

Letters to the Editor

Two good men running, but we need experience

In spite of all the negative rhetoric and mudslinging from both Senatorial candidates, it is time to ask ourselves: "Which candidate will have the clout to strengthen our defense, to assist Mississippi in a substantial way during emergency situations, and to continue supporting education?" During Senator Cochran's term of service, he has consistently demonstrated his willingness and ability to get the job done.

History has recorded time and time again his grasp of the significance of economic development during many challenging situations;

- 1) Katrina
- 2) Oil spill
- 3) BRAC Reviews
- 4) Expansion of Northrop Grumman
- 5) Support of Keesler improvements
- 6) Saving a historic building named the Mary C. Cultural for Arts & Education in Ocean Springs
- 7) Assistance in locating a major airplane manufacturer in our area
- 8) Support of Infinity Science center and Stennis testing facility
- 9) Help with start up of new Audubon Center in Moss Point
- 10) Reliable support of Mississippi's educational efforts.

This gentle gentleman is worthy of our respect and vote for his many accomplishments so he can continue representing our State with dignity and skill. Mr. McDaniel is a good man but is not ready for "Prime Time," nor, would he have the needed contacts, or courage of conviction.

In conclusion, Mr. McDaniel would certainly try his best but without contacts, experience, or key committee assignments, voters should not expect him to accomplish very much in Washington.

MICKEY WILLIAMS
Ocean Springs

Of our Senate candidates, only one has seniority

I'm writing today on behalf of United States Senator, Thad Cochran. We are

very lucky in Mississippi to have the third most senior Senator in the United States Senate out of 100 Senators. Senator Patrick Leahy (D, VT) and Senator Orrin Hatch (R, UT) are the only Senators that are more senior than our own Thad Cochran. This seniority has taken Mississippi 35 years to build and we need to make sure that we keep it - Mississippi needs Thad Cochran.

I thought long and hard about whether to write this letter. I've never written a "Letter to the Editor" before, but I felt like this story needed to be told. I decided to write the letter because of the things I was able to witness during my nearly decade with the Federal Government that many Mississippians weren't able to see.

This letter is in support of Senator Cochran, not a letter against Chris McDaniel. I've met Chris many times and I think he's a very fine man. One of my favorite State Senators, Michael Watson (R, Pascagoula), is supporting Chris which further makes me know Chris is a good person. Chris could be an excellent United States Senator one day, but not right now. We are so very lucky to have the opportunity to have Senator Cochran for six more years and we need to take full advantage of this great opportunity.

During my time in Washington, D.C., I had many wonderful positions with Senator Trent Lott, The White House under President George W. Bush, The United States Department of Homeland Security, and Senator Roger Wicker. It was during my time at the Bush White House from 2003 - 2006 that I saw just how lucky we are in Mississippi to have Thad Cochran as our United States Senator.

My position at the Bush White House was one of eight staff in the Office of Senate Legislative Affairs. We were responsible for working with the 100 Senators to help push President Bush's agenda. Personally, I was responsible for escorting the Senators into White House events, Cabinet Room / Oval Office meetings, motorcade / Air Force One trips, and other similar events etc. During my time at the White House there was no one more respected in Congress than Senator Thad Cochran. As for Senator Cochran, there was really no need for

Legislative Affairs because he and President Bush talked directly, had private dinners in the White House Residence and Camp David, traveled together to many cities in the United States and other Countries. Senator Cochran was able to do more with one phone call than most Senators in their entire freshman year. Senator Cochran has the ability now to pick up the phone and call the President, Cabinet Secretaries, the Speaker of the House, all Members of Congress, and others to get things done for Mississippi. Freshman Senators don't have this same ability.

The day after Katrina, I was able to travel with Senator Cochran from Andrews Air Force Base to Keesler Air Force Base. As we toured the Coast by helicopter, I could tell that it was a very emotional day for Senator Cochran. The Coast was completely devastated. As we flew further west toward Long Beach, Pass Christian, Bay St Louis, and Waveland, the Senator became visibly upset. The conversations that had filled the plane from Washington to Biloxi turned to silence as we returned to DC that afternoon. In the days following this trip, Senator Cochran turned that emotion into \$30 Billion dollars for the State of Mississippi. A lot of people took credit for getting this money for the State of Mississippi, but it was truly Senator Cochran who went to work and made this possible for all of us. Senator Cochran used the relationships he has built over the last 40 years to bring our state back better than it was prior to Katrina.

In closing, please vote for six more years of growth and prosperity for our great state. Our Universities, Military bases, Stennis Space Center, Ingalls Shipbuilding, Counties, Cities, Medical facilities, Seafood Industry, Agriculture, Casinos, roads, bridges, and airports need Senator Cochran. Most states in our great Country envy what we have in Senator Cochran. Let's not move to the "back of the line" by losing Senator Cochran. Mississippi needs Senator Thad Cochran now more than we ever have.

Please Vote Thad Cochran on June 24th!

SCOTT J. WALKER
Ocean Springs

Date: Thursday, June 19

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Event

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