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Republican Liberty

Free Enterprise, Individual Freedom & Limited Government

SERIOUS ABOUT FREEDOM? SIGN THE LIBERTY COMPACT!

Late last year, the RLC introduced the idea of the **Liberty Compact**. The Compact is a written pledge inspired by the words of the late Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-AZ) in his classic book, Conscience of a Conservative. In it, Goldwater makes the case for the belief that government isn't the solution, but oftentimes the problem. The RLC plans to use the Liberty Compact as an improved tool for considering candidates who merit our support and financial assistance in GOP primaries as well as in general elections.

Spearheaded by former RLC Chair Chuck Muth, the organization mailed out hundreds of Liberty Compact pledges with cover letters, to GOP legislators and candidates since September of last year. Said Muth: "Sadly, all too many Americans and elected representatives, including a disturbing number of Republicans, have forgotten what the proper role of government is as originally envisioned in 1776 by our Founding Fathers. The purpose of the Liberty Compact is to remind them. We'll use, promote and publicize it throughout election campaigns in the future as a tool to not only help elect more Republicans, but better ones, as well."

To date, the signers include:

Members of Congress:

- Rep. **Todd Akin** of (R-Missouri)
- Rep. **Bob Barr** of (R-Georgia)
- Rep. **Jack Kingston** of (R-Georgia)
- Rep. **Pat Toomey** of (R-Pennsylvania)
- Rep. **Zach Wamp** (R-Tennessee)

State Legislators & Candidates:

- **Rob Burton**, Md. House of Delegates District 32
- **Sam Stavros**, Calif. State Assembly District 63
- **David Stone**, Congressional District 14 (Mich.)
- **Mark Warden**, Nevada State Assembly District 13
- **Mark Zasadny**, Minn. State Senate District 54

Along with his signed pledge, we received this note from Rep. Zach Wamp: "Thank you for your unbending commitment to uphold the Constitution of the United States. We need more active citizens who do more than watch television and drink from the fountain of our popular culture. We need patriots who study and develop policy based on the bedrock principles of our republic. God bless!"

Some officials returned a note stating their practice of not signing pledges. Senator Mike Enzi of Wyoming offered the following rationale: "My voting record speaks for itself on these matters and I encourage you to examine it and compare it to anyone

who signs your pledge. . . . Although I will not be signing your pledge, I can assure you I intend to keep it - and I have always believed that was more important." The Senator has a Liberty Index* Life Rating of 81.3, placing him well within the libertarian quadrant.

The Liberty Compact Pledge

"I, _____, pledge to the citizens of the State of _____ and to the American people, that as their elected representative I will work to: Restore liberty, not restrict it; shrink government, not expand it; reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish programs, not create them; promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them."

Rep. Doug Bereuter (R-Nebraska) declined to sign the Liberty Compact, explaining that it was his "general policy not to sign ANY pledges, regardless of my view or the issue." Bereuter has a Liberty Index Life Rating of 60, identifying him as a Centrist. Interestingly, the verb *bereuen* means "to regret" in German.

RLC members are encouraged to ask their elected officials to sign the pledge, and to pass on their reaction, positive or negative, to the National RLC.

*The RLC's Liberty Index rates members of Congress based on their votes on personal and economic liberties issues. See previous issues of RL or our website at www.rlc.org for details.

**URGENT NEWS! NATIONAL
 Republican Liberty Caucus
 Convention -- August 10, 2002**

As a result of recent leadership changes, the National RLC Executive Committee has decided to meet in August in the same city and day as the Texas RLC Convention. All members of the RLC, Texas and National, are welcome to attend the National RLC Convention, so if you're a member, please attend.

Holiday Inn (Tel. 210-224-2500)
 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM -- BOLERO ROOM
 217 N. Saint Marys St. -- San Antonio, Texas

TALKING TO THE WALLS



The past half-year has certainly been a trying time for America. As a new issue of *Republican Liberty* went into production, our country was attacked -- it was the most humbling moment for the United States since Pearl Harbor. Citizens of every political stripe turned their attention to the more immediate challenges facing the country. In the wake of the attacks, it seemed as if our political disagreements were petty.

