the winter of 1980.) So, while we ought not to summarily dismiss the work of these "leading conservative organizations," we trust that President Trump has a very good handle on what he needs to do in his second term to Make American Great Again. To that end, on August 12, 2024, President Trump released his "20 Core Promises to Make America Great Again".

### 20 CORE PROMISES TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN

1. Seal the border and stop the migrant invasion.
2. Carry out the largest deportation operation in American history.
3. End inflation, and make America affordable again.
4. Make America the dominant energy producer in the world, by far!
5. Stop outsourcing, and turn the United States into a manufacturing superpower.
6. Large tax cuts for workers, and no tax on tips!
7. Defend our Constitution, our Bill of Rights, and our fundamental freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to keep and bear arms.
8. Prevent World War Three, restore peace in Europe and in the Middle East, and build a great iron dome missile defense shield over our entire country – all made in America.
9. End the weaponization of government against the American people.
10. Stop the migrant crime epidemic, demolish the foreign drug cartels, crush gang violence, and lock up violent offenders.
11. Rebuild our cities, including Washington DC, making them safe, clean, and beautiful again.
12. Strengthen and modernize our military, making it, without question, the strongest and most powerful in the world.
13. Keep the U.S. dollar as the world's reserve currency.
14. Fight for and protect social security and Medicare with no cuts, including no changes to the retirement age.
15. Cancel the electric vehicle mandate and cut costly and burdensome regulations.
16. Cut Federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, radical gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children.
17. Keep men out of womens sports
18. Deport pro-Hamas radicals and make our college campuses safe and patriotic again.
19. Secure our elections, including same-day voting, voter identification, paper ballots, and proof of citizenship.
20. Unite our country by bringing to it new and record levels of success.



## Pork and Politics: Event Recap

If you were not able to attend The First Annual Pork & Politics United We Stand fundraiser on August 17 at the Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department in Deltaville, well, you missed a Very Exciting and Historic occasion!

The event was hosted by the Gloucester, Mathews and Middlesex County Republican Committees, thus, “United We Stand!” WRVA 1140 radio personality John Reid served brilliantly as Master of Ceremonies. The food was awesome and was served quickly and smoothly. The venue was well decorated. All of the speakers visiting from big cities Washington and Richmond gushed about how well attended and well put together was the event.

David Sabot, Pastor of New Hope Independent Baptist Church, offered a patriotic and MAGA-drenched invocation

Hung Cao told his compelling story of how his family came to America, how he graduated the Naval Academy, served as a Special Operations Officer (Deep Sea Diver and Explosive Ordnance Disposal), rising to the rank of Captain. He is, of course, passionate about national security. “We’re going to defend this country, and it won’t be done by nation builders in skinny jeans.” Captain Cao spelled out his version of DEI: Defend our country, a strong Economy and Innovate.

Rob Wittman encouraged early voting and checking on friends to ensure they have voted early. He also pleaded with attendees, “Don’t let them shame Donald Trump. They’re coming for us next. Don’t let people keep you quiet.”

Patti Lyman, Republican National Committeewoman for Virginia, had this memorable quote: “Exert your personal influence on people around you. Don’t wait for word from headquarters. Ride to the sound of the guns!”

In her remarks as our wrap-up keynote speaker, Lieutenant Governor Winsome Sears fingered Democrats as extreme and having positions that make no sense. She said the upcoming election is not a choice between “the lesser of two evils” as some folks would have you believe. Rather, voting Republican is a vote for “a lessening of evil”. She touted the Youngkin administration successes in attracting new businesses to Virginia and promised to continue working to make Virginia #1 for business in the U.S.



