

10/20/2021

From: Joseph Lutrario

Re: Arizona House of Representatives Vacancy

Legislative District 8

Dear members of the Pinal County Board of Supervisors,

After the untimely passing of Legislator Frank Pratt, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to stand before you and announce my interest in filling his vacant position as L.D. 8 House Representative.

In these unprecedented times we are in urgent need of stability, reassurance and strong leadership. It is evident from speaking and working with constituents across the county as well as the state, we need a fresh perspective and perseverance from a legislator to stand by the Constitutional values that have made this country what it is. A leader who will be willing to stand up to those who are doing everything in their power to move away from those values and toward a socialistic agenda. I believe that I am that leader who will meet those needs and add much more for the state of Arizona.

My experiences in life have taught me that a society without leadership simple does not work. We need a legislator who isn't afraid to stand up for the voice of the people. The current environment makes it clear that we as a free people and a nation are at a crossroads if not a breaking point. I firmly believe in the Constitution and all that it stands for. My decision to fill this vacancy was not only based on my experience, my unwavering position on these matters it was also obvious to me from the amount of urging I received and the firsthand knowledge of what the people want.

Growing up in New York City, living on the streets as an abandoned adolescent at the age of 13, supporting myself while successfully fulfilling my academic as well as financial responsibilities in a prestigious private school has taught me what it means to pick yourself up and carry on. During those years, I was not only the captain of the wrestling team I was NYC Champion 4 years in a row and as team leader bringing the team championship home as well.

Shortly after school, at the age of 21 I had the honor of joining the ranks of the New York City Police Department. After several years patrolling the streets of New York I was privileged to be recruited into the prestigious NYC Riot Squad. Following the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, NYC created the first Anti-Terrorism Task Force and selected 70 police officers out the ranks of 40,000 members to lead the call in defending the city from terrorism. I was one of the 70 selected. I am a surviving First Responder from the attacks that followed 8 years later, on September 11th, 2001, which unfortunately ended my police career. In the years that followed not allowing the events of 9/11 to darken my life, I started a 501 c3 Non for-Profit business advocating and lobbying on Capital Hill for benefits and health coverage for those who feel sick and terminally ill first responders of the WTC attacks. Eventually we accomplished our goal, and a bill was passed into law.

Continuing my education, I pursued another career in structural engineering. I enjoyed the opportunity to own and operate a successful business for some time before coming to Mesa Arizona in 2008 and then on to San Tan Valley in 2016 where I became a Captain Precinct Committeeman. Since then, I have fallen in love with not only this great state and what it has to offer but most importantly the values it holds.

I hold a Black belt 1 Degree in Brazilian JiuJitsu and have been a semi-professional fighter for almost 20 years winning many championships including silver medals in both the Pan American and World Championships.

Today I run a Brazilian JiuJitsu Academy in Mesa alongside my wife where I implement a program for veterans and law enforcement who suffer from PTSD. While managing this program I was able to enlist 3 military psychiatrists and completing a multi-year study showing the medical benefits of Jiu jitsu as it relates to those who suffer from PTSD. In fact, the article was just published in the *Medical Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship* this past August.

My life experiences have not only taught me tenacity, overcoming adversity and leadership skills, it has given me the understanding of success principles which if applied to any area will prove to be invaluable. As a lifelong servant of people in addition to the forementioned I am confident that I can be an asset to the Arizona State Legislator. I sincerely hope I'm provided with the opportunity to prove myself as a public servant once again.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Joseph Lutrario