I work in the travel industry, a sector that was adversely affected in the extreme in the months following September 11. Thankfully, I'm still employed, although my income has been drastically reduced because ordinary travelers cancelled or postponed their trips. Or they chose getaways closer to home. This caused me to reassess the time I spent on pursuits not related to work, such as the newsletter and other organizational activities.

The Republican Liberty Caucus is a volunteer organization, and there are many who work hard in supporting it without monetary compensation. In better times, it's a hell of a lot easier to pursue our lofty goals.

In the meantime, we have concentrated on getting the good word out to our members and interested parties via our greatly-improved website and through regular Liberty Watch email updates.

Since the attack on America, the proverbial dust has begun to settle, and the Dems (and RINOs) are back to their old monkey business. Our old differences have arisen again, leaving us with a

Republican Liberty

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Editor's Notes

serious job to do. Our President is getting sidetracked from what he was sent to Washington to do, and ends up offering half-baked versions of what Democrats demand (Rush Limbaugh spends a considerable amount of time nowadays taking the President to task for caving in on Federalizing airport security, steel tariffs, campaign finance reform and education). And unfortunately, in the rush to strengthen our defenses, we forget the Constitutional bounds that our Founding Fathers so wisely placed on government.

Our country and our liberties not only face threats from the outside, but from the inside as well. We've got to remain vigilant that free speech, privacy and the right to assemble peaceably are not sacrificed in the name of security. We must defend freedom against noxious proposals like national ID cards, one of the many proposals floated after the attacks to make us "safer."

Larry Ellison, CEO of the Oracle Corporation, publicly offered to provide the software to run a national ID system. Under his proposal, millions of American citizens would be fingerprinted and photographed, with the data permanently lorded over by the government. It's no surprise that the CIA was Oracle's first customer. Those who propose National ID cards as a possible solution to events like those of September 11 forget that most of our enemies are not American citizens.

Richard Sullivan, the CEO of Palm Beach-based Applied Digital Solutions, suggested that immigrants be implanted with microchips (manufactured by his company, of course) so we can monitor them at all times. This idea is horrifying from several standpoints.

In a March 10 interview, Sullivan told the Miami Herald "I think it's not unreasonable to ask people who want to come to work in the country that they respect the rights of people who are citizens in the United States."

Amoral technocrats like Ellison and Sullivan have no conception of what individual rights are. Their goals are to see their own companies profit from establishing a Big Brother-style society.

Why such proposals receive unquestioning acceptance is beyond me. Sure, groups like the NRA and ACLU stand tall in opposing such things. But where does our party stand on these issues? Why does the Republican-controlled Florida legislature see fit to ban cloning research but not human chip implants? It is up to groups like us, the RLC, to make a difference - on the inside of the G.O.P..

At the moment, outrage over government intrusions has been stifled, because people are grasping for ways to make us safer. Disgraceful proposals like these must be opposed; the more vocally the better. You don't preserve freedom by making the country a prison. And once you lose your liberties, it's hard to get them back.

We're back in the saddle, but there's a long ride ahead, Tonto.

RLC Co-Sponsors CPAC 2002

As an official co-sponsor of the Conservative Political Action Conference 2002 (CPAC), the Republican Liberty Caucus is taking steps to make its presence known inside the beltway and among right-of-center groups across the country. The conference was attended by close to 4000 participants, consisting of organizational staff and leadership, activists, press, political staffers and many conservative figureheads in politics and media.

The RLC maintained a permanently-staffed booth at a strategic position inside the exhibit hall. RLC activists Laura Kotelman, Tom Walls, Brian Kelley, Mike Ostrolenk and others ran the booth over the course of the three-day event.

