



The Anderson County Democrat

The Official Voice of the Anderson County Tennessee Democratic Party Nov. 2015 Issue 6

The Anderson County Democratic Party thanks our local veterans for their service

An Armistice Day Poem

"In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

"We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

"Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."

<http://www.npr.org/>

The Clinton Parade:



Front row: Richard Dawson (drivers seat)

"Bear" (Passenger seat)

Back row: John Norris (behind driver) and Herman Collins

A Christmas Party for the Party!



The Anderson County Democratic Woman and the Anderson County Democratic Party will be jointly hosting a Christmas Party on Tuesday December 8th at 6:00PM at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church. Drinks and meat will be provided, but please bring a side dish. This is a great chance to reminisce about this past year and about our hopes for the next. We hope to see you there!

On Veterans Day the Anderson County Democratic Party honored our veterans. We took out a page long ad in the *Clinton Courier* thanking them for their service. Secondly, we had four of our party veterans in a decorated car drive in the parade. While the Republican Party waves the flag and says support our veterans, they are really only "Veterans Day veterans supporters". The other 364 days are spent blocking funding and services for them. We are honored to have veterans in our party and thank them for their service!

Editor: Pat Fain

Asst. Editor: Scott Julius

Consulting: Catherine Denenberg

Contact us: patfain.acdp@gmail.com

Anderson County Democratic Party: Respect...Inclusion...Equality

Veterans beyond Veterans Day By Pat Fain

Quotes about Veteran's from the Democratic candidates:

We have just celebrated another Veterans Day and again I am struck by the thought that we are missing an even more meaningful way to show that we value the all volunteer military men and women who serve this country.

It is appropriate to formally remember those who lost their lives for our protection. It is fitting that we support, recognize and thank all the service members who have returned to civilian life. It is absolutely required that we do everything possible to help active military families live a life that allows the service member to serve the country and support their families with equal dedication. Finally, the highest priority of this country must be to treat our sick, wounded, disabled, troubled service members as befits a nation that places the ultimate value on the human beings who have had their lives and health torn apart and seriously compromised.

I read every day that our military budget exceeds the total of all other countries combined. Then I read about multi-billions of dollars spent on machinery of war that even the military leaders have not requested. Then I hear about the revolving door between military contractors and high ranking military leaving service. Sometimes, way below the fold, buried deep in the back pages, I read that low ranking military families not living on base are usually qualified to receive food stamps.

Finally, I read about and see on television, the absolute disgrace we are allowing to persist in the Veteran's Administration. Waiting lists for services are years long, not months. People die waiting for care. Hospital staffs are inadequate to meet the needs. Specialty doctors are hard to find. Hospital conditions would not be tolerated in civilian hospitals. The percentage of unemployed or underemployed is above average. Families are falling apart under the pressure of daily life. The people are setting up private foundations to help fund adequate medical and family services. There is something terribly wrong with this picture. Terribly corrupt and terribly callous.

We are like Easter Day-Christians. We get dressed up and parade around town and hunt Easter eggs, then go home and come back the following year to show off how prosperous we have become. The other 364 days are spent in self absorption and willful forgetfulness. Our sons are no longer drafted and the military has become the default job for the expendable of our society. While the Generals get wealthy serving the god of big contractors and weapons manufacturers.

Men and women and children have sacrificed to serve and protect this country. They are being treated like second class citizens. All the honors of the one day ring hollow and pitiful beside the unmet needs of our first protectors and the lack of true compassion for those who have sacrificed so that we can feel unafraid in our daily lives. We need to be ashamed of ourselves. And then we must stop tolerating it.

Hillary Clinton:

"I believe in making sure that people who sacrifice for us are given all the care and the benefits and support that they need. And I believe strongly that taking care of our veterans is part of our solemn duty as Americans"

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com>

Martin O'Malley:

"Veterans have not escaped Washington's dysfunction. While some progress has been made at (VA), the current situation remains unacceptable. Further reform and bold actions are needed to ensure instances of data manipulation and secret wait lists never happen again."

Quote from new policy paper

<http://www.militarytimes.com>

Bernie Sanders:

"Instead of cutting benefits for the men and women who have served our country, we should ask the most profitable corporations and the wealthiest among us to pay their fair share."

<https://berniesanders.com>

This is NOT Acceptable

VETS MAKE UP

7 PERCENT

OF THE AMERICAN POPULATION.



BUT THEY ACCOUNT FOR

20 PERCENT

OF ITS SUICIDES.



SOURCES: DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS,
CENTER FOR NEW AMERICAN SECURITY

Mother Jones

Hillary Clinton on Veterans Issues

1. End the endemic of veterans suicides and expand access to mental healthcare.
2. Wants support for service members and their families through smart compensation and benefit reform.
3. Believes we should move decisively to end the plague of veterans homelessness.
4. Equal support for woman and LGBT veterans.

<https://www.hillaryclinton.com>

Martin O'Malley on Veterans Issues

1. Has a goal of zero un-employment for veterans by the year 2020.
2. Will work with Congress to pass the Military Justice Improvement Act to combat sexual assault in the military.
3. Encourage every state to grant in-state tuition to military families.
4. Expand veterans hiring preferences and recruitment at the VA.

<https://martinomalley.com>

Bernie Sanders on Veterans Issues

1. Will fully fund and expand the VA for all veterans get the care they need.
2. Introduced legislation to restore cuts to military pensions.
3. Wants to improve the processing to Veterans' claims for compensation.
4. Authored the Veterans' Access, Choice, and Accountability Act to improve care and accountability at the VA.

<https://berniesanders.com>

Light Reading for the political junkie

1. An excellent Washington Post piece about recent social changes in America, especially on LGBT issues: https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/how-should-conservative-christians-handle-a-rapidly-changing-culture/2015/11/02/8c03f8d4-818f-11e5-a7ca-6ab6ec20f839_story.html?wpmm=1&wpscsrc=nl_opinions
2. From the White House itself about current veterans issues: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/veterans>
3. For a scary read about what our current GOP contenders for President think about veterans issues: <http://correctrecord.org/the-gop-on-veterans-issues/>



On Thursday, November 12th at the Clinton Community Center the Anderson County Democratic Party held their Fall Fundraising dinner. This was a chance to fellowship with other county Democrats while eating great food by Judy Dodd Catering.

We heard a speech by Rep. Craig Fitzhugh who is the House Minority Leader. His speech was optimistic and hopeful, a trait he said Tennessean's have. Touching on what a certain Republican presidential candidate said Representative Fitzhugh said "We don't need to make America great again, it's already great!" With the Veterans Day holiday he emphasized the need to care for our service members. "Our service members keep hope alive when our politicians fail them" he told us. Republicans well-meaningly wave the flag on Veterans Day, but they do them a disservice by raising property taxes on disabled veterans or bowing to special interests by refusing to pass Insure Tennessee.

Rep. Fitzhugh told the us " Democrats govern well and are due for a resurgence. Get out to vote and don't give up!."