

Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

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RLC GEARS UP FOR ATLANTA

From December 8 to 10, 2000, the Republican Liberty Caucus will hold its 4th Biennial Convention at the Atlanta Marriott Century Center. As this will be a post-election gathering, and we cannot tell at this point whether we (and America) will be winners or losers, we are calling this the Teeter-Totter Convention.

Will the GOP rise, and -if so- how can libertarians be effective during an era of Republican hegemony? Will President George W. Bush enact strategic libertarian reforms including choice in education, tax cuts, medical savings accounts, Social Security privatization, a free trade zone of the Americas, leaving alone state initiatives on medical marijuana? Or will he be even more disappointing than you-know-who was? Will the Republican Party fail, and -if so- what is to be done? Prepare to takeover the GOP in 2004? Go third-party? Or move to New Zealand?

Our two main tentative speakers will be our very own Congressman Ron Paul of Texas, the taxpayer's best friend and the conscience of the Congress, and Congressman Bob Barr of Georgia, a principled conservative and one of the real heroes of the impeachment. We say "tentative" because, while they are both favorably disposed to joining us, each is deferring a final scheduling decision.

On our roster we have Mike Tanner of the Cato Institute, Robert Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project, Mike Glavin of the Southern Legal Foundation, Carole Ann Rand, formerly of Advocates for Self Government, Kelly McCutchen of the Georgia Public Policy Institute, and Mark Thornton of the Mises Institute, as well as some of the best candidates we support like Murray Sabrin of New Jersey and Penn Pfiffner of Colorado, and many of our own grass-roots activists from across the country as well as some real surprises we have in store.

Registration includes all five meal events in addition to the panels and business sessions. Plus, on Sunday afternoon, Chuck Muth will hold his very effective campaign workshop. Make your plans now to participate. Take advantage of the early bird registration discount. Book your hotel reservation while rooms are available at the bargain convention rate. Then come and join us whatever the outcome in November. We don't know if we'll be celebrating or commiserating, but, either way, this gathering of the RLC in "Hotlanta" is sure to be one continuous party from start to finish!

INSIDE

FROM THE EDITOR.....	Page 2
GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH.....	Page 4
THE GOP & MED. MARIJUANA.....	Page 5
SABRIN REFLECTS.....	Page 6
CONVENTION PROGRAM.....	Page 7

Come On Down!

RLC National Convention 2000

in Atlanta, Georgia

Friday, Dec. 8 - Sunday, Dec. 10, 2000

Atlanta Marriott at Century Center



Registration Fee: \$144 (after September 21st, 2000)

Early Bird Discount: \$134 (to September 20th)

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Includes dinner on Friday, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and continental breakfast on Sunday.

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Single or Double Rooms run only \$69/night.

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Paul Coverdell
1939-2000

Farewell to Senator Coverdell

by Jim Hudson

Georgia RLC

Page 3

Talking to the Walls



Well, here we are with another issue of *Republican Liberty* with yours truly at the helm. Since our last issue we've seen our party and the Democrats showcase their best at their conventions. I'll have to say I wasn't wowed by either. Far more interesting was **Arianna Huffington's** Shadow Convention, with libertarian Republicans like New Mexico Gov. **Gary Johnson** showing up to speak. I never was a fan of Arianna, but her slick

new website called "Overthrow the Government" -- www.overthrowthegov.com -- has a great title and is pleasing to the eye. But she's still sticking to her "reform for its own sake" mantra, meaning speech-limiting campaign finance reform. Back to the main event: RLC workhorse **Mike Griffin** was on hand to promote our cause and hand out flyers and copies of *Republican Liberty*. I wasn't moved by **George W. Bush's** compassionate conservative message, at least he is adept at going after the altruist vote. The GOP's "rainbow parade" was transparently overdone, although certain conventioners embarrassed themselves and the party when they protested gay Sen. **John Kyl's** (R-AZ) speech on trade. *Rep Jim Udbe*

Now to the real clowns... Gay activists embarrassed themselves and the Democrats when they hissed a Boy Scout honor guardasked to their convention. The Right Reverend **Jesse Jackson** branded every Republican to the right of **Nelson Rockefeller** as evil, and named them. I'll always remember him chanting "Stay out da Bushes..stay out da Bushes." **Al Gore** (yes, one word) is still a bore, although he gave what probably could be considered the best speech of his life.