*Over 300 Great Americans pack Lower Middlesex Volunteer Fire Department building in Deltaville*



## FIGHT! Republicans Against Tyranny and Communism



U.S. Senate candidate Hung Cao at Pork and Politics Event (see Page 3)

### A Short History of Hung Cao's Fight for Freedom and Against Tyranny

**1971:** Born in Communist Vietnam

**1975:** Escaped to America

**1989-1993:** Enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy; Studied Engineering, Military Leadership, Honor, and Defense of Freedom

**1993-2021:** Commissioned as a Special Operations Officer (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Deep Sea Diving); Fought tyranny in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Somalia; balanced budgets at the Pentagon; fought terrorism with Homeland Security, and the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force

**2021:** Left the Navy at rank of Captain after 25 years of service

**2024:** Not done fighting yet

Knowing that communists seek the destruction of the family, Hung and his wife April are the parents of five beautiful children. They are making their family home in Purcellville, Virginia, where they have been active in their community and church.



**Democrats and the media, like the Communist Wolf, feed the sheep a steady diet of lies.**



**"Kamala Harris is the first major party nominee who fundamentally rejects freedom and embraces Marxism, communism, and racism."**

**—President Donald Trump**

## Letters to the [Local Newspaper] Editor



On this page, we provide a sampling from four of the many letters Good Republicans have written to the Southside Sentinel, our local newspaper. Expect many, many more LTEs from MCRC members over the next several weeks leading up to Election Day.

### To the Editor of the Southside Sentinel, May 16, 2024

**Democrats destroying America** by Clark Waring, Saluda

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union...do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America...Do you think President Biden and his administration have done a good job in pursuing the goals of our constitution? I think not. He and the Democrats have made a mockery of our justice system by weaponizing our law enforcement and justice system...Ignoring the Constitution and governing as the Democrats do is destroying America. Is that what you want?

### To the Editor of the Southside Sentinel, May 23, 2024

**Thoughts** by Gail Mitchell, Hardyville

Have you taken the time to really dissect what an abortion is? I know I didn't until I went to work in the operating room as a registered nurse right out of nursing school...Our Constitution says we are entitled to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Who is defending the rights of that baby?...Ronald Reagan said, "I notice everyone who is for abortion has already been born..." Who speaks for that unborn child? Our Constitution should...Perhaps that is what everyone should be fighting for instead of allowing millions of babies to suffer and die at the hands of those whose lives are inconvenienced and who have made poor choices.

### To the Editor of the Southside Sentinel, June 27, 2024

**Fear Biden, not Trump** by Pat Paul, Hardyville

I just finished reading the letters to the editor in the June 20 edition. Wow! I didn't know it was "Hate Trump Week"! Some of the statements were so outlandish that I found the authors' viewpoints questionable...During the Trump years inflation was 1.4%. Biden consistently lied

to the American people by saying that inflation was 9% when he came into office. America had a great economy during the Trump administration...Donald Trump is not the person you should fear; rather, it is Joe Biden. He is presently acting like a dictator especially when he defies the Supreme Court in the student loan decision. It amazes me that so many people support President Biden...He has failed. I hardly recognize my country. Inflation, immigration and crime flood our lives. A vote for Biden is a vote against America.

### To the Editor of the Southside Sentinel, August 15, 2024

**Words Cannot Kill** by John Weidner, Deltaville

We concede that Donald Trump likes "tough guy" talk. That sort of talk helped keep the globe relatively peaceful during his first four years in office. Another component of keeping that peace was temporary restrictions on travel from some, but not all, Muslim countries. There never was a "Muslim ban" nor will there ever be one in a second Trump administration.

If you are concerned about how the United States is viewed in the rest of the world, you will cast your vote for Donald Trump for President...Donald Trump will rapidly return the United States to a position of geopolitical and economic strength, with emphasis on building the things we need for greatness here in America...Rob Wittman will continue to advocate for a strong Navy, which means more quality jobs for folks building war ships in Virginia.

God help us all if the incompetent and weird Harris and the tyrannical and weirder Walz take office in 2025. Vote Republican! Vote Trump! Vote Cao! Vote Wittman!



