

I'm honored to be here today speaking to the leadership of the Wyoming Republican Party. Most of you know me through my work with the State Party, so I won't waste time with talking points. See my website for that. I want to talk about mentoring, making hard decisions, and the future of Wyoming.

Years ago, I sought an appointment from Representative Dick Cheney to attend the US Air Force Academy. Little did I know that 20 years later he would be pinning on Lt Col during the 2004 Republican National Convention.

Later, I reflected on the role that mentoring must have played in developing him as a leader. What I'd seen that day was a man from a small state who had risen through the ranks to become the Vice President of the United States yet remembered that he was still representing Wyoming. That inspired me. It made me think about my future and the future of Wyoming.

I knew then that I would someday pursue my dream to represent Wyoming. Initially, I thought that role was simply to carry-on the work I'd done in the military just before retiring,..... facilitating between groups and individuals who had little in common and with even less desire to work together. And while I've been very successful in doing this, it is not enough to satisfy my desire to serve.

Last night we heard Sen Barrasso praise Sen Enzi as his mentor; a role he'll soon be assuming. That role is important to our team as the next generation has already stepped up to take the reins with Liz leading the way as she's already garnered a position in House Leadership.

Senator Barrasso also holds a Leadership position. He's our team member with experience in the historic way of doing business.

The question yet to be answered is, “Who will be next to take the reins in the Senate?”

What Wyoming needs right now is new blood with experience outside the legislative branch to bring new ideas that can make our government once again work for the people, not rule over us. We need bold, innovative leadership in the Senate to mentor Wyoming’s future.

The choices we make at the ballot box in August will affect Wyoming for decades to come. Those decisions, and the leaders we send to Capitol Hill must be based on what is best for Wyoming’s future!

Too often we see Cronyism in politics. Cronyism is for the weak willed, for those who are hesitant to make the tough decisions between a long-time friendship and what is best for Wyoming. Our next Senator should be chosen based on their capabilities, not on who their friends are. I ask you to judge me by my experiences, my ability to get the job done, and by my vision for Wyoming’s future; not on who I know in Washington.

Look, I know candidates seek endorsements as a way to bolster their portfolio or raise funds, but I stand before you here as my own man, a life-long Republican, staunch Conservative, Proud Product of Wyoming, and Proven Military and Business Leader.

The only endorsements I require are the votes of the people of the Great State of Wyoming and I humbly ask for your vote on or before 18 August.

God Bless you all, God Bless Wyoming, God Bless our President, and God Bless America! The greatest nation on God’s green earth!