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## **Mango Announcement**

**EMBARGOED UNTIL: 7:30pm ET, May 17, 2017**

**Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall**

Welcome friends! It's great to be here at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. And it's great to be in Pittsburgh, the town where Dawn and I arrived nearly 30 years ago to pursue our professional careers, and to raise our children; two of whom are here this evening, Charlotte and Eve. I'm so proud to be married to Dawn. I met her while we were both at West Point, where she graduated a year after me. She was a real pioneer, as no women had yet graduated when she arrived. She went on to be a very successful business leader here in Pittsburgh, and, most important, she led the rearing of our five beautiful daughters. That took real leadership skills, I can assure you! Thank you, Dawn, for being such an inspiration to me for the last 35 years.

Today, I announce my candidacy for Governor of Pennsylvania.

I do so grateful for all of the blessings our nation has bestowed upon me; mindful that I seek this responsibility for reasons far greater than myself; and determined to use every lesson I've learned through hard and valuable experience, and every inspiration I've drawn from the patriots I've known, to meet the challenges of our Commonwealth, and to strengthen this good and great state for the benefit of every Pennsylvanian. I AM READY TO SERVE!

It's no coincidence that I chose to announce my candidacy here at the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall. Conceived by the Grand Army of the Republic in the 1890's, this hall is the only memorial in the United States honoring all branches of service, in all capacities. I hope you'll take a moment to read a few of the stories on these walls honoring those who have been awarded medals for their bravery and sacrifice. On one wall is the story of Ross Andrew McGinnis, who gave his life to save the lives of four others by covering a grenade that was thrown into their vehicle. On another is the story of Amber Fisher, who was instrumental in capturing one of the most sought after terrorists in Iraq, and six of his terrorist operatives. We will never forget them, or any of those here, and across this state, who have sacrificed much.

But, on January 20, 2015, our current Governor delivered his inaugural address to the citizens of Pennsylvania at the state Capitol. It lasted a little more than 15 minutes. Never once did he use the words "veteran" or "military service". Not one of his sentences included "thank you for your service". Yet our great Commonwealth is home to nearly 1 million veterans, over 100,000 more active duty service members stationed all over the world, including my daughter, Hope, currently stationed in South Korea. We are home to nearly 20,000 National Guardsman and women for whom he is the commander in chief, and who have deployed multiple times to the Middle East since 9/11. We are also home to hundreds of thousands of family-members, including hundreds of gold-star parents.

All of these great Pennsylvanians have sacrificed on behalf of our country, and for our liberty. But the Keystone State is also home to many who selflessly serve our veterans; some of whom are here with us this evening: Steve Monteleone from "It's About the Warrior." Steve is the one who comforts our veterans by answering the phone at 1:00am when they feel they cannot go on any longer. Julie DeStefano, who has committed many years of her life documenting the psychological trauma of women returning home from combat. And, Phil Ameris, whose "Helmets to Hardhats" program ensures veterans can engage in meaningful work when they transition out of the service.

If our Governor fails to recognize those who have served their country and our state with such distinction, think of how he must feel about everyday Pennsylvanians.

Our veterans, those currently in uniform, their families, and those serving our veterans all deserve better leadership in this State. In fact, every Pennsylvanian does. And as your Governor, I will ensure they get it.

Each one of them has sacrificed much. We will never forget those sacrifices. It is in honor of those sacrifices, and with great personal gratitude, that I launch this campaign. Let's start now by thanking every veteran, and every member of the military, who is here tonight.

My grandfather arrived penniless in Philadelphia from Italy a little over a century ago. He was 14 years old, by himself, couldn't speak English, couldn't read or write. He had nothing but a dream in his heart, and that dream was of America.

Neither of my parents earned a college degree, but boy did they make sure my four siblings and I did. That's what they worked their entire lives for.

It is because of those who came before me, that I had the privilege to attend West Point and the Harvard Business School, to serve our nation as a paratrooper in the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, and then to have a professional business career all of which have given me the conservative leadership skills and experience necessary to bring positive change to our Commonwealth.

But, our Commonwealth is in trouble! The ability to pursue the American Dream here is vanishing along with our jobs, our business start-ups, and even our children. Harrisburg's reach into our lives now far exceeds its grasp of the problems we face, and it mistakenly believes some combination of more taxes, more spending, more redistribution, more dependence, and more debt are the answer. I do not. Combining a couple departments and using a few catchy slogans is not my definition of reform. We need to fundamentally redefine the role Harrisburg plays in our lives, and the current leadership there is incapable of achieving this!

It's time to bring our jobs and our children back home to Pennsylvania!