RLC founder **Eric Rittberg** sent out an email in early September touting the one percent showing of LP presidential hopeful **Harry Browne** in one recent poll, which had him barely edging out the much better-known **Pat Buchanan**. Most prior polls showed Browne

in the one-half percent range, consistent with his actual result in 1996. At the crucial Labor Day campaign kickoff, most polls have Bush and Gore nearly neck-and-neck. In response to Rittberg's startling prediction that Browne might receive a million to a million and a half votes (the Libertarian Party record is slightly under a million, achieved by **Ed Clark** in 1980), RLC Treasurer **Mike Holmes** responded by noting that Browne's showing is probably less than the entire margin of polling error. Holmes noted that third party votes are always exaggerated by early polls, and that Browne suffers from a relative lack of name recognition and funding, compared to fellow third party candidates **Pat Buchanan** and **Ralph Nader**. While a strong LP showing "would be a sign of growing libertarian influence in politics," Holmes doubts record results this time. Browne would be "lucky" to hit half a million votes, with the actual total more likely in the 400,000 range Holmes predicts.

VA RLC coordinator **Rick Sincere** met with former Virginia Governor **George Allen**, who's running for the Senate seat occupied by **Chuck Robb**. Allen, who knew Rick was a longtime libertarian activist, told him that he was also a libertarian. Rick says that's not exactly true, since Allen endorses the Drug War and hate crimes legislation. Nonetheless, meeting with people such as Allen is a valuable tool to increase our name recognition and to get our ideas across to candidates who matter.

Billionaire **George Soros** has bankrolled a questionable gun control study....the paper, "Gun Control in The United States: A Comparative Survey of Firearm Laws" claims that four out of five states lack "basic gun control laws" while praising Massachusetts, Hawaii and California as the states with the harshest laws. The report clamors for uniform mandatory registration and licensing of gun owners as well as restrictions on the gun grabber's favorite bogeyman, "assault weapons" i.e. guns that look really mean but have no more firepower than a hunting rifle. Soros comes down heavy on peaceful Maine, Vermont and North Dakota for having fewer gun laws. This absurd study ignores the existence of literally thousands of laws (with heavy penalties for violation - ask a Davidian) governing firearms sale and use on Federal, state and local levels. It was underwritten by Soros' mis-named **Open Society Institute**. You can read this load of bull on the web at: <http://www.soros.org/crime/PRguncontrol.htm> Come on George, stick to marijuana.

Republican Liberty

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Positions Available....

....to highly motivated individuals. Long hours, little pay, but you'll have the honor of serving the cause of freedom with the nation's foremost group of libertarian Republicans.

The RLC National Committee will hold its biannual elections at the upcoming Atlanta, GA, RLC convention.

Suitable individuals committed to furthering libertarianism in the GOP are encouraged to run for seats on the National Committee. National officers (Chairman, Treasurer et cetera) are chosen by the Committee members after their election.

National Committee members need to be paid-up RLC members with a desire to serve, and while attendance at the convention is not required for election, it is highly recommended.

Coverdell Loss Is A Heavy One



Jim Hudson
Georgia RLC

On July 18, 2000 U. S. Senator Paul Coverdell of Georgia, one of the most decent and thoughtful government leaders of our time, died unexpectedly in Atlanta, GA of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 61. With the death of this quiet Senate workhorse, Georgia and the nation lost a most capable public servant and a devoted champion of individual liberty.

Paul Coverdell's political career covered 30 years, including 16 years in the Georgia Senate, where he became Minority Leader. In Georgia Mr. Coverdell was considered the principal architect of the modern Republican Party in a state that had been completely dominated by the Democratic Party for a century.

In the process of building the Georgia Republican Party, Paul Coverdell met George Bush, who became a lifelong friend. When George Bush became President of the United States in 1988 he appointed Mr. Coverdell to the position of Director of the Peace Corps.

In 1992 Mr. Coverdell decided to make the run for U. S. Senate against the incumbent Democrat, Wyche Fowler, and an unknown Libertarian Party candidate. The race was forced into a runoff, and Paul Coverdell won the runoff election with 51% of the vote. He was easily reelected in 1998.

