



Libertarian Brother, Harry Browne, Rest In Peace

by VC Media Kenneth Prazak

The man of logic, Libertarian icon, and consummate gentleman, Harry Browne, of Franklin, Tennessee, passed away on March 1, 2006. He was 72 years old. He has left a legacy of freedom activism that will be hard to match.

I first became aware of Harry Browne back in the Seventies. Harry had written two best-selling books on financial advice, *How You Can Profit from the Coming Dollar Devaluation* and *You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis*. These were much more than merely books on financial advice. These were wonderful primers on how a true free market should operate, written in crystal clear logic in a manner I had never seen before. Harry Browne explained how gold was the true money, and since Nixon had taken the US dollar off the last vestige of a gold standard, gold would skyrocket in price in relation to the dollar. Harry was the original "gold bug", and advocating against the prevailing wisdom, he helped make a lot of people a lot of money. He also introduced the "Austrian" free market school of economics to a lot of people, myself included.



Harry Browne became quite famous among the free market financial community, appearing regularly on shows such as "Wall Street Week" with Louis Rukeyser.

Then he wrote what I still consider the best self-help book ever written, *How I found Freedom in an Unfree World*. Different than any other self-help book ever written, Harry Browne forced the reader through his clear logic to face choices and act accordingly to maximize one's own freedom—if indeed freedom was ones ultimate goal, eschewing emotional ties to any lifestyle that ran counter to the ultimate goal of freedom.

In the Eighties, Harry Browne once again showed his adherence to logic, a discipline he practiced his entire life. While other "gold bugs" continued to extol the virtues of gold, Harry recognized that the days of easy money off gold speculation were over and recommended a diversified portfolio. Gold aficionados who listened to Harry's advice benefitted financially.

Meanwhile, the Libertarian Party struggled through the Seventies and Eighties, never receiving more than 1% for any presidential candidate. What was needed was a bigger name, many thought. Harry Browne, a famous name amongst Libertarians, and well known in financial circles, was approached. In 1996, Harry Browne became our presidential candidate. Optimism reigned in the LP. Harry Browne wrote his campaign book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, written again in plain crystal clear logic, an effective argument to implement the libertarian phi-

losophy into policy. The 1996 campaign and book brought many people into the Libertarian fold. Yet even Harry got less than 1% of the vote. Four years later he ran again. All that was needed was repetition, after all, just like promoting any product on the market. Harry got the nomination. Again he got well less than 1% of the vote. To add insult to injury, Harry's campaign was charged by some Libertarians with financial impropriety. Much of the donated money of the campaign seemed to go to top-heavy management instead of directly to the campaign for literature or media buys. Most Libertarians didn't fault Harry for the financial situation; he was busy on the campaign trail. But the luster faded a bit on the once shiny icon.

It's debatable as to what went wrong in those two presidential campaigns. Was Harry Browne only famous in Libertarian circles? Was the time not ripe yet for any Libertarian candidate? Was Harry Browne's clear logic too cold for a society no longer in an age of reason, but instead drowning in an aura of feelings?

The life of Harry Browne compels fellow Libertarians to ponder what Harry must have pondered himself. Has our time—a time in which individual freedom is the ultimate value, passed us by? Is our dream a mere relic of the past? Or is our movement a harbinger for great things to come? Was Browne born 50 years too soon? Or was he the right man for the right time to lay the necessary groundwork for great things to come? I have to believe that Harry believed the latter, for Harry always eschewed what he regarded as shortcuts in a movement for individual freedom. Harry always stood firm holding to a radical, principled philosophy of laissez-faire and very limited government, if any government at all. Harry was steadfast in presenting a logical paradigm for maximizing individual freedom. He was tireless and devoted. In his latter years, Harry Browne continued to advocate the tenets of libertarianism on his weekly radio show and through his think tank (www.DownsizeDC.org).

Harry was a true brother in the fight for freedom. He will be sorely missed. As I remember this Libertarian icon, I have a renewed inspiration for singing as a member of a choral group this weekend. Our scheduled program is Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Ludwig's paean to universal brotherhood, the "Ode to Joy." Harry Browne was a great lover of classical music. So this is for you, Harry, your quest for brotherhood in a voluntary society.

"Alle Menschen werden Brüder, wo dein sanfter Flügel weilt!"

All mankind are brothers plighted, Where thy gentle wings abide!"

2006 LPI Convention

The Convention Committee has selected a hotel for the September 15-17 Convention. We will again be "getting our kicks" at the Route 66 Hotel in Springfield. In the works are inspiring speakers, workshops, and great entertainment for all. For questions/suggestions call 800-735-1776 or Convention@LPillinois.org.



The Libertarian Current

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Who Will Decide?

By State Chair Val Vetter

Occasionally, either via e-mail, or sometimes at a meeting of the LP-Chicago, I'll be asked: "why doesn't the LP _____?" (It could be any topic, you fill in the blank) A variant of this asks why didn't we do something a particular way instead of the way we did. Regardless of the topic, the answer to the question is often the same: "Because that's how the people involved in the process decided to do it."

