



MCYR NEWSLETTER

2004-2005 National YR Outstanding Newsletter

Official Publication of the
Morris County Young Republicans

May 2006
Volume 3, Issue 1

REAGAN DAY 2006

By Mike Ford

Going back some years, I remember something someone told me once about being Republican. There are those who are Conservative, and there are those who are Republican. Then, there are those who are Reagan Conservatives. As I've become more active in local politics in the past 2 years, I've come to appreciate that statement. There's truth in it. And apparently, I'm not the only one who sees this truth.

On Tuesday, February 21st, 2006, in conjunction with the late great Ronald Reagan's birthday, Jay Webber and Tom Weisert put together the 3rd annual Reagan Day dinner at the Zeris Inn in Mountain Lakes. Having spoken to Tom only days earlier, I had the pleasure of registering for the event and attending. After helping myself to the generous hot and cold dinner buffet I looked around in relative awe. There was a host of people. I found myself in a banquet hall-style room filled with people who were interested in the GOP, active in the GOP, active in local and state politics, who have seen, and who have heard. By seen and heard, I mean to say that many of these nice folks had the opportunity to live in the United States of America during the Reagan years. And it hit me. Wow. This really IS Reagan Day. These people came from all over to honor the late great president. They came to share their stories, memorabilia, and memories of a great man, a great leader, and a great Republican.

The highlight of the evening was a fantastic address by John Fund from the Wall Street Journal. He was focused and sometimes vocal on his reasons for being in attendance. He was very forthcoming that the evening was not a political platform, but an opportunity to stop, think, reflect, and share. And share he did. Mr. Fund told a particularly vivid

story of a visit he made to East Germany and East Berlin in the eighties. He spoke of a young woman he met while there. She pointed out obvious differences between his fortunate circumstance of being from the West, and her unfortunate reality of living in East Berlin separated literally and metaphorically from freedoms. They stayed in touch, as it were, over the years. Mr. Fund stressed that if it weren't for Reagan, he would not have received a call from this young woman he had met years before in East Berlin. She called at 4:30am and asked if it was him on the phone, in fact. Confirming she had his full attention some several thousand miles away, she uttered the words, "I made it over the wall." Mr. Fund paused in his address. Truthfully, a silence echoed loudly in the room. I mean that in the most literal sense. There could not have been a more impactful action than that silence. No words or poem could emphasize the scope of the truth John Fund was conveying.



The story he told was confirmation of who Reagan was, what kind of president he was, what kind of perseverance he had, what kind of goals he saw through to the end, and the impact he had on the world around him during his administration. Moreover, that silence in conjunction with the story we all heard was confirmation of why we were all there; to honor Ronald Reagan. The man whose very existence coined the term: "Reagan Conservative." And I, as a Morris County Young Republican, am glad to have been a part of it.