In his time in the U. S. Senate Mr. Coverdell quickly rose to become the GOP Conference Secretary, the fourth-leading Republican in the Senate. He was renowned for his politeness, kindness, hard work, energy, and dedication. He was routinely selected to handle the most difficult and thankless tasks and those tasks that required solid results. For example, Senate Majority Leader Trent

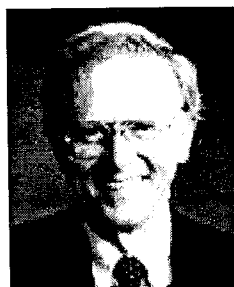
Lott asked Mr. Coverdell to head up the Senate GOP Task Force for drafting education-related legislation.

Leading into this year's Presidential election, Paul Coverdell was on the Steering Committee for the George W. Bush Presidential campaign organization and was the campaign's liaison with the U. S. Senate.

In spite of his long political career and substantial accomplishments, Paul Coverdell was not well known by the general public because he was not a showhorse and felt no need to raise his profile with a lot of TV appearances on national shows. He was primarily an organizer, a strategist and a coalition builder.

He was also well-informed and studious on serious issues. Although never formally or publicly associated with the libertarian movement, Paul Coverdell was, nevertheless, one of the most libertarian members of the U.S. Senate. He was an old-fashioned Jeffersonian who understood the dangers posed by a large and growing government and who was always concerned

about preserving the individual's freedom. He favored many libertarian ideas such as privatization of Social Security, tax-free Educational Savings Accounts, substantial general tax cuts, and protecting individual privacy on the Internet. He also had a major concern for the negative impact



"...people always say they are for limited government, except when they want to use government as a tool to carry out their will. Americans unconsciously do this. They see a problem and say "there ought to be a law against this."

--Paul Coverdell

of government on free men trying to make free markets work for everyone's benefit.

Max Cleland, Democratic Party U. S. Senator from Georgia, noted publicly after Senator Coverdell's death that he could see Paul Coverdell's influence increasing daily in the U. S. Senate and that he thought that there would have been practically no limit to what he could have accomplished in the future.

With his integrity, intelligence, quiet dignity, hard work, and commitment to the original American ideals, Paul Coverdell was making headway for many of our causes. I see no one comparable on the political landscape today. The nation has suffered a tremendous loss with Paul Coverdell's death.

Editor's Note: The "unknown Libertarian Party candidate" mentioned in the article was in fact the author of this article, Jim Hudson.

Paul Coverdell was interviewed by Jack Brantley Lightfoot in the Summer 1992 issue of *Republican Liberty*. Lightfoot asked Coverdell whether he thought he foresaw a more libertarian stance being adopted by the Republican Party. His response: "I think there is more open expression of it now. But generally, I think that is already pretty well-rooted in the party. It's funny, people always say they are for limited government, except when they want to use government as a tool to carry out their will. Americans unconsciously do this. They see a problem and say "there ought to be a law against this." Years ago I gave a speech saying "there ought not to be a law." I believe in more community, institutional and personal solutions to problems instead of governmental solutions or legislation."

The Greatest Show On Earth

(formerly *Media Notes*)

Office Depot Still Thinks Gov't Schools Underfunded

In a recent ad campaign, Office Depot is perpetuating the myth that public schools are "underfunded." As part of their "Free Supplies For Your School Program," 5% of selected purchases may go to the local school of the buyer's choice. All good and well, but their ad, claims that there "isn't enough money for schools like there was" and that student/teacher ratios have risen.

Club For Growth President Stephen Moore (and speaker at 1996 RLC convention in Alexandria, Va.) wrote a letter to Office Depot CEO Bruce Nelson pointing out that their recent ad campaign has the math wrong. Moore writes "There has never been more tax dollars put into the school system as today on an inflation adjusted per student basis, or any other way we measure school spending....(o)ver the past 30 years, the student/teacher ratio has been falling persistently to a 30-year low last year." Moore continued: "I'm hoping that given these factual inaccuracies, Office Depot will pull these ads or change the ads to be more truthful about the situation about schools."

Even more troubling is Office Depot's sponsorship of the National PTA. A far cry from what was once represented by local Parent Teacher Associations, the NPTA has become a group of "children first" busybodies; they cheerlead the tobacco lawsuits, vehemently oppose vouchers and education tax credits, and they support gun prohibition.

Strange Bedfellows?

