



GRASSROOTS FOCUS ON

LARAINÉ CRAIG BETHKE

Born: St. Vincent's Hospital, Manhattan, New York on November 27, 1944

Parents: Robert B. Craig and Irene Sofie Klepacki

Father: Adopted from Los Angeles County Hospital – grew up in orphanage age 9 to 17 – joined US Navy, WWII Pacific Fleet; served in Korean War in 1950s. He served 23 years in the USN. He became Mayor of Kodiak Island, Alaska; then City Manager of Whittier, Alaska. He was elected Constable of Precinct 2 in Arlington in 1980, going into office with Ronald Reagan. He served one term and retired.

Mother: Daughter of Polish immigrants, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Mother of three, Laraine, Alan, and Terry. When parents moved to Kodiak,

Alaska, Irene worked in the public schools, and later became President of Kodiak Chapter of the State of Alaska Workers Association.

The Craig family lived in Seattle, Washington; San Diego, California; Oahu, Hawaii; and, Jacksonville, FL.

Parents transferred from Hawaii to Naval Air Station, Grand Prairie, in 1954. Family lived at 1407 Densman Drive in Grand Prairie behind LTV, then purchased home in Arlington at 1905 Ruth in 1956. Family transferred by Navy to Jacksonville for two and a half years, then transferred back to NAS Dallas for retirement. Retirement delayed due to Vietnam Conflict.

Laraine attended C.B. Berry Elementary, Carter Jr. High, Arlington High, Class of 1962, graduate of UTA. BA in Political Science, Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society

Laraine married **Ben** in August of 1962. Children:

Benjamin Paul, graduated AHS in 1981; joined US Army, retired 2004 after 22.5 yrs. Spent 15 years in special operations; 50% disabled; married to Susanne, 4 children; Son Steven graduated from Martin HS. Steven and Christopher in college in North Carolina. Daughter Gina in nursing program at UTA. Steven transferring to UTA for spring 2006 semester. Married daughter, Sandra Lassiter, lives in Seattle and has 3 children. Her husband Tony is in Special Operations at Fort Lewis. Sandy is a nurse and works in a Seattle hospital.

Ann Bethke Storm – married to Randy, 3 children, owner of Storm Striping. Graduate of AHS and University of N. Texas; BA in Human Resource Management. Son Gary attends Bowie HS. Daughter Alicia attends Barrett Jr. High; Staci attends elementary on Green Oaks.

Brian Patrick Bethke – married to Melissa; two daughters, Tiffany and Alexis. Family lives in Bedford. Brian graduated from Sam Houston HS. Restores homes and makes custom cabinets.

Teresa Bethke Lewis – graduated from AHS. Married with three children. Employed in marketing for promotional company in Irving.

Mary Bethke Adams – graduated from Martin HS. Married to Chris Adams. They have one daughter, Melanie. Mary is a supervisor for Providian Financial Services; Chris is a long-haul truck driver. They live in Lillian.

Christina Irene Bethke – graduated from Martin HS. Single; teaches math at Fossil Ridge HS in Keller. In her fourth year of teaching there. Graduated from UT Austin; was in Longhorn Marching Band.

Brandon Michael Bethke – went to live with Jesus and his angels in 1984 at the age of six.

Laraine became involved in pro-life movement in 1971. From 1971-1974, she took in six unwed mothers over a three-year period through Catholic Charities. Cared for them until the babies were born and they went on. Became a volunteer for Together, Inc., a forerunner of the Arlington Pregnancy Center.

In 1974-1976, founded Texas Right to Life of Arlington; attended the first organizational meeting of the Arlington Republican Club. Began the journey. Worked for Bob McFarland in his first race.

Worked for Leo Berman's three races.

Worked for Ronald Reagan's three races.

Helped elect father Robert Craig to Constable, Precinct 2, in Arlington in 1980, the first Republican elected to Tarrant County government from Arlington in 103 years.

Managed Dick Armey's telephone bank in Arlington in 1984. This phone bank gave Armey the victory in his first election. Worked as a staff member for 1.5 years afterwards. Left his staff to work in Don McNiel's campaign against Jim Wright. Following that campaign, accepted employment with SimuFlite Training International, a corporate pilot training provider.

Ran for election to State House of Reps against Kim Brimer; Brimer won.

Ran for special election in 1989 to replace Jim Wright; Bob Lanier won.

Completed college degree in 1994, BA in Political Science.

Ran for Justice of the Peace, Pct. 7 in 2006; Tom Corbin won.

Past Vice President, Programs, of the Arlington Republican Club.

Currently Precinct Chairman, Pct. 2358

Aviation professional for over 22 years. Work with FAA, DOJ, TSA, INS, FBI, DOL in current capacity as Compliance Officer for Higher Power Aviation.