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Date: 3/30/2013 8:43:10 PM
Subject: Happy Easter - Hope & Gratitude



Happy Easter - Hope and Gratitude

Dear Friends,

Several of my family members still live up north. Spring is such a celebration for them. Snow drifts melt, giving way to daffodils. Frozen grounds yield to multi-colored pansies. There's a sense of revitalization - a fresh hope!

Where does real hope come from? Certainly not from a mere weather change. Springtime is more symbolic of the real. I believe authentic hope grows out of adversity, challenges, "winters" of life. In the struggle one searches for truth. Then truth seeks a mixing with faith, an affirmation that rejoices in hope and results in action compliant with the truth.

Personally - Truth affirms "we have intrinsic value".

Financially - Truth stretches us "outside the box" toward success. It conquers fear and doubt.

Governmentally - We return to the constitutional values of our Founding Fathers, which made this nation great.

Spiritually - I go the source of Truth, the Word of God.

The Easter Season celebrates real hope. No where had loss and despair gripped the people of faith as when they watched Christ Crucified. Yet, in three days time, Resurrection Hope shook the nation ...and now the world!

This Easter, I recall the words of Christ found in John 11:25-26. Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die." Truth mixed with faith produces a "hope".

On Election Night, March 19th, I felt nothing but gratitude.

Gratitude because I won the most votes in the special election to choose the Republican nominee to be the next congressman for South Carolina's 1st congressional district? **No.**

Gratitude because I made the Republican run-off in the special congressional race? **No.**

I felt gratitude because Beaufort County, my home county, made me one of only two candidates in the race to win a county outright.

The people of Beaufort County stepped forward, did not base their votes on the most television ads or direct mail pieces. Instead, voters in Beaufort County focused on the candidates who were fighting for their votes, showing a commitment to our communities - from Hilton Head to Bluffton to Beaufort.

This was an important moment for us, even though one of our own is not on the ballot in the run-off. While many from around the country view us simply as a vacation destination, we all know Beaufort County is so much more than that. We are home to the Parris Island military installation, world-class educational institutions, and an atmosphere that allows so many of us to aspire to our dreams of opening a small business.

Simply look on either side of the street and you will see this last point so vividly. It is not the major department stores or fast food chains that dominate our community, but mom-and-pop restaurants and boutique shops that line our streets and make Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, and Beaufort unique to even our neighboring counties in the Lowcountry.

As all of us here in Beaufort County know, we have one of the most diverse, fastest growing communities on the East Coast - our population alone has increased by nearly 35 percent in just the past decade, doubling in the past 20 years. Our community has one of the richest histories in the nation - we are the site of the second European landing on North America in 1514 and we played a crucial role in the Revolution itself 235 years ago.

I am like many of you who moved to Beaufort County from other areas of the country. I have lived around the world when I was an enlisted man in the U.S. Air Force and a Special Agent in the U.S. Secret Service. So when given the opportunity, my wife and I wanted to raise our family in an area forged through the bonds of strong families, strong values, and strong communities. We chose Hilton Head Island without hesitation.

The strength of Beaufort County is one of the reasons I first ran to represent Hilton Head Island in the South Carolina State House of Representatives in Columbia. We have so much to be thankful for here, but it is critical that our interests are fought for. Our delegation in Columbia does a tremendous job working together as one in the best interest of our communities here in the county. We need that same type of dedication and commitment to Beaufort County in our next congressman.

As Beaufort County Republicans look toward Tuesday's run-off election, it is important that we evaluate the candidates on their commitment to our community. We need to make sure that Beaufort County's next congressman understands, embraces and represents us. This is our once-in-a-generation chance to be heard loud and clear, that Beaufort County should take no less than a representative in Congress who stands for the Lowcountry values that make our county the destination for so many from around the World.

We are a community that proudly adopts transplants as our own - my family and I are examples of this warmth. Let's adopt a new, conservative leader this coming Tuesday - the candidate who best epitomizes, represents, and will proudly be a standard bearer for our Lowcountry values.

The choice is ours.

I pray you and your family such hope and gratitude this season and always.

Sincerely,

Andy

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