

LIBERTY PLEDGE

NEWSLETTER

Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ♦ 2600 Virginia Ave, NW, Suite 200 ♦ Washington, DC 20037 ♦ Phone: (202) 333-0008 ♦ Fax: (202) 333-0072

www.LP.org

April 2014

The military-industrial complex and their political allies endanger American servicemen

By Jeffrey Carson, Libertarian Party candidate for Congress, Virginia 8th District

From the *Daily Caller*

Published on April 16, 2014

Just across the Potomac River from Washington, DC lies the heart of America's military-industrial complex. In the last decade Northern Virginia has become home to the nation's powerful defense contractors, from Boeing to Booz Allen Hamilton. These titans of the defense industry produce weapons and equipment, and provide services, that our politicians then purchase for our troops. Though they certainly make a profit, these contractors promise their chief motivation is patriotism — ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the tools they need to be safe and effective on the battlefield.

My name is Jeffrey Carson, and I'm the Libertarian Party's candidate for Congress in Virginia's 8th District. I'm a former U.S. Army Captain with four years of service, coming from a long military tradition that includes my brother, both my parents and most of my extended family. I know what our troops need to complete their mission while staying safe. Unfortunately, I also know how Washington politicians on both sides of the aisle betray our soldiers through sweetheart deals with defense contractors, putting our warfighters at needless risk of death or serious injury.

The United States spends more money on defense than the next ten military powers combined. But the weapons and equipment put in the hands of American soldiers are often substandard, unnecessary, or just plain dangerous. Lawmakers from both the left and the right push these shoddy and overpriced defense contracts through Congress, and contractors return the favor through campaign donations in the next election cycle.

These perilous procurements cut across every branch of the armed services, affecting everything from mundane materials to high-tech boondoggles. Consider the debacle of the "universal camouflage pattern," the Pentagon's program that saw seven different camouflage uniforms introduced across the services in less than a decade. The \$5 billion price tag should have purchase[d] increased survivability for American troops

"The United States spends more money on defense than the next ten military powers combined. But the weapons and equipment put in the hands of American soldiers are often substandard, unnecessary, or just plain dangerous."

by keeping them concealed in different types of terrain.

But many of the patterns just didn't work — especially in some of the most dangerous combat environments. "It definitely makes a difference in Afghanistan," one Army soldier explained. "Afghanistan is primarily brown, and there's no brown in the universal pattern." From 2005 until at least 2009, soldiers stuck out like sore thumbs while wearing the uniform in combat zones.

The Pentagon blamed the fiasco on poor coordination between the services, but angry soldiers held their own opinions. "People in the military associate certain projects with nepotism, a Good Old Boy network," Army Sergeant Matt Pelak told the Daily Beast in 2012. "Maybe someone's brother owns the company that designs the uniforms, or he's on the Defense Appropriations Committee."

The military is now returning to similar patterns they retired in 2002, at a projected cost of another \$4 billion. The \$9 billion spent since that time made our soldiers less safe and their missions more difficult, but enriched contractors and politicians alike.

Major "next-generation" defense programs can be many times more wasteful — and more dangerous for our troops when they go wrong. The Navy's Littoral Combat Ship is billed as a 21st-century stealth vessel, designed for coastal combat and expected to replace nearly a third of the current U.S. surface fleet. But leaving aside the program's exorbitant cost (\$40 billion, more than double the initial estimates and rising), numerous studies question the ship's ability to even

continued on page 4

Libertarian Party in the News

New poll shows Americans often in agreement with libertarian positions

By Karl Dickey

From *Examiner.com*

Published on April 4, 2014

A new poll out yesterday, April 3, 2014, with only 4% identifying themselves as 'libertarian', revealed 63% of Americans agree with the libertarian position that elected politicians should not work to enact policies and spend taxpayer money to benefit the special interest groups that helped them get elected as a quid pro quo. The poll is germane to our story from Wednesday about the U.S. Supreme Court ending the cap Americans may donate to political campaigns in total.

As Americans become more aware, it is no wonder why they are leaving the Republican and Democratic parties as they realize they are actually more libertarian than they once thought. What was once thought to be scary or strange, libertarian philosophy is now becoming more mainstream in American society.

The poll also found that 60% of Americans, like libertarians, feel the country is moving in the wrong direction and 51% ... disapprove of the way [Barack Obama] is handling his job as President of the United States. An even larger percentage (74%) disapprove of how Congress is doing its job, yet 76% of the respondents would surprisingly still vote for a Republican or Democrat in the upcoming election. Libertarians will need to work harder to break the country free of the stranglehold the two party system has on its government.

Americans [were] asked about their feelings on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) a/k/a Obamacare and 53% of Americans agreed with libertarians as to having an unfavorable opinion of the law, with 43% of the respondents blaming increased insurance premiums on the new law.

