

# The Story of Jane Dyer

A leader

embodying traditional South Carolina values  
&  
our candidate for Congress from South Carolina's Third District



## PART I. Who is Jane Dyer?

One way to learn about Jane Dyer and come to a deeper understanding of her is to talk to conservatives who have known her and worked with her. In Seneca, for example, retired Air Force Colonel Edwin Rumsey runs a realty office on Ram Cat Alley. The memorabilia on the walls of Ed Rumsey's office straight away inform visitors of his military experience and his conservative views. Even before the small talk begins Ed Rumsey will let you know that more Republicans in this state need to represent the kind of basic conservative American values he believes in.

Some might find Ed Rumsey, a stern, deep dyed conservative, even intimidating. Among other impressive military and civilian achievements, the Colonel, a West Point graduate, was a wing commander in the Air Force and professor at Clemson University while commanding the Clemson United States Air Force cadets. It was when Dyer was an Air Force cadet at Clemson that Colonel Rumsey met Jane Ballard Dyer and eventually promoted her to become the first female commander of Air Force ROTC in the long history of that distinguished university.

Colonel Rumsey made a prescient decision when he promoted Cadet Ballard, which is how she was known then. A year later young Jane Ballard became a Second Lieutenant and one of the first women pilots in the United States Air Force. By 2009, according to Pentagon figures, the number of females in the military has grown to 365,000. Second Lieutenant Jane Ballard, among a very few courageous others, opened the way for all these later women showing them it was possible to have a military career

So, Edwin Rumsey's evaluation of this woman's moral fiber tells us something significant about her. When he remembered Jane Dyer that afternoon in his office, the Colonel considered, not her politics, but her character.

You will find the same kind of respect for her character and leadership abilities coming from other conservatives. For example, Jane's brother, Dave Ballard, practices architecture in Greenville. When we talked in his office last spring, Dave defended the American Constitution with the articulate passion typical of avowed conservatives. He believes that Democratic Party policies undermine the Constitution and would have Republicans dominate the Congress.

At the same time he was able to say without qualification that he admired his sister's decision to run even though he disagreed with her. He made it clear he likes and loves Jane and has always known her as a natural leader and a person you can trust to keep her word.

My conversation with Dave Ballard turned out to be typical. Whenever I talked to people, liberal or conservative, about Jane Dyer I would hear that same description: she's a *natural leader you can trust*. That admiration comes from friends, family, and colleagues, even competitors; from everybody who has come to know her character.

Who is this woman so admired by conservatives even when they disagree with her politics? Jane's brother Dave tells a story that illustrates her nature. Back in the days when they were both students at Clemson, Dave had seriously damaged his leg. He couldn't walk to class. He could very well miss an entire semester. Unexpectedly this brother, with whom Jane had so often disagreed, had no one else to help him but her.

And although it was entirely inconvenient for her, took her out of her way, and burdened her time, Jane put aside her own interests and met him with her car everyday he was incapacitated making sure he got to his classes and on time.

Jane's mother tells an interesting little story about being pregnant with Jane. I met Mary Ruth Ballard together with her daughter, Jane's sister, Margaret, in the lobby of National Health Care, the nursing home where Mary Ruth lives these days. Margaret wheeled Mary Ruth into the lobby in a wheel chair because workmen were busy in her room. Both women were charming and friendly. Mary Ruth seemed not at all burdened by a long life dedicated primarily to raising eight successful children while married to one extraordinary man, Grady Ballard. More about him later.

We didn't waste much time with small talk in that little lobby busy with people coming and going and chatting all around us so I began our conversation asking Mary Ruth, "When she gave you trouble, what kind of trouble did Jane give you?" It didn't take a second for her to respond. Apparently all the trouble came before Jane was born when Mary Ruth found herself in serious pain for days, a pain the doctors couldn't diagnose, until finally they realized that what had happened was that unborn baby Jane had lowered itself in the womb creating serious discomfort. For her mother, "It was like she was

impatient to get out and get busy!” And if the consistent testimony I’ve heard from others is correct getting busy characterizes the life of Jane Ballard Dyer.

