# The Valley Patriot

## Making the 6th District Great Again!

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Dear Friends and Fellow Republicans

#### **RIP Bobby Berkstresser**

This has been a rough week for Republicans inside the 6th Congressional District. A few days ago, Rockbridge legend Bobby Berkstresser died. Bobby was well known to all, and was a major force in Rockbridge County Republican politics, having served as the RARC chair and on many other Boards and Commissions.

Bobby built an empire with the Whites Truck Stop, employing over 400 people and was admired and loved by all who met him and knew him. Whites Truck Stop is the largest truck stop on the East Coast - employing nearly 400 people. Bobby began with a company that had 8 employees. man or woman, who has guts and wants to work hard, and has God's good fortune with them, can succeed to the best of their ability.

RIP. You will be missed.

#### **Update on Michael Walsh**

Earlier this week, former College Republican and Member of the 6th Congressional District Committee Michael Walsh was struck by an oncoming vehicle near Mount Afton Virginia. Michael was trying to assist people who had been involved in a minor car accident. Michael was taken to UVA and was operated on. He was operated on and is currently resting.

I had the privilege of meeting Michael back in 2019 when he was the CR Rep to the 6th Congressional District. Michael and I worked together quite well, and if Michael is the future of the conservative movement, then our movement will succeed and will succeed quite well. Michael was hard working, honest, knew how to make a point, and loved conservative politics. He had previously served as the Political Director for Mark Obenshain, and had been working for Senator Dave Sutterlein before the accident. I will make updates on his condition as they become available to me.

#### Jennifer Lewis Screws Up - AGAIN

For months now, maybe more than a year, most of us assumed that Waynesboro gadfly Jennifer Lewis would be the opponent to Ben Cline come November. However that may have changed. See, Ms. Lewis didn't file enough signatures to get on the ballot. Virginia law requires that each congressional candidate running in a primary needs at least 1,000 signatures to get on the ballot for the June primary. So most candidates will turn in 1300-1500 signatures to qualify.

What makes this all the more shocking is that it is not Richmond and the Dept. of Elections that qualifies congressional candidates, but it is the Congressional District Committee's who qualify signatures. So the 6th Congressional Democrat Committee certified that Jennifer Lewis didn't turn in enough signatures. Democratic Committee - if they so choose, may nominate a candidate before June 21. My guess is the Democrat Committee will not nominate Jennifer Lewis, but will nominate Wendy Gooditis (Delegate from Clarke County). This is more a hunch than anything else.

But given the fact that most of the Democrat Unit Chairs had endorsed Jennifer Lewis, and couldn't turn in enough signatures to get her on the ballot - shows what disarray this group is in.

#### A Few Other Thoughts

During my travels up and down the District, I hear occasionally that we're not getting things done. I would suggest to each of you a few things.

1) We have passed meaningful legislation. SB 3 requires that there be a counting of all absentee votes, so that vote totals don't automatically change. SB 4 limits the amount of time that any Governor can rule by executive fiat during a crisis. That limit is 45 days. SB 5 requires that the Parole Board, if it is ever formed again, cannot take votes in the dark. Their votes must be made public. And these pieces of legislation came from Senator Sutterlein alone.

Other CD 6 legislators came up with important pieces of legislation. The list is too long to mention here. One day when I have some time, I'll go into everything that each CD 6 legislator got passed and their important votes. But please don't say things aren't improving in Richmond - because they are.

2) It's not a bad thing when government isn't doing something. I'd suggest to you that the more government does, usually that means something will get messed up. Be glad that not every idea becomes a law. That's how tyranny happens

3) I cannot emphasize this enough. And I've said this to the Waynesboro and RARC units in the past week or 2. Local issues are just as - if not more so - important than State and Federal elections are. Local issues such as policing, schools, neighborhood livability touch your lives on a daily basis. Get involved in your locale. Show up at Board of Supervisor and School Board and City/Town Council meetings. Look at the Commonwealth Attorney's that George Soros has had installed, and how they're destroying our communities

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And then look at Great American Patriots like Jared Moon (Rockbridge) and Bethany Harrison of Lynchburg - and how they handle local prosecutions and mete out justice. Fine Americans like Bryan Cave of Page County, and John Bell of Warren/Front Royal.

You wanna see messed up? Go where Democrats have taken over policing. It's a mess. We need great Sheriff's like Donald Smith of Augusta. Tim Carter in Shenandoah, young rising stars like Chris Johnson in Waynesboro.

We need more Commissioners of the Revenue like Dan Cullers in Rockingham, and Rebecca Smith of Page.

We need more like Brandi Rutz in Shenandoah, Melainie Salins in Front Royal. Matt Cross in Rockingham.

(Surely I've forgotten many - so don't take it personally if your name isn't on this list - there are too many to mention)

Thank you for allowing me to serve you as your Chair. Together we are taking back Virginia and then the USA.

I remain

your servant

JM

S John Massoud 6th District Republican Party Chairman

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### **Upcoming Events:**

April 20 - Rockingham County GOP Meeting - 7 PM Hose Company 4.

April 22 - Page County Lincoln Reagan Dinner - go to pagegop.org for more details

April 23 - Freedom Truck Rally - 10 am lineup time - Staunton Mall in front of the Dollar Tree Store

April 26 - Page County GOP Meeting - 6 PM Uncle Bucks Restaurant

April 26 - Frederick County GOP Meeting - 6 PM Victory Church.

April 26 - Roanoke City GOP Meeting - 630 PM - 1st Evangelical Presbyterian Church

April 28 - Clarke County GOP Meeting - 7 PM Old Court House

April 29 to May 1 - RPV Advance, Dulles Marriott, go to <u>www.rpv.org</u> to purchase your tickets.

May 5 - Shenandoah County Republican Party Unit Meeting - More to follow

Candidates. Berglund Hall (710 Williamson Road Roanoke) 10 am to 4 pm.

May 21 - Freedom Truck Rally. Lineup time is 10 am, Lexington Food Lion Parking lot

June 21 - Primary Day - voting occurs at your regular voting precinct.

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