



DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF CAMARILLO



Newsletter June 2011

General Meeting

Thursday June 2, 2011

6:30 for networking and snacks, 7:00pm meeting start
Bruce Feng, Camarillo City Council
Orchid Building, UFCW Hall
816 Camarillo Springs Road, Camarillo
Exit at the Camarillo Springs Rd. exit from the 101

It's Wednesday, May 25th. In a special election to replace Christopher Lee in New York's 26th Congressional District last night, Democrat Kathy Holchul pulled off what could be considered a stunning upset by defeating Republican Jane Corwin.

But is it such a stunner?

As you may remember, Christopher Lee resigned in disgrace from Congress last January after posting shirtless on a Craig's List Singles page as he was looking for, shall we say, some extracurricular activity. Former Congressman Lee is married, another Republican sex scandal.

Remember also that Lee was returned to office last November after winning 73% of the vote. Remember that New York's 26th previously had only elected three Democrats since before the Civil War. This is a solidly Republican District.

So what went wrong? Corwin was comfortably leading in the polls up until about a month before the election. She was well funded; Carl Rove's American Crossroads group spent \$3.4 million in this solidly Republican District. But Jane Corwin made a mistake: She said, on the record, that she fully backed Rep. Paul Ryan's Plan to end Medicare as we know it. Now there are a lot of retirees in New York's 26th, they are very conservative. I'd bet a lot of them were mouthing the Tea Party slogan's of 2009's Health Care Reform campaign to "Keep Your

Hands Off My Medicare!!!" When President Obama was trying to push through reforms to cut out waste and fraud in Medicare Republicans were all over him and led their base to believe that "Obamacare" was going to do away with Medicare.

I guess they didn't listen to their own words or their own constituents. Ryan's Plan would eliminate Medicare as we know it and replace it with a system of vouchers that seniors could go out and buy their own health insurance. Sure they want us to believe it wouldn't affect anyone who is now fifty-five or older, only those younger. But, correctly, a lot of us are thinking: "so you want to end Medicare for my 50 year old son or daughter?" We're also thinking that the Republicans want to take this step in order to cut \$68 billion from the current budget plan; but they want to eventually cut \$4 trillion from the budget, don't you think they'd be looking at the Medicare us greedy old geezers are sucking out of the system? We don't work, why should we get this "entitlement"?

Well, from the moment that Jane Corwin took a position defending and advocating Ryan's plan she sealed her fate. Her poll numbers suddenly took a plunge and ultimately, last night she lost – in a district that went 73% for the Republican in the last election, in a district that has only elected three other Democrats in 150 years.

Is there a lesson in this story? You bet there is! There's a huge lesson for us here. What local Republican Congressman gets elected and re-elected every two years just like clockwork, no matter who we run against him? Did Elton Gallegly support Paul Ryan's Plan? You bet he did; EVERY Republican Representative voted for that plan. Every one of them. Is there a large portion of conservative Republican retirees in Gallegly's district? You bet there are!

So here's the deal. Between now and the November 2012 General Election, we need to make sure that

every senior in this district knows that Elton Gallegly has voted for Paul Ryan's Plan. Elton Gallegly wants to take away Medicare as we know it. Elton Gallegly, who will never, ever have to worry about health care expenses given his twenty four years in Congress, THREW GRANNY UNDER THE BUS!!!

We need to write letters to the editor of all the local newspapers to let the people know that Gallegly wants to end Medicare. We need to take every opportunity that we can find to let the people know what he has done. He needs to be held accountable. People need to make other people aware of this guy's actions that will directly affect their pocketbooks.

Every one of us needs to promise ourselves that we will write a letter once a month to the Star, the L.A. Times, to the Acorn. It doesn't matter whether your letter gets published or not, if we all write some of the letters will "stick". We just need to make ourselves do it. Promise yourself that you will. Do it for me. Do it for yourself and your children and their children. Just do it.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER!
Janet Lindquist

When asked by a young patrol officer "Do you know you were speeding "?
This 83-year-old woman talked herself out of a ticket by stating . . .

"Yes, but I had to get there before I forgot where in the hell I was going."

**Democratic Club of Camarillo
Newsletter Editor Needed!**

The position will be open for 2012. The newsletter's purpose to keep the membership advised of what is going on within the club as well as local and national news.

If you are interested in taking on the role of the editor please contact Hardy Hayes. His phone number is 805-482-5119 or email at: hardyhayes@gmail.com.

