

**FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**VOTER VALUES SUMMIT**

**REMARKS BY  
REPRESENTATIVE DUNCAN HUNTER (R-CA),  
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

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(Applause.)

REP. HUNTER: Ladies and gentlemen, thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you very much.

I got to tell you, I did run in 1980, and I'll never forget I come back from Vietnam and I was farming Idaho, and I got a buddy of mine who called up and said, "There's one law school in America you could get into with two years of college." And I said, "Where is it?" He said, "San Diego," and I fired up my vehicle and I was on my way. And I'll never forget I managed to get through that school, and I opened up a practice in Navarro on the waterfront. And one day my dad, Bob Hunter, walked in, and he said, "You know, you could be a member of Congress." And it was a two-to-one Democrat seat, and I said, "Gee, Dad, maybe I should run for something else." He said, "No, you just make enemies on the way up. You've got to run for Congress," and I did. And I came in with a guy named Ronald Reagan, and we rebuilt national security. We brought down the Berlin Wall. We freed hundreds of millions of people, and we helped make America great again, ladies and gentlemen. (Applause.)

And listen, a lot of folks -- I've met a lot of folks outside who said, "Where's Lynne?" Lynne is taking care of all the grandkids, the three granddaughters and another Duncan, D III. My son, Duncan, as a lot of you know, is a Marine. He's on his third tour now; he's in Afghanistan, and while he's over there, the family came down to San Diego. And Lynne told me the other day that little Duncan, age 6, when he went in for his first day in first grade walked up to his teacher and he put his hand out, and he said, "My name is Duncan Hunter. My grandpa is going to be president." (Laughter.) And then he put his hand out, he looked her right in the eye, and he said, "Now, can I count on your vote?" (Laughter, applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, we are a full-service operation. (Laughter.)

(Chuckles.)

There's one person I'd like to introduce here before I get started, and that's because she has done so much and has accomplished so much in an area that a lot of you are very concerned about. And I know a lot of folks here know about the controversy where the ACLU tried to chainsaw the cross off of the veterans' memorial overlooking the Pacific coast over the last couple of years. And they got to the point where they actually had a federal court order that was going to fine the city of San Diego \$5,000 a day for every day that that cross was not torn off that memorial.

And I was driving past Mount Soledad, and you know, a sailor or Marine coming in to San Diego can see that cross from 50 miles away. It's a great symbol of our Christianity and our beliefs and our veterans and our country. And my wife said, "You know, you better introduce a bill to try to save it." I said, "Lynne, it won't work. Anything we try will be stopped in the Senate." And she said, "You'll never know unless you try." And I said, "Fine. I'll work on this thing on Wednesday." She said, "No, you call Lorissa right now." Lorissa is the most outstanding senior staff person on

Capitol Hill, Senate or House. I called Lorissa on my cell phone. I found out that cell phones work on Mount Soledad really well. (Laughter.) And we dictated this bill that made this memorial a federal piece of land. Basically we took it away from the state. We made it a federal memorial.

I knew it would get through the House. It got through the House of Representatives. Lorissa drew it up perfectly. But I knew it would be stopped in the Senate by Senators Feinstein and Boxer. That was my expectation.

But you know something? When I was holding a hearing up on the Canadian border on border security on that border, I got a call from Bill Frist in the U.S. Senate, last August, and he said, "Hunter, you won't believe this, but the last thing I do before we turn the lights out is walk the bill across. It saves the cross at Mount Soledad. We're walking it across unanimous consent calendar, and we're going to pass this thing." And we did, and the president signed it.

And the young lady who drafted that bill is with us today, the great Lorissa Bounds, of my office. I want Lorissa to take a bow. Lorissa Bounds. (Applause.) Right here, ladies and gentlemen. Okay, Lorissa, take the next 15 minutes off and get back to work. (Laughter.)

Ladies and gentlemen, I want to talk to you about some things that I think are important for our country. And you know, when Lynne and I -- now for 26 years we've taken off and flown all the way across America, and we go back to our great home in San Diego. And we take off early in the morning, when that light is just shining on the Arlington Cemetery and reflecting on those crosses and those Stars of David, and you know, the first morning light starts to illuminate the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. And if you fly over it, you know what you see as you go over the cities and the towns?

You see what I call the arsenal of democracy, and that's all the plants and factories and facilities where we make things in America. And we use those products for domestic purposes in times of peace. But in time of war, we turn that manufacturing capability into national defense.