Chalk this one up to the strange bedfellows department: Texas congressman Ron Paul, the country's most famous libertarian Republican, found himself in strange territory on the Sept 7 Fox Television news show "Hannity & Colmes." Cong. Paul was the GOP "talking head" along with a Florida Democrat in the unaccustomed role of defending Gov. George Bush Jr. Specifically, on the same day as the Democrats in Congress failed to support the GOP led "death tax" repeal veto override, Paul was championing the Republican candidate's tax reduction strategy on the Fox Network program. When the interviewer tried to bring up Paul's previous LP presidential bid and his avowed libertarianism in an effort to make Paul defend some of Bush's expensive campaign spending plans, the Congressman wouldn't take the bait. "I vote against all of those bills," Paul continued to note, "Republican or Democrat. But the Republicans are 1000 times better on taxes than the Democrats."

During his initial congressional campaign in 1996, the Bush family political mafia strongly supported the incumbent Democrat-turned-Republican Greg Laughlin against the upstart libertarian Republican challenger. Some of the nastiest attacks ever made on Cong. Paul were aired during the GOP primary battle, which Paul handily won. Though Paul has not been uncritical of either President Bush or his son, the political rifts are largely healed. The Bush campaign knows there are few — if any — politicians of any stripe with more credibility on spending and taxes than Ron Paul.

Kampia and Barr spar on Fox

Earlier this month, Fox News pitted the Marijuana Policy Project's Rob Kampia against Congressman Bob Barr (R-GA) to discuss the drive to allow sick patients to use medicinal marijuana. With Paula Zahn as moderator, Kampia and Barr discussed the significance of the Supreme Court recently blocking a California judge's pro-pot ruling allowing for distribution of marijuana to those with a "medical necessity." Barr recycled drug warrior arguments that marijuana has no medical value and emphasized its danger (Congressman Barr introduced legislation used to overturn the 1998 D.C. Medical Marijuana Initiative that passed with 69 percent of the vote). Both Barr and Kampia are invited speakers to the RLC National Convention in Atlanta from December 8 to 10.

New Bovard Book Chronicles Clinton Abuses

Government-abuse watchdog James Bovard takes on the Clinton Administration in his new book *Feeling Your Pain: The Explosion and Abuse of Government Power in the Clinton-Gore Years*. Bovard's tremendously powerful writings remove any notion that the modern State is a benign entity. In this latest work, he sidesteps the circus of the Lewinsky affair and hits the Clintonites hardest where they deserve it: by dissecting their horrendous approach to our basic liberties. While left-liberals and the media turn a blind eye to excesses of the Clinton Administration, Bovard takes it all on, from Americorps to the Drug War. He is also frank in pointing out Republicans' shortcomings in reining in big, bad government.

Any chapter of the book will have true lovers of liberty wretching in disgust from the well-documented horror stories of government abuse of innocent citizens. In spite of all the rhetoric about a kinder, gentler Internal Revenue Service, and in spite of the hearings, the IRS is still seizing bank accounts and property, placing liens on citizens' land and doling out heavy penalties. It's also audited dozens of conservative/libertarian nonprofits in recent years, evidence of Clintons' shameless use of the agency to go after political opponents. The book is a perfect antidote to what Bovard calls our "Attention Deficit Democracy." Get it.

Salon notes GOP drug reformers

Bruce Shapiro profiles prominent GOP drug reformers such as U.S. Senate candidate Rep. Tom Campbell in his July 31 article in *Salon Magazine* (www.salon.com). Emphasizing pragmatism, Campbell said that "I am not coming at this as a libertarian. I am a traditional Republican in that I value smaller government, limited government, and the drug war seems the opposite of that." Campbell addressed Arianna Huffington's Shadow Convention that ran alongside the GOP National Convention in Philadelphia.

Shapiro quotes the Lindesmith Center's Ethan Nadelmann: "In part, there is an intellectual tradition which has paved the way. There is a libertarian streak in the Republican Party which has always favored a different approach." Shapiro also looks at Gov. Gary Johnson (NM), and mentions efforts by Govs. John Engler (MI) and George Pataki (NY) to reform their states' onerous drug sentencing rules.