At age fourteen Jane, the sixth of eight brothers and sisters, suddenly found herself in charge of the daily domestic life of the Ballard family. Her mother, hospitalized for leg surgery, had become incapacitated at the same time as her husband, Grady, was also laid up. So, as the oldest child not working outside the home, the responsibility for domestic chores fell to Jane. In addition to her own school work, it was suddenly 14 year old Jane’s job to buy food, do the cooking and cleaning, and make sure the younger children got off to school on time. Apparently her siblings cooperated amicably as Jane took over.

His children remember Grady Ballard as a strong, loving, and dependable father and a busy man who contributed significantly to his community. At one time he ran as the Republican candidate for Congress when only Democrats won in South Carolina. He served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Deacons at Pendleton Baptist Church in Greenville, Chairman of Greenville IPTAY, and president of the Greenville Rotary while devoted to his children’s education. Family members I’ve talked to all agree Grady Ballard instilled in his children the primary value that each work hard and study hard to become all they can be whether they were boys or girls.

Rosemary Findley Duncan and Jane Ballard Dyer have maintained a friendship since childhood. Mrs. Duncan, a pharmacist, operates her own business in Easley. We met at a busy chain restaurant on Hwy 123 in Easley at dinnertime. The place bustled with families, crying babies, anxious moms and beleaguered waitresses. We sat at a table in a corner with my wife, Margaret, and ordered coffee. The quietly dressed Rosemary Duncan impressed me as calm and thoughtful, a professional not given to hyperbole. She responded to my questions thoughtfully in a straightforward way. She did not try to sell her friend Jane Dyer. I had the sense she reported the truth of their relationship as she remembers it and nothing else. Clearly, from Rosemary Duncan’s point of view, Jane makes decisions with care, arrives at her position after thoughtful consideration of the problems at hand and then decides the best course of action and sticks to it even if it might cost her.

For instance, Mrs. Duncan recalled the time they went to the guidance counselor’s office to talk about taking Mechanical Drawing. The girls were youngsters in the Ninth Grade and in the early 70s it would have seemed odd for young girls to want to take Mechanical Drawing. No girl at Easley High School, according to their counselor, had ever before challenged the tradition that only boys take Mechanical Drawing. However, the administration thought the time had come for girls to take courses that had been the exclusive province of boys. Apparently the faculty also agreed Rosemary and Jane could meet the challenge. And they did.

Rosemary remembers that the two of them signed up, studied hard, and earned the highest grades in their class. But high grades alone didn’t serve the purpose. Girls needed further testing in those days. Apparently they had to get their hands dirty just like boys. So their Mechanical Drawing teacher –still a good friend according to Rosemary-

challenged them to change tires on an automobile and do it in front of the class. Rosemary says the challenge didn't bother them at all. They changed the dirty tires and enjoyed the work. That satisfied their teacher and won the respect of the boys in the class. Their experience with Mechanical Drawing actually helped create new possibilities for girls at Easley High. Rosemary and Jane graduated in 1976.

Mrs. Duncan also reported that many of their old classmates, both male and female and both Republican and Democrat admitted they were able to vote for Jane when she ran for Congress in 2008 because she had won their respect in so many ways years before in high school.

When we asked Rosemary to list the characteristics she thinks best describe Jane Dyer, she replied without hesitation, "Jane learns from her mistakes. She thinks long and hard about the issues she faces and makes good decisions, decisions that are going to work for other people not just herself." Jane is the "kind of person," Duncan said, "who has confidence in herself and can't be corrupted. Jane, raised in church, has a good heart and takes on responsibilities unafraid she will risk her own needs."

