

ACT



Bob McConnell surveys this mountain-range in Southern Colorado

Political Party Elites Better Take Notice!

STEVE THOMPSON

Get ready for a new type of politician. Bob McConnell is running for Congress representing the 3rd district in Colorado - and he is not alone. Just about everyone agrees that real change in Washington requires new non-career politicians. The arguments have been made regarding experience and "seasoned" career-seeking politicians, however the people of our great country are just not buying into that brand of ongoing unsuccessful results. We the people are demanding better results and better-qualified candidates like McConnell.

I had heard a radio interview with McConnell a few months ago and really liked what he had to say - a diverse and interesting guy. He's got it all, recovering lawyer, former soldier, practical environmentalist, family-man, with a demonstrated spirit and passion to stand by his words with actions. The interview worked, I was hooked and wanted to know more.

I am one of those Independent voters that the two traditional parties hate (the Independents who actually make the difference regarding who gets elected). Many people tell me that I'm wasting my vote and both parties remind me that "I" (with my vote) am why the opposition gets into power. Obviously, both sides think I am on their side and not the other. Therein lies the problem, they don't want to accept I don't support either of them and millions of voters don't...yes, millions of us. Party loyalists have fed off the system so long they believe their own press releases and do very little for the people they represent. The Tea Parties face the same dilemma, an internal struggle within the Republican Party, Conservative Democrats and in some cases battles within sects of the Tea Parties themselves. It's all a power grab and that's a fact.

I had the pleasure to talk with Bob McConnell at one of his meet-ups in Pueblo. He is traveling the state of Colorado and is having real conversations with people who want to know how he will represent us. Refreshing common sense conversation with small and large groups. It was discussion where all of us got to participate and not some speech about how we should think.

McConnell has a distinguished Military background

and service to our country - an Airborne Ranger, and a retired Colonel with 30 years of service from the battleground to the Pentagon. Bob is also a passionate participant with the environment and an outdoorsman. I was surprised to learn of his efforts and travels around the world and expeditions he led: the 1990 & 1992 Everest Environmental Expeditions and the 1999 Kilimanjaro Environmental Expedition. He was also a member of the 1994 Sagarmatha Environmental Expedition. McConnell wrote a book published in 1996 called "Gentle Expeditions - A Guide to Ethical Mountain Adventures". He is passionate about Colorado Wilderness and very knowledgeable about the direction we should go to preserve our beautiful state, while bringing jobs back in mining, logging, and agriculture. Effective and responsible stewardship of our land and resources is so very important to all of us, especially in the state where Pikes Peak inspired the song "America the Beautiful".

We all met a very humble and honorable man that day at the meet-up in Pueblo. I wasn't surprised. American Hero's like McConnell are stepping up all over the country. They are all unique and each have special life stories of inspiration and dedication of how they have lived the American Dream. These courageous men and women fought for the lifestyles we have enjoyed all our lives in this great country - the United States of America.

The times we live in are certainly different than my parents and grandparents. Our government is so out of control that people who have never voted or ran for office are starting to stand up and be heard. So far, Washington has ignored and dismissed these new and old patriots who believe in our Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We the people want a voice and the preservation of our great country. The Republican and Democratic parties keep presenting the same 'day old bread' for candidates and the people. Millions of us are taking a harder look at what they want us to feed on and elect.

Candidates like Bob McConnell are coming out in force within the Republican and Democratic parties and offer an alternative for those lever-pullers of the two traditional parties that are thinking they might change their vote for the first time in the primaries and elections. The party-elite better take notice. We the people are paying attention to what these candidates say, and a big majority agree that new and untested politicians are actually much more qualified to repre-

sent us than what we have in there now. In fact, that is the change people had hoped for with President Obama - and they have been very disappointed. They were duped, just like those of us who supported former President Bush. The two parties think we are sheep because we have behaved like sheeple and that's a correct assessment. It's time to inform and have constructive dialog about candidates and how they can and should serve us in all levels of Government.

The energy and positive dynamics of the Tea Party movement has certainly caught my attention, but like any group power eventually corrupts. For now, they are the group I look to for inspiration and candidates with intent to deliver rather than pacify. The media has portrayed the Tea Party people as a bunch of angry older white guys. I attended several of these events and that group was there (Baby Boomers and concerned parents and grandparents) along with every other walk of humanity. I have also attended Republican and Democratic town-hall meetings and saw far more anger and hatred at those events from their own party members. This was not AstroTurf from outsiders as claimed by House Speaker Pelosi and others who demonize the Tea Parties. There was no doubt angry members of all three parties were present and speaking. The elected officials didn't expect outrage because of their unwillingness to listen to their constituents, and the people are finally not afraid to ask questions and expect reasonable answers. The politicians' "spin-answers" caused the rage by ignoring and dismissing the honest and reasonable questions asked at those events.

America - its Time to flush! Re-elect none of them! We will be better off!

So, the message I have today and tomorrow is participate! Know your candidates, know the issues, and know that who you support is actionable and serves the people of America. Know and support candidates like Bob McConnell. United we stand, divided we fall! God Bless America!

Learn more about Bob McConnell:
www.mcconnellforcongress.com