



Press Information – For Immediate Release

Contact:

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Zaccaria to Address College Republicans

North Smithfield, RI: Barry Lucier, President of the College Republican Federation of Rhode Island, announced the agenda for the group's state convention, taking place this weekend. Delegations of College Republicans from around the state will gather on Saturday, May 2nd, at Bryant University. There they will confer on platform positions and elect officers for the 2009 – 2010 Academic Year.

Lucier also announced that Mark Zaccaria, the GOP's 2008 Candidate for Congress from District 2, would offer one of the two keynote addresses. "Mr. Zaccaria exemplifies the dedication to Republican ideals of Government in Support the People, not the other way around." Barry said. "In addition, Mark Zaccaria's willingness to move past the '08 Election and simply continue the fight on the way to 2010 is a model for us all to follow as we try to offer meaningful alternatives to voters."

For his part, Zaccaria was honored to accept the invitation to speak at this year's CRFRI State Convention. "I have worked closely with College Republicans from four of the state's chapters." He said. "They have supplied both energy and dedication to my last campaign and I hope to build on that support in the run up to Election Day, 2010."

Mark Zaccaria will tell his audience that Republicans are not just Democrats who are out of office. He will concentrate his remarks on how the core values of the Grand Old Party should be the foundation of a different approach to serving in government that will define the clear choice faced by voters in 2010.

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The CRFRI State Convention will be open for registration at Noon on Saturday, May 2nd, 2009, with the opening ceremonies scheduled to start shortly after 12:30pm. The convention takes place in Room 2AB of the Bryant Center, here on the North Smithfield campus. One hundred or more delegates from the six chapters around the state are expected to be in attendance. In addition, Republicans of all ages and members of the Press are invited to observe the formalities.

Mark Zaccaria is a resident of North Kingstown, RI, where he runs a small business. He and his wife, Ruth, have been married for 34 years. They have three grown children who are all residents of the state. Learn more about Mark's candidacy for congress at the web site: www.markz4ri.org

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Remarks to the College Republican Federation of Rhode Island
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Thank You, Barry. Good afternoon Ladies & Gentlemen. I am Mark Zaccaria, and I am honored to have been asked not just to join you here today but to speak to you.

I salute each and every one of you for your activism. As Dan Yorke likes to say, simply by being here today you identify yourselves as being among the One Percent of all citizens who really takes a hand in maintaining our Representative Democracy.

As I thought about what pearls of wisdom I could impart in these brief remarks I thought back to my own time as a College Republican. OK. That was 39 Years ago, so you might ask "What, if anything, about that geological epoch could still have relevance today?"

Well it was a different world back then. When I graduated from college in 1970 the nation was divided over a foreign war we were waging. There were questions and recriminations about who had gotten us into it, and why. There pleas to the government to figure out some way to get us out of it. Mostly there was passionate opposition to having our nation continue to bear the enormous costs of battle.

It was much different, back then. The problems of the war were compounded and made more financially painful by the economic results of a huge spending program the government was undertaking. The aims of the Great Society initiative were certainly noble. The problem was that we were just not

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sophisticated enough as a nation to understand that by delivering funding before any specific plans had been made to use the money efficiently we were simply creating chaos. It was a chaos that was made more painful by all the unfulfilled promises, many said Broken Promises that followed. A lesson we learned soon after I graduated was that the result of the unrestricted growth of the Money Supply was inevitably to be Inflation.

And having learned that painful lesson we vowed never to repeat the mistakes that led to it. So we're much better off now.

Yes. The end of the Decade of the 1960's was a difficult time for College Student's of every political stripe. It was a time when government seemed to be disconnected from its people. It was a time when decisions were made that many disagreed with but few were allowed to argue. It was a time when government became afraid of its citizens and took repressive steps to control our urge to speak out. Have any of you studied the Democratic National Convention of 1968, and the force that was used to suppress the voice of the people? Worse Yet, have any of you studied the events of May 4th, 1970? May 4th was a Monday that year, just as it is this year. That was the day that Army National Guard Troops were ordered to control a student demonstration at Kent State, in Ohio. Four Americans were killed that day. Nine were wounded. And 203 Million Americans suffered a Broken Heart.

The reaction to Government Gone Wild was the real difference between then and now. 39 Years ago many of my classmates and many of my fellow citizens across the country were so dazed and confused by what they saw happening that they disengaged completely from Government. There were Back to Nature movements. There were groups dedicated to Yoga, Zen, and Transcendental Meditation... Sometimes all at once. There was even a healthy strain of idealistic dedication to helping others through direct action.