The event, organized by the American Conservative Union, claims to be the nation's oldest and largest conservative conference. Speakers included Condoleezza Rice, Tommy Thompson, Lynne Cheney, Gov. Bill Owens, Sen. Jesse Helms, Congressmen Bob Barr and Christopher Cox, Katherine Harris, Sean Hannity, Sam Donaldson, Bob Novak, George Will, the NRA's Wayne LaPierre, Amb. Jeane Kirkpatrick, Oliver North and David Horowitz. "You won't find a better, more organized, more interesting and more entertaining conservative event this side of the Milky Way" said former RLC Chair Chuck Muth.



Brian Kelley and Laura Kotelman at the RLC's CPAC booth.

RLC staff administered the "Operation Politically Homeless" quiz to hundreds of conventiongoers. In the quiz, participants fill out a questionnaire querying their opinions on economic and civil liberties matters. The tabulated results are then plotted on a two-dimensional graph familiar to most libertarian activists.

"Having the booth was important for engaging in outreach at the nation's most important conservative conference," says RLC National Committee member Tom Walls. "Seeing the success of last year's CPAC made us realize that it was absolutely crucial to be here this year." Last year, several RLC members attended the panels and banquets, but did not officially participate in the convention.

Chuck Muth addressed the entire convention on Saturday afternoon, participating on a panel entitled "Harnessing the Growing Power of Internet Activism." He was followed by Lynne Cheney and ACU Chair David Keene.

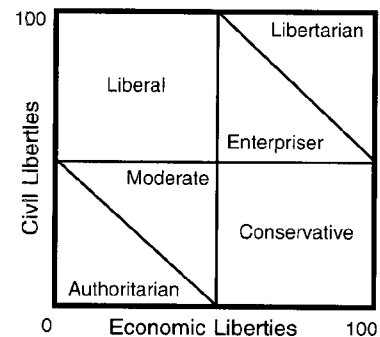
The RLC delegation then proceeded to an informal get-together at the house of ATR Chair Grover Norquist on Capitol Hill Saturday evening.

"You won't find a better, more organized, more interesting and more entertaining conservative event this side of the Milky Way. It was an honor to be an official co-sponsor of CPAC 2002 and a great opportunity to introduce the Republican Liberty Caucus to so many kindred spirits. I'm already looking forward to participating again next year."

- (former) RLC Chairman Chuck Muth

Operation Politically Homeless Hits CPAC

The RLC's "Operation Politically Homeless" booth made a big splash at this year's CPAC convention, receiving countless visitors and hundreds of quiz-takers. Out of 359 respondents, a full 138 (38%) plotted within the libertarian quadrant on the Nolan Chart. There were 11 perfect scores of 100 on economics and civil liberties, and 39 participants who scored 95 and 100 on either. 90 quiz-takers (25%) fell within the conservative quadrant, being not so comfortable with some of the quiz's civil liberties questions. 80 (roughly 22%) scored as centrists, 18 as liberals and 29 tallied out to be authoritarians. Many respondents were pleased with their results; however, several (mostly college-aged) respondents whose results earned the "liberal" designation insisted that they were conservatives -- in spite of answers in favor of state intervention in questions regarding the minimum wage, tariffs, agricultural subsidies, etc. Next time, we'll be bringing free copies of books by Milton Friedman and Henry Hazlitt for anyone scoring under 75 on the economics portion!



State Representative Drolet Defends Liberty in the Michigan House

Michigan has a unique individual representing its 33rd House district -- the RLC's own Leon Drolet. Leon was elected to the Michigan house in March 2001 in a special election to fill the seat of the late Janet Kukuk -- and has been a passionate fighter for liberty ever since.

Drolet was extremely vocal in opposing a state plan to tax high-speed broadband lines in order to transfer millions of dollars to local governments. The Wall Street Journal ran an editorial on December 17, 2001 opposing the plans to tax broadband providers and encouraging Leon to continue his fight against the plan. Compromise legislation that creates a state "broadband bureaucracy" and both combines increased fees and tax credits for broadband operators was signed into law in mid-March by Governor Engler.

