

LIBERTY PLEDGE

newsletter

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Libertarian Party Mourns the loss of Beloved Candidate, Author, and Friend

Harry Browne Dies at Age 72

Former Libertarian Party Presidential Candidate, noted scholar, and investment advisor Harry Browne died at his home in Franklin, TN on the night of March 1, 2006, after a long battle with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

A well-known inspirational speaker and writer, Harry was the author of 12 books that sold more than 2 million copies. In 1996 and 2000, he was the Libertarian Party's candidate for President of the United States, with popular vote totals of 485,798 and 384,431 respectively.

Harry was the founder of DownsizeDC.org, a non-profit group dedicated to reducing the size of government and forcing governmental institutions into compliance with the Constitution. He authored several popular books on the libertarian movement and philosophy including, [Why Government Doesn't Work](#) and [The Great Libertarian Offer](#). Harry's most recent publication, [Liberty A-Z: 872 Libertarian Sound bites You Can Use Right Now](#) was published in 2004. In addition to these works on Libertarianism, Harry wrote investment advice books including [You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis](#) and [Fail-Safe Investing](#) and created much controversy in the financial world as well as the political.

Additionally, Harry and co-founder of Downsize D.C., Jim Babka, hosted weekly syndicated radio broadcasts called the "Harry Browne Show."

During Harry Browne's campaigns, he made appearances in almost every state and was credited with over 1,000 media appearances. He was often praised by the media, and won the endorsements of multiple talk-show hosts and journalists.

"Harry Browne's actions and rhetoric were inspirational," stated Sam New, acting Director of Communications for the Libertarian Party. "Through Harry's writings, I began to understand what Libertarianism is. I trace the beginning of my involvement with the Party to him. His contributions to the Party will forever

be evident. Harry will truly be missed by many supporters, followers, and friends around the world."

For anyone who wishes to share their thoughts and remembrances of Harry, the LP has established a page in its blog for reader comments entitled "Honoring Harry Browne." The following is a selection:



"Harry brought a lot of people to liberty. His work will live on. Rest in Peace, Harry." -Trevor Southerland

"...I've considered him an ideological grandfather of sorts. He was one of the best elder statesmen we never had, and he will be missed. Thank you, Harry, for all you did for so many of us. You were always hopeful, even when you weren't optimistic, about the prospects for liberty in our lifetimes. You were always cordial, even with your political adversaries. . . ." -Chris in NJ

"...All of our presidential candidates since our founding in 1972 sacrificed much in the way of time, energy, and wealth in their campaigns. Harry did it twice, and probably

did more to integrate his campaigns with the LP, than probably any of the others. There is no doubt that his professionally-managed campaigning was a prime factor in the unparalleled growth of the LP from 1994 through 2000. Harry was a great man and a true hero in the Libertarian movement. We are poorer today by one fine individual. . . ." -Marc Montoni

"Harry Browne is the reason that I am a Libertarian. I believe Harry has done more than anyone to put the Libertarian Party on the political map. We can't thank him enough." - Jim Thompson

"Harry Browne to me was the leading human on this planet. He was deep but simple, logical but artistic, and a philosopher that promulgated the simplicity of life when based on the truth of the biological needs of humanity. . . ." -Gil Magno

Case Economist Running for Governor of Ohio

Bill Peirce, a Professor Emeritus of Economics at Case Western Reserve University, is running for Governor of Ohio and has been unanimously endorsed by the Libertarian Party of Ohio. A graduate of Princeton and Harvard Universities, Peirce is the author of several books including, Bureaucratic Failure and Public Expenditure and The Economics of the Energy Industries. He has been a Professor at Case since 1966 and Chaired the Economics Department for 6 years.

Dr. Peirce's campaign has been hailed as one of the best and most organized third party efforts in the 2006 election cycle. With Ohio Democrats suffering from their usual disorganization and a stale platform and with the Ohio Republicans suffering from several corruption scandals and a penchant for big government, the door is open for a strong Libertarian showing in 2006.

On his website, Dr. Peirce lays out his three point plan for immediate improvement in Ohio's economy. He argues that his plan of lifting roadblocks to growth, protecting private property, and improving education will lead to "better jobs, better incomes, and better lives for all Ohioans."

A Libertarian Peirce administration would eliminate the new Commercial Activities Tax and the Estate tax, cut the income tax, deliver tax cuts recently planned by the Ohio State Legislature and reduce spending as a result of new customer-driven approach in state management. Furthermore, the Peirce plan would reduce taxes and regulations on small business, allowing them freedom to prosper.

In education, the candidate would implement a grant system similar to Pell Grants in order to increase parental choice in education and increase parity between public and private schools. Additionally, Dr. Peirce would fight Eminent Domain abuse and strive for a constitutional limit on its use.

