



CONSERVATIVE
PATRIOTS GROUP

The E-Newsletter

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★ Next Meeting: December 3, 7:00 pm, Wasilla Alaska Club Theatre ★

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Important Links

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What's My Motivation?

by Rick Bryant

Greetings my fellow Patriots. With the Borough Elections behind us, it is time for all of us to think about the 2010 Elections. Next years' elections could just possibly be the most important ones of our lives. I don't believe that is an overstatement. The speed at which our political leaders are moving to rob us of our freedoms and liberties is what has motivated me to join CPG. I can no longer be satisfied with phone calls and fax or e-mail messages to our "elected but non-representative" Representatives. I am so thankful for CPG giving all of us a positive outlet for our patriotic energy. We all loved the Tea Parties and learned that we are indeed many. The question is what are you going to do now? For CPG to grow and have a real influence, we each need to get off our backsides and get involved. What will you do? There is a prayer written by Helen Steiner Rice for our nation that really touched my heart. I hope it will touch yours and motivate you to do your part in this effort to take back America.

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

by Helen Steiner Rice

God bless America
and keep us safe and free.
Safe from all our enemies,
wherever they may be.
Teach us to walk humbly
and closer in Thy ways.
Give us faith and courage
and put purpose in our days,
Make each one of us aware
that each must do his part.

For in the individual
is where peace must have its start.
For a better world to live in
where all are safe and free
must start with faith and hope and love
deep in the heart of me.

Please come to the CPG General Membership Meeting on Thursday, December 3, at 7 pm at the Wasilla Alaska Club. You will be given the opportunity to get involved so that you too can motivate others in

this battle for our precious freedoms. I'll see you there!

Newsletter Editor: Margaret Sharpe
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Factoid

Annual Abortion Statistics

In 2005 (the most recent year for which there is reliable data), approximately 1.21 million abortions took place in the U.S. From 1973 through 2005, more than 45 million legal abortions have occurred in the U.S. At least 80% of all abortions are performed on unmarried women. Overall, the annual number of legal induced abortions in the United States increased gradually from 1973 until it peaked in 1990, and it generally declined thereafter. 43% of women obtaining abortions identify themselves as Protestant, and 27% identify themselves as Catholic. [Don't Christians set a good example!] The U.S. Congress has barred the use of federal Medicaid funds to pay for abortions, except when the woman's life would be endangered by a full-term pregnancy or in cases of rape or incest. Alaska is only one of 17 states that use public funds to pay for abortions.

Source: Abort73.com

No Constitutional Authority to Recall a Member of Congress from Office

Several individuals have requested CPG initiate a recall of Senator Mark Begich. While Alaska statutes allow for recall of a state legislature, as summarized below, there is no constitutional authority for a state or its electorate to recall a member of Congress. Only Congress can expel a member of Congress. We are stuck with Begich until the end of his term.

Under the United States Constitution and congressional practice, Members of Congress may have their services ended prior to the normal expiration of their constitutionally established terms of office by their resignation or death, or by action of the House of Congress in which they are a Member by way of an "expulsion," or by a finding that, in accepting a subsequent public office deemed to be "incompatible" with congressional office, the Member has vacated his congressional seat.

Under Article I, Section 5, clause 2, of the Constitution, a Member of Congress may be removed from office before the normal expiration of his or her constitutional term by an "expulsion" from the Senate (if a Senator) or from the House of Representatives (if a Representative) upon a formal vote on a resolution agreed to by two-thirds of the Members of the respective body present and voting. While there are no specific grounds for an expulsion expressed in the Constitution, expulsion actions in both the House and the Senate have generally concerned cases of perceived disloyalty to the United States, or the conviction of a criminal statutory offense that involved abuse of one's official position. Each House has broad authority as to the grounds, nature, timing, and procedure for an expulsion of a Member. However, policy considerations, as opposed to questions of authority, have appeared to restrain the Senate and House in the exercise of expulsion when it might be considered as infringing on the electoral process, such as when the electorate knew of the past misconduct under consideration and still elected or re-elected the Member.

