

# RETIRE GARRETT

- the newsletter of the politically moderate voters  
of the 5th Congressional District of New Jersey

**We're on the Web —**  
**RetireGarrett.com**

**RETIRE GARRETT is a grass roots political organization aimed at electing a more politically moderate member to the House of Representatives for the Fifth Congressional District of New Jersey.**

## The Mind of Scott Garrett

Volume II Issue I

- an excursion into the possibilities of his thought processes.

**A**fter, reading many of his newsletters, brochures, and other communications, we have begun to formulate a conception of Representative Garrett's thought processes. Are we right? Are our mind reading prestidigitations up to the challenge? What are our sources? Do we have enough evidence?

such an institution are privileged to be registered as Friends in God's Facebook account.

Mr. Garrett shows no reticence in trumpeting his belief that life starts with conception - but he certainly is no biologist, or even knowledgeable of its rudiments. Biologists know that life exists before conception: the spermatozoon and ovum, the co-protagonists in the process the church calls conception, are alive before they meet; every cell is, cells are the atoms of life, but let us not digress into nuclear physics.

"Yes, he really did vote against emergency funding for Hurricane Katrina victims!"

All will become clear below.

Mr. Garrett is an ideologue - this is certain; even a casual reading of his frequent, self-serving newsletters and brochures, not to mention his voting record, make this eminently apparent. If you are not a dedicated student of Mr. Garrett's record, please read on as we present several clarifying examples.

Mr. Garrett has an ideology. Whence did it come? Based on his anti-abortion stance, one could speculate that some of his ideology comes from his adherence to the dogma of a conservative, orthodox religious institution; you know, one in which evidence is superfluous, for the pundits of

Mr. Garrett and his ilk favor using double meanings to support their arguments, in this case leading the reader to confuse the term "life" with the term "human life". Certainly a cell, fertilized or not, is alive, a form of life, but it is hardly a human life, i.e. a person; but such polemicists would never disavow one of that confusion. While few of us have any compunction about destroying life (think about the act of eat-

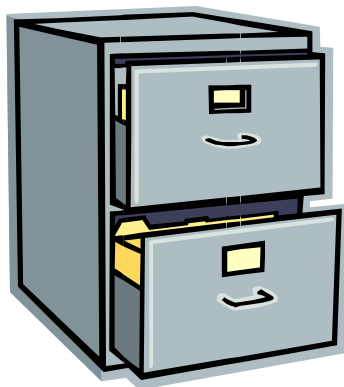
*(Continued on page 3)*

**Inside**

|                              |          |
|------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Who We Are</b>            | <b>2</b> |
| <b>Recent Votes</b>          | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Previews</b>              | <b>5</b> |
| <b>Our Mission Statement</b> | <b>6</b> |
| <b>How You Can Help</b>      | <b>6</b> |
| <b>Index of Articles</b>     | <b>7</b> |

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### What's On Our Website

Our website, [RetireGarrett.com](http://RetireGarrett.com), currently features articles such as: Garrett's Cold-hearted Take on Haiti, his Attempts to Fool His District, his current Support of Judicial Activism, Garrett's opposition to the Extension of Unemployment Benefits, and others.

# RETIRE GARRETT

## Who We Are



We're on the Web —

[RetireGarrett.com](http://RetireGarrett.com)

We are constituents of the 5th Congressional District who are concerned about the extreme political stance of our congressman, Scott Garrett. We are people from all walks of life, people of all ages, people from all political parties, people without party affiliation, we are people who reject extremism, the watchword of Representative Garrett.

Organizations such as ours are usually labeled “grass roots” because such organizations are not directed from above by political party bosses, but have sprung from the ground up; we are not the bosses, we are not from among the legions beholden to any bosses — we are the people.

To join us you don't have contribute money, you don't have to do things that

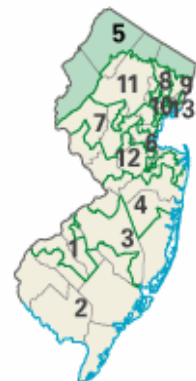
are abhorrent to you, if we ask you to write a letter on a subject with which you are not in agreement, don't do it; we realize that we are not all in lockstep on every issue, we have diverse opinions, but we are all of one mind when it comes to extremism—we reject it.

