

★★★ *In the News* ★★★

# THE NATIONAL CENTER



## FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

*Winter 2010/2011*

### **Message from David and Amy Ridenour**

The year is drawing to a close and many of our supporters are already thinking about year-end giving.

Have you thought about including the National Center for Public Policy Research in your year-end giving plans?

We'd be very honored if you would.



*Katherine and Christopher Ridenour with a Tea Party activist wearing Revolutionary War period costume at September 12, 2010 rally in Washington, D.C.*

Year-end gifts are critical to our fight for American liberty, as they represent a significant portion of our annual operating budget.

And few groups put these gifts to better use than your National Center for Public Policy Research.

We're very grateful for your support and believe one of the best ways we can show this is by not wasting your generous contributions. That's why just 6.1% of our budget last year went toward salaries, compared to 40%, 50%, or more at other free-market institutes.

Another way we show our gratitude is by providing return on your investment second to none.

Our programs – your programs – have achieved incredible results, including...

- ✓ Stopping hundreds of thousands of dollars in corporate money from flowing to the left, aiding our effort to stop such big-government initiatives as cap-and-trade;
- ✓ Forcing the NAACP to tone down their attacks on the Tea Party movement, helping the movement remain an effective force for liberty;
- ✓ Preventing expansion of federal authority under the Clean Water Act, protecting property rights in the process;
- ✓ And much, much more.

These successes and others are detailed further in the pages that follow. They were achieved despite liberal dominance of the federal government and the mainstream media.

As difficult as our challenges have been over the past year, they will be even more difficult in 2011. It is always easier to stop bad initiatives than advance good ones.

That's why your continued support is especially important now. We'd be very grateful and honored if you'd consider the National Center for a year-end gift.

All our very best wishes for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,

David and Amy Ridenour



## Forcing the NAACP to Back Down

The NAACP set out to pass a resolution at its convention calling on Americans to “repudiate the racism of the Tea Parties”...

...it had to settle instead for one calling on Tea Party leaders to denounce those who carry racially-insensitive signs, should they ever show up.

The NAACP didn’t back down on its own. It backed down because of the enormous negative press it received for its baseless charge against Tea Parties, much of it generated by our black leadership network, Project 21.

When word leaked out about the NAACP’s resolution plans, we quickly assembled statements from 18 of Project 21’s member-spokesmen denouncing the group and launched an aggressive media campaign to defend the Tea Parties, including participation in a press conference at the National Press Club.

In the three weeks that followed, Project 21 earned more than 230 media interviews and citations, including 12 appearances on the Fox News Channel and 57 published op-eds. Newsweek, the Wall Street Journal, Glenn Beck, The New York Times, “Your World with Neil Cavuto,” Lou Dobbs, “Fox and Friends” and “Hannity” were among the major media that carried our message.



*Project 21 Fellow Deneen Borelli addressing a Tea Party rally in Philadelphia.*

Our pressure on the NAACP didn’t end there, however.

During a heated debate on “Geraldo at Large” with the NAACP’s Washington Director, Hilary Shelton, our Deneen



*Project 21 Member-Spokesman Lisa Fritsch challenging the NAACP’s charge that the Tea Parties are racist on Fox’s “Your World With Neil Cavuto.”*

Borelli turned the tables on Shelton, challenging him to issue a statement repudiating offensive statements made against black conservatives, including those made by NAACP members.

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### THE NATIONAL CENTER



### FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

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He pledged to do so. Several months have passed and a statement from the NAACP has yet to be issued.

We also directly challenged Shelton's credibility, noting that we'd caught him on tape lying about having first-hand knowledge of racist acts at a particular Tea Party. During a debate with Borelli on Fox's "America's Newsroom," Shelton claimed to have attended a Tea Party on Capitol Hill at which racial epithets were supposedly hurled at members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Just three days before he made the claim, however, Shelton said on Fox's "America Live" that he'd never attended a Tea Party because he was afraid to do so.