And I'm reminded -- you know, we had our debate up in Dearborn the other day. And I was reminded there that at Willow Run, Michigan, we made a bomber aircraft every 60 minutes during World War II. We made tens of thousands of tanks at Chrysler. We made 40 billion yards of textiles in this country.

That was the industrial might and the industrial base of the United States. We are losing that industrial base right now, and that's one reason I'm running for president. And this is one of the most critical problems that Americans face today.

And you know something? It's not just a critical problem for our families, because we want to have that ladder of opportunity for this next generation to grab to have high-paying jobs and have the chance to start a small business and make a product. But it's also a national security issue.

We are seeing the exodus of our industrial base, and a lot of it is going to China. And that is because China is cheating on trade. They're devaluing their money by over 40 percent, and that wipes American products off the shelf around the world.

And let me tell you what they're doing with some of our money. They're buying ships and planes and military equipment. They're buying the F-10 multi-role fighter. They've got lots of submarines under production. They shot a satellite out of space on January 11th. They're undertaking new programs that are high-end, high-tech programs that go right at America's strength. And they just bought these missile destroyers from the Russians, the Sovremenny class, which were designed for one thing, and that's to kill American aircraft carriers.

So the tragedy of this massive exodus of jobs and business from the United States to China is a double tragedy. It's a tragedy because it's going to deprive the next generation, in this great nation, of good opportunity. But it's also going to accrue to our detriment in terms of national security.

And ladies and gentlemen, as president of the United States, I will stop China from cheating on trade. I will bring back high-paying manufacturing jobs to this country. And I will restore the arsenal of democracy. (Cheers, applause.)

Now, ladies and gentlemen, you know, as you fly across this country, you pass over Texas. And there's a little town in Kingston, Texas, and that's the hometown of Audie Murphy.

And about 300 miles from there is a little town called Cuero, Texas, and that was the hometown of Sergeant Roy Benavidez, who was given the Medal of Honor by President Reagan many years after Vietnam ended for heroic saving his buddies in Cambodia. And 1,600 miles away from those towns is a town called Scio, New York, which was the hometown of Corporal Jason Dunham, who received a couple of months ago the Medal of Honor from President Bush posthumously for saving the lives of his buddies in Iraq.

Now, in Audie Murphy's war we won the world for freedom, and we freed hundreds of millions of people. In the Vietnam War, Roy Benavidez' war, we failed to secure freedom, and in Iraq, freedom hangs in the balance. But let me tell you something that no one can argue with, it's in the interest of the United States to extend freedom around the world. That's why after World War II we took a Japan that had been treacherous, that had attacked the United States, and we lifted them out of the ashes of World War II. We gave them a constitution, and we gave them freedom because we wanted to have a democracy on that side of the Pacific Ocean.

That's why we've stood up countries like El Salvador, giving them a little shield when the communists were starting to send in lots of materiel and equipment from the Soviet bloc for the communist FMLN. That's why Ronald Reagan stood tall in what we call the contra wars, because wanted to have freedom in our own hemisphere, because we knew that one day it would accrue to our national interest. And you know, today Salvadoran soldiers are standing side by side with Americans in Iraq.

Well, let me tell you something.

I've listened to the Democrat debates. I've listened to them compete with each other on how fast they are going to rush for the border in a retreat from Iraq. Ladies and gentlemen, when

General Petraeus came back a couple of weeks ago from Iraq, he pointed out that in Anbar province we've reduced attacks by 80 percent. And the senior Marine commander said the other day we are crushing al Qaeda in Anbar province. Harry Reid didn't read that one. (Applause.)

Now, the key is to stand up the Iraqi army, all 131 battalions, get them all good battlefield experience, exercise their logistics chains, their chains of command, where they can rotate into that battlefield, displace American forces, and our forces will be able to come back or go to other places in Central Command. And we are -- ladies and gentlemen, we are going to leave Iraq in victory. (Applause.)

And you know -- (applause, cheers) -- but across that border, that Iranian border, is another threat. And the Iranians are walking down the path to develop a nuclear system. And they right now have about 1,000 centrifuges on line. That's these machines that refine weapons-grade material. And ladies and gentlemen, let me make this very clear. Iraq (sic) has stated that they are going to continue to develop these centrifuges and develop nuclear capability. As president, I will never allow Iran to have a nuclear device, period. (Applause.) We will stop them from getting that device.

And you know, I felt pretty good about the debate the other night when almost every other Republican candidate said the same thing. And when I watched the Democrats, I watched them waffle on that issue. This is going to be a time when we are going to be threatened by terrorists with what I call high technology, with lots of leverage. And it may be a time when we have to invoke preemption, just like the Israelis invoked that preemption against the Osirak reactor of Saddam Hussein back in the 1980s. And when they struck that reactor and knocked it out, most of the world's leaders deplored it publicly, they walked behind closed doors, and they breathed a sigh of relief.

