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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE EDELSON CAMPAIGN - 69TH DISTRICT HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Profile in Courage: Representative Arthur O'Neill

BY ED EDELSON

One reason I am proud to be running in the 69th District is because of the legacy left by Arthur O'Neill who served as the representative for thirty-two years. In particular, it is about Arthur's willingness to step forward when called upon to be the co-chair of the impeachment committee investigating Republican Governor Rowland in 2004.



I learned about Arthur's key role in this chapter of Connecticut history in an interview I did with him for Heritage Village's FOCUS television. [Interview with Arthur O'Neil December 2018](#) (If you move to the 27:10 mark, you will see the section on the impeachment hearing.)

Arthur had been a strong supporter of Rowland throughout his prior career including working on his campaigns for the U.S. House and the Governorship. When allegations of the Governor's actions became public, the General Assembly voted to convene an impeachment committee. Under Connecticut laws, there needed to be one co-chair from each Party. For a Republican representative this was a thankless task but Arthur stepped up when duty called. When the Governor asked leading Republicans to give him the benefit of the doubt and not allow the process to go forward, Arthur was willing to "speak truth to power" and told the Governor in a meeting in the Governor's mansion that "you are going to be impeached". Arthur had seen the evidence.

As Arthur described in the interview, the evidence collected became overwhelming. However, before the impeachment committee could complete their public hearings, the Federal government acted. They had also been collecting evidence of crimes and they had seen enough to charge Rowland with Federal crimes.

Governor John Rowland was never impeached but instead went to prison. Arthur had no regrets of doing the right thing when he agreed to become the co-chair. That is what integrity in a public servant means. I pledge to do the same if I am elected to take the seat he held.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: ENDORSES ED EDELSON'S CANDIDACY

To the Editor:

I am writing to strongly support Ed Edelson for the State Legislature. Ed studies carefully an issue before taking a position; he does not shoot from the hip.

Ed has not only the perspective of having worked for a large multinational but also the local knowledge of having served one term as first selectman of Southbury and over six years as commissioner of the Connecticut Siting Council.

Ed has worked for 8 years quarterbacking the Foreign Policy Association (FPA's) Great Decisions Course at Heritage Village, a community of 4,500 largely retired members located in Southbury, Connecticut. He prepares those gathered for a lively discussion on current affairs by presenting videos and articles to complement the offering from the FPA.

Ed is an outstanding teacher and communicator who will ensure that his constituents are aware of the issues that affect them.

Sidney W. Davidson, III
Southbury,
May 29, 2004



Photo: Supporters gathered on May 15th where Ed Edelson was officially nominated and unanimously endorsed as the Democratic party nominee for State Representative of the 69th District

Volunteer Spotlight: Jeff and Gladys O'Rourke

Gladys and Jeff O'Rourke have lived in Southbury for 11 years, and were previously longtime residents of Westchester County, New York. They originally met in grammar school in the first grade, and have been married since 1967. They have 2 daughters and 3 grandchildren. The O'Rourke's first got involved in local democratic politics in 1976 living in Pelham where Jeff soon became district leader. It was an uphill battle as registration was 3-1 Republicans to Democrats. Jeff became Town Chairperson and shortly after was elected to the Village Board as a trustee. Gladys soon got involved, obtaining signatures to get candidates on the ballot, writing and sending letters and flyers for local candidates, and helping at fundraisers.

The O'Rourke's feel that volunteering for local, county and state candidates is rewarding as "all politics are local", and are a way to be a part of ensuring we keep our democracy. They are volunteering for Ed as he is the most experienced candidate to represent Southbury. They feel he will address their issues and those in the towns he is representing.



CAMPAIGN EVENTS: JUNE

Times and Location are subject to change. Visit www.edelson4ct.com for updates.

COFFEE & CONES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
 June 1st	9:00 - 11:00am	Leo's - Southbury
 June 15th	4:00 - 6:00pm	Scoopin' (Union Square) - Southbury
 June 22nd	9:00 - 11:00am	Bridgewater Village Store & Bistro - Bridgewater
 June 29th	9:00 - 11:00am	Hudson's Bistro - Southbury



WALK ACROSS THE DISTRICT

DATE	WALK - START	DEPART	ARRIVE	DISTANCE	EVENT - START	EVENT DETAILS
Friday, June 7th	2:30PM	Southford Falls parking lot	Southbury Town Hall	4.5 miles	4:30PM	Gathering at Town Hall, then a reception at Señor Pancho's sponsored by the Southbury DTC
Saturday, June 8th	10:00AM	Hudson's Bistro	Hidden Gem Orchard	4.5 miles	12:00PM	Water / soft drinks provided by Campaign
Saturday, June 8th	2:00PM	Attend the Strawberry Festival at UCC Southbury 283 Main St N, Southbury, CT				
Sunday, June 9th	10:30AM	Clatter Valley Park New Milford	Bridgewater	2.0 miles	11:30AM	Coffee at Bridgewater Bistro provided by Campaign
Sunday, June 9th	12:30PM	Bridgewater Bistro	Hurlburt Park Roxbury	6.5 miles	3:00PM	Ice Cream Social at Hurlburt Park Pavilion sponsored by the Roxbury DTC