The people at meetings, volunteering, and often, putting up the money to do it, are the ones who decide what to do – and how to do it. This may not please everybody, but it's the way that it should be.

We might say the very same thing to people we meet at outreach events. People who say they're "not political", or those who don't bother to vote – yet often complain that things aren't as they'd like them. This situation happens with the management of any organization – including the LP-Illinois. More importantly, this is what has and **will** happen with the National LP this coming July in Portland.

If you've been reading February and March's LP News, you know that there's a lively discussion going on about **The Oath**. Yes – that oath – the one that people who want to join the National LP have to sign. To refresh your memory, it reads: "**I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.**" That's straight from the web site when you click the "Join Us" link.

(You'd also been keenly aware of this if you have been visiting www.lpconvention.org/platform as I suggested last month.)

The "Oath" and the LP Platform will be very hot topics at this year's National convention. Are you happy with the platform? Do you think there should be an oath to join our party?

I know a lot of you have very strong feelings on these topics as some of you have shared them with me. Some of the arguments are very compelling – but I'm not the one that has to be convinced. The delegates of the 2006 LP National Convention will make the decision on these matters. Arguments made online or at your local meetings may be interesting – or even profound – but they won't matter at all.

You may have also noticed that a few folks have thrown their hats in the ring for the Chairman of the LNC. How do you feel about the progress of the National LP since 2004? Would you choose the same LNC members for another term, or would you replace them? With who?


Who will decide what the National LP platform will look like? Who will lead the LNC for the next 2 years? Who will decide if YOU aren't there to debate and vote these important issues?

The people who ARE there will decide.

I'll be there – but I can't speak for all of us. Even if I knew what all LP-Illinois members wanted I only get one vote – and no proxies are allowed.

This Independence Day – the day after the convention closes – will you say "I was there and I made my voice heard?" or will you say "Why did they do that?" I can't guarantee that you'll be happy with the decisions made either way, but if you're there, if you make your voice heard and your vote count, I think you'll be happier than if you leave the decision to someone else.

Who will decide? ... I don't know, but I hope it's you. (OK, and me too.)

Go to www.lpconvention.org to get particulars on the convention. Register today! I'd love to have enough Illinois Libertarians at the convention to make a real difference – and to show the rest of the state parties that Illinois is a Libertarian force to be reckoned with. 

Where's My Local Chapter?

A fast way to find your local chapter is to visit the State Party website, www.lpillinois.org. Right on the front page you'll find a link to local chapters. An even faster way, is to pick up the phone and call one of the numbers listed below, or call the Executive Director at 1-800-735-1776. With Goal 102 producing results, Chapters are soon to be launched in Champaign and Tazewell Counties with interest being expressed in Kendall, Iroquois and Kankakee Counties as well.

The Libertarian Party of Chicago (LPC)

P. O. Box 1746
Chicago, IL 60690
(877) LPC-VOTE
or (312) 409-2223
www.lpchicago.org

Rockford Area Libertarians

P.O.Box 4775
Rockford, IL 61110
John Huwe, Chair
(815) 964-4012 or (815)633-5096
lprockford.8m.com

Libertarian Party of Cook County-Northwest

Contact: Kent McMillen
(312) 701-7491 day
(708) 865-9170 eve
groups.yahoo.com/group/LPI-Cook/

Libertarian Party of Lake County (LPLC)

P.O.Box 703
Lake Zurich, IL 60047
Eric Dubiel, Chair
(847) 438-7776
lake.il.lp.org

Southern Illinois Libertarians (SIL)

Walter Steele, Chair
P.O. Box 4
Carbondale, IL 62901-0004
618-231-4600
homepage.mac.com/calion/sil/

DuPage Libertarians

Crystal Jurczynski, President
PO Box 87465
Carol Stream, IL 60188-7465
(630) 876-1935
www.dupagelibertarians.org

Okaw Valley Libertarians (OVL)

Jeff Jones, Chair
420 W Gallatin St, Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 283-0888
www.okawvalleylibertarians.org

Metro East Libertarians (MEL; Belleville area)

Don Stover, Chair
(618) 580-8779
www.mel-lp.org

Fox Valley Libertarian Party (FVLP)

Bill Stevens, Chair
wstephen@fvlp.org
www.fvlp.org

Students for Individual Liberty - U of I Champaign/Urbana

Justin Doran, President
www.uiucsil.org/liberty

Honor Our Mothers

for the Values and Principles They Have Given Us

This Mother's Day, we Libertarians have the opportunity to honor the women who have given us the values and principles of Liberty and Independence.

With a donation of \$20 to the LPI, your mother's name will be included on our special "Mothers of Liberty" page in the May issue of the Libertarian Current as well as permanently recorded on a 2006 Mothers of Liberty Plaque that will be prominently displayed at this year's LPI Convention. Mothers will also receive a special Mother's Day Card informing them they are recipients of this special honor.

If you would like to recognize your mother (living or deceased) or perhaps your wife, daughter or friend - any woman that has promoted the Libertarian ideals while raising her family - now is the perfect opportunity to do so! Simply fill out the form below, return it to the LPI office at 515 W. Main, Greenville, IL 62246 along with your \$20 donation by April 21st and your mother's name will be included in this special recognition.