A big plus for libertarians is that 88% of Americans agree with them that they should have the right to film police 'who are arresting, restraining, or involved in an altercation with people in public'. This issue has been controversial with many libertarian and libertarian-minded Americans being arrested and jailed for doing nothing more than filming police doing their job in the public space without disturbing them from doing their job.

More interesting in the poll was the revelation that a

“As Americans become more aware, it is no wonder why they are leaving the Republican and Democratic parties as they realize they are actually more libertarian than they once thought. What was once thought to be scary or strange, libertarian philosophy is now becoming more mainstream in American society.”

staggering 70% of Americans would be 'bothered' if an elected politician used his office to 'bully' others over if they used drugs or cheated on their spouse.

Additional revelations were found in the poll regarding how Americans feel about a federal minimum wage. The majority, 67%, are for it being raised to \$10.10 per hour from the current \$7.25 per hour so long as it did not cause companies to lay off workers, in which case they flip to 58% being against increasing the minimum wage. Yet when asked how they thought companies would pay out the extra pay 32% responded the company would likely lay off or hire less workers; 38% said they felt the company would raise prices to compensate for the increase in payroll.

In the poll we discovered 63% of Americans agree with libertarians that President Barack Obama is either handling foreign policy worse or about the same as former President George Bush. 58% of the respondents agree with the libertarian position to stay out of the Ukraine situation all together while 39% want us to get more involved.

The respondents to the poll seemed split on the role of government with 50% agreeing with the statement 'the less government the better' and 47% stating 'There are more things government should be doing'. 54% agreed with the opinion that 'people would be better able to handle today's problems within a free market with less government involvement'.

Libertarian Party cheers jump in membership as other parties dip

By **Bridget Johnson**

From *PJ Media*

Published on April 2, 2014

The Libertarian Party reported today that national party registration has increased by 11.4 percent since 2012 as registration for all other parties has decreased.

Richard Winger, the editor of Ballot Access News, which analyzes the attempts of minority parties to get on the ballot, studied the 30 states and the District of Columbia allowing voters to mark party affiliation with their registration.

Within these states, Winger found that there were 368,561 registered Libertarians in March 2014 compared to 330,811 in November 2012.

Libertarians got the most votes in a presidential election in 2012, with 1,275,951 ballots cast for former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson.

“I think it’s great that Libertarian registration is increasing throughout America, while the Democrats and Republicans have been shrinking,” Libertarian Party Chairman Geoffrey Neale said in a statement. “Maybe it’s our across-the-board message of ‘more freedom, less government.’”

The party said that the states with the largest percent increases were Idaho (161% increase), Wyoming (68% increase), Nebraska (55% increase), and Louisiana (33% increase).

New and renewing Liberty Pledgers

Arnold Adicoff	Steven French	Lilia D. Mueller
Ronald Adkins	Robert D. Garrard	Kenneth Murphy
Donald N. Anderson	Andrew Giuliani	Richard Newton-Treadway
Harold J. Anderson	Robert C. Goen	Susan Nunes
Randal A. Anderson	Michelle Goodwin	Sean T. O’Toole
Jonathan R. Arrabito	Robert L. Gordon	Michael R. Pakko
Thomas P. Auerbach	John L. Gossage	John Payne
Nicola Aversa	Gary E. Gray	Timothy O. Peters
Saul D. Beniquez	Rostislav Grigoriev	Eric Peterson
Charles Bickenheuser	David C. Gustman	William Risko
Jill R. Binsley	Raymond R. Hall	Michael Roche
Mark J. Blackwelder	Preston Harris	Van Rothrock
Steven E. Boone	Bruce R. Haskin	Samuel S. Saunders
Elinor A. Brandt	David Havard	Dustin Savage
Daniel Brewer	Sean Hellems	Trenton R. Schoeb
John E. Briggs	Ian M. Henderson	Steven Schwartz
Dale A. Brill	Isaac Hertzler	Pedro R. Serra
Harry Bryan	Patrick Higdon	Ray Smith
Morgan Burch	Carolyn S. Hollis	Bobbie Sperry
Jason R. Burns	Robert Hook	Gregory M. Stachnik
Tim Carrico	Gary L. Hornickel	John S. Stewart
Allen E. Chantelouis	Barry Hughart	Rodney Stewart
Mark Chapman	Dane Jensen	Edward W. Sudduth
Martin H. Coalson	Michael Johnson	Christopher Taylor
Brett Connolly	Mark Kahabka	Curry B. Taylor
Michael De La Marre	Jason Kastner	Arthur Thomas
Scott Deranleau	Christopher Keever	Steve Tong
Leigh A. DeVoe	David H. King	Christopher Tsuha
Harold F. Donoho	Nicholas Knudson	Jan Uberstine
Carol Dorrough	Karl Kolenich	Kevin Umbaugh
Mark DuPlessis	Joel Leath	Daniel W. Underkofler
Terry A. Duree	Mark D. Leberfinger	Joe Velez
Scott L. Eighmey	Andrew P. LeCureaux	Rex C. Wade
Marlin L. England	Michael Livingwater	Arch Wakefield
Trevor Evans	Steven Lundvall	Irene Waller-Parker
Jim Fallin	Jean McCrady	Michael Watts
Russell Fauver	Joseph D. McDaniel	Cliff Wells
Jim Flatt	Charles McLaughlin	Adam Wright
Perry Forstrom	David G. Meadows	Debra M. Zweber
Robert Fredrich	Robert Miller	
Antony C. Freeman	Jack Moss	