"Once", Duncan continued, "Our 9<sup>th</sup> grade Civics teacher punished some mischievous boys. Jane felt the punishment was unfair and told him so." Even as a girl Jane knew her own values and willingly spoke her mind to power.

When I entered a certain modest ranch house in suburban Easley, Mrs. Pat Chang a retired teacher from Easley High School greeted me with unassuming good nature. I wanted to talk to her because Jane was the first girl at Easley High to take her class in Physics. Yes, it was not just Mechanical Drawing and tire changing, Jane Ballard also chose to become the first girl to study physics at Easley High.

Miss Chang, born in China, was taken to Taiwan as a small child by her father a member of the Republic of China Government but grew up in the USA attending the University of Tennessee on a scholarship. Now, in retirement, Pat Chang works to improve public education in South Carolina and supports strong educational standards.

I wanted to know how this this extraordinary girl prospered in this unusual teacher's Physics Class, a learning environment that had been, like Mechanical Drawing, exclusively male territory. We sat alone to chat in Miss Pat's comfortably furnished living room. Clearly, Jane had left an impression on her high school physics teacher thirty years ago that hasn't faded. The first words out of Pat Chang's mouth were, "Jane Dyer? Oh, She was good. She was an honest person. No pretensions. She got good grades, was good at math and physics. She had to be, didn't she, to become an Air Force pilot?"

I didn't have to ask questions and Mrs. Chang had nothing negative to add. It was clear Jane Dyer's character had left an indelible impression, "She sets her own standards and cares about other people." Ms Chang went on to say, "She is a good student and very funny. I'm so glad she broke through and was the first girl to take my class. You know,

she has a good mind. She could do what others have trouble with. For instance, she could take abstract math and instinctively know how to set up a math problem and apply it to physics. Many can't do that. Yet other kids liked her. They didn't envy her. She was officer in Student Council. And when it came time to organize the 30-year reunion she was one of the organizers. Yes. She was always a leader because she knows how to take a position in a nice way. She is articulate and will listen to what you have to say."

"Best thing," Miss Chang went on, "about Jane is that she has the courage to initiate new ideas but she will always put other peoples' interests before her own and try to do the right thing in spite of her own ambitions."

Because education is a major issue in South Carolina, I asked her how we might expect Jane Dyer to operate in Washington. "No problem. She will listen and make a difference. She can work with either side. She will say her belief but she will find a way to work with all of them because she will get to the bottom of problems. Jane is a leader, a great person to represent South Carolina."

When people talk about Jane Dyer they regularly describe her as a natural leader. What does it mean to call someone a "natural leader" and does it always mean the same thing? In other words, can we agree on a definition of leadership and do women lead differently than men? David Hakala the CEO of SpatiaLight, a leading developer and manufacturer of ultra high-resolution Liquid Crystal on Silicon (LCoS) micro displays for the high definition television market, lists ten characteristics of the successful leader on the website of HRWorld or Human Resources World.

Hakala begins with "vision", writing that a leader must express a clear and vivid picture of where to go and what to do, and communicate that vision with passion. To succeed, he adds, the leader must have integrity defined as the integration of outward actions with inner values. The leader must dedicate herself, spending whatever time or energy is necessary to accomplish the task at hand. She must credit her associates when credit is due and take personal responsibility for failure. In brief, leaders must deal with others fairly, justly, and consistently. In other words good leaders practice the golden rule.

Hakala also emphasizes that the effective leader must be open to listen to new ideas even if those ideas do not conform to traditional ways of thinking. Therefore, leaders must have the ability to think creatively, to "get outside the box". Finally, effective leaders must be assertive, i.e., able to clearly state what one expects of associates so there are no misunderstandings while having a sense of humor to diffuse hostility and energize followers.

From conversations I've had with her family, friends and teachers, Jane Dyer exhibits all of the above qualities; but what about gender? Are male and female leaders inherently different?

