



National Black Republican Association

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NEWSLETTER Steele Makes History Edition

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Michael Steele Makes History

The NBRA celebrates the historic election of Michael Steele as Chairman of the Republican National Committee, making him the inheritor of the legacy of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican Party's first president, and the realization of the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Republican and our nation's most revered civil rights leader. It is only fitting that the election of Michael Steele as the head of the Republican Party took place during the bicentennial of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln's Legacy... ★

Dr. King's Dream... ★

Michael STEELE
RNC Chairman

*The Democrats' Worst Nightmare
The New Head of the Republican Party*

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Featured Commentary - In this Newsletter



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Michael Steele, Black, Pro-Life Catholic Takes the Helm of the G.O.P.

By Deacon Keith Fournier

This is an excerpt. To read the entire article visit: www.catholic.org



He was born at Andrews Air Force base in Prince George's County, Maryland on October 19, 1958 and subsequently adopted. This African American child was then raised in a family of Democrats. His political turn to the Republican Party did not come from his having attained success in almost every endeavor he has undertaken, which he has. Rather, according to this well spoken and inspiring man, it came from watching the lived example of his mother, Maebell and hearing the convincing positions of a man named Ronald Reagan.

Michael Steele's mother suffered a tragedy in 1962 when her husband, Michael's father, died of liver disease. She went to work and through her sacrifice raised him and his sister on a minimum wage job. Her ethic of hard work and deep dedication to her children were an inspiration to her young son. They have also been replicated in him, according to those who know him best.

He is considered one of the hardest working and most ethical public servants in American political life.

He attended Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington D.C. and is among the first in his family to go to College. He earned his Bachelors degree (B.A.) in international relations at Johns Hopkins and his Law Degree (J.D.) from Georgetown University Law Center. Michael Steele has a deeply rooted and sincere Catholic Christian faith. As a young man he considered a vocation to the priesthood and spent time at the Augustinian seminary at Villanova. After a period of discernment and study he chose to pursue marriage and family and what would become a distinguished career in law and public service. His Novice master for the Augustinians, Fr. Francis J. Doyle, told the Baltimore Sun "Michael was a very bright, articulate man who I would say gave himself very sincerely to the whole process of discernment."





Steele has held positions of leadership in the Republican Party at the State level and became the first African American to hold the Office of Lieutenant Governor of Maryland where he assumed office in 2003. However, it was his keynote address at the 2004 Republican National Convention he gave a keynote address which put him on the radar screen of many political observers as a rising star.

Michael Steele is Pro-Life. In an unsuccessful bid for the Maryland Senate in 2006 he responded to a question concerning "stem cell research". Michael Steele spoke: "I do support stem cell research. Where I have drawn the line is federal funding for research that destroys the embryo." He was pressed further **"Why are you opposed to using embryonic stem cells? Taking of a life?"** He answered with clarity again, **"Yes, I see that as a life, and I don't think that we should use federal funds to do that."**



Michael Steele is also a defender of true marriage and the family founded upon it. He is dedicated to expanding participation in educational and economic opportunity to all Americans. He is known to turn a phrase which can frame a debate. For example his insistence when queried as to his position on the civil rights struggle that it was time to "move the struggle to the right to own the diner, not just sit in it."

His election to the Chairmanship of the G.O.P. on January 30, 2009 was not easy. That is evidenced by the fact that he only secured the position by a vote of 91-77 in the sixth round of voting. Three other candidates had already dropped out. Some within the G.O.P. accuse Steele of being "too moderate". Others suggest that he adheres to some sort of "big tent" idea of the Republican Party, using the term pejoratively. My friend Deal Hudson is a veteran of Republican Politics and has had his share of difficult experiences in the rough and tumble of Republican Politics. In a January 28, 2009 piece for his "Inside Catholic" he told a story of Michael Steele which speaks volumes to me and I share it with you:



"Michael Steele made his pro-life views very clear when he was running for the Maryland Senate seat in 2006. Maryland is not a state especially friendly to pro-life politicians, and the fact that Steele did not down-play his convictions should settle the matter.



The Republican Party has imploded. It is in need of leadership which can inspire it to become once again the Party of Lincoln and stand up for a true new birth of freedom that includes the freedom to be born. Perhaps this articulate, dedicated Catholic Christian and loyal family man is just the recipe needed to bring some leaven to that old dying loaf. Of course, my positions on many issues have not fit the litmus test of the voices in that Party who think the "solution" is some return to a kind of knee jerk "conservatism". After all the very word "conservative" is becoming almost a chameleon in its usage these days. Some who use the term mean fiscal and economic conservatism alone. Oh they try to throw a bone now and again to what they call

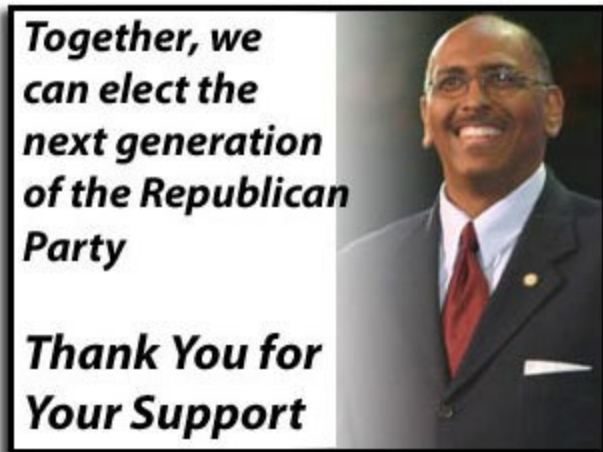
"social conservatives".