**How are we organized ?** We have a Steering Committee that attends meetings on a regular basis, does the planning, and communicates to the membership; and we have the volunteers, those who do what they can or wish in order to help eliminate extremism from the 5th CD (see “How You Can Help”). That's it.

## Congressional District 5



**5** Congressional District  
*Sussex* County



New Jersey (13 Districts)

(Continued from page 1)

ing), almost all of us revile destroying a human life, and some of us even revile destroying any animal's life. That semantical confusion is the foundation of the misdirection such right wing polemicists attempt to promulgate. One must be a careful, and critical, reader to avoid the pitfalls of being taken in by quick talkers, a group in which our Representative is a charter member [In a future issue we will delve into the den of Mr. Garrett's deceptive pronouncements].

Getting back to the abortion discussion, biology tells us, at the time of conception (fertilization as the biologists call it) the single-celled ovum has not yet even divided one time, so to call it a person (the term "baby" is often used by those of the anti-choice persuasion) is more than absurd: it is just plain wrong – cells are not people, just as the mucus in one's nose is not a person. A person consists of cells, blood, mucus, enzymes, indeed molecules, and zillions of other entities, no single one of which is a person – each is but a constituent of a person. Moreover, cells are not particularly sacrosanct: in a normal living human being, millions of cells die everyday and slough off from our skin, becoming possibly the main constituent of the dust in our home. Cells are even able to commit suicide, a process called apoptosis, which is a mechanism employed to prevent malfunctioning cells from doing harm to the body. (Are such cells candidates for excommunication by a prelate?).

Philosophically one might ask: doesn't a fertilized egg cell eventually grow into a person? Yes, if gene expression, and a very large number of other biological processes all go well, in nine months we will have a baby. But then one could ask: why is the unfertilized ovum not a baby, it contains the potential mother's DNA? After all, while the addition of genes from the father would be desirable, his genes are not necessary; all that is needed is for something to trigger the chain of biological events that begin with the initial egg division, and that end in birth. Indeed, what is cloning but the very process of triggering the subject's DNA to begin the same journey towards birth that fertilization initiates?

No matter, such philosophical and biological questions are of no concern to that segment of the religious from which Mr. Garrett hales: the church absolutists say birth begins at conception and will brook no argument to the contrary.

But we digress, our point here is that, when it comes to life, Mr. Garrett has no need for biology, the study of life; instead he has ideology: a rule that is to be accepted without question, usually a concept unsupported by any research - in other words: a myth. Such people are difficult to dissuade from their beliefs by reasonable arguments, for their beliefs are not based on reason. Yes, Mr. Garrett would undoubtedly be deaf to a biology lesson, just as the church prelates were to the astronomy lesson that Galileo tried to teach them.

Please forgive the length of the previous discourse, but some messages require more than a tweet to get across.

We have elaborated on his anti-abortion ideology because it is illustrative, but it is not the only of Mr. Garrett's ideologies; he has a few others (that we know of) which dictate his thinking [if it be based on ideology can it be called thinking?]. His political pronouncements and his voting record clearly show one of his very favorite ideologies to be that of anti-regulation: *Regulation by the government is wrong and will lead to catastrophes even worse than global warming.* He is one of those, like Alan Greenspan, the former Federal Reserve chairperson, who believes that the market, that amorphous collection of buying and selling, will punish investors who invest unwisely, and is thus self-correcting – no need for government regulation. The major difference between Mr. Garrett and Mr. Greenspan is that Mr. Greenspan, in light of the great recession of 2008-9, admits he was wrong. Mr. Garrett has made no such concession to the facts; he soldiers on spouting his anti-regulation ideology in the face of the typhoon of evidence to the contrary.