Dr Musimibi Kanyoro, the World YWCA Secretary General says that what women offer is essentially different, that "there is a growing appreciation of ... those traits that women

use to keep families together, organize volunteers, and make changes in the shared life of communities. ... A feminine way of leading includes helping the world to understand and be principled about values that really matter.”

Caliper, a Princeton, NJ consulting firm conducted a yearlong study identifying characteristics of leadership that distinguish women leaders. They found that

- 1 Women leaders are more persuasive than their male counterparts
- 2 When rejected women leaders carry on with an “I’ll show you” attitude.
- 3 Women leaders tend toward an inclusive, team building leadership style.
- 4 Women leaders are more likely to take risks when necessary.

Esther Wachs, in her book *Why the Best Man for the Job is a Woman*, examined the careers of fourteen top female executives and discovered women willingly re-invent the rules, sell their visions, and turn challenges into opportunities.

Today’s women in every field, especially in business, politics, science, and the military lead as never before. They break through “glass ceilings.” They find acceptance unimaginable before our time. Jane’s gender, for example, does not seem to have troubled fellow officers in the United States Air Force whether male or female.

Paul Smith, now a consultant to defense contractors, worked with Jane Dyer as a T-37 instructor pilot in the 85<sup>th</sup> Flying Training Squadron in Del Rio, Texas. He reports that Jane was a “great instructor pilot respected by fellow instructors and by students as well.” In sum Mr. Smith declares that Jane is a person with “impeccable character and integrity, terrific traits for someone South Carolinians can be proud to call their representative in Washington.”

*Integrity.* No matter with whom I talk, they speak of Jane Dyer’s integrity, an integrity that seems never to fail even when her own career might be put in jeopardy. Last summer I spoke on the phone with Brian Killian, a United Airlines pilot, who flew in the Air Force with Jane back in the early 80s. He tells a story about Jane illustrating those qualities of integrity and courage.

One day, when Jane was an active duty flying officer at Laughlin Air Force Base in Texas, Lt. Killian, and another young officer flew a regular training flight to Nevada. They had been told that an order forbidding them to do so had been rescinded, that they were free to go and so they did. However, when they returned they were immediately called in and reprimanded for violating orders. It looked like insubordination, a serious problem for two young officers at the beginning of their careers. They were both seriously shaken and felt they’d been treated unfairly.

When Jane heard what had happened, she immediately went to her commander and defended both men on the ground that she had been duty officer at the time and knew the order not to fly had been rescinded. A young officer like Jane confronts her commanding officer at the risk of her own career.

It was just like the incident in Easley High School when she fearlessly defended boys who'd been punished unfairly in civics class. Jane's willingness to jeopardize her own interests to defend schoolmates and fellow officers –all males, by the way - exhibits that same strength of character her commanding officer at Clemson remembers. Brian Killian recalls that Jane was commended for her courage and for doing the right thing.

Mary Blissard, another pilot, also flies for United Airlines. In 1982, Like Jane Dyer, she served at Dyess AFB in Abilene as a freshly commissioned Second Lieutenant. Mary remembers that as the first two women co-pilots in their KC-135 squadron they endured constant harassment.

In a recent email, Mary told me that she approached the hassling by trying to “fade into the woodwork as much as possible and try to assimilate [with the men] quietly.” On the other hand she remembers that Jane approached the situation differently, was always herself, and that being congruent “worked for her.”

It was known, for instance, that if the duties demanded of them were disagreeable, and if others shrank from unpleasant tasks, Jane would take them on. From Mary's perspective, squadron leaders early on noticed Jane was different; a woman who knew her own potential. Serendipitously Mary and Jane were together as “lowly squadron copilots” when Jane endured a test of that integrity.

The testing happened during their time at the KC-135 squadron (those huge tankers filled with fuel that keep jet fighters flying), a time when Jane's confidence and natural qualities as a leader were still developing. Mary recalls how Jane would speak up if she thought a faulty method of operation could be improved. Most young second lieutenants would have felt doing so was too risky, thinking you don't question “the way things have always been done or rock the boat”.