*Project 21 Chairman Mychal Massie and Ambassador Alan Keyes strategizing before speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club in defense of the Tea Parties.*

Thanks in large part to Project 21, the big-government left's attempts to discredit the Tea Parties and mobilize its base through a systematic campaign to portray these gatherings as racist has failed.

That's why opposition to the left's agenda continues to grow and the left has been forced to keep raising its bet on the race card with increasingly shrill and absurd rhetoric. President Obama, for example, went as far as to compare his agenda to the abolition of slavery!

With your continued support, Project 21 will continue calling the left's race card bluff.



## Cutting the Left's Corporate Money

John Deere became the fourth corporation this year to withdraw from the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), the corporate-environmentalist alliance lobbying for congressional regulation of greenhouse gases and a rise in our energy prices, under pressure from our Free Enterprise Project.

Deere withdrew immediately after we ran television advertise-

ments in Moline, Illinois and Waterloo, Iowa, where Deere has major operations, calling on Deere employees to protest the company's stand. The commercials, which we co-sponsored with Freedom Works, aired for a month on local Fox, CNN, History Channel and Headline News channels.



*David Ridenour discussing rising world hunger caused by the U.S. ethanol mandate on Clean Skies TV.*

Other corporations that withdrew this year from USCAP are BP, Caterpillar, and ConocoPhillips. The loss of the four corporate members means USCAP will lose at least \$400,000 in funding... every year.

With the success of the Deere commercials, we're now expanding our ad campaign to go after other wayward corporations.

Our next target is General Electric, also a member of USCAP and one of the big-government left's strongest corporate allies. We'll run the spots in Fairfield, Connecticut, where GE is headquartered, and ask viewers to join our petition campaign launched earlier this year to oust Jeffrey Immelt as CEO of GE.



*Project 21 Fellow Deneen Borelli criticizing the NAACP for playing the race card against the Tea Parties on Fox's "Geraldo at Large."*

Our previous pressure on GE – through shareholder resolutions, petition campaigns, grilling of Immelt at annual shareholder meetings, and aggressive media efforts exposing GE's activities against long-term shareholder interest – has already

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taken a toll on the company. In March, working with a firm that specializes in corporate PR crises, GE initiated a national “Reagan Centennial Celebration TV ad campaign” and created a website praising Reagan, an apparent effort to improve the company’s sinking reputation among conservatives.



*Research Associate Devon Carlin struggling to stay warm while confronting green activists who were chanting, “We don’t want the world to boil, no coal, no oil!”*

Just how bad is GE’s reputation among conservatives? When our Tom Borelli mentioned the company while speaking at a Tea Party rally in September, the crowd instantly erupted into thunderous boos. Borelli hadn’t even started detailing GE’s misdeeds yet – evidence that our past educational efforts have been effective.



*Project 21 Chairman Mychal Massie arguing against extending unemployment benefits to two years on CNBC’s “The Call,” hosted by Larry Kudlow and Trish Regan.*

Our Free Enterprise Project’s effort to take on corporations working with the left is critical because much of the left’s recent success wouldn’t have been possible without corporate financial support. The drug industry trade group, PhRMA, for example, spent a minimum of \$150 million on commercials promoting ObamaCare.

Taking these corporations out of the game, or better yet,



*Fox’s Bill O’Reilly covering the hurricane forecast of Dr. Hansimian, the trained chimp we put up against NOAA forecasters, on his popular “Pinheads and Patriots” segment.*

converting them to our cause, will be absolutely critical to our efforts to undo the damage done by the left over the past 2 years.

With your help, we’ll do just that.



## Turning Back Assaults on Property Rights

We remain one of the few free market organizations devoting considerable resources to defending property rights.

