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My Fellow Conservatives:

In 1962 the Conservative Party of New York was founded to counter the ideological shift that had been taking place within state politics at the time. The intended purpose of the party was to provide the people of New York with a meaningful voice and political party and platform rich in conservative social and fiscal ideology. I found my way into the Conservative Party and movement in 1964, two years after its founding, looking to join the fight against what I had perceived as an unsustainable long-term path that our elected officials of the time had embarked on. I believed then, as I believe now, that the Conservative Party and movement serves a critical role not only in the State but across the country. If not for any other reason, the party serves to hold current and future leaders accountable to a philosophy that holds true to the core principles that this great nation was founded on; individual liberty, popular sovereignty, limited government, federalism, private property and separation of powers.

I have been proud to be just a small part of this movement and fortunate to fight beside you for more than 55 years. I was honored to serve as the Kings County Chairman for nearly 17 of those years. I was humbled to be nominated the fourth State Chairman in the party's history and grateful for the confidence of the members of the party to carry the torch in that role for the past 30 years. The years that I have spent in the Conservative Party have afforded me the gift of many lifelong friendships and unfortunately, on occasion, resulted in the end of other relationships. While I am certainly an individual and leader with his faults, I have always tried to focus my efforts on furthering the cause that inspired this great party's founding so many years ago. I have always felt that fighting the good fight was worth it back in the early days of the party and remain steadfast in that belief -- the fight continues today.

I have been blessed with the support of so many great people along the way, true patriots who have kept this party going and allowed me to do what I have truly loved. We have battled shoulder to shoulder for over half a century, we have experienced highs and lows, but we have always seen it through together. I have had the support of my loving wife, Eileen and my 9 children, who themselves have sacrificed a great deal over the years. Without their support, none of this would have been possible.

While I write this note with a heavy heart, I do so with a clear mind and believe the time has come for me to step away as Chairman. I am fully aware that the fight for conservative values carries on and that many battles remain, but I feel the time for new leadership is upon us. As I stated earlier, it has been one of my life's greatest honors serving as your Chairman for all of these years, your trust and confidence in me is something that I am eternally grateful for. Your dedication to the Conservative Party over all of these years has served as an inspiration to me in my role. As for the core principles of the party and those that this great nation was founded on, they are today, as they were all those years ago, worth fighting for. While I believe that as American citizens we should take great comfort in depending on the idea that is America as a symbol for all, the battle to ensure that we do not become a citizenry dependent on our government remains as a fundamental and guiding principle for the Conservative Party and conservative movement.

As I step away from my current role, I continue to stand with you as a proud member of the Conservative Party of New York.

With Sincere Gratitude & Fond Regards,

Michael R. Long