November 2011 will be my last issue unless someone would like to take it over earlier. I am happy to assist with the transition if needed.

Carolyn Crandall

Letters to the Editor

Writing letters is a great way to vent your support and frustration regarding the current events of the day. Please continue to write letters and submit them to the newsletter editor for printing here. Not all of the letters get published by the main stream publishers, but someone reads them and if you can change one mind, then it is worth every word!

Letter to VCSTAR
May 19, 2011

Let's get it done!

Re: Lamar Smith May 19 "Securing border, enforcing laws serious business for Republicans".

Why doesn't Rep. Smith or Rep. Gallegly understand what Pres. Reagan understood when he gave amnesty to 3 million undocumented workers? 25 years later with Rep Gallegly not getting anywhere, we have 12 million to fit into a broken system.

In that 25 years the IRS and the SSA found out about computers, and since about 1991, undocumented workers could no longer file a tax return. Employers could not pay into Social Security, workman's comp., state disability for these workers, so we established an underground cash system. Green cards are impossible to get and these two reps. want us to believe these workers choose to work under this new system (since computers came into play).

So for about 20 years we have had this E-Verify System {without this title} in the works, just Rep. Smith and Rep. Gallegly don't seem to know it.

So let's get it done and get on to other important work. There are about 200 a month enlisted men and women in our military applying for citizenship, you two could certainly be of great help to them.

Sheila Smith

Part VII of Letters Home from Vietnam by Steve Crandall

A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall

Could this be the beginning of the monsoons or just one of those sporadic downpours? Our barracks were constructed a little like corn

cribs. The exterior walls had open slated wood siding backed with screen on the inside. The corrugated tin roofs had large overhanging eaves and midway between the first and second floor was another eave extension to protect the lower level from the downpours. But the large overhanging eaves did nothing to protect your "stuff" from the horizontal rains. The rain came through one side of the barracks and out the other side. Trying to stay dry was not an option.

May 10, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Today was my day off and the BX was closed so I went to the library and some then got a haircut. I later went to the China Beach USO with some of the guys and messed around there for awhile. It really poured rain. I've never seen any rain come down that bad. The rain blew through the barracks and soaked my bed on the other side. Now everything is wet and humid. I was supposed to get \$224 for the month but only got \$155. I found out I won't start drawing my Sgt's pay until August. They'll owe me \$1,000 in back pay. I can't stand this service every time you turn around you have to fight them. My checks also aren't going to the bank like they are supposed to either.

Again I find myself longing to return to the "World". Maybe it's the boredom of the constant rain that puts me into this state of mind. Also I'm gaining a thorough mistrust of the service between the lies we were told about creating a diversion to save POWs all while we were invading Cambodia and the incapability of getting my pay right.

May 11, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I listen to the radio every night when I get back to the barracks. When they play the songs from '65 through '68 it really makes me homesick for the old times. I'm sending away to PACEX to order my reel to reel tape deck. I also ordered an 8-track recorder to send home. Boy, are they sneaky about setting the time bombs we load. At Cam Ranh they set all the bombs for the same time delay. Here at Danang all twelve bombs are set to go off at different times with one bomb set to explode right away as a spotter bomb. Well it's 2:00 am and I have to

get up early to go argue with the guys at finance.

At some point in time the war started to create a kind of numbness in my mind. The distant rockets were no longer a threat and I find I can even sleep through the sound of the sirens.

May 13, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I read in the Stars and Stripes that Danang got hit pretty hard last Friday night by rockets. They must have hit downtown or the other side of the base because I slept right through it. It's hard to believe it, but you start getting used to hearing the rockets going off and if they don't have that crack sound you know they are far away enough that you are safe.

The rain and the heat continue to fuel the boredom and the longing for home. The boredom wears on my mind and makes holding any kind of thought for any length of time difficult.

May 15, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I usually manage to get the Stars and Stripes every couple days or so. They are always behind what is happening in the States but usually cover just about everything that is happening. I've been watching the temperature in LA and it seems to jump around a lot. Here it always seems to stay the same hot and wet. When I get back home I would like to go out and just lay in the grass. All we have here is jungle foliage. No grass, anyway not like home. It's been raining here for the past week. You can get sun burned up to 3PM then the storm starts rolling in. A thousand thoughts run through my mind during the day but when it comes to writing a letter I seem to forget about all of them.