I would like to make a one-time donation to the LP:

- \$5,000 \$100
 \$1,000 \$50
 \$500 \$25
 \$250 _____ Other

I would like to increase my **monthly pledge to this level:**

- \$2,500** **\$100**
 \$1,000 **\$50**
 \$500 **\$30**
 \$250 _____ **Other**
 (minimum \$10)

(Please make checks payable to **Libertarian Party**.)

Please bill my Visa MasterCard AmEx Discover

Card number: _____ Exp: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Occupation*: _____

Employer*: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

* Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

Libertarian Party strong with youths

By Larry Causey

From the *Temple Daily Telegram*

Published on April 13, 2014

“Today’s youth is the most Libertarian generation that has ever existed,” Alexander McCobin, founder of Students for Liberty, said in a noon workshop Saturday for the Libertarian Party of Texas state convention at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center. The political rally ends with today’s session, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

He said his second main point was that “we as a movement need to focus on inclusion, instead of exclusion. We need to build partnerships with the left and the right.”

“Today’s youth have grown up socially tolerant, but at the same time skeptical of government intervention in the economy,” he said. “And we’re fed up with excessive military intervention in foreign affairs by the U.S. Government, not to mention we’ve seen the failed presidential administration of both a big government Republican and a big government Democrat.”

There have always been Libertarian leanings in American society, he said, but this generation understands the principles and is supporting Libertarian policies more consistently than any generation before. Give it 10-20 years, he said, and the impact of today’s youth, once they take prominent positions in society, will be to shift policy in a much more Libertarian direction.

“Libertarianism is not a new idea,” he said. He cited such events as the signing of the Magna Carta, the ending of slavery, and the expansion of suffrage. But in the late 1980s

and early 1990s, he said, there was a “new birth” or “second wave” of Libertarianism.

“We challenge the purity test, and accept people who agree with us 90 percent, and then have meaningful debate over the 10 percent where we disagree,” he said.

“We need to dispel the idea that liberty means isolation,” he said. “Libertarianism is fundamentally about association and cooperation.

“The second wave of Libertarianism is defined by those who agree with us,” he said. “We are neither opposed to the left or the right. The most respectable ideas of both arise from Libertarianism.”

Students for Liberty is a nonprofit that is not technically associated with the Libertarian Party, he said. “What we support is the Libertarian philosophy, the principles of liberty,” he said.

He started the organization in 2008, when he was an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania. What was supposed to be a one-time conference, he said, revealed a strong demand. Students for Liberty spreads Libertarian ideas in order to identify pro-Libertarian students on campus. It offers them leadership training and organizational resources, so they can better introduce these ideas to their peers, he said. In six years, this has grown to include more than 1200 student organizations on the six inhabited continents, he said.

Tamaria Smythers of El Paso attended the workshop, along with her husband, Johnny, and son, Harley, 14. “I wanted to show my son you have to be politically active if you want to change,” she said. “And it’s basically his world that he’s going to be living in. This is an educational experience for him.”

Military-industrial complex

continued from page 1

survive in combat operations.

The Pentagon’s independent Director of Operational Test & Evaluation recently concluded that the Littoral Combat Ship “is not expected to be survivable in a hostile combat environment.” Yet “combat” is in the very name of the program, and the ship is expected to be a crucial coastal minesweeper that would move ahead of larger ships during potential conflicts in the South China Sea and Persian Gulf.

It’s a completely unacceptable amount of risk for the program’s price

tag, so much so that even Arizona Republican Senator John McCain warned that “in terms of actual cost and cost to our national security, we simply cannot afford to continue committing our limited resources to an unproven program that may eventually account for more than a third of the surface-combatant fleet.”

But despite its dubious effectiveness and high price tag, development and production of the Littoral Combat Ship continues. Much of that can be attributed to the influence of Lockheed Martin, the ship’s manufacturer, which spent nearly \$20 million in contributions and lobbying in the 2012

election cycle alone.

There are more examples of wasteful and dangerous defense programs than can fill a book, much less an op-ed. But you won’t hear these kinds of stories from my opponents in the Democratic or Republican parties. More than in any other region, my adversaries in Virginia’s 8th District are beholden to campaign contributions from the defense contractors at their doorsteps.

I’m an independent voice, and if elected to Congress I’ll work from within to ensure that taxpayer money is wisely spent and that our troops’ safety comes before contractor profits and politicians’ reelection campaigns.