

Acceptance Speech of Gale D. Candaras, State Senator
2008 Recipient
Longmeadow Democrat of the Year Award

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.

I want to thank the Longmeadow Town Democratic Committee and our breakfast Committee, Patrons and Sponsors for this wonderful morning. It is an honor to join past recipients in receiving this prestigious award. Longmeadow is a new representation for me and I am proud to represent such a vibrant community and such a dynamic Democratic Town Committee.

I want to especially thank our speakers, First: Our Town Committee Chair, nationally recognized democratic party activist and party planner extraordinaire, Candy Glazer. In the middle of becoming grandparents to twins, Candy took care of this. Thank you and congratulations to Candy and Stan! mazel tov!

To my colleague at the bar and in public service, Angelo Puppolo, thank you for speaking for me and for doing such a great job bringing greetings from and representing the 12th Hampden and Hampshire District; and

We are fortunate to have Richard E. Neal representing us in the 2nd Massachusetts in difficult times like this. It is an honor, Congressman, to have you in Washington speaking for us as well as here speaking for all of us here today. Thank you so much.

Thank you to the Chair of the State Democratic Party, John Walsh, for being with us this morning and to my great friend, Register of Probate, Tom Moriarty, who along with the Sheriff is among the most beloved public servants in Western Massachusetts.

I also want to take a moment to honor some folks new to the democratic process: My good friend, Jim Goodhines, who worked so hard to advance the interests of the party. I am happy to help honor Jim here this morning. Congratulations to you! And also, to my Chief of Staff Aaron Saunders, the newly-elected Democratic Ludlow Selectman; and please vote for Bruce Adams, also on my staff, for State Committeeman at your Caucus on May 13th.

Moving forward:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to heaven,

we were all going direct the other way - in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*
English novelist (1812 - 1870)

It is the best of times and the worst of times to be a Democrat. It is the best of times because it appears, with a high degree of certitude that we will recapture the oval office. It is the worst of times because, after inheriting a country at peace, a greatly reduced national debt and budgetary surpluses, this Administration leaves our nation at war, our coffers depleted, and a national debt higher than it has been in this country's history. Our President has single-handedly overseen the transfer of the wealth of this country from the middle class to the wealthiest 1% of individuals in this country leaving us with a hollow shell of debt and an economy on the verge of collapse. What a legacy! What a heroic undertaking for the next President. He or She will have to rebuild this nation from the bottom up. Our next President must rebuild our economy, our national prestige, the lives of our servicemen and women and lift an entire generation of poor people into the middle class. We can do it. We will do it. Democrats have done it before and we will do it again. The United States of America is a strong country, a great country but we have taken a heck of a beating in the last eight years and it will take time and great effort to get to where we were. All in all, it is a great time to be a democrat for the challenges and opportunities it presents to rebuild and restore our great nation. I am proud to serve the 1st Hampden and Hampshire District and to receive this award today. Thank you so much for this honor.