Getting packages from home always cheer up my spirit. And I found a place to listen to real stereo music. No matter how many transistors your radio might have it is still a transistor radio. I also started conversations with the pilots and found that we all have something to share.

May 18, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

I received the care package yesterday. Thanks. I made an appointment to go tape some music at 6:00 tonight at the tape center. A lot of the tapes are in pretty bad shape but I managed to find a few good ones. It's nice to listen to stereo music instead of the transistor radio. I figured I could order my speakers and turntable this month. We were hit again last night and again this morning. But the explosions sounded faint because of the sound of the rain. I was talking to a pilot the other night and he was asking some questions about the bombs loaded on his plane. Then all of a sudden he asked me where I was from. He is from San Francisco but was stationed at San Bernardino. He said he figured I was from California.

I was surprised how quickly I could move when the rockets started coming in but at the same time I felt like everything was moving in slow motion. Watching the rockets burst as they hit the ground reminded me of fireworks on the 4th. All while the danger is eminent there also seems to be a certain level of euphoria. I don't know how else to describe it.

May 21, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

We were hit again tonight while I was working on the flightline. I saw the first rocket hit and jumped under the wing tank of a plane. From there I could see the other three rockets hit the runway and another hit in the area of the A-1 Skyraiders (prop jobs) and may have gotten one of them. When the rockets hit they send out a canopy of red sparks from the shrapnel. They were about 100 yards away from where I was. I thought you might hear something about the attack so I thought I would write to let you know I am ok.

I came close to being a victim of friendly fire but couldn't tell my parents about it. Rocket attacks are one thing but it's another when the VC actually make it on base. Everyone's senses are keyed up and we are all on full alert. It was pitch dark and I was running back to the shop to get more safety pins for a bomb load. I rounded a corner of one of the revetments and came face to face with a 12 gauge shotgun leveled at my chest. It was at that moment that, again time stood still. I can only say I was very lucky that

the Air Policeman did not have a quick trigger finger.

May 23, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

Sorry I haven't written more often in the last few weeks. It seems like I start a letter but can't finish it. I also try to read but find myself picking up the book and putting it down. I don't know what the problem is. They caught three VC on base last night, right in the area where we were loading bombs. They call them sappers because they set satchel charges in and around areas that will do the most damage. Already starting to think about R&R and where I'm going to go, thinking about Australia. The rash between my legs is finally going away but now it's breaking out under my arms. If we could just get some cool weather maybe we could stop sweating. Nothing seems to help it go away. If you know of something better than baby powder could you send it?

Will there ever be an end to this rain and heat? I'm tired of the constant sweating and rashes that come with it. I'm also tired of the lifers. Maybe it is that they, being lifers, become an object of my growing distaste for the military. Either way I'm not going to let them get the best of me.

May 27, 1970 Danang, VN

Dear Mom and Dad,

We had a pretty good rain storm here again today. It looked like tornado weather. A section of the sky is full of dirt, a brown color. It knocked trees over. The storms come up all of a sudden. It can be clear and sunny until the storm hits. I've changed my attitude towards lifers. They can't do or say anything that will bother me anymore. I just smile and keep on doing what I do. What can they do, send me to Vietnam? I'm doing fine.

RIDESHARE TO CLUB MEETINGS

Are you, or do you know a member who has given up attending the first Thursday Club meetings at the Orchid Room because you don't want to drive at night?

A possible alternative is to park your vehicle in a designated, lighted parking lot like Ralph's or Vons or the Leisure Village shopping center and share a ride with another member going to the meeting.

This entails volunteer drivers and locations for the pickups that are convenient for both drivers and riders.

If you would like a ride or if you can provide one, please call Phyllis at (805) 504-3749 and she will try to get you connected.

We want everyone back at our meetings!



Democratic Club of Camarillo
Invites you to join us at
Political Exchanges

Monthly Meeting
Every Last Thursday @ 1 p.m.

Ventura County Democratic Headquarters
1760 Ventura Boulevard, Old Town, Camarillo
Facilitator: Rose Anne D. Savo - 805-491-3387

We will be - Sharing political books and magazine articles, Meeting and talking with other Democrats, and Educating ourselves about our government.

Please Join Us!

Hello everyone,

As the Mississippi River flooding sets new records, I can't help but wonder if we are setting ourselves up for a smaller scale, but similarly destructive situation. Will channelizing the Conejo Creek floodplain with a proposed flood control By-Pass Channel actually put 2500 homes and 100+ acres of industrial development at risk in the future?

