

# A SHERIFF - FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know there are three Randolph County Sheriff candidates on the ballot? Our world is in turmoil. We need someone who will boldly step out with convictions and do what needs to be done regardless of political correctness and return to the principles that made America blessed.

I am the third candidate.

## HOW DID I GET HERE?

After a two-week notice to the Hancock County Board of Ed., I set out 45 years ago on Saturday, Valentine's Day. I headed south in a 24 ft. 1966 camper hoping to find a place close to a school unseen called Tygarts Valley. A chemistry and physics teaching position was waiting, and I set out on faith.

Monday morning I met Principal Frank Toothman at the front door. I will always remember how Frank welcomed me but warned, "If you can stand the apathy, you might just make it here."

I look back on that Valentine's Day venture south as the beginning of my love for the area and people.



## WHO AM I?

First and foremost, I am a Christian. I adhere to the principles of our Christian heritage, on which our country was founded and desperately needs to return to.

I earned a bachelor's degree in science education, specializing in physics from West Liberty and a master's degree in educational computing from the University of Charleston. While attending West Liberty, I served as college personnel manager for ARA Food Service. I was responsible for hiring and overseeing 50+ employees. In 1972, while still in college, a friend and I started Collegiate Photographers which later became Century Photo, a sole proprietorship photography and video business that I operate to this day.

In 1974, I took a teaching position in Hancock County as a full time homebound teacher specializing in science and math. After moving to Randolph County in 1975 to the present, I have taught 40 years full time at Tygarts Valley, Elkins High School, and Pickens School. I presently serve as a substitute teacher.

My wife Lynn and I have over 80 years of combined teaching experience in Randolph County. Lynn teaches at Pickens School where our four daughters graduated as valedictorians. I am grateful to the Randolph County Board of Ed. Despite having had lawful disagreements in the past, we are still able to work together, and they continue to hire me as a substitute teacher.

I have had some great opportunities serving the community. Principal Toothman sponsored me into the Lion's Club, where I served as Vice-President. I served as an officer on the Randolph County Planning Commission, the Randolph County Tax Study Group, and the Randolph County Education Association. In the early nineties, I was named Teacher of the Year at Tygarts Valley. A few years later while teaching at Elkins High School I was selected to speak as an educator of outstanding teaching practices at the SREB Conference held at the Nashville Opryland Hotel.

In 2000, I joined the West Virginia Constitution Party. The party desired to gain statewide ballot access, which requires a governor candidate garner a certain percentage of votes. I agreed to help by petitioning and running for US Senate in 2014, establishing statewide name recognition, and then for Governor in 2016. Despite at one point being unlawfully removed from the ballot in the Governor's race, my name was restored by a challenge in Federal Court. I am not a stranger to adversity and can overcome the challenges a future sheriff will face.

I am a member of the National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, and the West Virginia Civil Defense League. On February 11, 2013, Randolph County Commissioners took a stand on the 2nd Amendment, passing and sending a resolution to Senator Joe Manchin and Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito supporting the right to "keep and bear arms." The Inter-Mountain reported "Commission President Chris See said the resolution was created after resident Phil Hudok spoke to the commission about gun control measures." I have made and continue to make commission presentations focusing on facts concerning the COVID-19 pandemic.

## WHAT IS MY VISION?

My motto has been "restore the rule of law." We must not devolve into a land of anarchy where might makes right. My dedication to the rule of law has caused me to take tough and unpopular stands, winning twice in the West Virginia Supreme Court.

As our Attorney General has said many times in public, "No one is above the law." Yes, we need laws passed by the legislature, not policies dictated by unelected officials! In my first teaching contract in Hancock County in 1974 I pledged an oath to uphold the State and Federal constitutions. That is what I intend to do.

Let's examine West Virginia Constitution Article I, Sections 2 and 3. They hold special significance.

*Section 2: The government of the United States is a government of enumerated powers, and all powers not delegated to it, nor inhibited to the States, are reserved to the States, or to the people thereof. Among the powers so reserved to the States is the exclusive regulation of their own internal government and police, and it is the high and solemn duty of the several departments of government, created by this Constitution, to guard and protect the people of this State from all encroachments upon the rights so reserved.*

*Section 3: The provisions of the Constitution of the United States, and of this State, are operative alike in a period of war as in time of peace, and any departure therefrom, or violation thereof, under the plea of necessity, or any other plea, is subversive of good government, and tends to anarchy and despotism.*

Section 2 explains that local government has powers to regulate and protect their people beyond the scope of the federal government. The sheriff is the only elected and supreme law enforcement officer of the county. Section 3 explains that a time of crisis cannot be used as a reason to depart from the freedoms protected by the Constitution. In this time of the COVID-19 crisis, we need to hold to the tenets of Section 3. I pledge to apply the wisdom of these sections in my duties as sheriff.

**I plan to vigorously attack our drug problem. It is up to each individual and every institution in our county such as churches, schools, media, and more. Apprehending drug pushers and bringing them to justice will be paramount. However, the drug problem is the outcome of a more hidden and insidious moral meltdown. For decades, we have not employed some very basic methods of preventing this moral decline. As sheriff, I plan to enlist individuals, groups, and institutions in unique ways never before utilized to combat the drug issue and its moral root.**

As Principal Toothman warned, apathy is a problem. We cannot afford rampant apathy for such a time as this. I love this county too much to give it up to lawlessness and moral degradation, both for us and our posterity.