



Everything Jersey

The cheapest shot in American political history?

By Paul Mulshine

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The Doherty family: Not patriotic enough for the Jersey GOP?

If there is a single member of the New Jersey Republican Party more patriotic and right-wing than Assemblyman Mike Doherty, then I'd like to know who that guy is.

He certainly can't be found among the legions of time-serving opportunists who pass for Republicans in this state. Yet that crowd is now engaged in what may be the cheapest shot in recent American political history.

In 2008, Mike Doherty was the only official to support radical Ron Paul for President.

His radical agenda:

- Legalize drugs
- Stop mandatory sentences for criminals
- Surrender in Iraq

Source: www.RonPaulforPresident2008.com

Now, Mike Doherty supports a foolish plan to raise taxes on 70% of New Jersey families and 75% of seniors and eliminate their rebates.

Source: independent analysis of Treasury records, Associated Press, 3/1/09

We cannot count on Mike Doherty to stand up for our conservative values.

HIGHER TAXES • END PROPERTY TAX RELIEF • SURRENDER IN IRAQ

DOHERTY IS WRONG FOR SENATE.

The Karrow campaign ad: I have never seen as many lies in so small a space

Doherty is running in the Republican primary for the state Senate seat now held by Marcia Karrow in a district that straddles Hunterdon and Warren counties. Karrow is an otherwise pleasant and responsible enough public official, but apparently some of the geniuses who run the Jersey GOP convinced her to issue the sleaziest attack ad I've ever seen.

The ad (above) links Doherty to Ron Paul, the Texas congressman who may be the only true conservative on the national political scene. Paul believes that the Constitution means what it says. The powers of the federal government are extremely limited and the feds should have little say in the everyday governance of Americans.

Paul is a military veteran, by the way, as is Doherty. Doherty is a West Point grad who served eight years in the Army. As you can see from the above photo, his three sons are also serving in the armed forces.

Doherty is indeed a big Ron Paul supporter, as many military types are, for the simple reason that Paul believes in fighting only declared wars and in fighting those wars to win. Paul does not and did not advocate "surrender in Iraq" as the above ad indicates.

What Paul advocated was exactly what the Bush administration did: Hand control of that country over to its elected government. As for the concept of "surrender," I have no idea what Karrow or her handlers mean by that term. To whom would the United States "surrender" in Iraq? Iraq has an elected government that has been running the country since 2004. Are we "surrendering" to the Maliki government by handing over control of Iraq?

I doubt the person who wrote this flyer could even find Iraq on a map. I don't know just who that is, but Doherty said the flyer was done by Jamestown Associates, the consulting firm that is also tied to the Chris Christie campaign. I sent off an e-mail to Larry Weitzner of Jamestown asking for an explanation. He hasn't gotten back to me.

But I covered the Paul campaign in detail last year and even attended a Philadelphia rally at Independence Mall at which Doherty spoke on his behalf. There were quite a few military men and veterans in that crowd supporting Paul, for the obvious reason that military people want to fight wars to win them quickly and decisively.

"It's pretty amazing I was attacked on Memorial Day weekend on grounds that I wanted to surrender in Iraq," Doherty told me. "In February, my wife and I just went out to Camp Pendleton to welcome our son home from Iraq."

You can see that photo below.

Much of the rest of the mailer consists of lies as well, such as the charge that Doherty wants to "end property-tax relief." Doherty supports Steve Lonegan for governor, and Lonegan proposes distributing the state Property Tax Relief Fund equally on a per-pupil basis. That would mean a huge tax cut for just about every homeowner in the district. Under the current system, Hunterdon and Warren get just a tiny fraction of the funding that goes to places like Newark. I have specifically asked Christie if he would equalize the funding. He dodged the question.

Perhaps the only part of the mailer that isn't a lie is the charge that Ron Paul is a "radical." The word "radical" derives from the Latin term for "root." A true radical, therefore, is someone who wants to get us back to the roots of the American tradition. And that definition certainly fits Ron Paul and Mike Doherty. As for Marcia Karrow and the mainstream state GOP, I have no idea what they stand for. Christie **dodges my questions** when I try to determine whether he will take **our tax money** back from the urban Democratic machines. As far as I can tell, he's just Jon Corzine without the sweater-vest. I suspect the voters are figuring that out as well.

That may account for the mainstream GOP's desperation in this attack on one of Lonegan's few supporters among Republican elected officials.

But it is a new low, even by Jersey standards.



Mike Doherty with his wife Linda and his son Ryan, just back from Iraq in February: Is there any point below which the mainstream New Jersey GOP won't sink?

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