

February, 2015

Alan Fernandes Interview 1

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Paid for by the Davis Democratic Club FPPC 745-850 FEC #35 C00491050

Alan Fernandes Discusses His Priorities for the DJUSD **by Martha Beetley and Tom Hagler**



(l-r.) Tom Hagler, Alan Fernandes & Martha Beetley

Alan Fernandes grew up in the East Bay, moved with his family to Sacramento and graduated from Christian Brothers HS and UCD, where he met his wife, Lia Lopez. Lia attended Davis schools from DPNS through DHS.

Alan is an attorney and currently works as the Chief Legislative Representative for Los Angeles County and manages its Sacramento office.

He shared his views as a recently elected member and President of the Board of Education of the Davis Joint Unified School District. He spoke passionately of his desire to serve the children, teachers and parents of the district, and the importance of diverse points of view on the Board. Alan acknowledged that he brings the perspective of a young father with young boys (both who attend Birch Lane elementary) to the conversations, a perspective that he thought was lacking on the previ-

ous Board and one that motivated him to run for a position as Trustee, first in 2012, and then again in 2014 after being appointed to fill a vacancy on the school board. He also discussed the importance of acting as part of the governance team; he sees the Board members as important representatives of our "community of involved people."

Alan noted the differences in resources among the elementary schools, the need for upgraded facilities throughout the district, and the importance of clear communication as areas on which he will focus right away. He stated that it is "incumbent upon me and my colleagues to communicate to the residents if we want to maintain and improve our educational programs." Although the state economy is improving, new funding formulas will not provide much new money for DJUSD. Prioritizing needs and funding those areas through an open budget process will create equity among campuses. Alan's view is that, "We need to prioritize and set perimeters for programs, and only add new programs if funding is available for full implementation." Additionally, Alan has some interesting ideas about working with the city and the local business community to keep them in the loop about the state of our schools.

The process of Strategic Planning in the school district was a topic that Alan introduced in his 2012 campaign, and one that he was pleased to see adopted in 2012 and implemented in 2013. He feels that this process facilitates the consideration of diverse viewpoints and presents opportunities for all school community participants to evaluate the past year's growth and set goals for the future. Alan is hopeful that members of the DJUSD administrative staff will be able to present to the public brief reports with practical data that inform our community about the tasks, challenges, and successes of the school team. Alan expects that this process will produce greater information about district activities and increased trust in the district's ability to provide a strong educational system.

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Calendar of Events & Campaign Activities

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7:00-9:00 pm, Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting. The Board conducts planning and attends to routine Club business. All members are invited to attend and participate in discussions. Blanchard Room, Davis Library

Sunday, Feb. 15, 6:00-8:00 pm, Love Your Electeds. Features a buffet potluck & informal discussion with local elected leaders. (Board provides the buffet, but please share your favorite dish.) I-House, Davis, contact Rick Gonzales 758-2331.

WARRIOR THOUGHTS-Significance and Worth

by Shannon McCall



One of my favorite military stories is the one about George Washington's crossing of the Delaware River (Dec 25-26, 1776, Trenton, New Jersey). The story tells how the rules of war for the time allowed fighting soldiers a break in observance of Christmas. It just so happened that on this Christmas in 1776, the Hessian forces fighting for the British and the American forces were directly across from

one another – with only the Delaware River to separate them.

As Washington took in the scene around him, he was struck with not only the thinning of his troop numbers and loss of supplies, but by the uncertainty of the future. Many supporters were in doubt that there would be a United States of America. With temperatures dropping, General Washington decided that he needed to do something bold and break some rules. The result is the amazing crossing of the Delaware and a story that embodies the sheer determination of the American spirit.

My love for this story centers on what George Washington considered when planning his next move. He looked around and saw a group of volunteers who chose to fight for their freedom – and he (George) needed to show that he was a worthy leader. General Washington realized that the new country would only be victorious if its people were there to make it so. Our first president acknowledged that those who fight for freedom have significance and worth – and no rule was going to stop him from ensuring they knew that.

In writing an article about veterans, I wanted to ask how many times you have considered the significance and worth of those who still fight for our freedom. How often have you considered the courage, the commitment, and the sheer determination it takes to be a member of the armed forces?

And, if you stopped yourself for a moment and considered what you may not have thought of before, is it enough to give the obligatory “Thank you for your service” statement and handshake? Do you think George Washington would be impressed by this if you did it to him? (*Continued p3*)

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Warrior Thoughts (continued from p. 2)

Many veterans performed their military duties whether they agreed with them or not. At times, they found themselves in hard and hostile conditions, trying to come to terms with their own thoughts and choices that led them there. Much like the soldiers sitting in the snow back in December 1776, they have doubt, sickness, and sacrifice with very little to keep them going. All they can hope for is a smart leader that will keep them alive and well - and a supporting public that will truly appreciate what they can understand and imagine it took to defend America.

I tell you what - how about the next time you meet a veteran, you take the time to show them that they have significance and worth. Ask if you could have a cup of coffee with them and listen to their story. Ask if there is anything (and I do mean, *ANYTHING*) you could do for them - can you buy them lunch or groceries or help them find a job or give them a ride? Could you spend a few moments to be thankful for the history maker you just met and try to give them some token of your thanks? Now, most veterans will politely thank you for all this consideration and decline - and that is okay, too. Having you see them, acknowledge them, be curious of who they are, and care about them really is enough. And, maybe Google the story about the 1776 crossing of the Delaware and share some little known facts with a person who would truly be interested in knowing - a veteran.

In closing, I will leave you with one of my favorite George Washington quotes to consider - "*Let your heart feel for the afflictions and distress of everyone, and let your hand give in proportion to your purse.*" I cannot think of anything that sums up our democratic purpose more or better.

Yours with Purpose, Shannon

Thank You 2014 DDC Donors:

Next month, the Newsletter will begin listing the 2015 Donors and reminding members to pay their 2015 Club dues. The 2014 Donors are acknowledged on the sidebars of this issue to thank them again for helping elect Democratic candidates, such as Congressmen J. Garamendi and A. Bera. As previously reported (see Dec. and Jan. Newsletters), *your Donations to the DDC helped elect outstanding Democrats.* When you renew your 2015 dues, please add your name to the Donor list.

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Democratic Newsletter

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Feb. 15

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