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Heartfelt thanks turns tough legislator Detert misty eyed

By [Jeremy Wallace](#), [Herald-Tribune](#) Monday, January 27, 2013



State Sen. Nancy Detert

No Nonsense Nancy got misty eyed.

State Sen. Nancy Detert, R-Venice, has long built a reputation as a tough legislator worthy of the intimidating firefighter's axe she keeps on her office wall with the inscription "No Nonsense Nancy."

But she was no match for Marcus Jacques. He and four other one-time foster children, all under 25 years of age, recently surprised Detert at a hearing in Tallahassee. One-by-one they took a microphone to thank her personally for legislation created years ago to help them transition out of foster care and to encourage her to keep fighting for other kids in the system. Many said Detert's work kept them out of trouble with the law and made sure they were not among those forced to deal with homelessness.

"Sen. Detert, we appreciate you and owe you a lot," Jacques, a Palm Beach County man, told Detert.

He spoke moments after Hillsborough County resident Andrea Cowart told Detert she may have never made it to college if not for Detert's program.

"How do you respond to that," an emotional Detert said after the meeting.

The praise was for Road to Independence, a program that gives foster children who turn 18 a stipend to help them finish high school, go to college or get job training to prepare them for the workforce. Detert proposed the idea in 2002.

Detert said she gets accolades for other issues she works on, but hearing from those who benefitted from her legislation was almost too much to absorb.

But Detert is not done. She said her next big battle is another major rewrite of foster care rules that will include the option of letting children stay in the foster system until they are 21 and better able to provide for themselves.

Currently, once a child reaches 18, they are turned out of the program — even if they are still in high school.

"Often they have no way to really support themselves," Detert said.

Rubio vs. Clinton

For those hoping for a preview of a potential 2016 presidential showdown, the exchange last Wednesday in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing between Sen. Marco Rubio and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton had to be a letdown.



Rubio, a Republican from Miami, posed tough questions to Clinton about how she addressed security problems in Libya prior to attacks on U.S. officials there on Sept. 11, 2012, that left four Americans dead. But the exchanges did not produce the heated responses provoked by Sens. Ron Johnson, R-Wisconsin, or Rand Paul, R-Kentucky.

Hillary Clinton

"Were you ever asked to participate in any sort of internal or inter-agency meeting, before this attack, with regard to the deteriorating security situation in Libya?" Rubio asked Clinton about an hour into the hearing.

Clinton responded that specific security request "didn't come to me."

She then told Rubio that there was a lot of conversation about the deteriorating situation in Libya before the attack. She said in meetings with Libyan officials it came up repeatedly from late 2011 on.

"



Of course this was a constant conversation," Clinton said in response to Rubio.

She said the problem in Libya was that the new government was willing to improve security but did not have the capacity.

Marco Rubio

Clinton, often tabbed a potential Democratic candidate for president in 2016, said the U.S. has been providing training, equipment and planning to the Libyans to improve the security situation in that nation.

Rubio, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, has also been discussed as a potential candidate in 2016, given his strong consideration to be Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012.

Before the questioning, Rubio praised Clinton, saying he had tremendous respect for her hard work and service for the country.

"Madam Secretary, we all wish this had never happened so this hearing would never had to have happened," Rubio said.

Prepping for March

It's almost state Legislature time again. And that means community groups are putting together pre-legislature session forums with hopes of influencing the state agenda.

This morning, the Manatee Chamber of Commerce and Bighthouse Networks host their annual legislative breakfast with the county's revamped delegation. Newly elected Sen. Bill Galvano, R-Bradenton joins state Reps. Jim Boyd, Greg Steube and Darryl Rouson at the breakfast, which starts at 7:15 a.m. at the Bradenton Country Club, 4646 Ninth Ave. W., Bradenton.

The cost is \$25 for Manatee Chamber members and \$35 for non-members. Reservations required to Lisa at (941) 748-4842, ext. 123 or LisaR@ManateeChamber.com.

Political calendar

Today

The Manatee County Republican Party holds a discussion about the ramifications of the Affordable Care Act at the monthly meeting starting at 7 p.m. at the Bradenton Women's Club, 1705 Manatee Ave. W., Bradenton. For more information call 714-0600.

Tuesday

One of the states most influential Republican-leaning political bloggers, Javier Manjarres speaks to the Manatee Forum Republican Women Federated starting at 6 p.m. at Pier 22, 1200 1st Ave. W., Bradenton. Cost is \$20. Non-members welcome.

Thursday

Newly elected Sarasota County Commissioner Charles Hines and County Administrator Randall Reid speak to the Palmer Ranch Communities Coalition, starting at 3 p.m. at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch Parkway East. The event is open to the public.



JEREMY WALLACE

Jeremy Wallace has covered politics for more than 15 years. He can be

reached by email or call (941) 361-4966. [More](#) Wallace" Make sure to "Like" HT Politics on Facebook for all your breaking political news.

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VIEWING 7 COMMENTS



JRT Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 4:12 pm

I am a Tea Party member. Last year, during the entire Legislative session in Tallahassee, we had a Tea Party Representative watch each days sessions. Every night, he gave us an update on WHAT was discussed and what Bills were moving forward, on a Conference Call with dozens if not hundreds of people on the calls. EVERY night he reported that they were discussing NOTHING but Bills that LOBBYISTS were pushing!!!