“But I learned,” Mary says, “that questioning was a fundamental value in Jane; if you see something that can be improved you speak up or do it yourself. Jane's family life inculcated integrity and encouraged her to hash things out with her parents and siblings in a way that shaped her ability to speak truth to power.”

And if those young “lowly squadron copilots” wanted to become the best they could be, they made sure to fly on their days off in a small jet trainer, the T-37. Two of them would “take the aircraft”, according to the Mary Blissard, “fuel card in hand, and fly anywhere there was fuel and a runway and Jane took up every chance she could to do just that to improve her skills and build more experience as an aircraft commander.” Mary says she and Jane flew together as often as possible. Mary also acknowledged she learned “about being a pilot's pilot” from Jane who was at all times a professional “striving for perfection”.

Mary Blissard remembers an incident revealing Jane's courage. Together they took out a T-37 trainer from Abilene and counting flight planning and refueling stops they had put in a full day of work by the time they came to their RON (overnight stop) at Brownsville.

When they went to their room to dress, they found a message ordering Jane to call the operations officer back at Dyess AFB in Abilene. They feared the worst, family troubles, a disaster, a military operation; otherwise why should Operations track them down to Brownsville?

Jane dialed the command post and heard that the Operations Officer “wanted her back on the base ASAP.” She told the CP officer she had just finished an 8-hour flying day making it impossible for her to fly back that night. Thinking that was the end of the matter, the women started to dress for dinner when the phone rang again. “This time,” recalls Mary, “it was the Operations Officer himself. He was furious! He ordered Jane to return this instant! She explained she had flown multiple legs that day starting at ‘0 dark thirty’ in the morning and that she wasn’t legal to get back in the aircraft. He was insistent. She asked him why she was needed to return immediately when she’d be back first thing in the morning. The reply was that she was the only copilot ‘available’ for alert duty. At that instant,” Mary says, “Since we were *both* ‘co-pilots’, we realized they were testing.”

But Jane knew the regulations. She realized they were trying her ability to defuse an irate and irrational individual with a cool logic based on standard operating procedures. “With a serene confidence,” says Mary, “Jane told the operations officer we’d return to Dyess as soon as it was legal to get there. By the time we arrived the next morning the personnel crisis was over and the operations officer acted like nothing had ever happened. I admired Jane’s ability to tactfully and forcefully get her point across and defend what she knew as correct and true.”

Amidst the self-seeking deviousness of the world, where does this deep-seated integrity, this willingness to accomplish the right thing, come from? Mary Blissard suggests we’ll find the source of Jane’s strength in Easley in her family.

Recently Rev. Jack Causey recalled Mary’s theory during a telephone conversation. Rev. Causey, a Baptist minister now retired and living in North Carolina, served as the Ballard family pastor between 1974 and 1986. He remembers a family steeped in Christian values and parents sensitive to their times and progressive in their thinking. He recalled that progressive tendency in the family remembering how Grady Ballard, Jane’s father, built an energy saving house in the late 80’s long before it was fashionable, a house that still exists today.

The Ballard parents honored the traditions of their South Carolina community while teaching the children to think for themselves and to do their best for society. For Rev. Causey, the Ballard boys and girls stood out as models for South Carolina’s young people. For him, Jane especially stood out from the masses. He remembers her for her good humor, her infectious smile, and her commitment to whatever she chose to do. He says, “If she chose to sing in the church choir, she gave it all she had without ever holding back.”

Although I always tried to discover a dark side in Jane Dyer's personality, like everyone else with whom I talked, Rev Causey expressed no reservations about her. Indeed, he wanted me to know he felt "honored" by Jane's request that he officiate at her wedding and that I ought get to know her myself.