Through our Center for Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, we fought an initiative by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) and Senator Russ Feingold (D-MN) to overturn hard-won victories for property owners in the 2001 SWANCC and 2006 Rapanos Supreme Court decisions. Their effort, had it been successful, would have dramatically expanded the power of the federal government to regulate all the waters in the U.S., potentially including ornamental ponds and swimming pools, as well as dry land adjacent to these waters. In short, it would have been one of the biggest federal power grabs in American history.

We fought the proposal by forming coalitions of sportsmen and farm bureaus, educating lawmakers as well as the media about the proposal, creating a web resource ([nationalcenter.org/CWRA.html](http://nationalcenter.org/CWRA.html)), conducting and publicizing polls of public opinion on the matter nationally and regionally, writing and publishing policy papers and more.

Thanks in part to this important work, opposition to the

*Continued on Page 8...*



# Time to End Hypocritical Immigration Policy

By David Ridenour

Our federal immigration policy isn't just broken, it's hypocritical.



David A. Ridenour

The president's idea of immigration reform is legalizing those who entered the United States illegally - after they pay a fine and endure other inconveniences - while lessening border enforcement.

As president, Obama has stopped construction of the border fence, even though it is more than 70% completed. His latest budget eliminates the positions of 180 Border Patrol officers and cuts \$70 million for reimbursing states for the cost of incarcerating illegal aliens. His Department of Homeland Security has been reluctant to conduct large-scale immigration raids.

The nation has already tried something like Obama's policy. It was called the Simpson-Mazzoli Act.

Signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1986, Simpson-Mazzoli was supposed to end most of the problems associated with illegal immigration by giving legal status to illegal immigrants already here, while hardening the border and enforcing employer sanctions.

The legalization happened, but the border has remained porous, and the employer sanction enforcement has been sporadic - for 24 years now!

Our current policy is nonsensical. We have two sets of immigration rules: one for the law-abiding immigrants, who wait their turn in line, and another for those who break the law.

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***"We have two sets of immigration rules: one for the law-abiding immigrants... and another for those who break the law."***

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Meanwhile, efforts to respect the law and those immigrants who follow it are derided in extremely insulting terms.

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) said of Arizona's new enforcement policy, "We're going to overturn this unjust and racist law, and then we're going to overturn the power structure that created [it]..."

Congressman Jared Polis (D-CO) said the Arizona law "is absolutely

reminiscent of second-class status of Jews in Germany prior to World War II..."

President Obama said Arizona's enforcement of federal law threatens "to undermine basic notions of fairness."

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***"If a law is important enough to have, it is important enough to enforce."***

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If a law is important enough to have, it is important enough to enforce. The reverse is also true, yet few of those who essentially say it's inherently racist, oppressive, unfair, or Nazilike to enforce our immigration laws are lobbying for legislation to open our borders.

This hypocrisy has gone on for decades, despite significant public discontent, with the result that the states are beginning to take matters into their own hands.

Maybe if enough states act, Congress and the Obama administration will finally get serious about enforcement - or they will stop being hypocrites and simply admit they support an open border.

At this point, either option would be an improvement.

*By David Ridenour, Vice President  
(A version of this column appeared in several dozens newspapers, including the Philadelphia Inquirer.)*





## Donor Profile: LeRoy Weber

**LeRoy Weber is fortunate to have found his life-long passion at a young age.**

In 1925, when he was only 6 years old, LeRoy saw his first airplane. He can still recall the plane in vivid detail, “a Waco with an in-line engine... the trailing edge of the lower right wing... broken near the walk strip.”

