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## AARP Issues Blog

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### Impact Awards

Bill O'Reilly on Fox News Channel on 11/29/05 focused on [AARP The Magazine](#)'s selection of Harry Belafonte for one of the [2006 Impact Awards](#). AARP The Magazine through its cover stories and the Impact Awards recognizes those who have made an impact on our world, like Governor Mike Huckabee of Arkansas, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Michael J. Fox, and Harry Belafonte.

AARP The Magazine recognized Mr. Belafonte for his work as a UNICEF goodwill ambassador. Secretary of State Rice was recently featured in a cover story that detailed her rise from segregated Birmingham, Alabama to the Office of Secretary of State. Governor Huckabee was recognized because of his commitment to raising public awareness about the link between obesity and health problems.

The Impact Awards are not about ideology or an endorsement of a political point of view. They simply recognize American citizens who try to make this world a better place.

AARP and its publications, [The Bulletin](#) and AARP The Magazine, are non-partisan. They do not support or endorse political parties or candidates. AARP publications present the facts about people, events, news and trends of interest to our readers.

AARP surveys and listens to its members on an ongoing basis on the issues important to them and their families.

In addition to policy input, we [welcome members' contributions](#) to advocacy activities as well as suggestions for other parts of the organization's operations.

[Our comments section for this entry is now closed. But, you can post comments at any time by visiting our [Message Boards](#).]

Posted November 30, 2005 02:37 PM in [Aging](#).

### Comments

Who can now believe anything aarp suggest,, when they are so lopsiding in picking an unamerican,, they can be so screwed up about social security,,,and medicare also,,,they are getting like the nACP,,,when their only goal should be to stay with retired citizens agenda.

Posted by: [Bob Yates](#) | Dec 1, 2005 1:29:23 PM

Dear AARP, You people lead the blind very well-however when you think for yourself as I and my family do, you will find the truth. You do not speak for the masses, but yourselves only while collecting great deals of money for your communistic association. You will lie every chance you get to confuse

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the elderly with your Texas Two step. Keep the inmates confused is your goal. When I found out what your are I left the AARP and joined NASCON

I will bet you don't put this up on your web site.

Posted by: [Alan L. Bessey](#) | Dec 1, 2005 2:08:47 PM

I love that Michael J. Fox was one of your selections. Parkinson's is a scary disease, and he has really helped to create awareness around it. It was interesting to read about the Impact awards and I appreciated learning more about these people and how they've contributed to our society over the past year. I am glad AARP highlighted these individuals, it reminds me to get involved and be passionate about causes that are important to me.

I am glad AARP does these awards and recognizes these folks, even if not everyone agrees in everything they stand for.

Posted by: [Nancy Brooks](#) | Dec 1, 2005 5:01:21 PM

Your decision to 'honor' Mr. Belafonte is difficult to understand. While he may have performed well with certain activities, his recent anti-American rants show him to be unworthy of any honor. Beyond that, his vile comments about Black Americans in the current administration shows that if you are Black you must conform to Mr. Belafonte's definition of Black. Otherwise, you are an Uncle Tom or worst. In my view, that constitutes racism. You have 'honored' an anti-American, racist.

Posted by: [Rick Stever](#) | Dec 1, 2005 8:25:08 PM

Harry Belafonte? Have you gone completely dim? Just because you "support" old folks doesn't mean you make brain-dead decisions about whom you elevate. Your choice of Belafonte is disgusting to anyone who love his country.

Posted by: [P. Regel](#) | Dec 1, 2005 8:28:45 PM

As a member of the AARP, it is my opinion that the selection of Harry Belafonte for this award is outrageous, and brings discredit on the AARP. Perhaps those making this selection should be replaced, before further damage is done.

Posted by: [Jim Barrie](#) | Dec 1, 2005 8:31:28 PM

Your choice of Harry Belafonte, just made me, my wife and hopefully anyone else I can influence to cancel my AARP membership. Will NOT belong to your OBnoxious left-wing organization. You'll never print this!!

Posted by: [Doug Gregory](#) | Dec 1, 2005 9:00:40 PM

Dear AARP, Despite your claim to be free of political leanings, your choice of Harry Belafonte is transparent. As I listened to his virulent comments on our country, our leaders and honorable black leaders I honestly thought he must have dementia. At best it is the ravings of a lunatic. How could you honor such a man? No way will I or my husband join the AARP.

Posted by: [ruth leech](#) | Dec 1, 2005 9:36:17 PM

Harry Belafonte is a communist. He hates America and what it stands for. If you continue to honor this bastard, I will withdraw my membership and cancel my insurance with AARP and go somewhere else. You people are supposed to look out for older Americans, not pat the back of trash like Harry Belafonte and the ACLU.



See AARP's [commercial](#).

Posted by: [Clark Hotard](#) | Dec 2, 2005 5:40:16 AM

Your decision to name Harry Belafonte as one of your "Persons of the Year" was, to put it charitably, ill-advised. Belafonte is an America-hating, despot-loving, venom-spewing "has been."

Posted by: [Paul Schneider](#) | Dec 2, 2005 11:14:48 AM

What's interesting to note is that there are NINE other recipients of this award...great people like Naomi Judd, Arkansas governor Michael Huckabee, actress Jane Kaczmarek (who I loved in *Ally McBeal*). They are all doing amazing things. It seems as though politics has made its way into the discussion with some criticizing certain recipients, like Harry Belafonte. It would be nice if we could just recognize and celebrate the great efforts of these individuals without it becoming yet another excuse to get into a partisan driven attack.

Posted by: Joy Madson | Dec 2, 2005 11:48:38 AM

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