

## I GOT TWO EMAILS AND MET A MAN TODAY...

“I got two emails today,” said Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in the third district of Pennsylvania. “Both were from good people, friends. One lamented the ‘Marriage Bill’ in the state legislature which proposes to deny the marriage statute to any but heterosexual couples. The other one lamented the up-coming appearance of General Petraeus and the possibility of military action against Iran.

“Well, hell—what do we expect when we let our democracy slip from our fingers? Do we think that Constitutional equality will automatically be preserved against the onslaught of the religious right-wing? Or do think that a military/industrial special interest which thrives on the American addiction to war will relinquish that addiction when it continues to own the Congress and the major parties?

“I can understand that ignorant people, complacent people, people who have been dulled by poor schools, misinformed by a sloppy media, pre-occupied with the everyday struggles of the economy to the exclusion of independent thinking, diverted by scandal or sport—I can understand why these people have allowed their democracy to be stolen. What I cannot understand is how intelligent, involved, wonderful people like my two friends are reduced to lamentation alone.

“Stand up, my friends, and let your voices be heard in a way which tells the established and corrupted parties that they can no longer manipulate you. Let me hear your voices as I want you to hear mine.

“I met a man today as I was collecting signatures for the November ballot. He was a young African American from NY State shopping in North East. He had given up on America. We talked for a long while. He, too, lamented the condition of America’s democracy—a democracy in which a potential employer had just told him that ‘he was too black-skinned to work in the third district of Pennsylvania.’

“It brought tears to my eyes. I told him not to give up. I signed a copy of my book for him, and asked him to read it to his wife and kids. Perhaps he will. He said he would. And perhaps those of you out there who also lament and who also feel inclined to give up will read my book, too. I wish I had a copy to give all of you.

“Stand up with me and let us reclaim the promise of America—the promise that we are all equal under the law and that we and not the special interests who have bought our leadership are the ones who will control our government.”