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*“When I was in college, I had a professor who went out to Glacier Park and measured the glacier retreat and this was in the 1940s.”*

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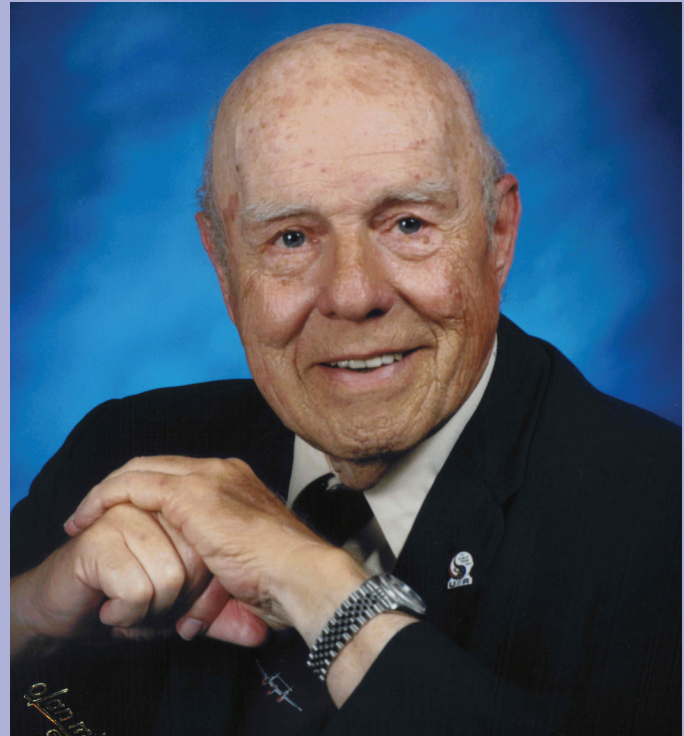
Inspired by Charles Lindbergh’s successful flight to Paris in 1927, LeRoy built a model of “The Spirit of St. Louis,” his first flying model, the following year. Soon after, he started entering model airplane contests and won his first one in 1935.

LeRoy has been a modeler ever since. He’s participated in model competitions all over the world and has even served as a judge in four scale model World Championships.

LeRoy has been a generous supporter of The National Center since 2003, giving regularly to help our black leadership network, Project 21, and to aid our efforts to stop cap-and-trade. You might say these are two of his other passions.

“Our environment is very important and keeps changing. People aren’t causing it to change, though,” LeRoy says. “When I was in college, I had a professor who went out to Glacier Park and measured the glacier retreat and this was in the 1940s.”

Alarmists frequently point to receding glaciers as evidence that human beings are causing the planet to overheat. Former Vice President Al Gore, for example, speaking at Glacier National Park said,



“Over the last century, we have lost nearly three-quarters of all the glaciers in this park... strong evidence of global warming...”

But the park’s glaciers were in retreat long before industrial emissions of greenhouse gases were significant, just as LeRoy suggests. Between 1917 and 1941, the glaciers retreated an average of 100 meters per year.

Correcting disinformation spread by the left is a key mission of our Center for Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. This work wouldn’t be possible without the support of friends like LeRoy – and friends like you.

Airplanes haven’t just been LeRoy’s hobby, but a significant part of his career. In the early 1940s, he worked at Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Company in Buffalo, NY where they built Navy SB2-C’s, O-52’s, P-40’s and C-46’s and later, at Lockheed as a spare parts inspector. He was in the Navy training on airborne equipment, including radar, when U.S. atom bombs dropped on Japan in 1945, ending the war.

We’re grateful to have LeRoy as one of our loyal supporters. He helps give our programs flight.

*By Katie Nielsen, Development Associate*

## Who Do You Want to Benefit from Your Hard Work?

### *Year-End Gifts Give You a Greater Voice*

Are you looking for a way to reduce your taxes in 2010? Would you rather your hard-earned money be used to benefit future generations of Americans instead of those feeding at the public trough today?

If so, please consider making a tax-deductible year-end donation to your National Center for Public Policy Research. Your gift will not only help ensure we have sufficient funds to defend and extend American liberty, but help starve the federal beast that is bent on taking away more of our liberties.

Did you know that year-end contributions are among the most important sources of revenue for such vital programs as Project 21, the Free Enterprise Project, the Health Care Reform Task Force and more?

Last year, one-third of all U.S. charitable gifts came through year-end donations.