Eliminating the current system of property-tax in Ohio is another of Peirce's plans. He wants to exempt all homes and other buildings and improvements from the property tax. He claims that it is possible to change the landscape of Ohio by eliminating slums, encouraging new development, and curbing suburban sprawl. Dr. Peirce would make taxation practices fairer by abolishing tax incentives, targeting specific projects chosen by politicians, and allowing market forces to determine where new building should occur. In total, Peirce's plan would prevent owners of eye-sore properties and empty lots from accruing tax benefits while preventing those who invest in their properties from being penalized.

Libertarian to Take on Schwarzenegger

Art Olivier, former Libertarian candidate for Vice President on Harry Browne's 2000 Presidential ticket, is running for Governor of California. Mayor of Bellflower, a Los Angeles suburb of 77,000 residents, from 1998 to 1999, Mr. Olivier has played an active role in his local government for many years. As Mayor, Mr. Olivier's successes included privatizing many of the city's beautification and maintenance projects, resisting Eminent Domain, and eliminating a citywide lighting tax assessment.

The Libertarian candidate hopes that Schwarzenegger's former supporters will flock to his campaign as "the Governator" has abandoned fiscal restraint and the California budget has grown. A serious problem in California for many years, Olivier would work to reduce the cost and size of California's government.

On his website, Olivier lays out his platform and positions on major election issues. He advocates a few common sense adjustments in order to achieve major success. In order to control government spending, an Olivier administration would reform the employee pension system and California's education system. Additionally, Olivier would battle corruption and eliminate California's system of "no-bid" contracts especially with regard to energy companies. In education, parents should have greater freedom of choice and bureaucratic obstacles to the building of schools should be eliminated.

"Schwarzenegger's spending is 30% higher than Davis' was three years ago. On top of that he wants to add billions of dollars worth of bonds to the existing budget which would be a major burden on the deficit in years to come. Schwarzenegger has given up on any kind of fiscally responsible policies," said Olivier in a phone interview with the Libertarian Party National Committee.

Help the LP Save Valuable Resources!

Every month we must spend time preparing mailings and making phone calls to lapsed pledgers that we must contact to update their information.

Pledgers can do their part in conserving valuable party resources by checking their monthly statements and alerting the staff to any necessary changes in regard to account information

To contact Sara Neugroschel with your updated information, just call 202-333-0008 ext. 221 or via email at pledge@lp.org

U.S. House Approves Patriot Act Renewal

In a blow to civil liberties, the House of Representatives approved the renewal of the USA Patriot Act on March 7th paving the way for President Bush's signature just two days later. The House's final vote was 280 to 138, renewing sixteen provisions that were set to expire on March 10.

The Patriot Act easily passed the Senate as well since many Senators were concerned about appearing lax in the fight against terror. Sen. Jon Kyl, like many Republicans, voted to renew the Patriot Act. The senator expressed relief by saying "At last the Patriot Act will be reauthorized. And it's about time. It will make America more secure, and that's the bottom line."

Some congressmen were not fooled nor afraid to risk being perceived as soft on terrorism. Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio) was strongly opposed to the Patriot Act renewal. Kucinich explained, "I rise in strong opposition to this legislation because it offers only a superficial form that will have little if any impact on safeguarding our civil liberties." He added, "Congress has failed to do its job as a coequal branch of government. The administration's attack on democracy has to be reigned in."

The renewed Patriot Act has several important changes over the previous legislation. First, recipients of National Security Letters, which allow the FBI to review information on suspected terror suspects in secret, now have the right to challenge them in court. Additionally, recipients of subpoenas in terror investigations may challenge a requirement that they refrain from telling anyone. Finally, the new Patriot Act is attempting to reign in the growing methamphetamine epidemic by restricting sales of over the counter cold and allergy medicines which contain pseudoephedrine, a key ingredient in the drug. Consumers of the cold medicine will now have to show identification and sign log books to obtain such common medicines as Sudafed.

Along with the new additions to the Patriot Act, many of the former provisions have been renewed. Federal officials may still intercept wire, spoken and electronic communications relating to terrorism and computer fraud. Most worryingly, however is the provision that allows federal officials to set up roving "John Doe" wiretaps. This would allow any federal official to tap a telephone or computer that they believe a suspected spy or terrorist might use.

LP Chair Michael Dixon Appears on "Your World with Neil Cavuto"

Libertarian Party National Committee Chair, Michael Dixon, made an appearance on the Fox News political talk show, "Your World with Neil Cavuto." The recent show called "New American Revolution" featured Dixon and Russell Verney, former Reform Party Chairman and Ross Perot's former right hand man, discussing the recent Republican drop in the polls and the opportunities this creates for third-party candidates.

Cavuto's feature on third parties came on the heels of a comment by former Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan on the opportunity that third parties have to make a real difference given the ideological divide of the two major parties. Greenspan predicted that a well-financed third party candidate would make an appearance in the 2008 elections

Cavuto argued that it was possible for a third-party to put in a good showing at the next presidential election given the current political climate. A well financed or recognized person, possibly a defector from the two major parties would definitely garner public and media support.

Dixon commented that a candidate with name or face recognition who could gain the media's attention would make a significant impact in the next election.

