

June 19, 2017

As you may know politics can be a very tough issue to talk about, let alone deal with on a day to day basis. My political career is limited to Humboldt County as the elected Sheriff for six years, which was very satisfying and not a bit distasteful as State and Federal politics have become.

I have had the opportunity to visit our state capitol in Sacramento on numerous occasions to meet with legislators on a variety of issues. I will never forget the first time I stepped into the state capitol, on business, and realized the people working in the capitol building lived in an alternate world from mine. They looked at and dealt with things very differently and at first I must admit I was a bit uncomfortable.

Whatever the reality was for that time I knew you had to engage in order to communicate or survive politically in this environment. No one waits for you or slows down for you to catch up, it is a harsh environment with decisions made that affect the vast majority of Californians.

What about those in Washington that deal with issues at a much larger level how do they appear when someone from the outside walks into the house of the congress or senate? I would venture to say much in the same way as those on the state level. Very motivated and striving to get they're state or congressional districts and special interest issues to the forefront. Whether it be a road project, hydroelectric dam,

infrastructure or some military project needed for the financial stability of they're constituents.

It has been like this for years and voters did, what many say, the unbelievable in November by electing a President who was truly not from the same mold as many politicians. In fact he is not a politician at all, interesting when our country was founded we did not send politicians to represent us, we sent farmers, laborers, soldiers, storeowners, seamen, explorers and a variety of others from all walks of life. Those serving the people were supposed to be like the people so sound decisions could be made based upon experience from a life apart from the alternate reality I spoke of earlier.

Our current president did go to Washington, turned the well-established bureaucracy upside down, shook it up and left many speechless. Whether you like him or not he definitely caused a wake or a tilt to the current system, which may result in a re-examination of how the system is supposed to work.

I say we need to give our new president a chance, he can't screw it up any worse than those now in office.