### **Gifts of Cash**

The easiest way to make your year-end gift is through a donation of cash or cash equivalent, such as gift by check, credit card, money order or electronic transfer. You can take a charitable deduction up to 50% of your adjusted gross income for such gifts. Amounts above that can be carried over for up to five years.

### **Gifts of Appreciated Securities**

You may be able to save even more on your taxes by using appreciated securities for your year-end gift. By transferring stocks you've owned for at least one year to the National Center, you can completely avoid federal and state capital gains taxes AND still be able to take a charitable deduction for the full current market value.

Example: You own a security valued at \$10,000 for which you paid \$1,000. If you donate it directly to the National Center for Public Policy Research rather than selling it, you would avoid the \$1,890 in taxes that would normally be due on the \$9,000 capital gain (assuming combined federal and state rate of 21%). In addition, you would be entitled to take a charitable deduction for the full \$10,000 value of the gift.

To take advantage of this giving option, please provide your name and indicate the name of the security and num-



ber of shares you plan to donate to the National Center on the enclosed envelope. Then provide your broker with our account information: **Scott Wilson, UBS Financial Services, Tel. (202) 585-5419, email [scott.a.wilson@ubs.com](mailto:scott.a.wilson@ubs.com); Acct: WS-39878; DTC#: 0221 FBO.** To qualify for a charitable deduction in 2010, the stock must be transferred before January 1, 2011.

**Tip:** Since the top tax rate on dividends next year is expected to be 39.6%, a 164% increase from the current rate, consider donating higher-yield stocks now to reduce your taxes in 2011.

### **Gifts of IRAs**

Congress is expected to extend the IRA charitable roll-over this year retroactively, allowing you to donate up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the National Center for Public Policy Research without paying taxes on the distribution, provided the transfer is completed before January 1, 2011 and you're at least 70½ years of age. To qualify, the donation must be made directly from your IRA trustee (brokerage firm or bank).

Even if the roll-over is not extended, you can still donate IRA funds by taking a regular distribution. The distribution will be subject to income taxes, but you will qualify for a charitable deduction that can help reduce your tax liability.

### **Charitable Gift Deductions Today for Gifts Tomorrow**

Specially designed trusts, such as Charitable Lead Trusts (CLT), allow you to take charitable tax deductions for gifts you make years into the future. CLTs are irrevocable trusts that can be created using securities, cash or income-generating property. Here's how they work: You can

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proposal has continued to grow. The proposal has failed to advance in either the U.S. House or U.S. Senate this year – despite enormous liberal majorities in both bodies – because its sponsors do not believe they have the votes.



*Executive Director David Almasi presenting U.S. Congressman Tom Graves (R-GA) with tens of thousands of petitions against inheritance taxes.*

Now we're shifting from defense to offense. The National Center has developed a strategy for substantially reducing the federal government's power to take private property under the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act and other environmental laws. We believe our strategy will deny the big-government left all the major arguments against reform they've had in the past and will stand an excellent chance of earning bi-partisan support. We're laying the groundwork for this major new initiative now... stay tuned.



## **Sowing the Seeds of ObamaCare's Destruction**

A U.S. Federal District Court judge in Florida recently ruled that a lawsuit filed by 20 state attorneys general challenging ObamaCare can proceed, noting that their claim that provisions of the law are unconstitutional is "most definitely a plausible claim."

If not for our educational efforts and those of allied groups on ObamaCare, the suit might not have even been filed.

ObamaCare's requirement that uninsured Americans purchase comprehensive health care or face stiff penalties – the so called "individual mandate" – is at the center of the suit. That requirement was only added to the health care bill be-

*Continued from Page 7...*

name the National Center for Public Policy Research as trust income beneficiary, entitling it to a fixed annual payment for a specified number of years. This will immediately qualify you for a charitable gift deduction for the present value of the trust's future payments to the National Center. At the conclusion of the trust term, all the assets would revert back to you.