## **PART II. Why does Jane Dyer want to serve the voters of South Carolina's Third District?**

People who have known and worked with Jane Dyer regularly testify to a consistent pattern in her character: when she learns something needs to be done, she does it. We see the same tendency from the time she took over family chores at age fourteen, when she pioneered as the first girl in her high school's Mechanical Drawing and Physics classes, when she accepted the post of commander of the Air Force ROTC at Clemson, when she flew tankers refueling fighter planes as one of the first female pilots in the US Air Force and when she became an Air Force Instructor Pilot. I think it's also fair to assume the FEDEX corporation noticed that persistent pattern in her character when they assigned her to command their A300 jet freighters.

When I visited the Dyers at their handsome brick family home outside Easley. I wanted to confirm the pattern for myself. She's married. What kind of relationship does she have with husband and children?

Jane and John, her husband sat with me at the kitchen table. The mood was easy and informal without any tension. Obviously confident, they were willing to take a risk with this writer. Their home, comfortably furnished and modestly decorated, reflects quiet, traditional Carolina values mixed with lots of military mementos, primarily aircraft models of every kind including a model of John's own favorite; his completely restored Piper Cub.

First of all, I wanted to know about this John Dyer, Jane's first and only husband. He willingly answered questions and openly talked about his own career in the Air Force and their life together.

Col. Dyer, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, piloted an attack plane in Viet Nam, was shot down over the jungle, rescued, and awarded the Purple Heart. Later, back in the USA, assigned to the training command at Randolph Air Force Base, he met Captain Jane Ballard who was undergoing training to become an instructor in the Pilot Instructor Training Program. For Jane learning to instruct pilots was a normal reassignment after having piloted the KC-135 tankers. John was then Executive Officer of the Pilot Instructor Training Squadron at Randolph and flew with her toward the end of her training to evaluate her performance as a future instructor. Later after Jane transferred to Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio to become an instructor, John would drive down to visit. Gradually their life together began.

In 1985 they married and moved to Laughlin air Force Base where Jane served as a T-37 instructor pilot for three years. John retired as a Lieutenant Colonel, and today they have four children and three grandchildren between them. John has two children from an earlier marriage, a daughter, Amy, who teaches school in Texas and a son, John, a Major who has twice served in Iraq and Afghanistan flying A10's. Major Dyer, will have deployed to Afghanistan for his third assignment over there in January 2010. They also have two younger boys together; Bill, an anthropology student at the College of Charleston and Tony, a student at Emory University.

I told John it looks like he travels with her everywhere she goes so he must "have her back" meaning of course that he seemed to serve as her body guard. His reply was characteristic of John Dyer's modesty. Smiling he said, "O, I'm just her driver. ...and I support her all the way."

Obviously, the best way to learn who Jane Dyer is now, is to listen to her. I began our interview asking her, "Why do you want to represent the Third District? This is a Republican bastion and you are running as a Democrat." (Her responses are in *italics*)

*I'm ready to work for the people of South Carolina by tackling the tough issues and insuring we all have a brighter tomorrow.*

What are the issues?

*Jobs. Education. Veterans.*

I notice you are not offering solutions. You are just offering yourself to work toward solutions?

*The solution for jobs, the short term solution, is to take the TARP money, the money that has not been repaid to the government, especially the interest and give it directly to our small business owners, because if the small business owners fail we all fail. It is very important that we under gird the small business owners especially in this part of South Carolina.*

*Second, we have to develop long term industry here in South Carolina so that we manufacture energy solutions which will not only provide jobs for people in industry but will help solve our long term energy problems locally, nationally, and internationally.*

Well, that requires improving the educational system.

*Yes. Education is so important because the jobs we need are not just minimally adequate jobs. We need people who are educated to the point that a mere high school diploma is not going to cut it. They're going to need to go on for more technical schooling so that we can create a skilled labor force here in South Carolina. That our students first graduate from high school and then continue on to get at least the*

*technical training to become part of a skilled work force has to be one of our number one goals.*

Improving education at all levels sounds to me like middle of the road solutions that either conservatives or liberals could sign on to. But I understand that wealthy people in New York or other places are trying to ruin our public educational system.

