

I'D LIKE TO THANK LAURIE FOR NOMINATING ME FOR THE AWARD, IT IS TRULY THE HIGHEST HONOR OF MY LIFETIME. THANK YOU TO MY FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS WHO ARE HERE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE WITH ME.

NOW, SINCE I'VE BEEN CHOSEN FOR THIS AWARD BECAUSE I AM ONE OF VERY FEW WILLING TO GO KNOCK DOORS FOR CANDIDATES, IT IS ONLY FITTING FOR ME TO TELL YOU HOW THIS ENTHUSIASM FOR DOOR -TO -DOOR CANVASSING BEGAN.

WHEN TIM JOSEPH AND MARK BREWER RESTARTED OUR COUNTY PARTY 18 YEARS AGO, 2002 WAS OUR FIRST CAMPAIGN SEASON. TIM WAS DETERMINED TO FILL EVERY SEAT ON THE BALLOT WITH A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. I AGREED TO BE PLACED ON THE BALLOT AS A COUNTY COMMISSIONER CANDIDATE FOR MY DISTRICT, THE MOST HEAVILY REPUBLICAN DISTRICT WE HAD AT THE TIME. TIM ASSURED ME THAT ALTHOUGH I DID NOT HAVE A CHANCE TO WIN, MY NAME ON THE BALLOT WAS IMPORTANT. SO IN MAY, I FILED THE PAPERWORK, ORDERED A FEW YARD SIGNS AND FORGOT ABOUT IT.

AT THE END OF THE SUMMER, TIM CALLED TO SAY THAT HIS 90 YEAR OLD DAD HAD AGREED TO BE MY CAMPAIGN MANAGER. HE EXPLAINED THAT HIS FATHER WAS ENERGETIC FOR 90 AND NEEDED A PROJECT. THE NEXT DAY, HIS FATHER APPEARED AT 4PM TO TAKE ME CANVASSING DOOR TO DOOR. WE HAD NO WALK LISTS TO TELL US WHAT DOORS TO KNOCK ON, BUT IT DIDN'T MATTER. DAVID DROVE US AROUND AND INTRODUCED ME TO PEOPLE HE KNEW, AND HE KNEW EVERYONE.

DAY AFTER DAY, DAVID WOULD APPEAR AT 4PM WITHOUT FAIL TO TAKE ME CANVASSING AND PUT UP SIGNS. THEN ONE DAY IT WAS RAINING, AND RAINING HARD. I AM ASHAMED TO SAY I WAS ECSTATIC AND RELIEVED; FINALLY A BREAK FROM CANVASSING. FOUR O'CLOCK CAME - YOU GUESSED IT, DAVID DROVE UP MY DRIVEWAY. I EXCLAIMED, "BUT IT'S RAINING!" HE LOOKED AT ME LIKE I WAS DAFT, "SO WHAT?" HE REPLIED AND OFF WE WENT.

DAVID WAS MY TEACHER , MENTOR AND INSPIRATION. IF HE COULD DEVOTE HIS TIME TO ME AT 90, A CANDIDATE WHO HAD NOT A CHANCE IN HELL OF WINNING, HOW COULD I DO LESS?

I'VE NOW BEEN KNOCKING DOORS FOR MANY YEARS, AND I CAN TELL YOU THAT PEOPLE AT THE DOOR ARE POLITE, INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU SAY AND IMPRESSED THAT YOU ARE TAKING THE TIME AND EFFORT TO CALL ON THEM. WITH WALK LISTS, IT IS EVEN BETTER BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE CALLING ON AND THE STRONG DEMS CHEER YOU ON. IF YOU THINK A DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN 2020 IS IMPORTANT, SAY YES WHEN WE CALL YOU. OFFER TO HELP US GET OUT THE VOTE.

WHILE I HAVE THE SOAP BOX-I'D LIKE TO BRING UP ANOTHER TOPIC. I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPEAL FOR HOLDING DONALD J TRUMP ACCOUNTABLE. SOME DEMOCRATS ARE RELUCTANT BECAUSE CLINTON'S IMPEACHMENT WAS UNPOPULAR, BUT YOU CAN'T COMPARE TRUMP TO CLINTON.

CLINTON WAS A WILDLY POPULAR PRESIDENT, BUT THE REPUBLICAN'S HELD HIM ACCOUNTABLE. SO, CONSIDERING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE TRUMP'S CRIMES AND THE

IMMORAL ACTIONS HE CONTINUES TO TAKE, HOW CAN WE DO NOTHING TO HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE? HOW CAN THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY JUSTIFY INACTION?

MUELLER LISTS OVER 30 ACTS OF OBSTRUCTION AND WITNESS TAMPERING COMMITTED BY TRUMP. IF THAT IS NOT ENOUGH, EVERYDAY TRUMP REACHES A NEW LOW IN HIS DIVISIVENESS AND HATE SPEECH – ENCOURAGING WHITE SUPREMACY AND GIVING IMPETUS TO MASS KILLINGS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR, IMMIGRANTS, MUSLIMS AND WOMEN. MUELLER STRESSED OVER AND OVER THAT OVERSIGHT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CONGRESS.

SO HOW CAN WE FAIL THE COUNTRY AND DO NOTHING? LIKE MOST POWERFUL AND RICH WHITE MEN, HE BELIEVES HE IS ENTITLED AND ABOVE THE LAW.

SO WHY IS IMPEACHMENT SO IMPORTANT? WHY NOT JUST VOTE HIM OUT? TRUMP HAS A FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR DEMOCRACY. HE HAS A FLAGRANT DISREGARD FOR THE LAW. HE HAS MOCKED THE TRUTH AND TRAMPLED ON ANY SEMBLANCE OF MORAL VALUES. HE SUPPORTS THE WORST OF THE CORRUPT DICTATORS. HE ATTACKS OUR LONGSTANDING ALLIES AND DEMOCRATIC LEADERS. I COULD GO ON AND ON.

THINK ABOUT IT. HOW CAN VOTERS TRUST US IN 2020 IF WE ACT LIKE THIS IS JUST ANOTHER ELECTION AND HE IS JUST ANOTHER CANDIDATE? HOW CAN WE CLAIM THAT WE HAVE THE INTERESTS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AT HEART IF WE FAIL OUR OVERSIGHT DUTY AND DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO HOLD THIS MAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS CRIMES AGAINST OUR COUNTRY?