## Lies the Media Tell for Their Democrat Masters

As we enter the final two months before Election Day, we are hearing stories of election interference from foreign government in Russia, China and Iran. Perhaps a healthy bit of skepticism is in order since the media and the left have successfully fed the country a succession of rank deceptions and conspiracies over the past nine years

**Lie #1:** Donald Trump colluded with the Russians to warp the 2016 election. Citing the bogus “Steele dossier,” loser Hillary Clinton and other Democrat grandees claimed that the victorious Trump was an “illegitimate” president.

*The truth: Robert Mueller’s investigation found no evidence that Donald Trump improperly won the 2016 election with help from any colluding Russians.*

**Lie #2:** President Trump asked the Ukrainian government to look into Biden family corruption with a Ukrainian oligarch. This led to President Trump’s impeachment in December 2019.

*The truth: Hunter Biden was paid nearly \$1 million a year by a Ukrainian energy company to enlist his father, Vice President Joe Biden, for quid pro quo services.*

**Lie #3:** On the eve of the first 2020 debate, Biden aide and now Secretary of State Antony Blinken helped to round up “51 former intelligence authorities” to claim falsely that Hunter Biden’s abandoned laptop—full of incriminating evidence of felonious Biden family behavior—was fabricated by the Russians.

*The truth: The FBI already had the laptop, had authenticated it as genuine, and was actively enlisting Silicon Valley social media companies to suppress accurate news accounts of the laptop’s embarrassing contents—to aid the Biden campaign. None of the signees of the false letter has ever apologized for deliberating lying to the country in a (successful) attempt to help alter an election.*

**Lie #4 (a collection of lies):** For the first time in history, a presidential candidate, Donald Trump, was subjected to numerous criminal and civil suits in an election year. The federal prosecutor, Jack Smith, met with Biden officials. A high-ranking Biden Justice federal attorney joined the New York municipal prosecution. The Georgia prosecutor met stealthily with Biden’s legal counsel. And a major Biden donor funded the civil suit.

*The Truth: All of these prosecutions were politically motivated for the purpose of influencing the election, but the once collusion-hungry media ignored all such lawfare and rank collusion.*

**Lie #5:** During the 2020 Democratic primaries, the general election, and throughout the first three years of the Biden administration, it was evident that Joe Biden was physically and mentally incapable of serving as president. Yet his aides and the media all misled the American people. They insisted that Biden was vigorous and sharp.

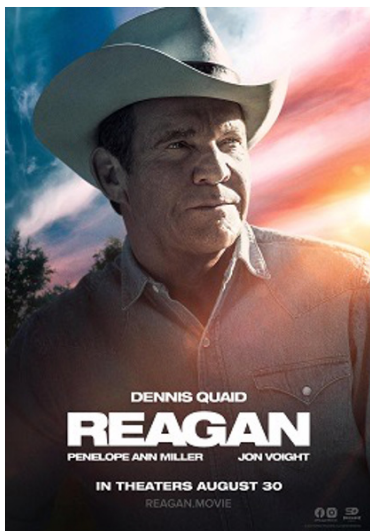
*The truth: In June 2024, within a 24-hour period, Biden was declared by these same insiders as unfit to continue as the Democratic nominee. But then, this sort of truth is suspect as we hear about Joe Biden’s courage in stepping aside, even though it is obvious he was forced out.*

In sum, for some nine years, the media and the left have successfully fed the country a succession of rank deceptions and conspiracies. They did so because they proclaimed Donald Trump too dangerous to be president and therefore any means they employed to stop him were to be justified. And they are doing so yet a third time in 2024. As they continue, they have all but destroyed democracy, ruined the reputation of the media, alienated the public—and embarrassed their country before the world.