But mostly there was an un-healthy strain of making believe that Civics wasn't a part of Citizenship.

So back when I was a College Republican that very designation put me in the One Percent of Americans who knew that the Tools of Democracy were laying at their feet. I was among a very tiny minority who were determined to pick those tools up and put them to work for the benefit of society.

Some things never change.

I began my remarks this afternoon by applauding you as the One Percenters of your generation. Now let me tell you what that means, if you have the grit and the American Spirit to stay in that group as you work your way down the Decades.

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If you are going to wear the badge of the One Percenters you're going to stuff and seal a Go-Zillion envelopes. You're also going to make hundreds of phone calls to people who don't really want to talk to you right then, and you'll do that just to stumble across the handful that do. If you're going to be one of the One Percenters my advice is to get a good pair of walking shoes, because you'll need them. You'll be knocking on doors and handing out campaign literature every two years from now on.

That's how it's done, ladies and gentlemen. That's how we use the tools of American Democracy to make things better. We each make our own decisions about what policies are right for the nation and who best exemplifies them during this Election Cycle. Then we go out and try to get that person elected.

Oh, by the way, all that is just how you get *Started* as a One Percenter. Before long you'll be using your connections on the Republican Town Committee where you live to get an appointment to the local Planning Commission, or the Zoning Board of Review. After you do a stint on your local Boards and Commissions you'll find yourselves as prime candidates to be Candidates. Will it be City Council? School Board? State Representative? County Commissioner? It will probably be all those offices, and more. And when you make that first run for elective office you will rely on the CR's who are available near you at that time to stuff your envelopes and burn some shoe leather dropping your literature.

It's like the Cycle of the Seasons. It's also exactly how I traveled the fifty or one hundred feet from where you're sitting now to where I'm standing.

In other words, folks, your decision to join the One Percenters is a life long commitment.

But Wait! There's More!

If you have the most effective and functional campaign organization the world has ever seen, but you have no message, you will loose. In that scenario the highly efficient communications network you create will only serve to inform voters *Faster* that you do not have any answers they want to hear.

So there's more to it than just process. You've got to have philosophical standing on the issues of the day. You've got to have a political position that voters understand is in their best interests. You've got to have a Different product than the Other Guy, and in the best case you'll have a Better Product than he or she does.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the Grand Old Party.

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We are all here today because at our cores we agree that the purpose of government is to support the individual, not the other way around. We are Republicans because we understand that the idea of individual authority is the cornerstone of the Constitution of the United States of America. We are the party that is willing to smile and stand aside when individual citizens stand up to exercise that right. We're not afraid of other people's choices. We're here to build a government that will create an environment of order, under which those millions of different choices can be made every day and we are not afraid of the results.

To be sure, with Authority comes Responsibility. We insist that individuals engaged in their own pursuits of happiness do so responsibly. But that's just Civil Behavior in a crowded society.

Since Republicans do not espouse the use of government as an institutional force to direct and control its citizens, we can be the party of smaller government. And today that means we can be the party of less expensive government.

So why are we out of office?

Some of our brothers and sisters in the GOP seem to have applied those standards in a haphazard fashion. Some may have even forgotten our party's message from time to time. President Nixon appears to have forgotten about our values when he based a campaign on dirty tricks. Speaker Gingrich certainly remembered them all when he forged the Contract for America. Sadly some of the GOP legislators who followed him in the Majorities of 2000 through 2006 might have also lost sight of the Republican ideas of lower spending and lower taxes. That's the best way I know to keep government unobtrusive by keeping it small.

OK. Now what?

Now it is up to all of us to be the institutional memory of our Republican Party. We, each of us, have to pledge ourselves to keeping our eyes on the prize of a working American Republic that has respect for its citizens and a dedication to serving them by letting them make their own decisions. I say, Grant the Authority and you will see it used Responsibly. Today decision making authority comes mostly from a Checkbook. So to paraphrase Thomas Jefferson, that government which taxes the least governs best. Remember that. Please.

Ladies and Gentlemen of the College Republican Federation of Rhode Island you stand today at the beginning of a road that I hope you will follow faithfully for a lifetime. I trust that you will all grow to be the corporate conscience and memory of our old party, that will keep it Grand. I can sense your enthusiasm for

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both the grunt work of campaigning and the honor of serving. I can see all that in you because it takes one to know one.

I began by saluting your commitment to our party and its ideals. I'll conclude by literally applauding you as I send you off on a life long mission of keeping that faith. If I could do it, you can do it.

Thank You, Ladies & Gentlemen. And Bravo.

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