

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT LETS READERS KNOW THE  
WRITER  
01/23/01**

Charlie Reese is one of my favorite columnists. At the start of the year he made a "financial, philosophical and political disclosure statement." In his opinion this is an action all columnists owe to their readers. He further opined that as far as he knew he was the only one to do so.

Since I admire his style and it sounded like a challenge to me, I picked up the gauntlet. I do not agree with him entirely. Much of what he disclosed was, in my opinion, no one else's business. It was somewhat redundant to one who has followed his writings as long as I have.

To begin with, you will not get a financial statement from me. What little I have I came by honestly and it's no one else's business how well off I am. I agree with much of what Reese had to say, with that exception.

He does not charge for speeches for a number of reasons. I do not either, but not for the same reasons he gave. I am a poor speaker and I would feel very guilty accepting any money for anything I might say.

Politically, he is registered Democrat, but plans to change to the Republican party. I am a registered Republican, but not especially proud of it. I consider myself a fiscally conservative liberal.

Philosophically, Charley is a traditionalist, or as he states, if you prefer, a neo-Confederate. I'm not sure I know exactly what that is, but I agree with much of what he follows with.

He shares the philosophy of Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry, as do I. I also admire much of what Thomas Paine had to say.

I agree with his assessment of the Constitution. "It is not a 'living document,' but a firm contract, clearly defining and limiting the powers of the federal government; trade with all countries, entangling alliances with none."

I belong to four organizations: The National Rifle Association, AARP, the American Legion and the VFW.

My reasons for writing are similar to his with the exception that he makes his

living from it.

The principal reason, I had only one, is so that my eight grandchildren will have some inkling of who I am. I would like to know much more about my own grandfathers.

I also write to keep my brain waves functioning. The obligation of coming up with a weekly column is challenging and requires discipline – functions that are not altogether bad for a guy my age.

Hearing from others that they are entertained by my ramblings or strolls down memory lane, pleases me. I like to make people think, caring not whether they agree or disagree with me. I know some of my own blind ideology has been transformed by something I have read and fully analyzed. It's a way of raising an objection concerning a thing's veracity and tests like readers' own character and integrity.

To be perfectly blunt, I stutter and writing helps me compose my thoughts and present them more clearly.

Writing is a way for me to honor and recognize those people and ideals I admire. By the same token to expose the hypocrisy and partisanship so prevalent in most of the liberal politicians and media today.

To make a long story short, I write because I enjoy it and have fun doing it.