



For Immediate Release

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Neighbors Does Not Take Being Endorsed By the AFL-CIO Lightly

Born to sharecroppers in rural North Carolina, Rick knows the joys and struggles of working to achieve the American dream. His father was a veteran of WWII and the Korean War. During WWII, his mother made ammunition and afterwards worked the graveyard shift in spinning mills.

Following in his father's footsteps, Rick joined the Army at age 17 and served three tours in Vietnam. After his career in the army, Rick returned to school and earned a B.A. in Political Science thanks to financial assistance from a small ministerial scholarship and his G.I. Bill. After graduation in 1979, Rick took a job at a Wrangler plant in Hackleburg, Alabama that resulted in a 35-year career in the apparel industry. During his employment at the plant, Rick met his wife, Judy, who worked alongside him in apparel.

Rick and Judy have been blessed with three children, five grandchildren, and four great-granddaughters. Rick has spent most of his adult life in the apparel business and as an international businessman and negotiator. He recently returned to school, earning an MBA and graduate certification in Project Management from the University of North Alabama.

On Friday, August 7th 2020 Rick was invited to speak to a room of astute Business Managers that collectively came together for an annual meeting allowing Mr. Neighbors to speak to the audience of seasoned union members and leaders across the state of Alabama. It was humbling to watch him address his last two unsuccessful runs for US Congress against the 12 term Aderholt in the 4th District but equate his perseverance to that of the organized labor's mission. He expressed his strong desire that began in 2010 to begin addressing issues he saw as problematic for the people in his district, compared it to the struggles the AFL-CIO has faced and overcome in the decades before. As he proceeded to express his deep concerns for the dilapidating progress of his own communities, he found himself in stress comparisons to the same but different scenarios unions have faced over the years and shared the strength to keep coming back to fight the unresolved issues again and again in the same way unions never gave up. It is with great appreciation and admiration for their fight and perseverance in never giving up when the cause was worth fighting for, The same commitment he had when he took the oath to protect Americans during his three tours in Vietnam. It is why he still fights a decade later to see a change in the seat Aderholt has held for far too long. Aderholt's sense of entitlement has been bred from the unsuccessful attempts of 12 other challengers to give this seat back to the people and fight for the necessities District 4 so desperately needs. As Mr. Neighbors continued the comparisons, he gained momentum witnessing so many members agreeing with his determination to not give up and run for a third time against this underserving congressman that has been disconnected from the communities for decades. It was a proud moment to learn the AFL-CIO unanimously endorsed Rick Neighbors and fully backed their support behind his campaign to defeat Mr. Aderholt. In his closing statement, Mr. Neighbors did not guarantee he could restore the loss of the unions nor did he make any promises he wasn't certain he could keep, but he did vow to listen, always be truthful with them and if given the opportunity to serve their constituents, he would work every day with integrity and make every decision with the best interests of the people in his district in mind. He promised to work hard to restore livable wages and benefits that would bring back dignity and opportunity to all who struggle to make ends meet. Rick was humbled to accept their endorsement and support as he continues to work hard to be victorious in the November 3rd election.

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