



Quail Creek Republican Club



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Quail Creek Republicans

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Quail Creek Republican Club President's Mes- sage

May brings us another month closer to the General Election of 2008.

While you might have thought 2007 was going to be quiet, political activity is picking up. Senator John McCain has declared for President. At the QCR April 20th kegger, several local political figures attended including: State Senator Tim Bee, Randy Graf, Frank Antenori, Doug Sposito and four of the Sahuarita council candidates. In talking to some of the GOP folks, it was very interesting to learn there is a concerted effort that the local Party will hopefully be very united and ready in 2008 and thereby avoid the mistakes of 2006. As one political insider told me, there is a tsunami coming and in its wake everything will fall into place.

As you are searching for right thinking talk radio, another local station has entered the arena The Truth104.1 FM and it includes the Laura Ingraham and Bill O'Reilly's shows among its daily schedule. The Truth joins 690 AM and 790 AM in providing us with alternatives to the left leaning drive-by media.

As noted, the QCR April 20th kegger was very interesting and informative. On the other hand, attendance by QCRs was disappointing. It seems like the "fire" that ignited the Quail Creek Republican community in establishing the QCR is starting to lose its strength. At this juncture, we are going to take a break from monthly meetings and speakers for awhile.

The QCR Board will meet this month to discuss how to reinvigorate our organization. If you have any ideas, please contact me or any Board member. Our group has become a known entity in local and county GOP political circles with the result that potential candidates want to include us on their circuit. However, it is disappointing and embarrassing when the candidates outnumber the QCR members at our events. Get involved and share your thoughts with us as how to keep the QCR strong and relevant. As I indicated in a recent e-mail to you, our QCR Secretary, Rose Neff, suffered a heart attack on April 22. I have little information about Rose's condition; however our thoughts and prayers are with her.

May 28 is Memorial Day. Enjoy the day, but also remember and pray for our fallen soldiers and sailors who have given their lives to protect our freedom.

John Chernoski,

President

April News Recap

Evans-Novak Political Report – April 4

President 2008

Fundraising: Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) may have raised the most money in the first quarter of 2007, but the real winner in the money race will be Sen. Barack Obama. Clinton's campaign has not yet released the amount of her \$36 million (\$26 million raised and \$10 million transferred from her Senate account) that can be applied to the Democratic presidential primary.

Obama nearly beat her in funds raised (\$25 million), and he will likely beat her in another important measure: He had far more donors who gave smaller amounts. Of the \$25 million raised, \$23.5 million can be applied to the Democratic presidential primary. Donors are permitted under federal law to give \$2,300 to the primary and the same amount for the general election, but the general-election money being collected by candidates now cannot be used in the primary.

Former Sen. John Edwards (D-N.C.) made a respectable showing with \$14 million, \$13 million of which is primary money. This is certainly enough to remain competitive for now.

On the Republican side, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R) came out on top, raising \$23 million. By tapping into the financial world (his professional home) and the Mormon world (his religious home, and one of the wealthiest demographics in the United States), Romney has kept himself well in the race, despite recent poll numbers -- which at this point mean little anyway.

Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) was impressive in another way, since he started so late and still managed to raise \$15 million -- \$10 million of it in one month.

The biggest loser is Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), the former frontrunner who was reportedly caught off guard by the vigor of other candidates' efforts. To be sure, McCain's \$12.5 million would have been a record if not for the other candidates' showings. But the maverick candidate of 2000 now finds himself trailing among the top three. Sen. Sam Brownback (R-Kan.) confirmed everyone's fears about his fundraising by bringing in just \$1.9-million, including a \$575,000 transfer from his Senate account.

Rudy Giuliani: The bad press continues to roll in for Giuliani, whose relationship with the news media has always been adversarial, especially during his time in New York. Giuliani spent last weekend insisting that no, his wife would not be a virtual member of his cabinet.

Far worse, though, are the felony allegations against Bernard Kerik, Giuliani's former police commissioner and a former employee of his consulting firm. Kerik had been Giuliani's pick for Homeland Security. If the bizarre stories about Giuliani's personal life have hurt him somewhat, this will hurt him much more, particularly in the event that Kerik is indicted. Giuliani is not the subject of any investigation, and his firm is cooperating with authorities, but the embarrassment will be very real anyway.

Major questions also remain unanswered about Kerik's time heading up security for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq, and his time living abroad.

Fred Thompson: The phrase "out of nowhere" is truly appropriate for the story of former Tennessee Republican Sen. Fred Thompson's unofficial entry into the presidential race. Yet at this point, Thompson's appeal clearly has more to do with his opponents' deficiencies than it does with any appeal or accomplishment he has himself made.