Not ONE Bill for the average Joe/Joan Florida Taxpayer moved forward!!

They could not even get a Bill moving on TEXTING while driving, that the MAJORITY of States have already passed. WHY? Because LOBBYISTS for the cell phone carriers OWN the State Representatives!!

Another Bill that the MAJORITY of other States have already passed is a SMOKING BAN, with NO exceptions. Florida passed a weak, diluted Smoking Ban in 2003, the Florida Clean Air Act. It banned smoking in restaurants and public buildings. But, had MANY holes in it, called "EXEMPTIONS". Private clubs, like Eagles, Moose, Elks, American Legion, VFW, Bingo Halls and Bars that did not sell food totalling more than 10% of their gross receipts. Government Inspectors are NOT enforcing the law on the 10% rule. And, private clubs that serve food are still exempt. This Bill needs to be tightened up, like other States have done. NO EXEMPTIONS. Smokers, ALL Smokers, need to stand outside, 75 feet from the doors to any establishment, to smoke.

Nancy Detert is a chain smoker. So, she has ZERO intention of tightening the Smoking Ban. Doug Holder has no intention either. He told me that he will not support tightening the FCAA Law at all. Again, this is due to LOBBYISTS owning our Representatives. They do not work for us, the "Little People", they work for the people who employ LOBBYISTS. We NEED to clean out these Representaatives and get new ones who will change the rules on Campaign Financing among other fixes, to get the HUGE money from Lobbyists OUT of Tallahassee. Lobbyists not only run the State Legislature, but also all the way up to the Federal Congress AND the White House. This country is DOOMED unless we take the country BACK from the Lobbyists!!!!



LBear Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 4:21 pm

JRT, it's the Tea Party's fault that the lobbyists run Tallahassee. They're just supporting the Limited Government/Big Business agenda that you guys push. The mess in Tallahassee is caused by Term Limits (a conservative idea), giving lobbyists all the power because they're the only ones who know the ropes. Instead of throwing the bums out, your Tea Party Revolution of 2010 threw MORE bums (Republicans) IN in Tallahassee. The best thing we can do to clean out the state capital is to fire the Republican Legislature and Governor. Second best is to fire the Tea Party.



joe Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 5:01 pm

Tea party express should be called the thieves of the people's retirement party. Republicans need to know the people who worked their whole life will not give up Medicare and social security under the

guise of paying down the deficite. We worked for it we earned it and intend on collecting it in full. Go find somewhere else to collect those funds from. This nation gives so much foreign aid yet we see homeless and high taxes and we are in debt. Over the years the social security system has been raided by both parties, why shoulder the taxpayer with these burdons? Shame on all republicans that make their living off the hard workers in this country. I hope the Rublicans party is crushed. We will not soon forget the housing crisis under George Bush and his rediculous answer to social security, put your money in the stock market. How many more scams will republican perpetrate on the America people?



Joe Sunday, January 27, 2013 at 5:04 pm

Jrt for your information bingo halls have non-smoking rooms in them. Stop infringing on the rights of people. If you want a smoking ban then make smokes illegal.



Read Monday, January 28, 2013 at 8:43 am

FLASHBACK—OBAMA, CIRCA 1990S: 'I DON'T BELIEVE PEOPLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO OWN GUNS'
During the 2008 presidential campaign, gun rights author and scholar John Lott recounted meeting Barack Obama for the first time while he was a lecturer at University of Chicago.
When the two met, Lott's reputation on guns preceded him, and Lott claims Obama said, "I don't believe people should be able to own guns."Read that again, and let it soak in; Barack Obama reportedly said, "I don't think people should be able to own guns." In my correspondence with Lott, he stood by his story.And there's little reason to doubt Lott's account, especially when you take Obama's history of anti-gun legislation into account.Consider these examples:
1. In a 1998 questionnaire for the Illinois state legislature, Obama said he wanted to "ban the sale or transfer of all sorts of semi-automatic weapons."
2. From 1998-2001 Obama was on the board of the Joyce Foundation, the "major funder for gun-control research" at that time.
3. Obama opposes concealed carry and always has (every state but Illinois disagrees with him).
4. Obama only sees two "legitimate" purposes for guns: "hunting and target shooting." This means using guns for self defense is not legitimate. And this goes a long way in explaining Obama's past support of laws banning the use of guns for self-defense in Illinois, even in one's own home.But all these things and more are simply symptoms of a bigger issue—namely, that Obama doesn't think people should be able to own guns in the first place.Lott believes Obama's lip service to the Second Amendment is simply part of an overarching Democrat strategy set forth by pollster Mark Penn, which instructs Dems to say they support the Second Amendment in order get elected and then to do everything they can to chip away at it via legislation and regulation once they're in office.



Varuka Salt Monday, January 28, 2013 at 10:24 am

JRT. Let me get this straight. You claim to be a Tea Party member, but all you are doing in your rant here is demanding more government intrusion into our private lives. Do you not see the blatant contradiction here? Do you support less government, or only less government on things you disagree with, but more regulations on things you don't like? I almost stopped reading when the first thing you stated was your affiliation with the American Taliban, but I figured I could use a good laugh.



PirateCafe Monday, January 28, 2013 at 2:43 pm

The youth who spoke before the Senate Committee were members of Florida Youth SHINE, and all of them are awesome!