The good news is, there's cause for hope! We can create the economic growth necessary to do this. Our Commonwealth is the beneficiary of enormous natural and human resources. And here are 3 of them: 1) Energy: We have some of the largest, cheapest deposits of natural gas and coal in the world. 2) Technology: Our universities are engaged in advanced research that promises to transform the way we live, the way we work, and the way we deliver care. 3) Access and proximity to markets: we are the only state in the nation with direct access to the Atlantic Ocean, the Great Lakes, and the Gulf of Mexico.

If we combine these three, we will create the high-tech jobs of the next century, not the last one. We will once again become a global leader in manufacturing. We will become the Saudi Arabia of energy exports.

We have been dealt an unusually gifted hand, and now we just need the leadership to transform it into prosperity for every Pennsylvanian.

But government must enable, not hinder this transformation. We cannot have the least attractive tax policy in the world and expect to be home to the most attractive corporations. In our globally competitive economy, we need the skilled labor necessary to enable growth and therefore it can no longer be management vs labor, rather management AND labor vs India and China.

We also need to prioritize a small number of strategic infrastructure investments such as ports, locks, and pipelines. We cannot become a first world economic superpower on a third world infrastructure.

If we address these issues, together, we can bring our jobs and our children back to Pennsylvania!

But we must also transform the overly intrusive role government plays in our lives. We need Harrisburg to do its job, and not ours. Harrisburg and its politicians are relics of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century model embracing large scale, standardization, control, spending, and

bureaucracy. In our diverse and highly dynamic society, the one size of intrusive government it represents no longer fits all.

How did we get to the point where we are forced to buy health insurance we do not need, do not want, and cannot afford?

How did we get to the point where the government takes our property taxes and, in the case of many of our urban areas, forces us to send our children to schools it knows are failing?

And, how did we get to the point where the pledge of allegiance and the national anthem have become causes for disdain, rather than expressions of patriotism?

Neither the Federal, nor the State Government, is as adept at solving our most pressing challenges as our individual communities are. This is particularly applicable to the three biggest programs consuming 80% of the Commonwealth's budget: education, anti-poverty, and healthcare. All three of these are failing. The fundamental role of government in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century is no longer to deliver all these services, but to engage relevant community groups, then to stimulate innovation among them by inviting collaboration with private enterprise, it should then identify the innovations that work, and, finally, transfer these innovations across the Commonwealth. This is how Harrisburg should do its job, rather than trying to do ours. And this is how we will bring our jobs and our children back to Pennsylvania!

I've had the privilege of working inside of some of America's most admired corporations and when change was needed, it was always the result of two things: either obsolete mindsets about what their customers wanted from them, or restrictive cultures preventing them from keeping pace with changing demands. Sound familiar? I think exhibit A is about 200 miles east of where we are standing today. It's Harrisburg!

I also learned that such change can never occur from the inside, rather it must be motivated by outsiders. I will run my campaign on substance: a real understanding of economic growth and how to achieve it, a real understanding of the principle role of a

chief executive as someone who must inspire and lead, and a real understanding of how to transform the role of government from one that restricts change, adaptation, and innovation to one that stimulates all of these. I will not only create the policies of reform, but the politics of reform necessary to bring positive conservative change to the Commonwealth. I am ready to serve!

Pennsylvanians are yearning for change. They are tired of Harrisburg politicians. This election must be about big issues, not petty ones. Greatness should be our state's destiny, yet our politicians in Harrisburg are complacent and squabbling over trivial issues. We can no longer be about big government as usual. If we are, then Pennsylvania will lose. I will not let this happen. I am ready to serve!

Now, I have seen first-hand the impact of an overly-intrusive government committed to a socialist ideology. In 1985, as young Army officers stationed in Germany, Dawn and I spent a little time behind the Iron Curtain. As we passed through checkpoint Charlie from West Berlin to East Berlin, the change was immediately evident to us: stores without goods, bullet-riddled buildings 40 years after the war had ended without repair, a government, which tracked our every move, without restraint, and, a population without hope.... a people without dreams of greatness.

My friends, I am not suggesting we are yet as bad as East Berlin, but we have very little time to act if we are to avoid a similar fate, and the similar effects of an over-reaching, liberal government committed to more taxes, more spending, and more redistribution. I am running for Governor to make sure Harrisburg does its job, not ours.

If we are to bring our jobs and our children back to Pennsylvania, it starts with a conservative leader, but I can't do this alone. I hope you will join with me on this journey to transform Harrisburg. Together our problems are not insurmountable, they are within our grasp. Our challenges are nothing more than opportunities to write another chapter in the great history of this Commonwealth, a Commonwealth that has, for over 200 years, been pivotal to the success of our great nation. Together, we can restore Pennsylvania to the greatness that inspired the very founders of our Republic.

I am ready to serve Pennsylvania and I am ready to serve every one of you.

God Bless you and God bless the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

PAID FOR BY MANGO FOR GOVERNOR