

---

---

## THE RELIABLE SOURCE

### A think tank that knows how to party

Most think tanks are earnest places — and then there’s the Competitive Enterprise Institute. “People say, ‘CEI has fun people, but some of them are *crazy*,’” said new president **Lawson Bader**. The free-market libertarian group threw a “passing of the torch” party Friday — founder **Fred Smith** is handing the reins to Bader — and because it fell on Scotland’s **Robert Burns** Night, there was haggis, kilts and plenty of Scotch.

CEI is known for good parties. “I recognized that intellectuals were dour, and that the war was going to be a long one,” Smith explained. “In warfare, you need R&R; in our world, that means having fun while you fight. And we *do* have fun.”

After 29 years, Smith, 72, figured it was time to give up the top job (he’s not leaving and won’t use the word “retirement”): “You know the great line, ‘The graveyards of the world are full of irreplaceable people.’”



KATHERINE RUDDY

**Lawson Bader, left, and founder Fred Smith celebrate the “passing of the torch” at CEI.**