

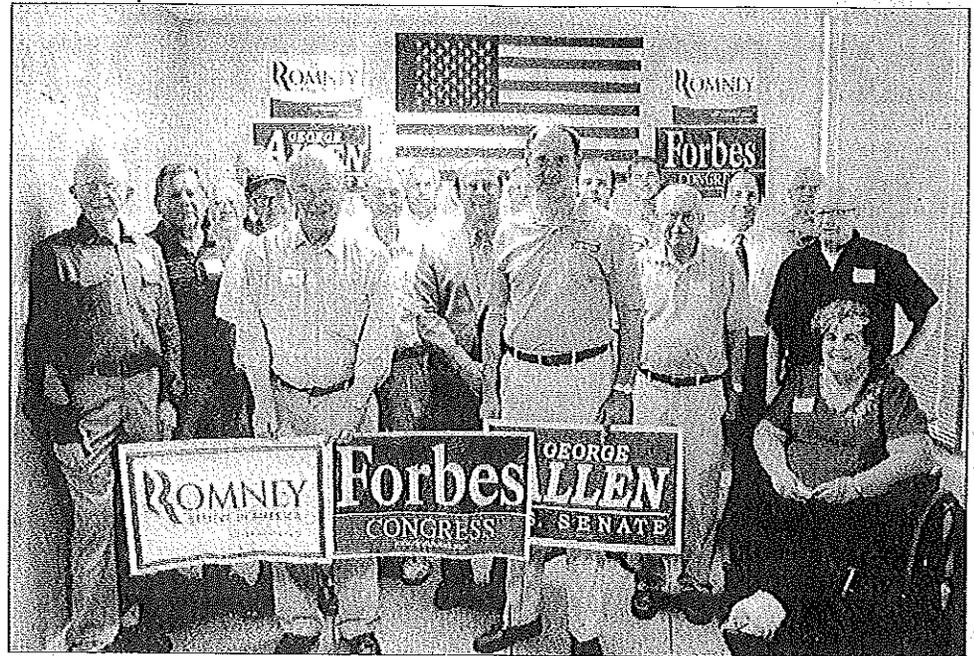
# Area Veterans Supporting Republicans

CONTRIBUTED REPORT

The Republican Chester Victory Office (South) hosted some 20 veterans and other volunteers on Tuesday, July 17, for a "Veterans Call Night" to solidify support for Mitt Romney for President, George Allen for Senate and for 4th District Congressman Randy Forbes. The Chester Office is one of 24 Victory Offices around the state and the second one to open in Chesterfield County. Each Victory Office acts as a phone call center and coordinator of grass roots activities in its area.

State veteran leaders were on hand to lend their support and to underscore the importance of the veteran/military vote in Virginia. Former Vietnam War POW Paul Galanti noted in his remarks during the caller orientation that "The military/veteran/DoD civilian vote in Virginia represents 17.1 percent of the Commonwealth's eligible voters and will be critical to a Mitt Romney win. Your presence here tonight is a demonstration of the strong support Mitt Romney has with this key voting block. Our job will be to maximize the veteran/military voters for Mitt Romney, George Allen, and Republican Congressional candidates."

Delegate Richard Anderson (R-51), a retired US Air Force Colonel and Chair of the House of Delegates Veterans Caucus also spoke. He emphasized the need for new leadership in Washington that will ensure the nation has a strong military force because the first responsibility of the federal government is to defend the country. "President Obama is not providing the leadership needed to ensure we maintain a strong military ready to defend our nation, and his administration is not



COURTESY PHOTO

Several callers with statewide veteran leaders holding signs - Paul Galanti (on left) Former Vietnam War POW and Delegate Richard Anderson, Chairman of the House of Delegates Veterans Caucus. The Veterans Call Night was held on Tuesday, July 17.

for those wounded in battle as evidenced by the increased claims backlog." Anderson went on to say, "Romney has pledged to reverse the Obama defense cuts and to keep the military budget above 4 percent of GDP - a goal supported by most veteran organizations. Your efforts will help ensure the military and veteran community votes and votes for Romney and our other pro-defense candidates."

The Veterans call night was organized by Bill Flanagan, a retired USA Colonel from Colonial Heights, and Al Pinalto, a retired USAF Colonel from Chester. The veteran callers were from Colonial Heights and the Chester area. Flanagan, a past state President of the Military Officers Association of American (MOAA), with some 45,000 members in Virginia, thanked the veterans for being at the event. "Your presence here tonight during a tradition

campaigns is a demonstration of your commitment to make a difference in this election. We must be taking every opportunity to let our fellow veterans, active duty members, reservists and their spouses, as well as DoD employees know that the election of Romney - Allen - Forbes - will give us a strong national defense team." Flanagan also noted that a recent Army Times story stated there were 1,052,526 Virginia military/veteran voters.

Pinalto closed out the introductory pre-call comments by emphasizing the need to maintain this high level of interest. "We plan to continue this Veterans Call Night effort right up to Election Day. Please let your fellow veterans know that we have two Victory Offices in Chesterfield with 20 high tech phones in each to support this aspect of the campaign. Vets talking to vets will help maximize the votes for our Republican candidates." Pinalto

retired and a leader in the Hispanic community, also made some brief comments. "It is great to see so many veterans here tonight to help on this call effort. I am pleased to be with you and working to turn out our Hispanic active duty personnel and veterans in Virginia for Romney - Allen - Forbes."

The Chesterfield Victory Offices are located at 3610 Festival Park Plaza, Chester, 23831 - Tel: 804-247-7905 - schesterfieldhq@rpv.org and 9503 Hull St. Rd., North Chesterfield, 23236 - Tel: 804-982-1356 - chesterfieldHQ@rpv.org. The Chester Center is open M-Sat. 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Hull St. Office is open M-Th 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Fri. & Sat. 10 to 4 p.m. In addition to the aforementioned offices, there is a Forbes for Congress Volunteer Office at 9612 Iron Bridge Road, Suite 103, Chesterfield, VA 23832 Tel. 804-318-1397.