*Absolutely. There's a gentleman in New York who spent millions and millions of dollars to support the voucher system in South Carolina in the last election in 2008. He is trying to buy off South Carolina for his own personal goals using voucher systems. The state budget has never been cut as much as it is now. Our teachers have never been asked to work with as little as they have now. We have no money to support his voucher system.*

We can't compete.

*We can't educate our kids. So the number one thing we need to do right now is to make sure educating our kids is our number one priority. And one of the most interesting things I found out recently is -as far as how we're going to bring jobs to our state- is that we have got to be committed to the working people across our district, our state, our country. The reality is when you look at the numbers; the people on Wall Street (these are the banks that have paid back their TARP money) are going to pay 27 Billion dollars in bonuses this December, December of 2009. Now, the entire income of our entire district is less than \$27 billion dollars. Those four banks' bonuses for one year are going to be more than the \$20 billion total income of all the people in our entire district. That is not the America we should aim for.*

*That's a really big number. How does that compare with the income of the 700,000 people in our district? What is the average per capita income of the 700,000 citizens of the Third District divided by \$20 billion dollars? \$28,285 dollars a year! Yet those four banks will pay out \$27 billion in bonuses? That's incredible!*

But it seems our people in South Carolina are willing tolerate these inequalities.

*South Carolina is usually found in the bottom of most lists, but the tragedy I have discovered is that we vote for people who don't want to move forward. The world is moving forward. None of us like change. But we can either embrace it and make the best of it and guide it and make good decisions or we can resist it and we can continue to stay where we are.*

Does that have something to do with loving tradition at all cost?

*I love tradition. I love South Carolina. I love big Sunday dinners. I love Clemson University. I love all that. But also what can we be? What can we do next, where can we go? I think we can be confident to know we can endure change. We can make*

***things better instead of choosing to do nothing, and hope things are going to get better. Tragically, the world is moving on.***

Given the unhappy condition the education system is in, it looks like there's going to be yet another huge cut.

***Right. We're never going to catch up. The tragedy is that these people with this great idea that instead of paying property taxes we just pay sales tax, so that when people stop buying things, guess what? All the revenue dries up. And if you talk to anybody who is directly affected by it like teachers and school board members, they would tell you how devastating that whole idea has been. And apparently we have some people who are continuing to run for US Congress who agree with that, that everything should still be cut. That is the worst idea I've ever heard.***

***I am thrilled people are addressing the need for science and technology backgrounds but we still have a long way to go. Our future in South Carolina depends on electing representatives who are committed to improving education, embracing science and technology, and have a vision for a better future for all of us.***

#### **A Postscript**

In the interest of transparency, the reader should know that I have spent a year doing the research on which I've based this profile. Like Jane I believe we need new leadership but in the very beginning I didn't know if Jane Dyer was the candidate I dreamed of. However, at one moment early in the course of my research I became a Jane Dyer fan. I'd been chatting with another conservative who must remain anonymous. Like others I've talked to he had retired from the military and is now a Republican. We were having a drink one day and he admitted he knows Jane, so I asked him what he thought about her.

He looked me right in the eye for a long moment and then said, "Sir, you listen to me." He pointed his right forefinger at me and paused to make an impact. "You tell Jane Dyer", he said, "I will never vote against her." It was then I decided, whether for the Right or for the Left, Jane Dyer was the ideal candidate to represent the voters of South Carolina's Third District.

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The author is a member of the Dramatists Guild and the recipient of several fellowships and awards including an NEA Fellowship. He writes essays, plays and videos for industrial purposes. In 1994-98 he was Playwright-in-Residence at the Institute for Medicine in Contemporary Society, University at Stony Brook Medical School. His collection, *The Wally Weet Stories* is available through Amazon.com.