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By: Tom Wiknich

Should Kevin McCarthy get the speaker position?

First, a couple comments about last Thursday’s editorial titled: Why are the police guilty of offences, when just one person feels they are treated wrong? John provided the following comment, “I like what you said (except ‘beat on,’ I would have preferred ‘reinforced’).” He closed with “very interesting post.” Thanks for your comment, John. I agree I could have used better words for emphasis. The point is police training includes a strong emphasis on respecting the people’s constitutional rights at all times.

Here are a couple comments from last Tuesday’s editorial titled: Do any of you believe that extremist terrorists may be in these waves of immigrants coming out of the Middle East into Europe? Suzzy wrote, “Tom, I think you are being a real conservative with scare tactics in place. Where is your faith in mankind? Wouldn't you leave a war torn country too, if you had a chance? Do you truly believe extremist are in the mix? Maybe you're watching too much Fox News or Glen Beck or both. Did you happen to catch the pope's speech to congress today?” Ken wrote, “Suzzy, maybe you're watching too much MSNBC or Nancy Pelosi or both. Of course there are bad guys mixed in with the refugees. They wouldn't pass up such a golden opportunity. I don't know what can be done about it, though.” Harry provided this comment, “Anyone who thinks that ISIS isn't using this situation to distribute their fighters to free countries around the world is sadly mistaken - this is just another Trojan horse operation.” Thanks for your comments:

I’ll answer Suzzy’s questions here. Yes, I have faith in mankind, but not barbaric cowards whose goal in life is to kill all of us nonbelievers. I wouldn’t run from my country being attacked. I’d fight to my death defending it. I haven’t watched Glen Beck in years. You ask if I really believe there are terrorists in these millions of immigrants. Yes, I do. The majority of them are coming from Syria. Where do you think ISIS headquarters is? Syria. It is so easy for them to join in the exodus. Again, I hope I’m proven wrong. Time will tell.

Now, on to today’s editorial topic: Should Kevin McCarthy get the speaker position? You’d think almost everyone would get behind our own congressman getting this position. Do you realize this position is the number 3 position in the government? If the president died or was killed, the next in line is the vice president. However, if the president and vice president both died or were killed, the speaker of the house would become the president. the speaker of the house is very important. Is Kevin qualified to be speaker? I say, of course.

He was first elected in 2006. He’s been there for over 9 years now. This is longer than Obama was a Senator before becoming President. Some may criticize him asking what has he done for Ridgecrest? Good question. I’ll get into that in a little bit. First, let’s discuss the actual position. Opponents to the Republican Party will not be happy because of politics. Of course, political beliefs influence the process, but the position is more than just politics. The speaker position is much larger than Ridgecrest. It’s for the country. While there is a lot of stressing that the speaker represents the party in power, it is also the position that helps set the tone for Washington. He sets what and how legislation moves through the house. He has to coordinate legislation within the house and senate. He has to coordinate legislation with the white house. Most importantly, he has to represent all of us. Do you think he can do that? I do.

Now back to the question, what has he done for Ridgecrest. That often is interpreted to money. When McCarthy campaigned for the first time he ran for office, he campaigned against pork barrel project funding that Washington was noted for. The republicans have been somewhat successful reducing pork barrel budgets. He never campaigned on a particular thing he would do for Ridgecrest. He campaigned on things that would benefit the country, and that in turn would be good for Ridgecrest. He has taken up the effort to help veterans nationally. His latest accomplishment is changing the distance veterans have to go for services. Now, veterans that have to go further than 40 miles, can choose to use a doctor closer to them. This is very important to a community like Ridgecrest and other communities across the country. He has promoted eastern Kern County for being the west coast’s space port. To help solve California’s drought, he has been working trying to push Sacramento to start building new water storage capacity. He has tried to get a bill through with federal funding to help pay for water storage projects, only to be blocked by democrats in the Senate and White House. Even our own two California state senators blocked this funding. He has pushed for and funded more research into the treatment for valley fever. He is currently pushing for a change to locality pay for our DOD work force that works at China Lake. He is pushing for equal pay grades for the people that work here with similar positions in Los Angeles County. You should see that being our representative is not just about what money he brings to Ridgecrest. It is, and should be, about serving for the benefit of the country. If it’s good for the country, it should also be good for Ridgecrest. The real challenge for him will be to change the sentiment across the country about congress as doing nothing. The current presidential campaign shows there is a large segment of the population real angry with the Washington establishment. There is anger on both sides. How this gets handled under a new speaker will be a challenge.

In conclusion, I think Kevin McCarthy would be a great choice for speaker of the house. Remember, it’s not supposed to be just about us as individuals, or a city, or state. It supposed to be about the country.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please email them to [info@kzgn.net](mailto:INFO@KZGN.NET).