As climate weirding sets new records, how smart are we to try and safeguard our Camarillo Sanitation Facility with a By-Pass Channel flood control system...and then alongside, at the same time, construct a large housing development of 10,000 residents (a 15% increase in Camarillo's population) along with more commercial, retail and industrial offices?

As New Orleans and the Sacramento Delta has certainly illustrated, levees and by-pass channels degenerate over time. The costs of upkeep, maintenance and operation of these flood control projects are always significant and ongoing.

It is being proposed that the Conejo Creek Properties residents will bear these costs. But as we have seen with landscaping costs and HOA fees, maintaining a By-Pass Channel and two lakes will only become increasingly more expensive with time. To save money, what compromises in flood control maintenance might be considered, that would then compromise the effectiveness of the flood control system going forward?

And if the By-Pass Channel is overwhelmed and these 2500 houses are flooded...who always ends-up paying?

Is a development twice the size of Village at the Park (with an additional 100+ acres of industrial) built along a By-Pass Channel meant to control the flooding that regularly occurs in this area, really the best solution to this situation?

A 45 day public comment period will accompany the presentation of the Conejo Creek Properties draft Environmental Impact Report to the City this fall. Your written and spoken (at the public hearing) comments will become part of the public record at that point in time.

"The People are The City" is Camarillo's motto. Your thoughts and concerns will help to shape the future of our community.

Thank-you,

Merrill Birge

"If by a "Liberal" they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people — their health, their housing, their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, and their civil liberties — someone who believes we can break through the stalemate and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a "Liberal," then I'm proud to say I'm a "Liberal."

John F. Kennedy, 1960

Ultra-Orthodox Jewish Paper Removes Secretary Of State From Iconic War Room Photo

5-9-11 Talking Points Memo

Now you see her, now you don't.

A Hasidic newspaper published a doctored version of the now-famous photo of President Obama and top advisors in the situation room as the bin Laden raid unfolded, editing Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and another woman out of the image entirely.

The newspaper, Der Tzitung, erased both Clinton and Director of Counterterrorism Audrey Tomason from the iconic image, leaving two conspicuous blank spaces in the photo that ran in their Friday edition last week. According to [Jewish Week](#), the Brooklyn-based paper removed the two women because of an editorial policy stipulating that they "will not intentionally include any images of women in the paper because it could be considered sexually suggestive."

Ron Paul's take on FEMA

"I think that's the way a free society works and that's what the Constitution mandates. I'm on the Gulf Coast, I have a house on the beach or

had one recently, and I don't think that somebody in New York or New Hampshire or Iowa has to pay for my flood on the Gulf Coast...Insurance is an old fashioned way of doing it. Buy insurance. If the insurance [company] won't sell it to you, it means it's too dangerous. If it's too dangerous, why dump the responsibility on the taxpayer? You know it doesn't make economic sense, it doesn't make good moral sense, it doesn't make Constitutional sense".

The Republican goal is to de-brand, defund and demoralize.



10 reasons Sarah Palin will never be president (by Alan Grayson)

- (1) Palin doesn't know who is buried in Grant's Tomb.
- (2) Palin couldn't tell you when the War of 1812 was fought.
- (3) Palin has no clue about the color of George Washington's white horse.
- (4) Palin wonders on what day Latinos celebrate the Cinco de Mayo.
- (5) Palin isn't sure what weighs more, a pound of bricks or a pound of feathers.
- (6) Palin has no idea in what month the October Revolution took place.

(7) Palin is baffled by the question of who came up with the Monroe Doctrine.

(8) Palin would very much like to know who fought in the French and Indian War.

(9) Palin is puzzled as to who wrote *"The Autobiography of Malcolm X."*

(10) Palin is at a loss regarding what were JFK's initials.

Florida State University sells its integrity for \$1.5 million

May 10, 2011 PZ Myers

That's a bargain price for throwing a reputation down the drain. FSU has turned over some hiring decisions to a billionaire ideologue.

A conservative billionaire who opposes government meddling in business has bought a rare commodity: the right to interfere in faculty hiring at a publicly funded university.

A foundation bankrolled by Libertarian businessman Charles G. Koch has pledged \$1.5 million for positions in Florida State University's economics department. In return, his representatives get to screen and sign off on any hires for a new program promoting "political economy and free enterprise."

