



WEEKLY UPDATE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DNC COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

July 24, 2015

[DNC CEO Amy Dacey on Medium: The Hypocrisy of Jeb Bush, Circa 2004](#)

This past weekend, Donald Trump made some ugly remarks about John McCain's military record. And as you might expect, the other Republicans running for president (as well as my counterparts over at the RNC) were quick to denounce their current frontrunner.

Immediately, I thought of 2004—when so many of these Republicans did the same thing after John Kerry was falsely attacked for his military record.

Oh right, that didn't happen. These same people were right there supporting the smears.

An outside group called the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth released an ad that slandered Kerry's time serving our country in Vietnam. Featuring veterans who didn't even serve alongside Secretary Kerry, the ad spread false accusations on his record and called into question his loyalty and service to our country.

Jeb Bush was deeply appreciative of their effort to discredit a decorated war veteran in support of his brother's reelection campaign. He wrote a letter thanking the Swift Boat Veterans for smearing Secretary Kerry's record:

"As someone who truly understands the risk of standing up for something, I simply cannot express in words how much I value their willingness to stand up against John Kerry."

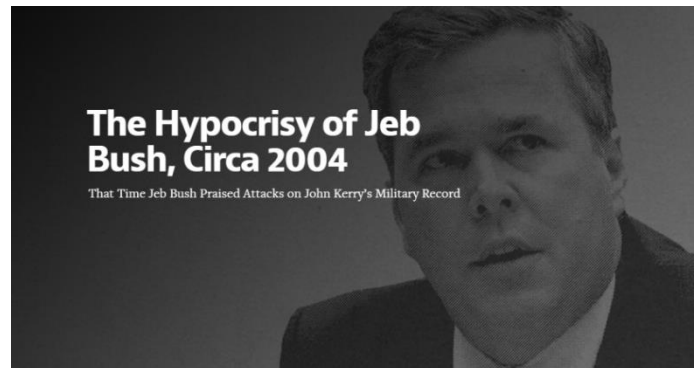
Yesterday, Bush stood by the letter, saying that he wasn't going to change his mind on their effort that called Kerry's military service into question.

Secretary Kerry's military record represents honor, courage, and commitment to our country. Just like John McCain's. Just like my father's and brother's service, and like the brave men and women who serve in our armed forces every day—keeping America safe.

The GOP can't have it both ways. John McCain, John Kerry, and all veterans should be treated with the care and respect they deserve for serving our country—not maligned by baseless slights against their heroism.

Clearly Jeb Bush doesn't seem to think that is the case. Why is he comfortable with ugly attacks against one decorated veteran, but not another?

Jeb Bush should know better. There is no place for this type of partisan hypocrisy in our White House.



[Jeb Bush Doubles Down on Phasing Out Medicare](#)

During a town hall meeting yesterday, Jeb Bush doubled down on Wednesday's comments and his plan to "phase out" Medicare.

Watch [here](#).

Two days in a row where Jeb Bush has shown that he doesn't understand the issues that are important to the middle class and our country's seniors. Millions of Americans are counting on Medicare when they retire for access to quality, affordable health. If Jeb Bush is president, people who are working hard now, playing by the rules, putting in long hours, and saving for their retirement, won't have the same health benefits that seniors rely on today.

"Hey Jeb – we checked the thesaurus, and here are some other words for 'phase out': eliminate, cancel, terminate. That's Jeb Bush's plan for Medicare." – said Holly Shulman, DNC National Press Secretary

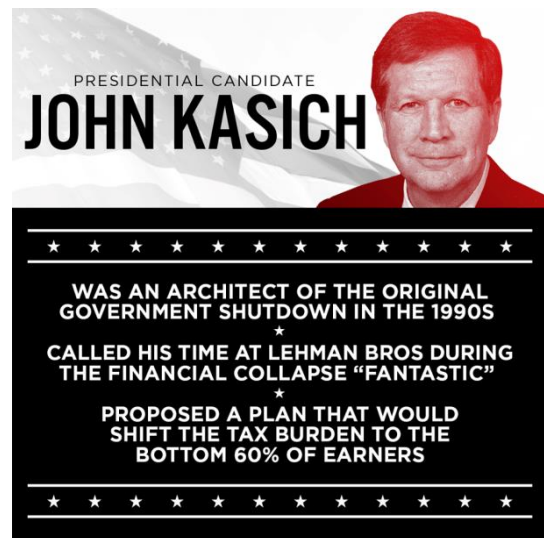
[DNC Chair Statement On John Kasich's 2016 Announcement](#)

