

McCloskey Endorses Paparian

June 16, 2006

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Bob McCloskey, the Democratic candidate who challenged incumbent Congressman Adam Schiff in the June 6 Primary, announced today that he has endorsed Bill Paparian for the same congressional seat in November.

“The country is in a crisis that transcends party lines,” McCloskey said. “The Republican administration has been given free rein by certain weak members of Congress, and it is destroying the country” he said. “Adam Schiff in particular has strayed from the values of this district by continuing to support the ill-advised Iraq war, and refusing to take any significant action to stop illegal spying on Americans.”

Paparian, the former Mayor of Pasadena, is the Green candidate for Congress. His campaign emphasizes his plan for immediate withdrawal and redeployment of American Troops in Iraq, reaffirmation of Americans’ rights against illegal eavesdropping, a proposed war-era crash energy policy to make America quickly

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independent of foreign oil, and impeachment of the President based on his illegal conduct in office.

“Some members of my campaign told me not to endorse Bill after we lost the primary,” McCloskey said. “They were concerned that I would hurt my future political prospects with the Democrat power structure. But that kind of thinking is exactly what’s wrong with my Democratic Party today,” he said. “These issues affect us all, regardless of how we are registered to vote.”

“This President has declared that he is literally above the law, that the constitutional restraints on unreasonable search and seizure do not apply to him, that leaking classified material is acceptable political practice – while my leaders stand mostly mute on the sidelines, “ McCloskey said.

“This president, with the support of Adam Schiff has involved the United States in a terrible war. Neither Schiff nor Bush have any good ideas about ending the war.”

“I support Bill Paparian 100%. I hope my supporters will also support Bill Paparian and join me to work for his election for the next five months. I hope they will vote for him in November.” McCloskey said.

McCloskey said he is not concerned that Paparian is not a Democrat. “Adam Schiff is more of a Republican than a Democrat anyway,” McCloskey said, noting that as a third party member in a closely divided Congress Paparian’s vote on issues would give this district some extra leverage in Washington.

“Bill will have the ability to do the right thing, to represent us, not just stand idly by while the over-cautious Democrat leadership urges its members to do nothing,” McCloskey said.

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“But in Adam’s case, as a co-sponsor and co-author of the PATRIOT Act, he has done more than stand by – he has actively collaborated with the illegal conduct of this administration.” McCloskey said.

“I started my campaign for Congress to take back the Democratic Party for real Democrats – folks who will stand up against injustice, against a war based on lies, against criminal acts by our leaders. And during the campaign I realized that the issues were bigger than that, that the people of this District and the country need Adam Schiff to retire to his mansion in Maryland and let us send a leader to Congress in his place.”

“I wanted to be that leader, but I know Bill Papanian will do a tremendous job for us,” McCloskey said.

Schiff, who has served six years in Congress without a primary challenger, saw McCloskey pull nearly 1/5 of the Democrat vote in the low turnout election June 6.

“Given the resources of an incumbent, and the low press interest in the race, that showing demonstrates the grass-roots discontent with Schiff,” said Bill Papanian of McCloskey’s primary showing.

Papanian discounts McCloskey’s loss, saying “the primary campaign was simply not on people’s radar. Schiff showed up at only one of the many candidate forums, did badly, and never came to another. The local daily didn’t cover that event, nor make much of the fact that Schiff is apparently afraid to have voters consider his record. And for all that, to pull nearly 20% of the votes of those few who came out to vote is a strong sign that folks are done with this particular Democrat.”

“I am absolutely honored to have Bob McCloskey’s endorsement. He worked hard on his the campaign against long odds. He ran for many of the same reasons I am running, based on the most American of principles – it may sound corny, but truth,

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justice, and individual rights really are the American way. We need a Congressman who will actively support that, not the jaded, evasive and non-responsive incumbent we've got," Paparian said.

McCloskey will be appearing with Paparian at the latter's "29th District National Teach-In" July 19, to explain the current impeachment bills in Congress and the California Legislature and the case for impeachment.

The 29th Congressional District covers an area surrounding Pasadena, and includes Glendale and parts of Burbank.

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