RLC Lobbies MD GOP Legislators to Legalize Medical Marijuana

Clifford F. Thies
RLC Chair

Unfortunately, it takes courage for Republican legislators to support legalization of medical marijuana. The job becomes a whole lot easier when fellow Republicans ask them to do so, something we, in the RLC, can make happen. We can be especially proud of the recent efforts of Mike Griffin, one of the RLC's former executive directors, to help Republicans in the Maryland state legislature to support legalization.

Maryland is one of only two states where pro-medical marijuana legislation had a realistic chance of passing this year. The other state was Hawaii, where medical marijuana legislation was passed by the legislature and signed into law by the Governor. The government of Maryland is controlled, lock, stock and barrel by the Democrats. Contrary to conventional wisdom, there is no evidence that Democrats more consistently support personal liberties than Republicans. The movement to legalize medical marijuana has been a grass-roots citizen effort, relying up to now on citizen initiatives in states where such is possible, and only now seeking to utilize the legislative process.

In Maryland, Delegate Donald Murphy of Baltimore County was the lead Republican co-sponsor of a bill to legalize medical marijuana. Delegate Murphy, a self-described "law-and-order Republican," a pro-life, pro-gun, anti-trial lawyer Republican, was pushed over the edge by the death of Darrell Putnam, a 49-year ex-Green Beret, a father of two, and a farmer, who found that smoking pot helped him deal with the nausea he felt after chemotherapy.

According to his brother, the late veteran lost forty pounds while fighting cancer. Then, he decided to try marijuana, remembering from his Vietnam days how it gave him "the munchies." Regaining about half of his lost weight, he was approved for stem-cell replacement, but—even with the procedure—he didn't survive. A friend who helped him get back and forth to the hospital during his final days, a buddy who had served with him in the Special Forces, recalled how unjust it was that the marijuana he was using was illegal. "They could arrest him and confiscate his farm and take away his kids, and all he wanted to do is save his life."

Delegate Murphy, who took up the cause of medical marijuana, and his Democratic counterpart came to be known as "the Doobie Brothers" among their fellow legislators. (Editor's note: Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, one of the Doobie Brothers, did in fact consider running for Congress this year as a Republican.) They were lobbied by the President's Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey to drop their effort. Ignoring McCaffrey, they gained additional co-sponsors and passage by the house judicial committee, before falling short in the full house.

Just prior to the house judiciary committee's consideration of the bill, Mike Griffin, who formerly worked in the Maryland House of Delegates as a legislative aide, and who was himself a candidate for the House of Delegates two years ago, contacted every Republican

member of the committee among others. The responses he received were all polite and, in many cases, surprising. One member, a conservative, said he would consider the bill. Another, a liberal, said she was angered by what she described as the vitriolic language used by some of her constituents, who described opponents of the bill as "Hitler-like." A third, another conservative, expressed a reservation about the bill since it allows curbside purchases of marijuana.

Another Republican, a very consistent conservative, gave a curious reply. He remarked that since "nobody is arrested for mere possession," those who actually need medical marijuana are able to get it. But, making medical marijuana legal would open access to marijuana for other purposes. According to him, laws against euthanasia aren't enforced when it's obvious that the right thing to do is to allow someone to die, but legalizing euthanasia legal would risk the premature death of others.

This opinion is probably the biggest challenge we, in the RLC, face. Part of the ethic of many in the Republican Party is that freedom means "the freedom to do what is right," and that law plays a role in informing people as to what is right. As libertarian Republicans, we contend that the role of government is limited to holding people accountable when they hurt others (they being automatically held accountable when they hurt themselves). And that in a free society, government only sets the bottom-line of right and wrong. And that it must be for families, religion and community to direct people to lives of virtue. In any case, laws that make what is good illegal undermine respect for law.

Having identified the positions of the Republican legislators involved, Mike coordinated with the Marijuana Policy Project of Washington, D.C., and the RLC to direct letters and e-mails to members and others who are supportive or open-minded on the issue. The idea was to maintain the support we already have, and to dispose those who are open-minded to join us. We did so, and it had a noticeable effect. One legislator specifically mentioned to Mike that it was good to hear from fellow Republicans from as far away as Florida on the issue.

In the emerging Internet age of politics, networks of grass-roots citizens and activists such as Mike Griffin can be enormously powerful in our cause, the cause of Liberty, the cause for which Darrell Putnam dedicated his entire life. And, as is often the case with legislation, success will only come after years of effort.