On the one hand, Thompson fills a void on the right. Polls show that already somewhere between 12 and 14 percent of Republicans want to back him instead of the top three candidates.

On the other hand, Thompson is enjoying this success despite not only his own inaction, but also the fact that he remains virtually unknown among Republican voters. A full 67 percent of Republicans polled by Rasmussen this week had no impression or no opinion of Thompson (the number was similar for adults nationwide). Even his role on NBC's "Law & Order" -- which is the best-known thing about Thompson -- is named by just 11 percent of Republicans. (Interestingly, the poll suggests that "Law & Order" has a more Democratic audience.)

And so just as Thompson is running within two points of Sen. McCain, he is also a virtual unknown. This gives rise to two questions: First, who is Thompson? Is he really the conservative hero he is now made out to be? Second, how much upside does this give Thompson, and where does he draw his support from?

Republican activists have complained for months that none of the "Big Three" contenders -- Giuliani, McCain and Romney -- fits the model of a conservative leader for a conservative party. The party faithful have been waiting for another Ronald Reagan. Nobody mentioned Thompson as this "messiah" until he appeared March 11 on "**Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace**" and announced that he was "giving some thought" to a presidential run. Then even Thompson was surprised when the first **Gallup Poll** that included his name (March 23-25) gave him 12 percent

More important than the polling data is his backing within the political community. Buyer's remorse is expressed by several House members who had endorsed Romney. Thompson will be traveling to the Hill this month to seek support there among those who fear that, wealthy as his campaign may be after the first quarter, Romney is stuck at 3 percent and unlikely to seize the nomination. The polls suggest that Thompson is drawing support away from Romney and Giuliani, and to a lesser degree from McCain.

Another major question is whether Thompson is really a conservative. He has a solidly conservative voting record from his eight years in the Senate, with the exception of his position on campaign finance reform, which he has since renounced. But his background as the protégé of moderate former Sen. **Howard Baker** (R-Tenn.) causes more concern, as does his failure while in the Senate to hire conservative staff.

But as the famous story goes, Thompson does not have to outrun the bear, he just has to outrun his companions to get away alive. None of the three leading Republicans has been so consistently conservative as Thompson on tax policy, national security and abortion. That means that Thompson is still coming off as an electable conservative -- and he will certainly run as a conservative.

A minor consideration is the entry of former Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson (R) into the race, and the possibility it brings of name confusion.

Evans-Novak Political Report for April 11

President 2008

Fred Thompson: Thompson is very likely to enter the race for President, with a possible announcement coming as early as next week. Thompson's announcement that he is in remission from lymphoma is a trial balloon -- the reaction could determine his decision. This particular kind of lymphoma is much less harmful than others and should not shorten his life expectancy. His progress toward becoming a Republican presidential candidate will take a step with the return of the House from its Easter break next week when he meets privately with a large group of Republican House members. GOP House leaders had prepared last year to back Sen. George Allen (R-Va.), but his defeat for re-election to the Senate eliminated him from presidential consideration. They had been moving toward support of former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney (R), led by former Speaker J. Dennis Hastert's endorsement. But many have stepped back from Romney and are looking hard at Thompson. One member of the GOP leadership who had been prepared to endorse Romney is holding his fire while he considers Thompson. Although he probably will not have announced by then, Thompson will hit the campaign trail next month with a May 4 speech in Orange County, California. Former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani has so far led GOP presidential hopefuls in lining up California support. Thompson is responding to an off-the-cuff criticism of his religious faith by Dr. James Dobson by planning to attend the National Catholic Prayer Breakfast on Friday. This appearance also offers him a chance to reach out to a large religious demographic largely outside the South's natural faith-in-politics reach. Thompson has picked up endorsements from Missouri's state speaker Carl Bearden (R) and Lt. Gov. Peter Kinder (R), who are breaking from the state's political establishment. Gov. Matt Blunt (R) and former Sen. Jim Talent (R) have both endorsed Romney. Kinder becomes the first statewide official anywhere to endorse Thompson.

Newt Gingrich - April 16

Profiles in Courage vs. Profiles in Defeatism

There's been a lot of talk lately about what's wrong and small and corrupting about our culture. It's the talk of a culture of defeatism. Today I want to talk about some of the people who are getting things right -- often in the face of extreme pressure to do otherwise. What do I mean by a culture of defeatism? I mean the growing tendency among some to put politics ahead of principle, to put narrow self-interest ahead of the national interest, to play on the understandable frustrations we're all feeling about the war in Iraq for partisan advantage. And I'm going to start by doing something that may surprise the mainstream media: Offering high praise for a man I consider a patriot.