The LPI will offer this same opportunity to honor our Fathers of Freedom in the June issue of the Libertarian Current and the form to do so will be included in our May issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Executive Director, Jan Stover, at 800-735-1776.

From The Editor

Editor/VC Campaigns Don Stover

From where I sit, I am amazed. Consider for a moment all that is happening around the state; new member development, affiliates forming, Goal 102... positive things that move others toward action. Our ED tells me that nearly 30 new LPI'ers have already received "New Member" packets - with more people joining the Party every week!

I'd like to take a moment to thank those that keep their shoulder to the wheel. I'd also like to thank those that clip the pledge card and send it back with a donation or pledge. You all know who you are. Please consider this a hearty-party Thank You!

The donations that come in help produce this newsletter and if you take a moment, you'll see that the type size has been bumped up a bit, and to assist with getting through automated postal ma-



Lady Liberty Says:

*"Become
a \$10 Monthly Pledger or
Increase Your Current
Monthly Pledge by \$10 now
thru the month of April and
Receive a Gold Plated
Statue of Liberty
Lapel Pin to Wear Proudly!"*

"MOTHERS of LIBERTY"

Please Print Your Information Below
and Return to the LPI Office at
515 W. Main, Greenville, IL 62246
by Friday, April 21st

Recipient's Name: _____

Check one:

Living (In Honor of) ___ Deceased: (In Memory of) ___

Name of Contributor: _____

Relationship to Recipient: _____

Name and address where card is to be sent: (if recipient is deceased and contributor would like to receive an "In Memory of" card, please check here _____

Name _____

Address: _____

City and State _____

Zip Code _____

chinery, we have gone to a more robust paper. Several folks mentioned their last issue was pretty gnarled up and this heavier paper should help. In the event your copy arrives bungled, please drop a line to newsletter@lpillinois.org. (send address changes to this email as well). I'll be happy to send you another copy if you'd like - or you can go to the LPI website and download a copy and read the *Libertarian Current* online.

BTW, newsletter submissions are due on the 15th of each month.

LPI Website Update

The LPI Webmaster, Crystal Jurczynski, has been adding a number of Libertarian happenings from around Illinois to the Events calendar page of our website, but we'd love to include more! Send YOUR upcoming events and other website ideas to Crystal at Webmaster@LPillinois.org.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Employer:* _____ Occupation:* _____

Credit Card Type: Visa MC Discover Amex

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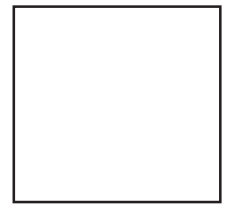
Expiration Date: Month: _____ Year: _____

Signature: _____

Checks also accepted to LPI or Libertarian Party of Illinois. Please send today!!!

* The FEC requires we collect this information. Not tax deductible. Paid for by the Libertarian Party of Illinois, Debra Aaron, Treasurer.
A copy of our report is available from the Illinois State Board of Elections in Springfield and the FEC in Washington, D.C.

Libertarian Party of Illinois
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DuPage Libertarians

Did you ever notice that when you put the two words "the" and "irs" together, it spells "theirs"? The next DuPage Libertarians meeting will explore one idea that proposes to rid ourselves of the IRS: the FairTax (see www.fairtax.org for more details). Should Libertarians support the FairTax? Bring your opinion to our next meeting on Wednesday, April 5th. We're moving to a NEW location, still in the Market Plaza Shopping Center, but down the row at the QQ Buffet, 579 W. Roosevelt Road in Glen Ellyn. We'll start gathering in the room at the back of the restaurant at 6:30 for socializing and, optionally, dinner (\$9.99). The meeting runs from 7 - 8:30 p.m. For more information, contact Crystal Jurczynski at 630.876.1935 or dpl@DuPageLibertarians.org.

The Fox Valley Libertarian Party

At the FVLP February meeting we discussed plans for an informational meeting sponsored by the FVLP on the topic of eminent domain. We are working on a location and speaker at this time. The meeting is scheduled for sometime in May, either in Elgin or Crystal Lake. More updates later.

FVLP is discussing the possibility of showing up at the Crystal Lake Independence Day parade on July 2 to demonstrate against the parade committee's new restrictions on political messages portrayed by floats in the parade, a clear violation of First Amendment rights. The committee will now restrict political parties from conveying any more than the name of their party on their floats. FVLP plans to fight this in whatever way possible.

John Ryan, a local Rep. committeeman from Algonquin, spoke on the upcoming District 300 school tax ref., urging everyone to do what they can to defeat this proposed tax increase.

Area Libertarians Participate in Anti-War March

For the 3rd anniversary of the war in Iraq, protests were staged around the world. This street-side photo was taken by one of the Libertarians demonstrating in Chicago. The blocks-long march down Michigan Avenue drew over 7000 people.

A favorite was the woman dressed as Princess Leia with a "Stop the Empire" sign, but there were many more like "End the Occupation" and "Troops Home Now."

There were a few counter-protesters and the marchers enjoyed chanting "Support Our Troops—Bring Them Home" as they walked by.



Affiliates On The Move!