With John Kasich's announcement that he is running for president, DNC Chair Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz released the following statement:

"We don't need even one day of John Kasich out on the campaign trail to tell us what kind of president he would be. Kasich's time as a congressman, governor, and at a Wall Street firm have shown us that he will continue his divisive record of putting his own best interests ahead of the people of Ohio and the middle class.

"From championing the original government shutdown in the mid-1990s that cost taxpayers as much as \$800 million to serving as a managing director for one of the investment banks that was integral to the 2008 crash and subsequent economic crisis that put nearly 9 million Americans out of work, John Kasich's callous actions are only matched by his notoriously dismissive attitude toward hardworking Americans. As governor of Ohio, Kasich has cut taxes for the wealthy while placing stress on local governments to clean up his messes. He's cut almost \$2 billion in education funding and signed some of the most restrictive women's health laws in the country.

"We've seen John Kasich's pro-John Kasich policies in action, and we deserve better. John Kasich is simply out of touch with today's middle class and working Americans. Adding insult to injury, he brings more of the same divisive rhetoric and policies that are already prevalent among his fifteen fellow contenders, which is the last thing America needs."



[Scott Walker is no model Scout](#)

WASHINGTON BLADE // SEAN MELOY, DNC Director of LGBT Community Engagement

In a sign of progress for LGBT Americans, the Boy Scouts of America is on the verge of ending its discriminatory policies toward LGBT adult participation in its troops. It ended discrimination against LGBT youth in 2013.

But Scott Walker thinks that the old, discriminatory policies “protected children and scout values.” That’s what he told a reporter last week. He’s also reiterated that he thinks the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality was wrong and that he would support a constitutional amendment to allow states to overturn marriage equality. Even more perplexing, he said he doesn’t know whether being gay is a choice.

Walker credits attaining the Eagle Scout rank as a teenager in the Boy Scouts with some of his success later in life. So do I. However, my journey from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout would have been even more meaningful and beneficial if I could have openly discussed my sexuality — ideally with a leader who could tell me it was OK to be myself as I advanced through scouting.

Sadly, when it comes to the tenets of the Scout Law and LGBT people, Scott Walker is sorely at odds. Let’s take a look at some of the Core Values of the Boy Scouts of America and how Scott Walker measures up.

Trustworthy. Scott Walker [lies repeatedly](#) about his record, has been called “[More Nixonian than Nixon](#)” by a key Watergate figure, and failed to keep his promise to create 250,000 jobs in Wisconsin.

Loyal. Scott Walker has proven his loyalty to the far-right in his opposition to gay marriage, even calling for a constitutional amendment to allow states to outlaw marriage as recently as last month. But he’s not so loyal to the LGBT friends he says he has. Walker has [gone to the wedding reception](#) of his wife’s cousin and her spouse, but he actively supports policies that would take away their right to marriage equality.

Helpful. To the richest of the rich, who received tax breaks under Walker, yes. But to LGBT people, no. He even [opposed LGBT hospital visitation rights](#).

Kind. The “Golden Rule” is something to abide by, unless you are Walker and dealing with LGBT people. If you want to marry someone of the same sex and receive all the benefits and privileges that come from marriage, Walker doesn’t think you deserve to. Walker even [wanted to strip domestic partner benefits](#) for same-sex couples in his state.

Obedient. Yes. [To the Koch brothers](#).

Cheerful. Happy to support the principle of Indiana’s “Religious Freedom” bill that would allow businesses to discriminate against LGBT people.

Thrifty. Walker cut more than \$200,000 in AIDS prevention funding because he said it supported “illegal activity.”

Brave. To make statements that Wisconsin voters don’t want marriage equality, even though more than 60 percent of Wisconsinites support it.

Clean. His politics are anything but clean – Walker’s [“long history of dirty tricks”](#) is well documented in the media.

