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## A GOP “Young Gun” to watch

By Michelle Malkin • January 8, 2010 10:35 AM



The Wall Street Journal’s Kim Strassel profiles GOP up-and-comer Sean Duffy, a 38-year-old district attorney in Wisconsin who’s taking on decrepit Democrat incumbent Rep. David Obey. He’s bringing fresh blood and energy to the fight — and he’s focused on **fiscal responsibility**:

Wisconsin’s Mr. Duffy describes it this way: “I’m running because this is the fight of my generation. The prior one fought the Cold War, before that it was World War II. But our fight is becoming one for the principles of free markets and against creeping socialism.” He’s targeting Mr. Obey for writing the \$787 billion stimulus, highlighting Democrats’ failed economic program. The DA (who is also a professional lumberjack athlete) is crisscrossing the district to warn about rampant spending, Medicare cuts, higher taxes and overregulation.

But he’s also aware that Republicans can only shake a tarnished reputation by embracing a modern, reform agenda. He’s been laying out conservative alternatives to government-run health care. He’s honest about the coming entitlement bomb. He’s proposing a flatter, smarter tax code. In his first fund-raising quarter, he raised \$140,000—a record for the district.

Young Guns is no panacea. Party leaders are still searching for a clear message. The NRCC is struggling to raise money to support its recruits. Voters remain skeptical of the GOP, and the environment may improve for Democrats as the year goes on.

Yet what the program does suggest is some of the GOP’s heavy hitters are giving thought to the party’s future. Given the Republicans’ recent years of wandering, that’s a start.

Duffy’s website is [here](#). Read about his impressive bio and family [here](#).

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A sidenote: Strassel credits another young Republican from Wisconsin, Paul Ryan, with helping launch the “Young Guns” recruitment program. But tax revolt activists in Wisconsin haven’t forgotten Ryan’s Chicken Little **vote for**

### One of the good guys

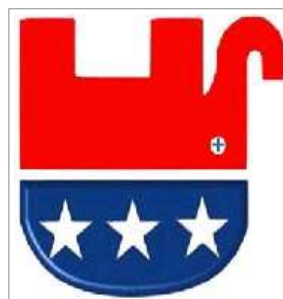
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December 22, 2009 05:56 PM by Michelle Malkin

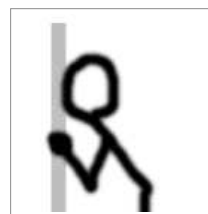
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President Bush and the federal budget exploded during Bush’s eight years, climbing from \$1.8 trillion to more than \$3.5 trillion. More specifically, Rove was a leading proponent of the proposals that dramatically expanded the size and scope of the federal government, including the no-bureaucrat-left-behind education bill, the two corrupt farm bills, the two pork-filled transportation bills, and the grossly irresponsible new Medicare entitlement program.

Not surprisingly, Rove even tries to blame Obama for some of Bush’s overspending, writing that “...discretionary domestic spending now stands at \$536 billion, up nearly 24% from President George W. Bush’s last full year budget in fiscal 2008 of \$433.6 billion. That’s a huge spending surge, even for a profligate liberal like Mr. Obama.” This passage leads the reader to assume that Obama should be blamed for what happened in fiscal years 2009 and 2010, but as I’ve already explained, the 2009 fiscal year started about four months before Obama took office and 96 percent of the spending can be attributed to Bush’s fiscal profligacy. Yes, Obama is now making a bad situation worse by further increasing spending, but he should be criticized for continuing Bush’s mistakes.

Rove then has the gall to complain that Obama is “...growing the federal government’s share of GDP from its historic post-World War II average of roughly 20% to the target Mr. Obama laid out in his budget blueprint last February of 24%.” Yet a quick look at the budget data shows that the burden of federal spending jumped from 18.4 percent of GDP when Bush took office to more than 25 percent of economic output when he left office. Even if the (hopefully) temporary bailout costs are not counted, Bush and Rove are the ones who deserve most of the blame for today’s much larger burden of government. It should be noted, by the way, that none of the new spending under Bush was imposed over his objection. He did not veto any legislation because of excessive spending.

November 4, 2009 12:00 PM by Michelle Malkin

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November 4, 2009 02:14 AM by Michelle Malkin

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November 3, 2009 07:05 PM by Michelle Malkin

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This is the credibility baggage that true fiscal conservative candidates must overcome.

Posted in: **GOP**

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### Comments

On January 8th, 2010 at 10:47 am, **walterc** said: **#1**

This is the credibility baggage that true fiscal conservative candidates must overcome.

And that’s the reason that we need to take control of the GOP and highlight the changing of the guard for the voters.

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Last year the voters wanted hope and change, but not the change they got. Now is the time for conservatives to take our party back and run on a “Hope we have some change left, re-elect none of them” platform. Starting with the primaries to get rid of the current GOP reach across the aisle MCainiacs.