And that reminds me of something else. That little country, that little postage stamp called "Israel," has stood by the United States on every major security issue in the Middle East. They should not give back an inch of their land. (Cheers, applause.)

You know, as you continue to fly over the United States -- you can see I'm taking you to my hometown of San Diego, I think, at this point. You see, you pass that great border, that 2,000-mile border between the United States and Mexico, and on that border we've got what I call a thin green line. That's a small cadre of Border Patrolmen who go out and work in dangerous places every day to try to hold the line against people who would come across illegally.

Now, those people have been described in lots of ways. And there are folks that are just seeking jobs, but there are also lots of folks that come across just to hurt Americans. And that's why if you look at the population of the federal penitentiaries, you'll see that we have right now in federal penitentiaries and jails and local penitentiaries and jails 250,000 criminal aliens, folks that came across the border to hurt Americans.

And let me tell you what I did in San Diego. We had the number- one smugglers' corridor in the world in San Diego. Most of the illegal aliens, most of the drugs that came into this country came through San Diego, that narrow place between Tijuana, Mexico, and San Diego, California. I

built a double-border fence then, and it's two fences with a road in between. And ladies and gentlemen, as I told Wolf Blitzer, it's not that scraggly little fence you keep showing on TV. If you climb over my fence, we send you to the Olympics immediately. (Laughter.) Nobody's going over my fence. We reduced the smuggling of people and drugs in San Diego by more than 90 percent in our sector by building the double-border fence. (Applause.)

Now -- and let me tell you, as president I will build the entire border fence, and that's the bill that I wrote, for 854 miles across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Only about five miles of double border fence has been built so far by the Department of Homeland Security. As president, I will build all 854 miles of border fence in six months. That's my commitment to you. (Cheers, applause.)

And while I'm doing that, I'm going to call up the Bureau of Prisons and I'm going to tell them, as president of the United States, that Agents Compean and Ramos are to be released so they can go back to their families. (Cheers, applause.) And folks, you know, it takes more than walking across a border to be an American. You got to have a heart for this country and you've got to have a heart for what this country's founded on, which is a respect for human life.

Now, one job of a president is to appoint judges. And lots of people talk in lots of vague ways about how they would appoint judges. I like to talk plainly. Let me just say this to you. If a judicial candidate can look at a sonogram of an unborn child and not see a valuable human life, I will not appoint that candidate to the federal bench. (Cheers, sustained applause.)

And ladies and gentlemen -- and while we're talking about what it takes to be an American -- we need to teach our children, along with the substantive subjects that they need to learn by having school choice, by having vouchers, by being allowed to go to charter schools -- we need to teach them something besides reading and writing and the other tests of accountability that we've placed in place at this time.

You know what I want our kids to know? I want them to know that when other nations of the world were hungry, the Americans sent food.

And when other nations -- (light applause) -- and when other nations in the world had disasters, had hurricanes and tsunamis and floods, the Americans came to help. And when other nations were threatened from outside, the Americans left the safety of their own homes to come and protect other nations of the world. We are a great country because we're a good country; we need to make sure that our kids know that when they go to school, that that's part of their education. (Applause.)

And I want to leave you with this. You know, as you come into good old San Diego, you see that big Point Loma arm going out that forms the San Diego Harbor. In 1945, a young Marine came back from World War II, and he wrote a letter to his wife, and he said, "I think that just to be with your wife and kids, to be able to take care of your family every day, is the greatest privilege a person can enjoy." And 61 years later after he came home, another Marine came home to San Diego, this time from a place called Fallujah, and he wrote these words. He said, "At some point in a dangerous environment, you forget about your own safety and you try to take care of your men,

and you place your own life in the hands of God, but your family, your wife and kids, never leave your mind."

Families lift our country up. They provide us with fidelity, morality, faith in God in raising the next generation of Americans. Ladies and gentlemen, reflecting on those two letters written 61 years apart, the first one written by my dad, to whom I owe everything I am or ever will be, and the second by son Duncan coming back from his second tour in Iraq -- I've come to the conclusion that God still loves this nation, that we're still a people of hope and faith and courage. And so with the support of my family and lots of hope and lots of confidence in the goodness of the American people, I am running for the presidency of the United States, and I hope all of you will join me.

Thank you and God bless you. (Applause.)

(END)