[It's been six years since the federal minimum wage was last raised...](#)

It's been six years since the federal minimum wage was last raised.

While Democrats continue fighting to raise the minimum wage in order to help working families put food on the table and pay their bills, let's take a look at what the 2016 GOPers have had to say on this:

[Jeb Bush](#): "one of those poll-driven deals"

[Scott Walker](#): "lame idea"

[Rick Perry](#): "don't think it's government's business"

[Marco Rubio](#): "waste of time"

[Chris Christie](#): "I'm tired of hearing about the minimum wage. I really am"

Click [here](#) to see more.

[Bush, Walker, Rubio, Cruz, and Santorum on 5-year anniversary of Wall Street reform: Put the banks back in charge](#)

Seven years ago, America was on the brink of the greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression. The effects of the Bush recession – which cost nearly 9 million Americans their job – still ripple through the economy today.

Five years ago, President Obama and Democrats in Congress responded to that crisis by passing the most sweeping Wall Street reform measure in a generation. The law has been a [success](#).

Predictably, Republican presidential candidates celebrated that five-year anniversary by calling for the law's repeal, a move that would allow Wall Street to once again write the rules and rig the system in its favor.

[Jeb Bush](#): "We should repeal."

[Scott Walker](#): "It's time to repeal #DoddFrank"

[Marco Rubio](#): "We need to repeal Dodd-Frank"

[Ted Cruz](#): "The only way to stop [the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau] is by eliminating it altogether"

[Rick Santorum](#): "Dodd Frank is a disaster"

"Republican presidential candidates are banking on Americans forgetting the horrors of the Bush recession. But America hasn't forgotten – that's why, [by a three-to-one margin](#), Americans support efforts to rein in Wall Street. Americans don't want to risk another economic collapse by rolling back these protections, but the Republican presidential candidates do." – DNC Spokesperson Eric Walker

In the States

- On Wednesday, following Gov. John Kasich's announcement that he will be seeking the Republican nomination for president, the Ohio Democratic Party released a new video highlighting his "Not So Presidential" behavior: "Governor John Kasich has spent a long time in the public eye, and he's not always handled the spotlight very well," said Ohio Democratic Party Chairman David Pepper. "From calling a law enforcement officer an 'idiot' to advocating for racial profiling, Kasich doesn't seem very presidential when you look at his inflammatory comments over the years." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Wednesday, South Carolina Democratic Party Executive Director Jason Perkey issued the following statement on Jeb Bush's self-serving opposition to much-needed oversight of the financial industry: "On the heels of the fifth anniversary of the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act being signed into law—a law essential in protecting middle class Americans and the nation from future financial crisis—Jeb Bush has doubled down on his opposition to oversight of the very same financial institutions that led our nation into its biggest economic crisis since the Great Depression, costing millions of Americans their jobs and in some cases their homes. He simply doesn't believe in holding big corporate tycoons accountable." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Democratic Party of Texas issued a statement asking Texas GOP Chair Tom Mechler if his party will officially denounce Donald Trump's "racist and xenophobic candidacy": "Will the Texas GOP Distance Itself from Racist and Xenophobic Republican Presidential Candidate? Despite having the border tour cancelled by Laredo's National Border Patrol Council Local 2455, Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump is making a stop at the Texas-Mexico border today." Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, the Democratic Party of Iowa issued a release highlighting Jeb Bush's hypocritical and misleading rhetoric regarding lobbyists while having registered as one himself: "This week, Jeb Bush has been going around the country trying to convince the American people that despite his deep-seated connections with lobbyists, he is somehow the candidate who can mitigate their influence and "change the culture" in Washington. This morning, he took this argument to the [Des Moines Register](#):" Read the full press release [here](#).
- On Thursday, New Hampshire Democratic Party Chair Ray Buckley responded to Jeb Bush's "winning argument" that "we need to figure out a way to phase out" Medicare: "For half a century, Medicare has remained a critical part of the safety net for our Senior citizens as a sacred promise that we must uphold for future generations. As of 2012, there were 231,000 granite staterers that would rely on medicare for health coverage. New Hampshire can't afford Jeb Bush's ideas to phase out Medicare and neither can the rest of the country." Read the full press release [here](#).