

Good afternoon Southwest Florida. How are ya'll doing today? My name is Matt Caldwell and I am running to be the next State Senator for District 27. Here with me today is my wife, Yvonne, and our four-month old daughter, Ava. There are going to be a number of excellent speakers up on this stage today and I am honored to have this opportunity to speak to you briefly. I am here to tell you that when I am elected to represent District 27, you will have open, honest, and principled leadership in Tallahassee.

You know, Governor Sarah Palin has led the State of Alaska for several years and challenged corrupt leadership there, including some in her own party. Sarah Palin is a part of a new generation of conservative leaders that will help us reshape the Republican Party.

You see I don't believe that conservatism is dead. I believe that the principles to which our Founder's subscribed are just as true today as they were in 1776. Whether expressed as the right to life or the right to self-defense, the right to speak freely or the right to worship as one pleases, these principles are as true in the year 2008 as they were over 200 years ago.

We are each a unique creation of God and each of us has these rights, regardless of what may be contrived by an activist court. The belief in a set of inalienable rights is what sets us apart from those on the left, those who would support the idea that the social contract is continually negotiable and that there is no absolute truth on which you can stand.

It is the example of our Founding Father's that has me so excited about the opportunity to serve District 27 as a citizen legislator, going to Tallahassee for 2 months each spring and then coming back home for the other 10 months; working a real job, living a real life, and spending time around real people.

This is the example of our featured guest here today. Sarah Palin is not someone who has lived her life in an ivory tower or for whom real life is just a theoretical hypothesis; something to mull over in a thesis paper. No, she has lived a life that anyone here in this room could live.

There are a few things I want to touch on briefly. Despite outright lies on the part of my opponent's campaign in recent TV ads, I have never supported the lease or sale of Alligator Alley to foreign interests and, furthermore, it has yet to be proven to me there is an immediate need for such a deal. And even worse than knowingly lying about my record, my Democratic opponent continues to stand in the way of economic progress here in Florida, by refusing to support common sense, environmentally-sound energy policies that include drilling for oil off of the coast of Florida, that include increasing our capacity for natural gas, that include great alternative projects like hydroelectric power in the Gulf Stream. My opponent continues to support failed policies of the past and refuses to look at the innovative and prosperous future Florida has set out in front of her.

You know, I am a Florida native and I love everything about this place we call home. From the fantastic natural landscape to the wonderful variety of people dispersed along her shores, it is no wonder that people beat a path from far and wide to call Florida their new home. And it is this energetic spirit that I will take to Tallahassee next spring as your State Senator. I want to thank you for listening to the few words I had to share with you today. God Bless You and God Bless the great State of Florida.