*Adapted from a column published September 5, 2024, at American Greatness by the indispensable Victor Davis Hanson*



## Go See The Movie, Read the Book



### THE MOVIE

#### Reagan

**Starring Dennis Quaid, Penelope Ann Miller, and Jon Voight**

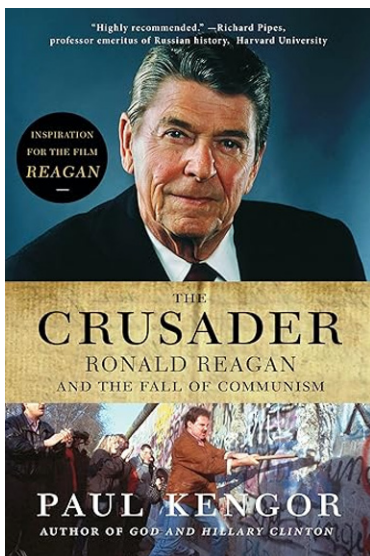
R. Emmett Tyrrell writes @ The American Spectator about Dennis Quaid playing Ronald Reagan in Reagan: “He was stupendous. He is a genuine star, worthy of an Oscar and a glass of champagne. In fact, a whole bottle of champagne.”

The film is based on Paul Kengor’s book, *The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism*. Like the man himself, the film thrives despite contempt from much of the Fourth Estate. As expected, critics of main stream press and hangers-on in Hollywood have penned rotten reviews of the movie. We prefer reviews from Real People, such as these thoughts offered by readers of American Spectator”

*“I just saw the film. It was bittersweet to visually see what America used to be. But the more arresting moments in the film, to me, were the interactions between Ronald Reagan and Tip O’Neill, before the politics of personal destruction became the Democrats’ modus operandi.”*

*“I saw Reagan this past Saturday. The movie does a great job of reminding some and teaching others for the first time of this one humble person’s remarkably outsized influence on world events in the last quarter of the 20th century.”*

*“Go see Reagan and be reminded of what true greatness looks like.”*



### THE BOOK

#### The Crusader: Ronald Reagan and the Fall of Communism

**by Paul Kengor, Published 2006**

With *The Crusader*, Paul Kengor, one of the premier chroniclers of the life and career of the 40th president, tells the story of Reagan’s lifelong crusade against communism and of his dogged and ultimately triumphant effort to overthrow the Soviet Union. Kengor shows that Reagan not only wished for the collapse of communism but had a deep and specific understanding of what it would take and effected dozens of policy shifts that brought the USSR to its heels within a decade of his presidency.

The *Crusader* makes use of key sources from behind the Iron Curtain, including one key memo that implicates a major American liberal politician in a scheme to enlist Soviet premier Yuri Andropov to help defeat Reagan’s 1984 reelection bid. And we wonder why Democrats tried to frame Donald Trump with Russian collusion in 2016. Don’t be silly. It’s their playbook.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MCRC Monthly Meetings

**September 19, 2024 • October 17, 2024 • November 21, 2024**

Cooks Corner Public Conference Room, 2693 General Puller Highway, Saluda, VA 23149

Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

### Wings, Wheels & Keels Air, Car & Boat Show

**September 28, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Hummel Airfield, Topping, VA

*MCRC members will staff an information booth throughout the day*

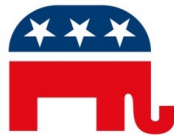
### County Meetings

**Board of Supervisors: First Tuesday of each month, 3:00 p.m.**

*(Historic Courthouse in Saluda unless otherwise noted)*

**School Board: Second Monday of each month, 7:00 p.m.**

*(St. Clare Walker Middle School Auditorium unless otherwise noted)*



## Thank you for joining the Middlesex County Republican Committee!

Your support makes our educational efforts possible. Your membership helps buy campaign and yard message signs, campaign hats, banners, t-shirts, lapel pins, tents, stationery, postage, website domain and presence, American flags, U.S. Constitutions and so much more.

***Let's work together to MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!***

Annual membership is \$15

Make your check payable to MCRC and send to P.O. Box 396, Hartfield, VA 23071