For the most part, America wants fiscal conservatism. Putting a RINO in place of a big spending liberal isn’t going to solve the problem.

Both houses need to be controlled by Fiscal Conservatives.

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On January 8th, 2010 at 10:49 am, **Azygos** said: #2  
Using these numbers its easy to see Bush was not a conservative.

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On January 8th, 2010 at 10:52 am, **Ed Mahmoud abu al-Kahoul** said: #3

He could be one of my people. American Catholic of Irish ancestry.

Has the right number of kids for it.

BTW, excellent appearance by the Divine Mrs. M on Hewitt’s radio show.

I sent Marco Rubio money last week, and the RINO Florida GOP head steps down.

Coincidence?

I also sent money to the Brown campaign in Massachusetts, since the national GOP blew all their money on Dede Scozafavabeanswithchainti.

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On January 8th, 2010 at 10:52 am, **Thomas** said: #4  
I’m stunned. What a pleasant trend as of late. I hope it keeps up.

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On January 8th, 2010 at 10:55 am, **rocketman** said: #5

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President Bush 43 seemed like a RINO to me on financial issues. He was derelict in not using the “bully pulpit” and the “veto pen” to stop a lot of the “social” spending.

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But Comrade Obmama (PBUH) makes him look like Ronald Reagan by comparison.

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John Bibb

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On January 8th, 2010 at 10:56 am, **ThackerAgency** said: #6

Yet a quick look at the budget data shows that the burden of federal spending jumped from 18.4 percent of GDP when Bush took office to more than 25 percent of economic output when he left office.

These numbers are misleading. I agree that Bush spent way too much money (tried to spend more with amnesty). However, the reasons spending went up partly had to do with Katrina (worst natural disaster in history – wiped out a major city) and 9/11 which brought down two of the tallest buildings in the world and forced new wars and regulations.

Bush spent way too much money, but we shouldn’t compare the spending of the two administrations until after a major and costly disaster strikes during the Obama administration.

All of Obama’s spending has come during a time of relative peace. He is spending money on what he wants. Much of Bush’s spending was done

during emergencies (not talking about the financial emergencies at the end of his term).

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:00 am, ***jjmurphy*** said: **#7**

But he's also aware that Republicans can only shake a tarnished reputation by embracing a modern, reform agenda.

Call me gun-shy, but that sentence concerns me. What is his definition of reform? Is it just democrat-lite? Compromise? I'll wait to see how real he is.

I don't trust ANYTHING coming from any national republican group.

Once bitten, twice shy.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:00 am, ***Lindsay*** said: **#8**

Great conservative candidate. He is correct, this is war against socialism, and it is a war we will win.

Marco Rubio is our guy in Florida.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:07 am, ***babiesgrandma*** said: **#9**

IMHO, I don't think airing Republican Dirty Laundry in public by cutting down Karl Rove is a good thing right now. But that's just me.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:12 am, ***ThackerAgency*** said: **#10**

I know the 'grass is always greener', but having a big family with a lot of kids looks like fun.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:16 am, ***txvet2*** said: **#11**

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:07 am, babiesgrandma said:

Better that we do it ourselves, early and often, than try to pretend it didn't happen and let the left beat us over the head with it at election time. The only way forward is to clean out these RINOs, and to do that you have to explain to people why they need to be removed or ignored.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:23 am, ***Paul Revere*** said: **#12**

It's very hard to root our establishment types. It can be done, though. In fact, it must be done. This is the way to do it.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:26 am, ***rfjJulie*** said: **#13**

A little off topic, but I attended the local conservative meeting in Grand Junction last night. One of the speakers was the head of the CO GOP, I think his name was Dick Wadhams. He has the typical RINO attitude. Saying we need to go in a different direction but defending all past decisions of the GOP. The crowd was not please with many of his answers.

On the other hand, a new candidate, never been in politics, Bob McConnell spoke who is running for Congress and I was very impressed with him. Former Ranger, has climbed Mt. Everest and is a true conservative. He carries with him the Constitution and the Communist Manifesto for contrast. Look forward to hearing more from him.

On January 8th, 2010 at 11:26 am, ***single stack*** said: **#14**

Katrina (worst natural disaster in history – wiped out a major city)

This misinformation galls me to no end. I lived through it and worked on relief efforts.

Katrina didn't wipe out New Orleans. A section of NO was flooded when 2 poorly designed and maintained levees broke.

The edge of Katrina barely even touched NO. If the levees had held it would have had almost no damage at all; Mobile, Alabama had worse storm damage than New Orleans.

Katrina hit Mississippi, not Louisiana. It made landfall in Bay St Louis, travelled the length of the state south to north and **destroyed 1/3 of the state of Mississippi**. It completely wiped several towns in Mississippi off the map.

The problems in La were caused by the corruption and incompetence of Mayor Nagin and Governor Blanco.

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On January 8th, 2010 at 11:27 am, **stevevs** said:

**#15**

How about spotlighting Rand Paul.

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