"The benefit that an independent candidate or third party candidate has going in is that they can select the best and brightest from both parties . . . they are not restricted to a dogma that they have got to have somebody way to the right or way to the left in there. They can pick a person who they believe matches the philosophy for how government should operate," said Verney.

Dixon argued, "The primary process of the two older parties is driving them farther and farther to the extreme . . . they are abandoning their more moderate and their younger and their more innovative candidates. Obviously if one of those people were to step forward and look to an existing organization like ours, the Libertarian Party. . . they could achieve an awful lot of traction, an awful lot of support from the voters who are being left out of this entire equation."

**"Congress has failed to do its job as a coequal branch of government. The administration's attack on democracy has to be reigned in."
-Rep. Dennis Kucinich**

Georgia Pledger Brings Together Libertarians with Two Innovative Websites

Liberty pledge club member since April 2005, Mark Augustyn of Georgia, is the founder of www.ThinkLibertarian.com and www.LibertarianYellowPages.com. ThinkLibertarian is an excellent forum for libertarian news and information with links to candidate information, libertarian blogs, news articles, and even a store through which you can purchase bumper stickers, hats, magnets, and other apparel. LibertarianYellowPages is a new and innovative site that brings together Libertarians from across the country. Designed to connect Libertarian professionals and business people with their customers, the site is aimed at strengthening economic ties between Libertarians in order to facilitate greater political cohesion.

When did you join the Libertarian Party, what person, book, or event inspired you or first taught you about the party?

I've been a card carrying member for about the last 5 years and I would certainly have to give some credit to Neal Boortz for making me curious about the party after I moved to Atlanta back in 1996. This curiosity lead me to books by Browne, Boaz, Ruwart and others, along with various websites. All of this reading confirmed that my personal beliefs were best reflected politically by the principles that guide the Libertarian Party and I have not looked back since.

How did you become more directly involved in the Georgia LP?

My involvement with the Georgia LP has been a result of my efforts with thinkLIBERTARIAN.com and The Libertarian Yellow Pages; I started both websites in advance of the 2004 National Libertarian Convention that was held here in Atlanta. Since 2004, I have gradually become more involved with the Georgia LP; I was recently named the Campus Coordinator, I am in the LP office weekly helping our executive director Trevor Southerland get done whatever needs to get done, and I am volunteering or my friend Dave Flanagan who is running for the Georgia House of Representatives, District 83.

What do you think is the most important thing Libertarians can do to improve the profile and success of the party?

The most important thing a Libertarian can do to . . . is to DO SOMETHING; donate some free time to a candidate, volunteer at your local LP office, donate money, start a website, do anything so long as it is more than you were doing before. The reality is that as a party, we are still an underdog and this requires us to work that much harder to make our voices heard. Saying that you are a Libertarian is great; actually doing something about it is better especially in an election year.

What do you think is the most important thing for the party to accomplish in the coming election year?

That is a tough question to answer since there are so many different things to accomplish. I believe that the most important thing to accomplish this year is to view campaigns as more than just campaigns, but as wonderful excuses for marketing, promoting and selling the Libertarian Party and it's principles to as many people as possible. For example, when collecting ballot signatures for Dave Flanagan's campaign, we are leaving thinkLIBERTARIAN.com flyers with everyone who signs the petition; along with information about the site and party, on the back of each flyer we have reprinted the World's Smallest Political Quiz. As his campaign moves along, we are going to take every opportunity we can to enlighten, educate and inform people about the Libertarian Party so that regardless of whether he wins or loses, we will know that our efforts will have an impact that extends beyond just this election cycle.

When did you first come up with the idea for www.thinklibertarian.com? What is the website's main goal or purpose?

I came up with the idea for www.thinklibertarian.com in the summer of 2003 as I knew that the national convention was coming to Atlanta in 2004 and I wanted to be a part of it in some way. My goal at the time was simply to offer Libertarian merchandise that was a bit more edgy and thought provoking than what I was finding myself. As the site has evolved and grown since being launched in May of 2004, I now look at the site as a tool to help market and promote the party to as many people as possible. The site's name itself speaks a lot to my humble attitude about promoting the party; I do not ask people to become Libertarian, I do not ask people to vote Libertarian, I only ask and hope that they take a moment or two to 'think' about and consider it as a viable, common sense alternative to the two parties currently in charge.

When did you come up with the idea for the Libertarian Yellow pages?

The idea for the Libertarian Yellow Pages happened in early 2004 sort of by accident. I needed a tree cut down in my yard and a Libertarian friend gave me the number of a tree guy who he knew to be a Libertarian. I had a post it on my bulletin board for about a month that simply had a number on it and the words 'libertarian tree guy'. I looked at the post it one day and wondered whether www.libertarianyellowpages.com was still available as a domain; it was so I registered it and debuted the site along with thinkLIBERTARIAN.com at the national convention. The goal has always remained the same: provide a place where Libertarians might be able to find and do business with other Libertarians. To get a listing on the site is easy: just click on the 'registration' tab, fill out the form and for \$8 your listing goes up on the site.