Last November, the Speaker of the Michigan House temporarily appointed Leon to serve on the House Appropriations Committee. Decreased state revenues and the state constitution's balanced budget requirement necessitated cutting certain wasteful spending, and Leon was eager to help. Among projects that met the ax were a \$3 million grant for a local museum, a \$2.3 million grant for a tourist project, special library grants and spending for prison consolidation.

Leon has also been active in pushing for increased ballot access for minor parties. Michigan's ballot access laws apply a complex formula requiring a party's candidate to receive 1% of the votes cast for the winning Secretary of State candidate. A party could, for



Rep. Leon Drolet greets former RLC Treasurer Laura Kotelman

example, have a statewide candidate garnering a high percentage of votes, but if the party's Presidential candidate receives less than the required amount, the party still does not retain ballot status. Drolet's bill, which was drafted with the advice of Libertarian Party members, would allow parties to qualify based on the vote totals of any candidate, not just the one running for the highest office. Drolet's change was passed by the House in March 2002.

Drolet has also spent a great deal of time opposing mass transit boondoggles and other egregious spending plans. Many times, onerous bills pass, but Leon sometimes is able to attach amendments that put limits on the spending or new government authority. "I am eager to put Liberty on the offensive as much as possible" says Drolet. "This is a challenge since much of my time is spent battling back the offensive force of government growth inherent to all government bodies." Contact Leon at: ldrolet@house.state.mi.us

"We hope Mr. Drolet and like-minded colleagues are able to exploit those vulnerabilities and defeat this tax. If they lose, Michigan will be paying for years to come."

The Wall Street Journal, December 17, 2001

R.I.N.O.* OF THE HOUR (*Republican in Name Only)



As Senator with a fairly libertarian voting record*, and one who boasts he is a "Goldwater conservative," John McCain was a politician who earned the respect of lovers of liberty. As a challenger of the Republican establishment, McCain made the last Presidential primaries exciting. But since he's been the poster boy for campaign finance reform and attacking big tobacco, he has been nothing but a pain in the rear to libertarian and conservative Republicans. Although we would never replicate the 'babykiller,' 'Commie,' or 'traitor' smears that emerge from the peanut gallery, we feel that Senator McCain is so far off the farm that he might as well not come back.

His pet issues are pretty disgraceful for a Republican to be championing, not to mention unconstitutional. McCain even taped commercials in favor of shutting down private sales at gun shows and mandating trigger locks for handguns, in spite of his previous 'A' rating from the NRA. In early 2001, shortly after President Bush took office, McCain undermined the plan to cut taxes and instead insisted on the need for a hokey, statist "Patients' Bill of Rights." He teamed up with Chuck Schumer to offer a prescription-drug giveaway. And more recently, he tried to get his intrusive energy and car tax bill, the "Fuel Economy and Security Act of 2002" passed. Luckily, it sputtered and died.

April 2002 editorials in the New Republic and the Washington Monthly are encouraging McCain to run for President in 2004 as a Democrat, listing much of what we have mentioned above as reason enough. Some of us feel he's sold his soul to the media left - he has become the poster boy for their pet issues in exchange for getting more coverage than he deserves.

*McCain earned scores of 80 and 77 in the RLC's Liberty index of the US Senate in 1998 and 1999.

SANFORD AIMS FOR SC GOVERNORSHIP

VOWS TO KILL STATE INCOME TAX



Former U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford, the no-nonsense champion of liberty who fought to limit Federal taxation and spending, is running for governor of the Palmetto State.

South Carolina is one of the forty-one states in the Union with an income tax. Sanford seeks to remove it from that list. South Carolina's progressive income

tax takes up to seven percent of residents' income.

During his six-year stint in Washington, Sanford was a tireless advocate for the taxpayer, from when he was elected with the Gingrich-led class of '94 until the end of his third term. For his consistent efforts to limit government's growth, he was ranked the #1 Congressman in 1995, 1997 and 1999 by Citizens Against Government Waste, based on his votes to cut Federal spending. Sanford received similar high ratings from the National Taxpayers' Union, the Concord Coalition and Taxpayers for Common Sense. Every year, Sanford returned approximately a quarter of a million dollars budgeted for his office to the U.S. Treasury.

