

From: National Institute for Civil Discourse <nicd@email.arizona.edu>
To: Kevin L. BryantKevinBryant@scstatehouse.gov
Date: 12/20/2018 12:44:39 PM
Subject: Donor Reflections

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Donor Reflections

Dear Kevin,

I was there at the very beginning when the community of Tucson and the University of Arizona came together in the wake of the Tucson mass shooting when 6 people lost their lives and 13 others, including Rep. Gabby Giffords, were severely wounded and committed to make something good come out of that tragedy.

When we made that leap of faith in late January of 2011 we had no idea that in just seven short years the National Institute for Civil Discourse would become a highly respected national force. Nearly 1000 state legislators have been trained through our Next Generation program. More than 100,000 Americans have reached through community activities to revive civility and respect and in March of 2019 we will publish our first book of scholarly research.

During these same seven years, we had no idea that our country's political and public discourse would become so profoundly degraded.

The Institute's work is more important now than ever before. Please join me in increasing your year- end gift or becoming a first-time donor to support the Institute as it begins to work in the US Congress beginning in January. You can have the same confidence that I do that your gift will make a difference in our world.

Thank you for your generosity.

Fletcher McCusker
Tucson, Arizona
CEO, UAVenture Capital

When I was becoming an adult in the late 1960s, civility, cooperation, compromise, and respect among legislators was the norm.

I was fortunate to have been a part-time employee of the Ohio House of Representatives as a college student. At the time, freshmen legislators (first-termers) had very limited office space. In fact, freshmen Republicans and freshmen Democrats had only small desks placed next to each other in a single large room. There was one big coffee pot in the room; Rs and Ds poured coffee for each other. They each had a phone on their desk and, of course, could overhear each other's phone calls. The Rs and Ds shared the couple of staff people that were assigned to them by the Speaker. In fact, some Rs and Ds in adjoining districts shared rides to and from Columbus every week. Among them were a Democrat, Richard Celeste, and a Republican, George Voinovich, from neighboring districts in Cleveland, both of whom eventually became Governor of Ohio and remained friends despite their political differences. During that time party-line votes were uncommon. There was usually well-reasoned and courteous debate on the floor of the House. Certainly, there were arguments, but the Republican Speaker at the time, Charles Kurfess, discouraged insults and disrespect and sought compromise. And progress was made on important issues facing the state of Ohio.

These days, I doubt that there are any Ohio state legislators from opposite parties sharing rides to Columbus every week. Are there a pair of Rs and Ds that could agree on the simple question of where to take rest stops? Could we force them to car-pool, as a way of making them

have a one-hour conversation without insults? Just an hour of 'car-pool karaoke' might work.

Fortunately, NICD offers training to help state legislators and other groups learn to talk to each other across the aisle, to get things done for the common good. I don't know if NICD uses the 'car-pool' technique, but what they're doing is making a difference, one step at a time. We must keep NICD's work going in the future. Please join me in giving generously to enable NICD to work in more state legislatures in 2019.

Pam Conrad

Columbus, OH

Retired from IBM

We can do more together than we can do alone.

Together we can **Revive Civility,**
Our Democracy Depends On It

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