Another way to create a charitable deduction today for future gifts is through Charitable Remainder Trusts (CRTs). These work the reverse of CLTs: You rather than the National Center would receive fixed annuity payments from the trust for specified period of time and the National Center would assume ownership of the remaining assets at the conclusion of the trust term. CRTs may provide you greater opportunity to increase your income as assets that have increased in value significantly, but produce little income, can be transferred into the trust and then sold without incurring capital gains tax liability. Once liquidated, you can invest the proceeds in higher-yield instruments.

## **Prepayment of Gifts**

If you expect to be in a higher tax bracket this year than next year or believe the tax treatment of charitable contributions will be less favorable in 2011, then you may wish to consider making donations you would ordinarily make next year this year.

## **Plan Your Year-End Gifts Now**

Year-end giving requires advance planning as all such donations must be executed before January 1, 2011.

Gifts of cash and checks must be postmarked no later than December 31 while credit card gifts must be processed by that day. Establishing trusts and transferring securities can take several weeks or more to execute, so the earlier you set the wheels in motion the better.

Your year-end gift is vitally-important to our efforts to advance American liberty now and for future generations.

If you have any questions or need help planning your year-end gift, please call Vice President David Ridenour any time at (202) 543-4110 ext. 16 or send him an email at [dridenour@nationalcenter.org](mailto:dridenour@nationalcenter.org).

**Thank you for considering us in your year-end giving plans!**



cause government-run, single-payer health care and its variants, such as the so-called “public option,” became so radioactive that it was the left’s only viable option for expanding government control over health care.

Public opposition to single-payer health care didn’t happen on its own.



*Free Enterprise Project Director Tom Borelli calling out corporate enablers of big-government policies at a tax day Tea Party in Washington, D.C.*

It happened because of such publications as our “Shattered Lives: 100 Victims of Government Health Care,” our book that we released at the height of the health care debate alerting the public to the suffering people living under government health care overseas routinely endure. Over 165,000 copies of the book were downloaded from our website this year and many thousands more downloaded from blogger sites. In addition, 15,000 paper copies were sent to key policy leaders, journalists and congressional staff.

And it happened because of the near constant television and radio appearances, press statements and published op-eds through which we informed the public. President Amy Ridenour, for example, has become a Fox Radio Network “health care contributor,” periodically providing expert commentary for 6-12 Fox-owned radio stations across the country during morning drive time.

With your support we helped sow the seeds of ObamaCare’s destruction. Your continued support will make possible a good harvest.

## Growing for Liberty...

Demand for The National Center for Public Policy Research’s unique programs continues to grow. We’re pleased to welcome the following talented individuals to our team to meet the demand...



### Dana Gattuso

Dana Gattuso, previously a Senior Fellow, took on a much more substantial role at the National Center in September, becoming the director of our Center for Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. Previously, Dana served as director of projects and issue management for environmental and regulatory affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and director of research at Pacific Research Institute. Her work has been published and cited in such publications as The New York Times, The Washington Post, USA Today and many others.



### Steven Crowder

Steven Crowder, a stand-up comedian, television and film actor and Fox News Channel contributor, joined the National Center team in October. His humorous videos on current affairs, “Louder with Crowder,” now appear weekly on our website and will help us reach younger audiences with our free-market message. His videos routinely receive several hundred thousand views on YouTube. Steven got his start as the voice of Alan “The Brain” Powers on the Canadian television series for children, Arthur. He starred in the 2009 film “To Save a Life,” and appeared as “Jace” in a 2008 episode of the ABC Family television series, Greek.



### Katherine Nielsen

Katherine Nielsen joined the National Center in September as a Development Associate to help us improve and increase services for our donors, now numbering over 100,000. Previously, Katherine served as an associate political fundraiser at the Marriott Group, and interned at both the U.S. Congress and the New York Republican State Committee.