In Congress, Sanford was a pioneer for free-market Social Security reforms, courageously staring down the "third rail" of American politics. Sanford took the lead in proposing private personal retirement accounts when few other elected officials would touch the issue. He was one among a handful of members to consistently vote for free trade and for cutting trade subsidies, and even introduced a bill that would have lifted travel restrictions on Americans to Cuba. Sanford made a serious personal commitment to limit his term in Congress to three terms – and he kept his word, stepping down at the end of his last term.

The centerpiece of Sanford's gubernatorial campaign is a plan to get rid of the state's income tax. It's a credible plan, carefully worked out with some of the nation's top economic minds. Local and state government expenditures in South Carolina are roughly 28% higher than the national average.

Sanford wants to do away with the income tax to create an economic climate that is favorable to investment and job creation. He calls the state's 7% income tax "a substantial wealth penalty" that discourages healthy economic activity. His bold plan would cut the personal income tax rate by fifty per cent over five years, and completely eliminate it over the next thirteen.

But of course, the usual suspects line up to attack a genuinely good plan to reduce state confiscation of income. Democratic State Senator (and Senate Majority Leader) John Land labels Sanford's plan a mere campaign tactic. "(H)e's putting that up to rally those in the Republican primary that are more libertarian and don't want any taxes and don't think through how to finance your schools, colleges and medical services that the state renders to people."

Even some fellow Republicans criticized the Sanford tax plan. State Attorney General Charlie Condon, who is one of the other half-dozen Republican candidates vying for the governor's seat, called it a "tax increase, pure and simple," referring to the plan's broadening of the sales tax to include gasoline.



But Sanford dismisses such criticism, noting that a taxpaying family earning \$20,000 a year would save \$1400 while paying an additional \$40 more in gasoline taxes, assuming they drive 20,000 miles in one year. Condon later made a campaign proposal to cut property taxes.

Alaska, Florida, New Hampshire, Nevada, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming are the only states without personal income taxes. Analysts speculate that a bid to gut South Carolina's income tax may lead to similar efforts in other states.

One can only hope.

Sanford also calls for increasing accountability, introducing choice into the educational system and removing racial quotas from the charter school system.

South Carolina's Republican primary will be held on June 11 and the runoff on June 25, 2002. Sanford faces State Senator and lumber magnate Bill Branton, State Attorney General Charlie Condon, Secretary of State Jim Miles, Lt. Governor and former Democrat Bob Peeler, Berkeley County Supervisor Jim Rozier. A Libertarian Party candidate has also declared for the race.

More information is available from:

**Sanford for Governor
P.O. Box 160
Sullivans Island, SC 29482
fax: 843-883-9013**

<http://www.sanfordforgovernor.com>

**or email Mark Sanford directly at
mark@sanfordforgovernor.com**

Steel Tariffs are Taxes on American Consumers

by U.S. Rep. Ron Paul



The administration's recent decision to impose a 30 percent tariff on steel imports was disappointing to free trade advocates. This measure will hurt far more Americans than it will help, and it takes a step backwards toward the protectionist thinking that dominated Washington in decades past. These steel tariffs also make it quite clear that the rhetoric about free trade in Washington is abandoned and replaced with talk of "fair trade" when special interests make demands.

What most Washington politicians really believe in is government-managed trade, not free trade. Government-managed trade means government, rather than competence in the marketplace, determines what industries and companies succeed or fail.

It's easy for some lawmakers to make emotional arguments that tariffs are needed to protect the jobs of American steelworkers, but we never hear about the jobs that will be lost or never created when the cost of steel rises 30 percent. Tariffs are taxes, and imposing new tariffs means raising taxes.

Apparently no one in the administration has read Henry Hazlitt's classic economics text, *Economics in one Lesson*. Professor Hazlitt's fundamental lesson was simple: We must examine economic policy by considering the *long-term* effects of any proposal on *all* groups.