In reality, I think they want to jettison people like me who had to leave the Democratic Party when its leaders turned their back on the poorest of the poor, children in the womb. I left that Party when they lost their moral



integrity and right to claim that they care about the poor. I have often called myself a "Reluctant Republican". Maybe Michael Steele can help take away some of my reluctance.

I have longed for the day when both major Parties start from the foundation of all true social justice by recognizing in both of their platforms that the first right is the right to life and without it there are no other rights. Maybe that day will come. I still watch with great hope the growth and influence of groups like "Democrats for Life". However, with the President rescinding the Mexico City Policy on the day after the National day of mourning for the 50 million Americans we have lost due to the horror of abortion on demand, I know that the fight for life is an uphill battle.



Let us hope and pray that Chairman Michael Steele rises to this historic moment of leading the Republican Party.

Editor's Note: Bob Beckel is a very partisan Democrat who acknowledges Michael Steele's ethical character in the below article, while warning the Democratic Party about Steele being a formidable opponent. Please observe that to Beckel, our traditional conservative values that have made America great are defined as "unreasonable arguments."

Democrats: Beware of Michael Steele

By Bob Beckel



After blasting Republicans for an endless string of missteps last week, I concede the GOP finally got one right.

Electing the former Lieutenant Governor of Maryland, Michael Steele, to chair the Republican National Committee is a smart move for the GOP and a warning for Democrats.



I have spent hours with Steele at the Fox News studios, and in dozens of TV encounters, and at dinners. **Steele is a friendly, formidable**, and very partisan man who should not be underestimated. He has a disarming and gifted television personality and an uncanny ability to make the most unreasonable arguments sound rational. **In a debate, he can charm his opponents into a false sense of security, and then proceed to maul them.**

Democrats who underrate Steele do so at their own peril.

The press continually refers to Steele as a "moderate", but he is not a moderate -- he only plays one on television. Under that friendly persona of reasonableness lies the soul of a doctrinaire conservative. From an ardent supply-sider to a committed pro-life advocate (he came within a year of being ordained a Catholic priest), Steele is firmly on the Right.

In the pro-choice state of Maryland, Steele rarely raised the abortion issue in his races for Lieutenant Governor and the U.S. Senate. But his party is looking to him to rekindle the passions of the pro-life movement on a national stage. And Steele is aware of the 2008 falloff of voter turnout in precincts where the pro-life movement is strong.

Democrats will say that abortion is not an important issue right now, especially in the midst of a daunting recession. Among most voting groups they are right, but they miss a group critical to maintaining the Democrats' majority -- Hispanics. Obama won many of their votes in 2008, but the bulk of Hispanic voters, like Steele, are Catholic and fervently anti abortion.



Steele understands that his party cannot regain a national majority unless the GOP can cut into the 2-1 advantage Obama received from Hispanics. But he also recognizes his party's opposition to grant amnesty to illegal aliens, many of whom are Hispanics. That position was, in part, responsible for major defections among Hispanics in 2008 who voted 40%+ for George Bush in 2004. The abortion card, carefully played, is in Steele's hand. And he will use it.



Steel will also try to attract more African American votes, which he emphasized in his campaign. This will be challenging to accomplish as well since the nation now has its first black president. But even here Steele sees an opening among the burgeoning black middle and entrepreneurial classes, of which Mr. Steele is a member. This growing black voting block is skeptical about the Democrats' minority policies that almost exclusively favor poor African-Americans.

Many successful blacks, Steele among them, grew up in sparse economic circumstances but managed to work their way up the ladder and eschew government

dependency. They believe similar avenues are available to poorer blacks who have either become dependent upon the government or who lack the initiative to break from the "black as victim" mode.

Steele is firmly in this camp. Born on a military base in Washington D.C., Steele was put up for adoption. His adoptive parents, also from D.C., were hard working people of meager means. Along with his adopted sister (once married to boxer Mike Tyson) Steele was raised in a highly disciplined environment supplemented by a rigorous Catholic education.



Steele has made a good living in the private sector since his failed Senate bid. He has a strong work ethic and believes in a lightly regulated market capitalism. He opposes government intervention in the markets and was an outspoken critic of the Bush/Paulson \$700 billion bailout plan. Steele also opposes Obama's stimulus plan.

But Steele is smart enough to avoid direct attacks on a popular president. That said, he anticipates Obama's favorable ratings to fall, which is likely, and when they do, expect Steele to go after the president with a vengeance. It is here that Steele enjoys an advantage: his race. He can attack Obama

without being accused of playing the race card.



Steele once told me a story that speaks volumes about his determination to succeed: Steele attended college at Johns Hopkins University. In his freshman year, Steele said, his grades were so bad that the dean of students told him he would not be invited to return. His mother forced him to go back to the dean and insist he was prepared to do anything to continue his studies. The dean said "no," but Steele's mother made him confront the dean again. This went on for weeks until the dean, in desperation, agreed to readmit Steele with the proviso that any bad grades would end in his dismissal,

mother or no mother. Steele went on to graduate near the top of his class at Johns Hopkins and was elected student body president.

Democrats beware: Steele faces challenges, perseveres, and succeeds. Given the state of the GOP Steele holds a weak political hand, but you can be sure he will maximize the opportunities of whichever card he holds.

Bob Beckel managed Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign. He is a senior political analyst for the Fox News Channel and a columnist for USA Today. Beckel is the co-author with Cal Thomas of the book "Common Ground."

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http://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2009/02/democrats_beware_of_michael_st.html



Poll: Black Democrats near GOP on moral issues

Republicans and black Democrats in the United States are in near agreement on social values, including the sanctity of marriage and life, a Gallup Poll indicates.

Blacks who vote for the Democratic Party are not voting their values.

View the poll at:

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/12/03/Poll_Black_Dems_near_GOP_on_moral_issues/UPI-62231228317975/