Famous Republicans Who Question the Drug War:

Rep. Ron Paul (TX)
Rep. Tom Campbell (CA)
Martin Anderson
Thomas Sowell
William F. Buckley
P.J. O'Rourke
Milton Friedman
Gov. Gary Johnson (NM)
Tom Selleck
George Shultz

One Small Step for Liberty

Murray Sabrin

I recently watched the first three episodes of *Liberty* on public television, covering the events leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The American colonists faced incredible odds to create a free country. They won despite the conventional wisdom of the day, that the colonists could not defeat the world's greatest empire. George Washington and his rag tag army were nearly defeated, but they persevered after the Battle of Trenton when they surprised the Hessians and scored an impressive military and psychological victory. Word soon spread throughout the thirteen colonies about the revolutionary's victory and more men joined Washington's army and the rest is history.

Although I did not win the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate, I feel like the American colonists: we lost the most recent battle, but in the long run we will win the war! Moreover, we won a great psychological victory. By the time the campaign was winding down in May and early June, my three "moderate" opponents were sounding more and more like me, fiscally conservative and anti-big government. Even on controversial issues like abortion, affirmative action and the Second Amendment, nearly all the candidates' rhetoric made them appear acceptable to conservative voters. The one exception was state Senator Bill Gormley who went out of his way to bash the NRA.

At candidate forums throughout the state, county committeemen and women came up to me afterwards and said, "Murray, you are a man of courage for saying what you did. I am going to vote for you and tell my committee people to do the same." After one presentation, an elderly woman told me, "I can't believe that I just heard you say what you did. I agree with everything you said." Toward the end of the

campaign I attended a forum where a retired gentleman said to me, "I agree 100% with everything you said." These forums were attended for the most part by grassroots Republicans, who make the core of the party primary vote. By the time the campaign was winding down, I could not help but feel all the effort we had put into this campaign was going to payoff in the voting booth on June 6th. Although I received only 13 percent of the vote in a four-way race, our message of limited government resonated throughout the state.

On Sunday before the election (June 4th), the *Courier-Post* of Cherry Hill endorsed my candidacy. The editorial concluded by stating: "Sabrin came to this country in 1949, the son of parents who were the only ones in their respective families to survive the Holocaust. Perhaps because of his unique perspective, he cherishes the rights and liberties that too many Americans take for granted. In many ways, Sabrin is the embodiment of the American experience.

Republicans who want a candidate who supports personal rights, limited government, and traditional core GOP values have their man in Sabrin."

The *Courier-Post* is located in Camden County, where I finished second. I also finished second in Somerset County and third in eleven counties. There are 21 counties in New Jersey. In addition, I finished second in dozens of towns and first in scores of election districts.

After I ran for governor in 1997 as the Libertarian Party candidate, receiving nearly 5% or about 114,000 votes, some of the policies I proposed were enacted, including a 65 mile per hour speed limit on most state highways and an end to HOV lanes. Recently the gasoline additive, MTBE, has come under attack for its health dangers, an issue I brought up during in 1997. I also warned about problems with the new auto emissions test that was introduced in December 1999. It has proven to be a fiasco, just as I had predicted in 1997. Time will tell how much of our agenda will be enacted in the years ahead.

In the meantime, we must prepare for the next battle.

I would like to thank both the RLC for its generous support and fellow members who supported my campaign. I also want to express my gratitude to Clifford Thies for his unequivocal support throughout the campaign.

I look forward to working with the RLC in the years ahead to advance the liberty agenda throughout the nation.



*I look forward to working with the RLC
in the years ahead to advance the liberty
agenda throughout the nation.*

-Murray Sabrin

Sabrin Post-Election Note: On June 6, Murray Sabrin received 13 percent of the vote in the N.J. Republican primary for the U.S. Senate, finishing last in a field of four. U.S. Congressman Bob Franks won the GOP nomination, with state Senator Bill Gormley finishing a close second and Essex County Executive Jim Treffinger third. Toward the end of the race, it became clear that the contest was between moderate Congressman Franks, and Senator Gormley, a liberal. As a result, Sabrin's potential support was undercut. The Republican primary was overshadowed by the Democratic primary, with ultra-left billionaire Jon Corzine spending a record \$35 million to defeat former Governor Jim Florio. Illustrative of the predicament faced by conservatives and libertarians in the GOP, only after the primary did the NRA-affiliated PAC send Murray a check for \$5000 (to help him erase campaign debt). Perhaps Murray's most important accomplishment is how he convened libertarians and conservatives, without compromising our positions, not even on the drug issue. In addition to support from Rep. Ron Paul and our political action committee, Murray was endorsed by social conservatives such as Paul Weyrich, Phyllis Schlafly and Morton Blackwell; as well as by the Gun Owners of America, Coalition of New Jersey Sportsmen, National Coalition of Life, N.J. Right to Life PAC, the National Federation of Republican Assemblies, and the N.J. Conservative Party.