The administration instead chose to focus only on the immediate effects of steel tariffs on one group, the domestic steel industry. This has nothing to do with fairness, and everything to do with political favors. The free market is fair; it alone justly rewards the worthiest competitors. Tariffs reward the strongest Washington lobbies.

We should recognize that the cost of these tariffs will be borne by nearly all Americans, because steel is widely used in the cars we drive and the buildings in which we live and work. The tariffs will especially affect Texas, where building trades use large amounts of imported steel.

We will all pay, but the cost will be spread out and hidden, so no one complains. The domestic steel industry, however, has complained- and it has the corporate and union power that scares politicians in Washington.

We hear a great deal of criticism of special interests and their stranglehold on Washington, but somehow when we prop up an entire industry that has failed to stay competitive, we're "protecting American workers." What we're really doing is taxing all Americans to keep some politically-favored corporations afloat.

If we're going to protect the steel industry with tariffs, why not other industries? Does every industry that competes with imported goods have the same claim for protection? We've propped up the auto industry in the past, now we're doing it for steel, so who should be next in line? Virtually every American industry competes with at least some imports.

What happened to the wonderful harmony that the World Trade Organization was supposed to bring to global trade? The European Union and other steel-producing nations are preparing to impose retaliatory sanctions to protect their own steel industries, setting the stage for a potential global trade war.

Wasn't the WTO supposed to prevent all this squabbling? Those of us who opposed U.S. membership in the WTO were scolded as being out of touch, unwilling to see the promise of a new global prosperity.

What we're seeing instead is increased hostility from our trading partners and threats of economic sanctions from our WTO masters. This is what happens when we let government-managed trade schemes pick winners and losers in the global trading game.

The truly deplorable thing about all of this is that the WTO is touted as promoting free trade!

It's always amazing to me that Washington gives so much lip service to free trade while never adhering to true free trade principles. Free trade really means freedom- the freedom to buy and sell goods and services free from government interference. Time and time again, history proves that tariffs don't work.

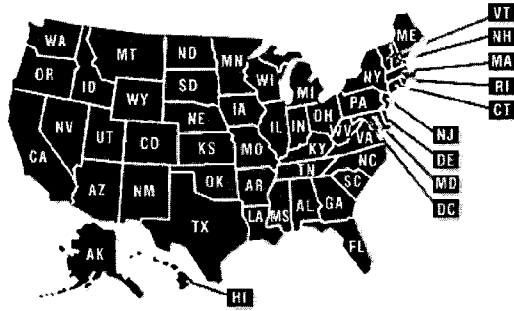
I sincerely hope that the administration's position on steel does not signal a willingness to resort to protectionism whenever special interests make demands in the future.

Congressman Ron Paul serves the 14th District of Texas.

PRESIDENT BUSH A TRADE WARRIOR?

In March 2002, the Bush Administration slapped a 30 percent tariff on imported steel. Who pays? American consumers, American companies that use steel and ultimately, all of us. The European Union has filed a complaint with the WTO and has threatened to retaliate with import duties on several high-value US exports, including our own steel, rice, citrus and even firearms. In response, senior United States trade officials said the U.S. would up the ante by introducing even more tariffs. Taxing all consumers for the benefit of a few steel unions -- that's a trade policy we might expect from Pat Buchanan or Dick Gephardt, but from George W. Bush? Crafty politics almost never equals good economics. Some "strategy."

RLC STATE ROUNDUP



Calif. RLC Launches "Oraclegate" Website

The California RLC, led by Chair Doug Lorenz in Sacramento, recently launched the website "www.DirtyDonations.com" to highlight egregious examples of California Governor Gray Davis' practice of trading favors for hard campaign cash. Since the Spring, the Davis Administration has been scrambling to conduct damage control after campaign contributions to Gray Davis' reelection campaign were linked to a six-year, \$95 million state contract with the Oracle Corporation.