The Courage of McCain vs. the Defeatism of Edwards and Obama

Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain and I disagree about some things, not the least of which is the so-called campaign finance reform law that bears his name. But Sen. McCain's speech last week at the Virginia Military Institute was a profile in courage, not just for its defense of the current war in Iraq, but for putting this war into the context of what he called "a broader struggle in the Arab and Muslim world, the struggle between violent extremists and the forces of modernity and moderation." Many of Sen. McCain's former friends in the elite media make no secret of their belief that his support for the war is dooming his presidential bid. The smart politics, they seem to be saying, is to end his support for America in Iraq. But instead of doing the short-sighted political thing, Sen. McCain devoted part of his remarkable speech to calling out those who have abandoned our national security interests for political expediency. But they are not simply making a calculated political risk, they are gambling with the lives of our men and women in Iraq: Those who, in the senator's words, "accept defeat but not the responsibility for its consequences."

Here's just part of what he said:

"Before I left for Iraq, I watched with regret as the House of Representatives voted to deny our troops the support necessary to carry out their new mission. Democratic leaders smiled and cheered as the last votes were counted. What were they celebrating? Defeat? Surrender? In Iraq, only our enemies were cheering."

When Democratic Defeatism Becomes Self-Fulfilling

For his courageous remarks, Sen. McCain was attacked by some Democrats as being "overly optimistic." But is the danger for America today in excessive optimism about progress in Iraq or excessive pessimism about our chances for victory there? In fact, the senior military commanders I talk to confirm that the threats coming from Washington to withdraw support for the troops are having a negative effect on the morale of our troops in the field. And why shouldn't they? Why should our men and women in uniform be asked to risk their lives to win a war that some politicians in Washington are trying to find a clever way to lose? In fact, the cynicism and defeatism of Washington is no longer an inside-the-Beltway political abstraction. It's directly undermining our chances of victory in Iraq and in the wider War on Terror.

The Better Model: Lincoln and the Mexican War

There is a much better model for those who oppose the war in Iraq but who are determined not to let their opposition harm our troops in the field and our chances for victory. When Abraham Lincoln was a young congressman in 1848, he was a harsh critic of the Mexican War (although, it is important to note, Lincoln was not vocal in his criticism of the war until most of the fighting had ended).

But Lincoln drew a bright line between his opposition to the origins of the war and his support for the troops once the war had begun. He consistently voted to give the troops the support they needed. And when Democrats attacked him for opposing the war and opposing Democratic President James Polk's rationale for it, this was his reply:

"The distinction between the cause of the President in beginning the war, and the cause of the country after it was begun, is a distinction which you [Democrats] cannot perceive." Too many on the left today have the same problem: They can't distinguish between their claims of opposition to the origins of the war (and for some, the seemingly pathological desire to oppose President Bush), and the ongoing need to support our troops in middle of battle. For the good of the country and our troops in Iraq, opponents of the war should follow the lead of Abraham Lincoln.

Real Change vs. Business-as-Usual From 'The Incumbent Party'

The Courage of the Iraqi Parliament vs. the Death Cult of al Qaeda in Iraq

The final profile in courage I want to talk about today is the Iraqi Parliament. It held an unprecedented meeting on Friday -- the Muslim day of prayer -- in a show of defiance against terrorists.

The day before, a suicide bomber from al Qaeda in Iraq had detonated himself in the Parliament dining hall. One lawmaker was killed and dozens were injured. The Parliament speaker said the extraordinary Friday session was meant to send "a clear message to all the terrorists and all those who dare try to stop this [political] process that we will sacrifice in order for it to continue." Contrast the Iraqi speaker's words with those of U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.).

'We're Going to Pick up Senate Seats as a Result of This War' Speaking the same day that the Iraqi Parliament met in courageous defiance of terrorists who are trying to strangle their democracy in its cradle, Democratic Sen. Reid held a news conference to excitedly tell reporters how his party is benefiting politically from the violence in Iraq. Citing what he called "compelling and astounding" polling data, this was Sen. Reid's distasteful prediction: "We're going to pick up Senate seats as a result of this war." That's right. "We're going to pick up Senate seats as a result of this war."

This is not a sentiment -- and these are not words -- worthy of the leadership of a great nation. While lawmakers in Iraq risk their lives to defend a freely elected government from terrorist threats -- while American young men and women fight and die to help a nation rise in the Arab world that can govern, sustain, and defend itself -- American lawmakers play politics. They literally play politics with these lives. And in doing so, they demean the cause for which our armed forces and the armed forces of our allies (including free Iraqis) are sacrificing.