Traditionally, university donors have little official input into choosing the person who fills a chair they've funded. The power of university faculty and officials to choose professors without outside interference is considered a hallmark of academic freedom.

Under the agreement with the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, however, faculty only retain the illusion of control. The contract specifies that an advisory committee appointed by Koch decides which candidates should be

considered. The foundation can also withdraw its funding if it's not happy with the faculty's choice or if the hires don't meet "objectives" set by Koch during annual evaluations.

This deal has been in place for a couple of years, and Koch has already meddled in at least one hiring decision, rejecting 60% of the candidates that the faculty favored. If I were a faculty member who found my choice of colleagues dictated by Koch (or Soros, or Gates, or any similar filthy rich dilettante), I'd be a bit peevisish, and I don't think the golden candidate would get much respect from his peers. On the other hand, if I were applying for a job and was rejected because I didn't fit the ideology of the Koch brothers, I'd feel darned good and also be well satisfied that I wasn't going to be affiliated with such a ~~cheap brotzel~~ university.

On the third hand, if I were a graduate of the econ department of FSU, I'd be extremely embarrassed about my degree at this point.

David Rasmussen, the dean of the college of social sciences, is trying to defend the deal by saying they needed the money, an argument with which I can sympathize, since every university is struggling right now. But selling your principles of academic freedom undercuts your ability to support independent thought, and means you aren't really a university anymore. You're a corporate propaganda arm. Other universities, more respectable universities, have a clear understanding of that idea.

Most universities, including the University of Florida, have policies that strictly limit donors' influence over the use of their gifts. Yale University once returned \$20 million when the donor demanded veto power over appointments, saying such control was "unheard of."

Say, Michael Ruse is at Florida State — will he condemn this policy, or will he make the same weasely excuses for it that he does for creationism?

The Real Charles Koch



They sin the most who sin by silence in the face of surmountable adversity. Dante

From Change.org

5-12-11

Alaina Giordano was diagnosed with breast cancer three and half years ago. That was bad.

This is worse: On April 25th, a judge in North Carolina used Alaina's cancer as a key reason to transfer custody of her 5-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter to her ex-husband (a man Alaina describes as "abusive" and who lives more than 700 miles away).

This is happening even though Alaina says her kids "know that I have cancer, they know that I go for treatment once a month now, they know that it's stable. They know me as mom, and it doesn't affect our daily life."

She has just two weeks to appeal, and her hope is that a huge outcry from the public and local elected officials can help reverse the decision.

Thankfully, that outcry is growing quickly. A petition started by Alaina's sister Lauren has more than 7,000 signatures, Alaina was interviewed on *Good Morning America* and the *Today Show*, and media throughout North Carolina and the U.S. are now covering the injustice.

But time is short, and the wrong outcome here sets a dangerous precedent for mothers and fathers with cancer or other serious diseases.

I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my

privilege to do for it whatever I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work the more I live.

George Bernard Shaw

Christine Pelosi, author and Democratic activist

5-13-11 from Politico's Arena

The sad irony of the Ensign affair is that all the major figures (Ensign, Coburn, Santorum) are ardent DOMA (Defense of Marriage Act) supporters, yet gay and lesbian spouses did not endanger John Ensign's marriage - he did that all on his own.

The GOP's hopelessly hypocritical opposition to marriage equality on the grounds that homosexual unions endanger heterosexual marriages is once again disproved, demonstrating that while failure to live up to one's own standards is no reason to abandon them, it should be a reason to stop imposing them on others. Ensign's demise should be DOMA's as well.

The quote that will end Mitt's campaign

"I am not unaware of my opponent's considerable record in the area of civil rights, or the commitment of Massachusetts voters to the principle of equality for all Americans. For some voters it might be enough for me to simply match my opponent's record in this area. But I believe we can and must do better. If we are to achieve the goals we share, we must make equality for gays and lesbians a mainstream concern. My opponent cannot do this. I can and will."

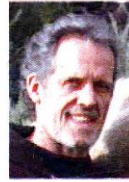
Mitt Romney, 1994

And, of course, the "opponent" he refers to was Ted Kennedy. I'm not sure the Republicans are ready to nominate a candidate that once said he would fight harder for gay rights than Ted.

A word from our Sponsors!



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Member-at-large	Jack Phillips	(805) 504-3749
Member-at-large	Carol Bley	(805) 491-3601

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