Florida RLC Pushes Local Term Limits

RLC members Tom Walls, Philip Blumel and George Blumel are key organizers behind a referendum on the November 2002 ballot to limit the terms of Palm Beach County commissioners to eight years in office. "Referenda provide a great opportunity to combine principled libertarian stands with real world politics," says main organizer Philip Blumel. "This is the primary goal of the RLC." The Committee raised over \$35,000 from 109 unique contributors and has utilized over 75 volunteers, collecting over 55,000 signatures by June 1. The outlook for passage of the referendum is very hopeful; in 1992, a statewide referendum on term limits was supported by 74.1% of Palm Beach County voters. Support for the effort was provided by members of the RLC, Libertarian Party, the NRA and other grassroots groups as well as enthusiastic individuals who favored term limits. PACs and corporations did not participate. The Blumels, Walls and other RLCers used a similar coalition approach for a Palm Beach fundraiser for U.S. Rep. Ron Paul in 1998 — then the national chair of the RLC — and on Ward Connerly's 2000 referendum effort to end racial discrimination by the state of Florida. For more information, call Philip Blumel at (561) 254-8458 or see <http://voices.freehosting.net>.

Georgia RLC Chartered; Endorses Linder Over Barr

The RLC National Committee voted recently to grant charter status to the Georgia affiliate, headed up by Peter Krembs of Savannah. Krembs, who is also a Chatham County GOP Committeeman, leads an active group of hardcore libertarian Republicans dedicated to influencing Georgia state politics. The Georgia RLC recently attracted the attention of the press, including the Atlanta Constitution, in their endorsement of Rep. John Linder (R - Duluth) in the August 20 primary over Rep. Bob Barr (R - Marietta) in the Seventh Congressional District. Their endorsement was made in respectful disagreement with the National RLC, which has endorsed Rep. Barr in the same race; both endorsements still stand until the outcome of the August 20 primary.

Texas RLC Rocks State GOP Convention



Over the weekend of June 6, 7 and 8, the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas was well represented at the Texas GOP Convention in Dallas. This Texas Republican Convention is the largest State GOP event in the country. This year, over 10,000 guests were in attendance, with almost 500 delegates and visitors taking the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" at the Texas RLC's recruiting booth. The group also held a popular Friday evening reception with Rep. Ron Paul; TX RLC Field Director Don Zimmerman distributed stickers proclaiming "I'm a Ron Paul Republican!" throughout the convention.

Texas RLC 2002 Convention to Be Held August 10, 2002

The Texas RLC will be holding its 2002 Meeting/Convention on Saturday, August 10, 2002, at 1:00 PM at **Fat Tuesday's**, on the Riverwalk in San Antonio (The National RLC convention meeting will take place on the morning of August 10 at the Holiday Inn). Special guest speakers will be **Suzanna Gratia Hupp**, Republican State Representative and **Jerry Patterson**, Republican Candidate for Texas Land Commissioner. In addition, the group will be holding RLC state committee elections. If you'd like to run for a position on the state committee or just want help the RLC of Texas in any way, please email your plans and ideas to RLC Head Quarters at HQ@rlctexas.org. The state organization is inviting its membership to introduce themselves and explore ways in which the RLC of Texas can help out in local and state elections. Join online by visiting their Membership Section at www.rlctexas.org. There are more benefits to being a member than just voting privileges!

Jerry Patterson Wins GOP Nomination for Texas Land Commissioner

Jerry Patterson, Chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Texas, won the Republican Nomination for Texas Land Commissioner in the March 12, Texas Republican Primary. Patterson won 326,850 votes while his opponent, Kenn George received 251,198 votes, allowing Jerry to beat Kenn 57% to 43%. Patterson will face Democrat David Bernsen in the fall. Patterson issued the following statement in his campaign: "I intend to grow our party through the strength of our ideals and the common values we as Texans all share: a belief in individual liberty, self-determination and preserving our fundamental rights like private property and the ability to provide for and protect our families."

If you would like to help Jerry, please contact his campaign manager, James LeGrand in Austin at (512) 477-2427 or email: james@votepatterson.com

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