



NEWS

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Taxpayer Group Honors Oregonian 'Dragon Slayers'

-- GOP Party Chairman Kevin Mannix, and activists Russ Walker and Jason Williams receive 'Dragon Slayer' award for their leadership in the defeat of Measure 30 --

WASHINGTON, DC – In appreciation of their untiring efforts in the fight against higher taxes in Oregon, Americans for Tax Reform awarded Kevin Mannix, Chairman of the Oregon Republican Party, Russ Walker, Executive Director of CSE Oregon, and Jason Williams, Executive Director of the Taxpayer Association of Oregon with the Dragon Slayer Award, the most prestigious award given out by Americans for Tax Reform, which comes with a four foot-long medieval sword.

Mannix, Walker and Williams succeeded in placing an infamous tax increase of \$800 million snuck by the legislature in the fall of 2003 on the ballot, and mobilized Oregonians to go out and defeat the measure by an overwhelming margin of 60% to 40%.

“Their outstanding leadership has given the people the opportunity and the courage to ‘slay the dragon’ and to defeat this massive tax hike,” said Grover Norquist, President of Americans for Tax Reform in Washington, DC. **“While the legislature stood ready to raid taxpayers’ wallets, their efforts have forced lawmakers to tighten Oregon’s fiscal belt and rein in runaway spending.”**

Over the past months, Americans for Tax Reform has given out several of the prestigious awards. In Alabama, John Giles, President of the Christian Coalition of Alabama, and Marty Connors, Chairman of the Republican Party of Alabama, received swords for their efforts in defeating a major tax hike last summer. By the same token, Ed McMullen, President of the South Carolina Policy Council, was named ‘Dragon Slayer’ for his efforts in sparing South Carolinians from a tax increase.

“These Dragon Slayers truly understand that tax and spending cuts, not tax increases, produce economic growth, stimulate investment and create jobs,” Norquist continues. **“Oregonian taxpayers can consider themselves lucky to have activists like Kevin Mannix, Russ Walker and Jason Williams, who stand up for their rights.”**

Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or by email at jcollegio@atr.org.