

## **Grassroots Focus on Don Shipe**

**December, 2006**



Don Shipe is a conservative activist who fervently believes in the Reagan Revolution. He is committed to putting his two cents worth in every day of his life toward preserving and reviving the Reagan Revolution. What was so good about Reagan? Well....let me count the ways!

Through his common sense vision and his God given communication skills, he led us out of the miserable 60's and provided national leadership for the 80's. I have said for many years, "the only three good things that came out of the 60's are my three daughters!" It is my opinion that most of what came out of the 60's were bad for this nation - Morality, Crime, Growth in Government, Government Spending, Individual Responsibility, Belief in the Free Enterprise System, Maintaining a Strong National Defense, Maintaining Strong Family Ties, Strong Belief in God – all trended in the wrong direction based principally on the popular and selfish attitude centered around "Me First" or "What's In It For Me"! Reagan was keenly aware of all of these trends and began to educate the American people as to the pitfalls of each. He simply said, and made us believe that Government is not the solution – Government is the Problem! He showed us how to replace Pessimism with Optimism, Self-centeredness with God Centeredness, Miserably low morale in National Preparedness with a Strong National Defense, No Pride in Nationalism with an Unbelievable New Sense of Patriotism, An Almost Total Dependence on Government with a Newborn Belief in the Free Enterprise System, and in short a "Can't Do Attitude" with a "Together We Can Make It Happen"! This new birth of believing in ourselves and the reestablishment of National Pride led to what the other great orator of the 80's, Margaret Thatcher, said about Reagan. "He crushed Communism without ever firing a shot!" Folks, that is what is called Leadership.

Speaking of leadership – President Bush in his first two years of office started out like another Ronald Reagan, especially in the area of courage when he, as no other president in history, attacked the "hallowed 3<sup>rd</sup> rail". He tried to solve our Social Security crisis by defining the only sensible solution - initiating personal ownership accounts. To those of us who even have a gnats capacity of

understanding Economics 101 – it's a no-brainer! Personal Accounts are the only answer to solving the Social Security Crisis and should have been implemented a decade ago! Having informed Congress of the undeniable truth that, since 1926, the average stock market investment has been up 10% annually and because of the coming increase in retiring baby-boomers, Social Security will start its bankruptcy trend in 2014. One would think that Washington would address this issue. However, the failure on their part to act as responsible Congressmen and Senators completely evaporates my patience and elevates their incompetency to no end. One particular word comes to mind – it's called COWARD, and consequently they don't deserve to serve this great nation! On the other hand, there are a few organizations and Congressmen that have NOT lost their integrity while trying to preserve the Reagan Revolution. Three Groups come to mind:

The Heritage Foundation ([www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org)) is the “Bible” for conservative doctrine and information available to both government and public. When you want the facts and the truth, call Heritage.

The Club for Growth ([www.clubforgrowth.org](http://www.clubforgrowth.org)) is the most effective organization in Washington dedicated to electing Reagan-type conservatives, usually at the primary level, and cleansing Washington of “RINO'S” (Republicans In Name Only). It is headed by ex-Congressman Pat Toomey, who ran for the Senate in Pennsylvania against the worst RINO in Republican history – Arlen Specter. Toomey would and should have won in 2004, but for the ill-advised strategy of President Bush's and Rick Santorum's election eve “personal” appearance on Specter's behalf. Result – Bush lost Pennsylvania, Toomey lost by 10,000 votes out of a million to Specter and Santorum alienated all Pennsylvania conservatives, which caused his defeat ultimately in 2006, which also resulted in Republicans losing the Senate. Bad – bad Republican Advisors! The Club for Growth is only about six years old and has about a 90% conservative election success rate. Their strategy is quite simple. They choose about 6 senators per election cycle (mainly in Primaries) and about 12 congressmen and restrict ALL donations to these 18 candidates.

This levers their influence about 50-fold and they allow no RINO'S, period!  
Their goals:

Bush Tax Cuts Permanent, Expanding Free Trade, Death Tax Repeal  
Legal Reform (end abusive lawsuits), Cutting & Limiting Government Spending  
Replace Current Tax Code, Soc. Sec. Reform – Personal Accounts, School Choice and Regulatory Reform & Deregulation.

These are all “Back to Basics” Reagan-type Conservative Goals.

A third courageous group, The Republican Study Committee, made up of over 100 congressional members (including 14 of 21 U.S. Texas Congressmen). Headed by Mike Pence from Indiana, this group has managed to keep their integrity and are truly Reagan-type leaders in the U.S. House. They bucked Bush in government spending and were instrumental in exposing the unforgivable explosion in “Earmarks”, the Highway to Nowhere, the ill advised Bush Medicare expansion, the billions being spent on “No Child Left Behind”, and the Mickey Mouse McCain – Kennedy Senate Immigration Fiasco. This group, in

my opinion, is the only group in Washington that will save this nation from “Washington”!!!

I believe that there is a chance to save Social Security with Personal Accounts and scrap our outdated and unfair income tax plan and replace it with the only sensible tax plan proposal – The Fair Tax. This can be accomplished by the leadership provided by the Republican Study Committee AND the grass roots influence that recently reared its sensible head and overwhelmingly told the Senate “to go fly a kite” with its ill conceived McCain – Kennedy Amnesty Immigration Plan.

Don Shipe is dedicated to attempt to influence as many people in Fort Worth to communicate with their congressmen to help this group. He is currently serving as Legislative Alert Coordinator with the Tarrant County Republican Party. He is also District 97 Area Leader (Anna Mowery’s district) for 50 precinct chairmen in the Southwest part of Tarrant County. He has been a precinct chairman for 41 years since Fran Chiles called him in 1965 and “appointed” him. She didn’t ask – she said “you’re it” and he said “Yes’m” and has been serving ever since!

He and Jo Anna, wife of 47 years, bought Dr. Cross’s home, who owned all of the property in what is now Mont Del Estates, in 1965. It was one of the first homes in Mont Del. Their three daughters enjoyed horses in the back yard while growing up. One of his hobbies nowadays, if not working on church finances or politics, is performing his duties as “Flag Man” in Mont Del. While serving on the Mont Del Homeowners Association Board, he initiated a flag project which consists of providing 250 flags at cost (yard flags) to Mont Del on the eight flag display days during the year. He puts them out in front of each home and takes them down afterwards and stores them. They are well received. He loves his Lord, his family, his nation and its flag and works to try to influence his neighbors to influence their Congressmen and Senators to become Statesmen rather than Politicians. The difference being: A Politician hates having his voting record exposed because it is not consistent with his words and his philosophy, whereas a Statesman is PROUD of his voting record because of its INTEGRITY and its CONSISTENCY.

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P.S. Remember what Einstein said about the most powerful force on earth – “The Power of Compound Interest”. For those who don’t believe in Personal Savings Accounts for Social Security – try this trivia question: What would an annual investment of \$100/year (\$8/month) be worth over a 65 year period at the stock market earnings of 10%? How about \$600,000!!!