

November 22nd 2009

Today, we see our country heading down a new path. A path most of us, including our founders and forefathers never imagined. Where the will of the people have been put aside, and only the "ruling class" have a say. A new serfdom has arisen; a new monarchy is on the horizon. I have taken on the challenge of running for the governorship of Pennsylvania. In this quest, I have been told time and time again, "you should run for a smaller office", "You should build your base". I have been told by members of my political affiliation that they do not have my back. I have been ignored by the media. Why, I wonder. Is it the lack of abbreviations behind my name? That I am not a professional politician? Maybe it is the fact that I have never been Governor before. As silly as that sounds, I hope it is closer to the reason than the prior two. Ronald Reagan once said "I used to say politics was the second oldest profession, and I have come to know that it bears a gross similarity to the first." The fundamental difference between an amateur and a professional is that the professional gets paid to do it. Just because I never shot anyone before did not deter me from serving in Iraq.

Perhaps I intimidate the upholders of the status quo and those who have grown fat off of the labor of others. Neither has been able to produce substantial improvements to a system that has grown out of control. The system is broken, and riddled with duplicity. We can not throw away the system, so we can only fix it.

When faced with cancer, you have three options. The first option is to ignore it, the cancer may go away, but it is more likely to spread and envelop healthy tissue twisting and distorting it until death. The other is to apply medicine, but finding medicine effective enough to fight the cancer without killing the patient. The third alternative is to cut out the cancer. It is invasive and dangerous, but many times is the best and only option.

The cancer is corruption. Lobbying groups and special interests are not always the culprits. Power is the ultimate corruptor. It corrodes the soul and eats away at your heart. It becomes a vicious cycle of wanting nothing more to get elected and then re-elected. I once heard the phrase "Anyone who would do what it takes to get into office, doesn't deserve to be there." I agree. I will not compromise my principles and convictions. For without them, I have no heart. With no heart, I am not worthy to serve.

My convictions are simple.

- I believe in the Constitution. It is the instruction manual for running a representative republic.
- I believe there is a God and a purpose outside of, and greater than myself.
- I believe the Ten Commandments are just that, and not merely suggestions
- I believe in the rule of law.
- I believe in a person's right to property and right to defend themselves.
- I believe that all are born free and the rights endowed upon them to life liberty and the pursuit of happiness endowed to them by the Creator should be protected at all costs.

The most common question I am asked is, "Why are you running for Governor?" The answer to that is as complicated as I am. But, to sum it up, there is something broken in our state, it has been broken for a long time. It needs to be fixed. I am the right man for that job, if I am not, I will die trying.

Some areas of the state are merely fractured. Areas like our infrastructure, power grid, and waterways. Other areas of the state are shattered, and will take much more work to correct, areas like our small business climate, pension system, the over exportation of young entrepreneurs, and the under exportation of goods.

The largest injured area is jobs. While Pennsylvania teeters on the 10.2 – 10.3% unemployment rate, the actual rate is much closer to 20%. Government cannot create jobs, but it can create an environment where jobs can be created. The private sector did not get us into this mess, but they are the only ones who can get us out. But government must get out of the way and let it grow. Taxing us into prosperity will never work. History has taught us that. I am not the sort of person who has to burn himself on the stove more than once to figure that out. As Governor, I will use my veto to assure that the government allows business to grow, and develop an atmosphere that will attract other businesses to come to Pennsylvania.

The second largest area is education. The greatest disservice is to shape young minds, K-12, inside the narrow parameters of standardized testing, forcing revisionist history, and ignoring fundamentals they are going to need for the future in order to be prepared for a twenty-first century world. Time spent preparing juniors and seniors for college is fine, but they also need to know how to balance a checkbook, communicate with people face to face, and how to live in a civil society. We need to seriously reconsider the role government plays in education. Education is not a right, but a responsibility, and is too big a job to give to a bureaucrat. Remember, those who we teach and nurture today, will be those in charge when we are in our senior years.

The third largest problem area is size of government. There is too much of it. From the Federal level, to the states, to your own municipalities, there is too much government for a free society. This cannot continue. We as citizens don't say anything about it, because it's always been there. President Reagan also said "Governments first job is to protect the people, not run their lives". We need to get out of the "Nanny State" mentality. I have a plan to do it, I just need the means. Welfare-to-work programs, initiatives to allow people to work off debts and towards higher education, a chance for the people of Pennsylvania to reclaim the American Dream. "Of all tyrannies a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive. It may be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies, The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for own good will torment us without end, for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

-- C.S. Lewis

There is a new paradigm; we must look out for ourselves, as we look out for each other. I need you to do something important. I need you to be involved, to stop talking and join together to effectively change the course of our state. We as a collective voice have been marginalized and bashed. I leave you with one more quote, for it rings true today as it did in 1775. "We have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the throne, and have implored its interposition to arrest the tyrannical hands of the ministry and Parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne! In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free-- if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending--if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained--we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!" Patrick Henry

My name is Robert Allen Mansfield Republican candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I invite you to find more out about me at www.mansfield4pa.org.