Another ideology, continually spouted by Mr. Garrett, is his anti-tax stance: *taxation is bad.* Now, none of us like to pay taxes, but how are the roads on which we drive, the schools we attend, the services of the police and firefighters who protect us, the parks in which we play and relax, the ...to be paid for? He doesn't say. Interestingly, his voting record on this issue, however, is not nearly as consistent as he would like you to believe; in fact his voting record is rather selective in the anti-tax arena. He generally votes *against* the spending bills that keep our government and country operating, but he votes *for* the even greater spending that we do to finance our wars. He votes *against tax reductions for the middle class*, but votes *for tax reductions for the wealthy.* He votes against most government-sponsored

(Continued on page 4)

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projects, no matter their merit, but often votes for such funding within his own district, thus demonstrating that he obviously understands what it takes to get re-elected. So perhaps his highest priority ideology is to get re-elected – this trumps all other action.

He votes *against* almost any bill that helps ordinary people: bills funding transportation, education, and housing, the food safety bill, and many others; but votes *for* most bills that help the wealthy and big business: the bill to allow unlimited executive compensation for bailed-out financial institutions, the bill to exempt the wealthy from estate taxes, and many more (see the lists in various issues of our newsletter). He has launched an armada of pronouncements against the national health plan; is he aiming to be knighted by the insurance industry? Since a national health plan would be the major factor in reducing the costs of health care, his opposition is, in effect, a force for increasing taxes (yes, a great deal of our current taxes already go towards paying for our health care).

He claims to be attentive to the needs of small business but, for example, he voted against the Small Business Financing and Investment Act of 2009 which passed by a margin of 389-32. Think of it as 389 Representatives who are concerned with the health of the country's small businesses and 32 Scott Garretts who use the existence of a tiny fault in a piece of legislation as an excuse for rejecting even the most bona fide, non-partisan efforts to do some good for the average American.

He complains that bailouts are mortgaging our future, and votes against them even in light of the strong possibility that withholding such support could plunge us

into a recession as deep as the Marianna Trench, yet, as previously mentioned, he votes to not limit the obscene executive compensation for bailed-out financial institutions, and to support foreign wars of dubious value, even though the expenditures for those will have to be paid for in spades by our progeny for generations to come.

“is he aiming to be knighted by the insurance industry?”

Our MRI of Mr. Garrett's mind has come into focus: he is clearly a man who follows an ideology whose central principle is that *it is wrong to help the common person, especially if it all diminishes profits*

*for big business*. A pragmatist looks at a problem and asks herself “What can be done to fix it?”; Mr. Garrett, the ideologist, looks at the same problem and says “Who cares if tens of thousands of people in New Orleans have lost their homes, their belongings, their jobs; my ideology demands that the government do nothing to help ordinary Americans, even Americans who have experienced great hardship.” (Yes he really did vote against emergency funding for Hurricane Katrina victims!).

We don't know if he'll have a chance to vote to deny humanitarian aid for Haiti, but in his public statement on that disaster he offered to pray *for any of his constituents in his district* who happened to be there. For the Haitians themselves, never mind a mention of material aid, nor anything of substance, he doesn't even have a prayer - only for his constituents.

As we have seen above, the flavor of his ideologies is clear: he is anti-abortion, anti-regulation, anti-tax of the wealthy, anti-small business, and anti-ordinary Americans. On the other hand he is pro-tax the middle class, pro-wealthy people, pro-big business, especially the financial industry and especially especially the insurance industry.

**RetireGarrett**  
**.com**

**The 5th CD**  
**needs a**  
**REAL**  
**representative.**

## Some Recent Votes by Our Congressman

| Bill  | Disposition      | Garrett Voted | Possible Garrett Thinking  |
|---|------------------|---------------|--|
| Extend a number of expiring tax cuts.   | Passed (241-181) | No            | Is this our anti-tax hero ? What is his thinking ?                             |
| Combine and complete six unfinished FY2010 spending bills: Transportation/HUD; Military Construction/Veterans Affairs; Labor/HHS; State/Foreign Operations; Commerce/Justice/Science; and Financial Services. | Passed (221-202) | No            | Let's not give the Democrats a chance to run the country—they might look good. |
| Overhaul financial services regulations and place new controls on institutions deemed to pose a risk to the entire financial system.  | Passed (223-202) | No            | The financial system is solid, no risks to worry about.                        |
| Jobs for Main Street Act—\$154 billion jobs bill which is partially paid for by unspent money from last year's Troubled Asset Relief Program.   | Passed (217-212) | No            | Let's not let the Democrats help people find employment—they might look good.  |
| Estate tax of 45% for estates over \$3.5million.  |                  | No            | I've told them before: we have to take care of our rich people.                |

