

**Purple Nation: Joe Sestak for Pennsylvania U. S. Senator, By Lanny J. Davis (The Hill newspaper, Thursday, May 13)**

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**From:** Lanny J. Davis [REDACTED]

**RELEASE IN PART B6**

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**To:** Hillary Clinton HDR22@clintonemail.com

**Subject:** Purple Nation: Joe Sestak for Pennsylvania U. S. Senator, By Lanny J. Davis (The Hill newspaper, Thursday, May 13)

Hi H: Greetings from Paris (That is why so early on your BB - hope you are asleep!) Here on business. :-)  
Thought you would like the opener of this one.  
Hope you, President Clinton, and Chelsea are well.  
Best,  
Lanny

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From: Lanny J. Davis  
To: Lanny J. Davis  
Sent: Tue May 11 06:18:11 2010  
Subject:

Joe Sestak for Pennsylvania U. S. Senator

By Lanny J. Davis

I first saw, heard, and then met Rep. Joe Sestak on the evening of April 21 at the University of Pennsylvania's historic Palestra sports arena. With nearly all 10,000 seats filled the night before the Pennsylvania primary, it was an old-fashioned rousing rally for then Senator and Democratic presidential candidate, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But I remember one man, dignified but passionate, speak quietly and eloquently about the obligation of every citizen to do public service for the public good. He praised Senator Clinton for exemplifying that commitment to public service. He also said nice things about her opponent, then Senator Barack Obama, and the fact it was possible to wage a vigorous campaign for a candidate without tearing down the other person.

Above all, he projected an inner peace and authenticity I hadn't seen very often in all my years in politics. I thought, I have to find out more about this guy.

The first thing I learned was that he was a unique tri-facta combination of a Democrat with a progressive record on most issues, a fiscal conservative, and had a sterling military record and post-9/11 anti-terrorism leadership experience.

Joe Sestak graduated the Naval Academy in 1974 and for 30 years experienced a meteoric record of leadership and national recognition. Before retiring as a 2-star Rear Admiral, he commanded the USS George Washington aircraft carrier battle group in Afghanistan and Iraq, served as Director for Defense Policy on the NSC under Clinton and, following 9/11, was selected to serve as the first Director of "Deep Blue" - the Navy's anti-terrorism coordinated program.

Then in 2006, Mr. Sestak ran for congress in a seat that was considered utterly locked up by the incumbent Republican, 10-term congressman Curt Weldon, from Pennsylvania's 7th congressional district. Only one Democrat had ever won the congressional seat encompassing Delaware County, Pennsylvania, since the Civil War.

In 2006, Joe Sestak, in a come-from-behind campaign, became the second.

He started out in all the polls behind by 20 points or more. He ended up winning by 12 percent and then, two years later, won again in this essentially Republican district by 20 points. In doing so, he became the highest ranking former military officer ever elected to congress.

Now, at the age of 58, Mr. Sestak is showing the same pattern in his Pennsylvania U.S. Senate campaign. He courageously decided to challenge the incumbent, Republican-turned-Democrat five-term Senator Arlen Specter, despite the latter being supported by President Barack Obama, Governor Ed Rendell, and practically every Democratic elected and party official in Pennsylvania.

I admire and respect Senator Specter a lot. But he seems to have hurt his campaign when he ran negative campaign ads against Joe Sestak about - of all things - his military record. And his vote against Elena Kagan last year for Solicitor General will make it difficult to explain a sudden change of heart - he just said he now had an "open mind." Being against her before he was for her within a year won't ring true with many Democratic voters.

So Mr. Sestak is repeating his come-from-behind past history when he first ran for congress. He started out in January 2010 down 20 points to Senator Specter. In mid April, just four weeks ago, Sestak was down 12. This past Monday, the Rasmussen Poll found him up 5%, although within the margin of error. But the trend is obvious.

Most significantly, in the general election, the same Rasmussen poll showed Joe Sestak in a virtual dead heat with Republican Pat Toomey - while Senator Specter was down 12 points. So based on that data, it seems Rep. Sestak would make a stronger general election candidate than Senator Specter - which should be no surprise, given his "purple" combination of social liberalism, cultural issue moderation, and an impressive military record.

I am sure that when he wins the primary next Tuesday night,