RLC Around the States

Pfiffner Guns for Senate in Colorado

Colorado State Rep. Penn Pfiffner, who currently represents House District 23, and who is a member of the RLC Advisory Board, won the Republican nomination for Colorado's state Senate from District 21 in Jefferson County, an open seat, on August 8. He defeated Linda A. Morton, 57 to 43 percent. He goes on to face Democrat DeAnna Hanna in the general election. The race is considered a toss-up. The term-limited incumbent was a Democrat. However, in 1998, Jefferson County voted for the Republican candidates for U.S. Senate, for U.S. Congress, for Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General, and elected six Republicans to fill its eight seats in the state House. Pfiffner was termed "liberty's best friend" in the Colorado legislature by the Colorado Freedom Report. (<http://www.co-freedom.com>)

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Becker Challenges McCarthy in NY, State Chair Reed relocates to Texas

The RLC of New York is backing Gregory R. Becker in his bid to unseat Rep. Carolyn McCarthy in New York's fourth Congressional District on Long Island. The district covers the traditional conservative suburbs of Nassau County. McCarthy, elected after her husband was killed in Colin Ferguson's mad subway rampage, is an unabashed statist and one of the all-time worst scorers in the RLC's Liberty Index. Becker, a former 16-year State Assemblyman running on a tax-relief program, is an energetic individual with a lot of promise, according to local RLC operatives. RLC Chair John Reed has moved to Austin, Texas, leaving open a vacancy for chairmanship of the New York RLC.

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Don Bell Serious Challenge to Lucas

In Kentucky, RLC member Don Bell is running for Congress against a pretend conservative Democrat, Rep. Ken Lucas. Kentucky's only Democrat *sometimes* votes with the GOP, but as KY RLC chair Doug Allor points out, hard core left-liberals from all over the country have been pouring money into Lucas' campaign, such as five members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, which has close ties to the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA). "Lucas should be known by the company he keeps," says Allor. Polls show Bell catching up with Lucas' well-financed bid.

The Kentucky RLC held their inaugural meeting on April 30, and Michael Moreland (the membership chair) has been roving the state recruiting new members ever since. Kentucky State Senate President Pro Tem Dick Roeding recently joined the group.

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PA, NJ, DE RLCs meet at Convention

At the GOP National Convention in Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Republican Liberty Caucus had its inaugural meeting, attended by RLCers from the tri-state area of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Former Delaware Libertarian Party Chair Mike Sensor is now the official RLC contact for that state, and Janice Presser, former NJ LP chair, is now the RLC contact for the Garden State. Stepping up to the plate for the PA RLC is David Kamioner. The new PA group is looking to outreach to PA College Republicans and other groups for gaining members. See the back page of this publication for contact information for all three new RLC organizations.

RLC 2000



NATIONAL CONVENTION Atlanta, Georgia

Dec. 8, 9, 10

Atlanta Marriott at Century Center
2000 Century Boulevard NE
Atlanta, GA 30345-3377

Rooms \$69 per night -- Call 1-800-228-9290

Program includes:

The Hon. Ron Paul The Hon. Bob Barr
Rob Kampia (Marijuana Policy Project)
Mark Thornton (Ludwig von Mises Institute)
Carole Ann Rand (Advocates for Self-Gov't)
State Sen. Penn Pfiffner Dr. Murray Sabrin
Mike Tanner (CATO Institute)
Mike Glavin (Southern Legal Foundation)
Campaign Workshop by Chuck Muth, NV RLC

and selected presentations by:

RLC National Staff
RLC State Chairs & Coordinators

Package includes all speakers and panel discussions, dinner on Friday, continental breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Please send payment (\$144) to:

Republican Liberty Caucus
10878 Westheimer, Suite 395
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(713) 867-9060

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