As to removal by recall, the United States Constitution does not provide for nor authorize the recall of United States officers such as Senators, Representatives, or the President or Vice President, and thus no Member of Congress has ever been recalled in the history of the United States. The recall of Members was considered during the time of the drafting of the federal Constitution in 1787, but no such provisions were included in the final version sent to the States for ratification, and the specific drafting and ratifying debates indicate an express understanding of the Framers and ratifiers that no right or power to recall a Senator or Representative from the United States Congress exists under the Constitution. Although the Supreme Court has not needed to directly address the subject of recall of Members of Congress, other Supreme Court decisions, as well as the weight of other judicial and administrative decisions, rulings, and opinions, indicate that: (1) the right to remove a Member of Congress before the expiration of his or her constitutionally established term of office is one that resides exclusively in each House of Congress as established in the expulsion clause of the United States Constitution, and (2) the length and number of the terms of office for federal

officials, established and agreed upon by the States in the Constitution creating that Federal Government, may not be unilaterally changed by an individual State, such as through the enactment of a recall provision or a term limitation for a United States Senator or Representative. Under Supreme Court constitutional interpretation, since individual States never had the original sovereign authority to unilaterally change the terms and conditions of service of federal officials agreed to and established in the Constitution, such a power could not be exercised under the 10th amendment.

Source: Report of Congress, Recall of Legislatures and Removal of Members of Congress from Office; Updated March 20, 2003; Jack Maskell Legislative Attorney American Law Division; Order Code RL30016

The Constitutional Amendment Process

The authority to amend the Constitution of the United States is derived from Article V of the Constitution. The Constitution provides that an amendment may be proposed either by the Congress with a two-thirds majority vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the State legislatures. None of the 27 amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by constitutional convention. A proposed amendment becomes part of the Constitution as soon as it is ratified by three-fourths of the States. The President does not have a constitutional role in the amendment process, the joint resolution does not go to the White House for signature or approval. Short of conducting a constitutional convention, there is no passing an amendment without the consent of Congress. Holding a constitutional convention is risky because the entire Constitution could be rewritten. If you want to pass amendments that limit the power of the federal government, then we must elect conservatives to Congress that are willing to propose and pass such amendments through Congress so they can be approved by the States. However, at some point in time, holding a constitutional convention may be the only peaceable alternative available for the people to throw off the shackles of government tyranny and retake control of our country.

What Is A Conservative?

Being Conservative is a way of understanding life, society, and governance.

1. Conservatives believe in the written Rule of Law as expressed in the Constitution by the founding fathers and reject the idea of a living Constitution.
2. Conservatives believe that government is best which governs least.
3. Conservatives believe in the individual right to life, liberty, and property.
4. Conservatives believe in the dignity of the individual, that families are the basic units of society, and that anti-family policies should be ended.
5. Conservatives believe our freedoms and rights are God-given

natural rights, not given by the government.

6. Conservatives have compassion for the poor and oppose policies, such as socialism, that cause or extend poverty.
7. Conservatives believe in free and fair trade of goods and services.
8. Conservatives believe in a strong military and have a great respect for those who have put their lives in peril to protect others.
9. Conservatives believe in public policy that encourages advancement based solely on ability and achievement.
10. Conservatives believe English should be the common language for the United States.

Obamacare – Billions in New Taxes and Medicare Cuts

The cost of Obamacare is estimated at \$2.5 trillion if you discount the accounting gimmicks, and include the damaging new taxes and new regulations that will make health insurance more expensive for most Americans while reducing the quality of medical care.

Both Senate and House bills strip nearly a half-trillion dollars from Medicare, robbing seniors to expand Medicaid. At the same time, Medicare enrollment will increase dramatically as more baby boomers retire.

Both bills require nearly everyone to enroll in a "qualified" plan, either by getting it at work or purchasing it. The government will decide what benefits are covered. A family of four earning \$96,000 can expect to pay 19 percent of pretax income. It is predicted that 18 million people will choose the penalty – \$1,000 per individual House version, \$750 Senate – over paying the costlier premiums.

Most people with high-deductible plans will be legally required to switch to a government-designed comprehensive plan (Senate bill, p. 114).

Generous health plans (Cadillac Plans) get slapped with a 40-percent excise tax (Senate, p. 1,980).

U.S. Preventive Services Task Force is empowered to determine what preventive care you receive (p. 17).

Both bills slash funding for Medicare, mainly by reducing payments to hospitals and other institutions that care for patients. Soon Medicare will be health care in name only as no doctor or hospital will accept Medicare patients. The agenda of the current administration couldn't be clearer: "cut funding to the elderly and let them die."

Both the Senate and House bills reduce the number of uninsured by enrolling them in Medicaid. The House bill adds 21 million people to Medicaid, the Senate bill 15 million (p. 445-51).

The bills require insurers to take all comers, regardless of their health or preexisting conditions. That makes it necessary to force everyone to buy insurance (p. 41-47).

The bill shifts billions of dollars from caring for the elderly to funding a new social agenda. Slipped into the Senate bill's 2,074 pages are

"community transformation grants" to fund infrastructure improvements, wellness programs, or "reduce racial and ethnic disparities," including social, economic, and geographic determinants of health.