## Book Review: Is Global Warming a Con?

**Climate Con? History and Science of the Global Warming Scare is a valuable reference book for global warming skeptics and believers alike.**

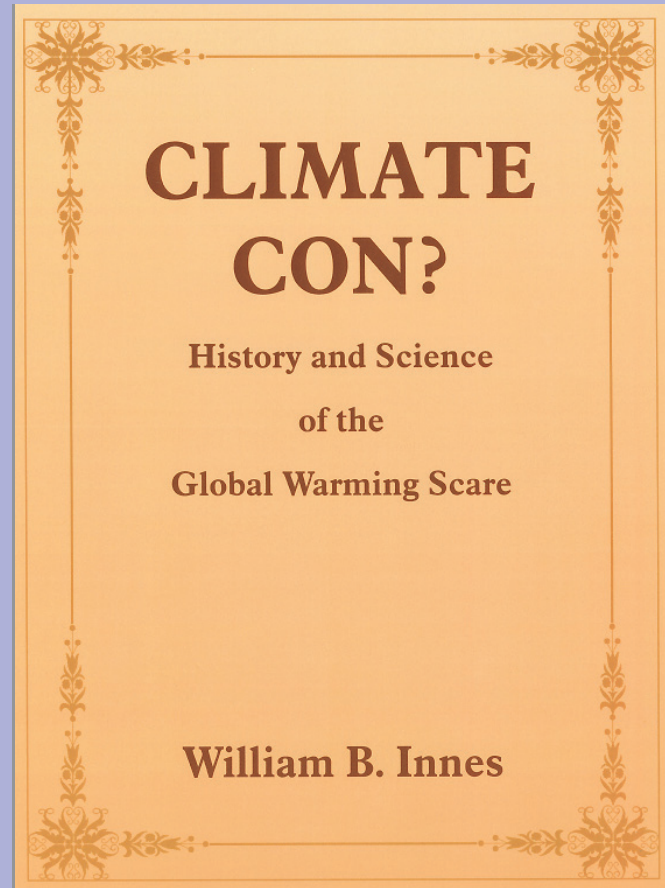
The book's author, William B. Innes, Ph.D., is a retired physical chemist and long-time supporter of the National Center for Public Policy Research.

He begins his book by asserting that proposed carbon emissions limits are not based on science, but on the precautionary principle, the precept that action should be taken to prevent a perceived risk even in the absence of clear scientific evidence that the risk exists.

To provide context, Dr. Innes describes previous instances in which the precautionary principle was applied – DDT, CFCs, and PCBs, among others – and describes the detrimental effects of each. He notes, for example, that the 1972 DDT ban led to tens of millions of malaria deaths while providing none of the promised environmental benefits.

DDT was banned because it was believed to be responsible for the thinning of bird eggshells, threatening the survival of such species as bald eagles. That belief was based on a study in which birds were fed DDT and deprived of calcium. A subsequent study in which birds consumed normal amounts of calcium suggested DDT had no significant effect on eggshells, but the damage had been done.

Dr. Innes then discusses the history of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the U.N.-created body tasked with assessing the risks of climate change and widely considered the world's leading authority on climate change. Here he exposes the unseemly process by which the IPCC misinforms the public. He notes that the IPCC's highly-publicized "Summaries for Policy Makers and the Media" frequently misrepresent the group's scientific reports through the omission of qualifications and uncer-



tainities. His discussion of this process is particularly timely and relevant in light of recent revelations that the IPCC had no data to support a claim in its last report, released in 2007, that all Himalayan glaciers could disappear by 2035.

*Climate Con?* provides readers with plenty of reasons to question the global warming orthodoxy. Among them: the failure of climate scientists to adequately account for naturally-occurring variables such as volcanic activity, ocean currents, solar radiance, and cloud cover; the failure of scientists to adequately adjust for warming due to the urban heat island effect; differences in data collection techniques spanning many years and the tendency of some scientists to disregard data that doesn't support their computer model projections. Perhaps the greatest value of *Climate Con?* is that it introduces readers to an array of global warming "skeptical" groups from which they can obtain further information.