We can do better than this. America is not about defeatism and cynicism. Abraham Lincoln knew this in 1848. John McCain knows it today. American profiles in courage are not commonplace by any means. But they define our nation in a way that profiles in defeatism never have and, God willing, never will.

Evans-Novak Political Report for April 18

President 2008

McCain: In a private conference call with supporters of Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) presidential candidacy, Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge indicated disapproval of the candidate's most recent visit to Baghdad. Ridge, the former governor of Pennsylvania, questioned whether the Baghdad trip was McCain's idea or came from his staff, and received no clear answer. The criticism in Ridge's tone was clear: a strong supporter of Bush's Iraq policy, Ridge endorsed McCain for President on February 28. McCain has come under fire for saying that Baghdad was safer since the U.S. troop surge and then entering the Iraqi capital under heavy security protection, including about 100 troops and two helicopters.

Thompson: Conservatives are ready to back former Sen. Fred Thompson (R-Tenn.) and to do so with a sigh of relief, even though his conservative credentials are not impeccable. All the other candidates are just too flawed, in their view. This explains the enormous surge of support for a non-candidate like Thompson. He has already leap-frogged ahead of McCain in the latest Bloomberg poll, and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani continues to falter, Thompson has a shot to emerge as a candidate who is both credible enough and conservative enough to win a substantial share of the GOP primary vote.

Arizona Republic - April 18

Arizona taking needed steps on long journey into the light

A woman who leaves domestic violence begins a long and frightening journey. She may die if her abuser finds her. Arizona has begun the similarly long journey to properly address the public health menace of domestic violence. Like the woman who takes that first courageous step to rebuild her life, the state has no choice but to keep going.

It's a long road. In fiscal 2006, the state's domestic violence shelters served 9,483 women and children. But 11,056 were turned away because of a lack of space at the shelters, according to the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Two proposals aim to address that. Democratic Gov. Janet Napolitano's calls for spending \$3.3 million on new shelter beds. Republican Sen. Jim Waring calls for \$3 million. Neither would erase the bed shortage. Either could reduce the number of people turned away by roughly 3,000.

As we said, it is a long road.

Arizona also needs to begin thinking about providing money for services the women and children need once the emergency has passed. The task of making a new life can require job training, housing, medical care and counseling. Kids who lived with domestic violence need to learn how to break the cycle of violence.

Advocates for victims of domestic violence know that discussion can't really begin until the emergency services are in place.

Sometime down the road. We have made progress.

Under the leadership of Senate President Tim Bee, the Legislature passed a measure that allows a victim of domestic violence to terminate a lease without undue financial penalty. Lawmakers also approved expanding the "three strikes" penalty so that a third misdemeanor charge within seven years will become a felony. The current limit is five years. Another new law pushed by Waring will ensure that inmates serve consecutive sentences for serious crimes committed in prison. It was passed in honor of a woman who was murdered last Mother's Day by a man who had been sent to prison for murdering his girlfriend. While there, he was given an additional three years for assault on an inmate. But he served it concurrently. Had the sentence been consecutive, he would have been behind bars last Mother's Day.

Sometimes, it takes a tragedy to draw attention to the need to change the law. Wise lawmakers such as Bee and Waring act on that. Wise lawmakers will also make sure shelters don't get forgotten during budget negotiations.

They'll remember that what they do is only the next step. Not the last one.

Tucson Citizen - April 20

Leadership by Sen. Tim Bee may lead way to budget pact

Details remain maddeningly elusive, but 3 1/2 months after the Legislature went into session, there are hints of progress on adoption of a state budget. If a budget agreement actually is in the offing, it would be a refreshing change from the acrimonious 2006 session.

Last year's session lasted 164 days before lawmakers adjourned in June. Today is the 107th day of the 2007 session. Once a budget is agreed upon, adjournment usually comes fairly quickly. Budget talks still could collapse. And the state House and Senate, which seem to be working largely independent of each other, may still be unable to agree.

But there are good signs, especially in the Senate. And much of that credit goes to Senate President Tim Bee. Bee, a Tucson Republican, has been more interested in productive cooperation than the bombastic confrontation favored by other recent legislative leaders. While most lawmakers in leadership positions work only with majority party members to draw up a budget, Bee has been building a coalition.

Bee and Sen. Marsha Arzberger, a Tucson Democrat and Senate minority leader, have said they hope to come up with a budget that will make it through both houses of the Legislature and be signed by Gov. Janet Napolitano. To do that, a budget reportedly is being drawn up in the Senate that gives both Republicans and Democrats their top priorities. And although there are no details on the plan, that is a better approach than the House has adopted.