The Senate bill appears to make legal immigrants who have not been in the United States long enough to qualify for Medicaid immediately eligible for subsidies for private plans (p. 246).

Also the Senate bill assaults health savings accounts, or HSAs, which allow individuals to accumulate tax-free funds for future medical expenses when coupled with low-premium, high-deductible insurance. If a 22-year-old starts at his company today earning \$30,000 and health costs grow at 3%, by the time he retires he'll have paid out \$1.77 million in premiums, lower wages, out-of-pocket costs, and Medicare payroll tax. If that money were instead available via an HSA, you would be able to afford your own health care.

This is precisely what liberals fear because it would make health care less susceptible to political control. The Senate bill makes it impossible for people to choose better reform alternatives.

The polls show the majority of the public opposes the Democrat bills, President Obama's job approval is below 50% in the Gallup poll, and business and medical providers are increasingly horrified at what reform will do to consumers and patients. A recent online poll conducted by ABC Alaska News (Alaska's Super Station) finds Alaskans oppose health care reform by a ratio of 9 to 1. But so what? This is about putting government in charge of health care, whether Americans like it or not.

Sources: Docs4PatientCare.Org, Wall Street Journal, TaxFoundation.Org, ABC Alaska News

Alaska Military Changes Policy

By Mark Fish

For the first time in several years, I had the need to register a vehicle for use on our military bases. With license, military ID, and proof of insurance in hand, I checked in at the Anchorage National Guard armory ready to acquire my new base sticker when I was told of a policy change.

The military no longer provides vehicle stickers for access to the base. I inquired about the need for the change and was informed of a primary reason: The military is concerned that its members will be exposed to a greater risk if their vehicles are identified in the general population.

Clearly, someone in the chain of command recognizes that the enemies of our country have the capability of assaulting our military members and their families in their own communities.

History has shown, the guerrilla tactic of attacking a soldier's family, while they are away defending their country, is very effective in changing support for a war. This tactic was used by the French to drive a wedge between the British soldiers and English colonists during the French Indian war. The relationship between the two never recovered and soon led to those same English colonists declaring themselves Americans. In the Civil war, word of Sherman's attack on the civilian populations in the deep south led to desertion on the front

lines. Sherman's campaign was a decisive element in the south's defeat.

Fear that a radical will get these ideas has kept the discussion out of the public domain. In the aftermath of the Fort Hood incident, we can no longer risk people being unaware of the warning signs.

The war is here and the threat in Alaska is real.

If we are truly supporting our troops, we need to help insure the safety of our military members and their families. How can we do this? Be aware of our situation, be alert in recognizing when things are out of place, and be prepared to defend yourself and assist others.

We must insist that our young military members, ages 18 to 21, be given the full right of citizenship and allow them to purchase and carry handguns and ammunition for the protection of themselves and their young families. We must insist that our troops be under arms while on duty and be allowed to carry while off duty, especially in their living quarters.

Support our troops, by all means watch out for their families – especially those with deployed loved ones.

What's Going On With Senator Murkowski?

Did Senator Murkowski really vote against Judge David Hamilton's appointment to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals?

President Obama nominated Judge David Hamilton for the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Republican Senators went before the Senate to hold debate on his appointment based on his record. The Senate voted for cloture, or to end debate and move to a final vote. Ten Republicans joined the majority Democrats in voting for cloture, including our own Senator Lisa Murkowski. The Senate quickly voted to appoint him to the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals. Has Senator Murkowski once again shown she is a liberal? She simply does not seem capable of voting against liberal judges, such as Holder and Hamilton. She voted against Judge Sotomayor but in her letters to me, she praised her, stating she was impressed by Sotomayor's compelling story. Senator Murkowski did not commit on Sotomayor until Alaskans put pressure on her to vote no. Should my husband and I be appointed to positions based on our families compelling stories? If truth be known, I'd bet there are thousands of Americans that have compelling stories.

Let's look at Judge Hamilton's record, a supporter of abortion, a former ACORN fundraiser, who disallowed the use of the name of Jesus in prayers in the Indiana state legislature (although the prayers had been made for 188 sessions) as violative of the Establishment Clause, yet he allowed prayers that mentioned Allah. Judge Hamilton's reasoning was that "Allah" is a generic name. However, to Muslims, "Allah" is the "One true God." This is the individual our Senators allowed to be seated as a Judge on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals, without a battle. At a time when our country is fighting to keep its liberty, property, and freedoms, the very Constitution our country was founded on, our Senators should be taking every opportunity to fight the tyranny within.