We highly recommend the book. A Kindle copy may be ordered at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com) and paper copies may be ordered at [authorhouse.com](http://authorhouse.com).



# USS Murtha Should Be Scuttled

By Justin Danhof, General Counsel

Want to earn one of the Navy's highest honors? Just denigrate America.



Justin Danhof

It worked for the late Congressman John Murtha. He maligned American Marines, yet a Navy ship will soon bear his name.

In April, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced that a San Antonio Class landing platform dock (LPD) ship will be named the "USS John P. Murtha." This is great news for American apologists, but for American patriots and good-government advocates, it's a travesty.

Was the name "USS Abscam" taken?

San Antonio class ships are typically named after American cities. Murtha, who served 37 years in the Marine Corps and Marine Forces Reserve, will be the first person to have an LPD named in his honor.

Other navy ships are rarely named after people and when they are those chosen for the honor normally are extraordinary individuals. A submarine was named after Admiral Hyman Rickover, the "father of the nuclear navy," while a Nimitz class aircraft carrier was named after former President Ronald Reagan.

The Navy should reconsider its decision to name a ship after Murtha.

After a 2006 firefight in Haditha left 24 Iraqis dead, Murtha accused the Marines of killing "innocent civilians in cold-blood" and compared the incident to the My Lai massacre in Vietnam, saying the two incidents were "exactly" alike. He had no evidence for the outrageous charge.

There was none. Of the eight Marines investigated, six were exonerated, one was acquitted, and one awaits trial for lesser charges.

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***"...Murtha accused the Marines of killing 'innocent civilians in cold-blood.'"***

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Murtha never apologized after learning the facts.

At Murtha's ship-naming ceremony, Nancy Pelosi said that he "cared for [the young Marines] as a father. They knew it and they returned his respect." Murtha has a funny way of showing he cares.

Orson Swindle, a Vietnam POW and decorated Marine Corps veteran, called the Navy's decision "a disgusting act because Murtha himself was a disgrace."

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***...Navy's decision "a disgusting act because Murtha himself was a disgrace."***

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Indeed, Murtha may be better known for his ethics troubles than his support for the Navy. Murtha was mired in so many scandals that, even after his death, the FBI withheld many of his files. He was named an "unindicted co-conspirator" in the Abscam scandal in the late 1970s after he was caught on tape appearing to solicit a bribe from FBI agents posing as Arab sheiks. More recently, he was investigated for possibly receiving illegal campaign contributions from the PMA Group, a lobbying firm founded by one of his former staffers.

The Navy should correct course and scuttle the USS Murtha.

By Justin Danhof, General Counsel  
(A version of this column appeared in 18 newspapers, including the Sacramento Bee.)



## THE NATIONAL CENTER



## FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

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### DENVERPOST

“When it comes to... energy, Obama is all hat and no cowboy... [The] plan he says will open up more of the outer continental shelf... cancels five leases...”

— *David Ridenour*



“Ad after ad on World News came from members of... PhRMA... If they were to stop... [it's] doubtful the broadcasts could continue.”

— *David Almasi, explaining his study showing ABC World News receives over half its ad revenue from a group advocating ObamaCare*

### The New York Times

“If you are white they call you racist or a redneck. If you are black, they call you a token, a traitor, an Uncle Tom.”

— *Deneen Borelli explaining how the left plays politics with race*

### Mother Jones

“‘Shattered Lives’ [offers] up some pretty horrible details about national health care... It’s a gripping read...”

— *Description of Amy Ridenour’s and Ryan Balis’s book*

### INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY

“Amy Ridenour... is among a number of legal scholars who believe this [method of passing ObamaCare]... ‘would stand a very good chance of being tossed out by the U.S. Supreme Court.’”