In contrast to Bee's inclusive approach, House Speaker Jim Weiers, a Phoenix Republican, is continuing along his traditional path of exclusion. The budget plan that emerges from the House will be acceptable to many Republicans and a mystery to all Democrats.

The Associated Press this week reported the House plan will include \$60 million in tax cuts - a dangerous move. A majority vote in the Legislature can cut taxes, but it takes a two-thirds vote to increase them. So while the state has a revenue surplus now, a tax cut could be crippling when the economy inevitably withers. We applaud Bee for his statesmanship in working to create a workable consensus budget.

This state would run far more smoothly if there were more legislative leaders such as Bee who are willing to work across party lines for the good of the people of Arizona

London Financial Times – April 24

Conservatives pin their hopes on Thompson

Arthur Branch is the kind of prosecutor that Republicans dream about. The blunt-spoken New York district attorney supports the death penalty, opposes abortion and espouses a conservative legal philosophy that infuriates liberal colleagues. Unfortunately for Republicans, Mr. Branch is a fictional character in Law & Order, the popular US television drama. But Fred Thompson, the actor who plays the role, is a real-life conservative whom many Republicans are counting on to breathe fresh life into the party's 2008 presidential race. Mr. Thompson, who also starred in the films The Hunt for Red October and Cape Fear, joined the cast of Law & Order in 2002 towards the end of his eight-year stint as senator for Tennessee. In the six weeks since he announced he was "giving some thought" to running for president, he has emerged as a serious threat to the leading Republican candidates – Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney – and a source of hope to conservatives dissatisfied with the current field. Mr. Thompson's appeal is twofold. First, he is more reliably conservative than any of the frontrunners, boasting an 86 per cent approval rating from the American Conservative Union for his Senate voting record. Second, he possesses a folksy charm and powerful charisma that supporters liken to another actor-turned-politician: Ronald Reagan. "There's this indefinable ability to communicate easily with people that candidates either have or don't have," says Larry Sabato, politics professor at the University of Virginia. "JFK had it, Ronald Reagan had it, Barack Obama has it and so does Fred Thompson." He has yet to make a firm decision on whether to run but one recent opinion poll indicated he already holds second place in the race for the Republican nomination, behind Mr. Giuliani.

Zach Wamp, a Republican congressman for Tennessee, believes Mr. Thompson has the ability to unite the party base while also appealing to swing voters. "He will bring Reagan Democrats back to the Republican fold," he says. Bob Davis, chairman of the Tennessee Republicans and another Thompson cheerleader, says the actor's Hollywood ties could even give the party a chance to carry California in the presidential election for the first time in two decades. Two recent events have hardened the impression that Mr. Thompson is preparing to take the plunge. He revealed he was suffering from lymphoma, an incurable form of cancer, but insisted that treatment would allow him to live a normal life – the kind of disclosure expected of an individual considering a run for public office. He also met about 60 lawmakers on Capitol Hill last week to gauge support and discuss his political vision. Mr. Thompson offers a refreshing alternative to declared candidates who have already begun to look stale. But Mr. Sabato warns the window of opportunity for him to enter the contest is closing fast. "He has to be in the race by early-to-mid summer to have a chance of raising enough money."

THE PELOSI-GIFFORDS TAX HIKE OF 2007!!!

With "Tax Day" coming up in two weeks, it's especially amazing that it only took the Democrat's new majority three months to once again pass the largest tax increase in American history – one almost twice the size of the Clinton Tax Hike of 1993 that helped vault Republicans into the majority in 1994.

Republican's in Congress proposed a plan that balanced the budget in five years without raising taxes, but Democrats dismissed it and went right back to their old "tax and spend" ways. Not surprisingly, 8th CD Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords followed the lead of ultra-liberal House Speaker Nancy Pelosi yet again and voted for the tax hike on Arizona individuals, families, seniors, retirees, small businesses and job providers of every size.

Should Nancy Pelosi and Gabrielle Giffords get their way and this tax hike become law of the land, the average Arizonan's tax bill will skyrocket by an additional \$3,000 on top of what he/she already pays!

On behalf of Arizona's 1,019,422 Republicans, we say the following to Nancy Pelosi and Gabrielle Giffords: You can't tax and spend your way to prosperity and this tax scheme will cost Arizona jobs. While our Republican-led state legislature is working to cut taxes here at home to create opportunity and bring new jobs to Arizona, it makes no sense to put millions of Americans out of work all across the country with tax increases like this.