### Previews of Future Articles

In future issues look for articles such as: **Garrett: Master of Deception** and **Garrett's Ineffectiveness in Congress—the 5th Congressional District is essentially without representation.**

## RETIRE GARRETT

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### Our Mission Statement

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep the voters of the 5th Congressional District of New Jersey informed about the performance of Congressman Scott Garrett. As you probably are aware, the 5th Congressional District, with its quaint L-shape, is a highly gerrymandered district rigged to provide a safe seat in the House of Representatives for a Republican. When Marge Roukema was our representative this was not a terribly alarming problem for those of us, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents whose political leanings were toward the center, i.e. moderates. However when Marge Roukema chose not to run again, the Republican Scott Garrett won her seat. As history has repeatedly shown Mr. Garrett is not of Ms. Roukema's ilk at all, Mr. Garrett is an ultra-conservative right wing politician, the likes of whom is way out of step with New Jersey, indeed with almost anywhere in the civilized world. Accordingly, those of us of moderate bent have formed a grass roots organization that we descriptively call **RETIRE GARRETT**, for the purpose of electing a candidate of much more moderate leanings.

We have a website, RetireGarrett.com, which contains much information, current and past, on the doings of our organization and of Mr. Garrett; we hope you will visit it frequently, as many are already doing. In addition we are producing this newsletter for dissemination to interested parties once or twice a month; we hope you will choose to receive it.

### How You Can Help

Not surprisingly, we want to grow, we want to enlist more volunteers willing to participate, willing to do a little to willing to do to a lot. First of all we want to get our word out to as many people as possible, so we need volunteers to increase the size of our mailing list; to solicit others to sign-up to receive our newsletter once or twice a month. A volunteer can easily do this by forwarding a copy of our newsletter to the people in his or her address book who reside in the 5th Congressional District, and asking the recipients to indicate their willingness to receive future copies of our newsletter (we don't want to spam our friends and associates, so please obtain their permission to continue sending them our newsletter).

#### What other things can you do ? Well here's a list.

1. Re-transmit the **RETIRE GARRETT** newsletter to a segment of our mailing list, to people who have agreed to accept it on a regular basis.
2. Write letters to the editor of newspapers—use our articles as a basis for creating your own letter to the editor (become famous in your community).
3. Recruit other volunteers—ask recipients of our newsletter if they would also like to volunteer.
4. Set up a table at your local supermarket, train station, etc and hand out our literature, talk to voters (can be fun, even if you're a bit of an introvert).
5. Get involved with fund raising, create an event, help with an event (guess what, campaigns need money).
6. Research—gather information, editorials and other newspaper articles, follow the votes in Congress, and report this to our steering committee.
7. Make suggestions (two heads are better than one).

# Retire Garrett

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## Index of Articles

| Issue          | Article   |
|----------------|---|
| Vol. I Num. 1  | Scott Garrett versus the Middle Class.<br>Garrett's Weird Cap and Trade Figures.  |
| Vol I. Num. 2  | The Health Care Issue.<br>Representative Garrett's Health Care Position   |
| Vol. I Num. 3  | Garrett Joins Humor Troupe (his suggestions for Fannie and Freddie).<br>Garrett Continues His Assault on a National Health Plan |
| Vol. I Num. 4  | Has Garrett Moved Into the Socialist Camp ?<br>- his position on student loan reform.<br>Scott Garrett: The Beneficiary         |
| Vol. II Num. 1 | The Mind of Scott Garrett<br>- an excursion into the possibilities of his thought processes.                                    |

