



## KRIPCHAK FOR CONGRESS YOUNGSTOWN

February 2024

### **SUBJECT: WHY I AM RUNNING**

*“Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be. They are your rallying point to build courage when courage seems to fail, to regain faith when there seems to be little cause for faith, to create hope when hope becomes forlorn.”*

This is a quote by General Douglas MacArthur that all cadets at the US Air Force Academy are required to learn and recite during times of great mental and physical duress throughout our four-year military training. It is demanded on us so that in the harshest of times and darkest of days we will still remember our purpose. It is a calling that stays with us even after we put away our uniform, a calling that will stay with us until death, and it is this calling why I am writing to you, my fellow Ohioans, to explain the inciting incident spurring my run for Congress.

Our Founding Fathers in the framing of the Constitution, demanded that the military must always be above politics. While the military must always act under civilian leadership, as officers, we were tasked to ensure, as an institution, it would never be used as a partisan tool. When we take our Oath of Office, we do not swear an oath of loyalty to a king, a candidate, or a political party, but to the Constitution. At a time of extreme political polarization, at a time when public trust in traditional institutions is eroding, this solemn oath to the Constitution has allowed us to keep the military untarnished in the eyes of all Americans.

Indeed, after I left the military, I believed that it was in good hands cemented by our oath and reinforced by the continuing education at the service academies for future officers to internalize the significance of this oath. And I never questioned this conviction until that fateful day of January 6, 2021.

“Duty, Honor, Country” – the unbeliever will say these are mere words, a slogan or a flamboyant phrase but they are words that are the bedrock of every American’s character; they make us strong when we are weak, brave when we are scared, proud and unbending in defiance against the threat of failure. They urge us not to seek the path of comfort but spurn us into action against the stress of the challenge in standing up against the storm. And, my dear reader, a storm is what we are in the midst of today.

**RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM**

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE, ARCHIVED AT [WWW.KRIPCHAK.COM](http://WWW.KRIPCHAK.COM)

To see the likes of Ashli Babbitt, a former USAF Airman, resort to rioting and intimidation in an armed rebellion against her own government made me cast doubt on this conviction. Seeing General Michael Flynn, a once-respected US Army officer, slowly descend from OEF/OIF war hero, to Russian agent giving aid and comfort to our enemies – enemies who would strive to kill our servicemen and servicewomen deployed around the world, to finally a full-on domestic terrorist seeking to tear apart the foundations of our government that many of us have fought and died to protect, shattered this conviction to the core. When our very own Bill Johnson, a fellow USAF officer, was complicit in this attack on our nation’s Capitol, it made it personal.

These Americans swore an oath; an oath to defend against all enemies both foreign AND DOMESTIC; an oath that they violently broke on January 6<sup>th</sup>. I am not an unreasonable man. Those who know me, know I wear my heart on my sleeve. I try to be as sympathetic as I can to all Americans and, in this light, I do not blame Ashli Babbitt. She was never an officer and her oath was to “follow the orders of the President and the orders of the officers appointed over me.” It was THAT President and THOSE officers of the Republican Party who infected and corrupted the American people with their lies and propaganda. It was THAT President and THOSE officers of the Republican Party who sent her and others like her to assault the People’s House and ultimately sent her to her death. This I cannot forgive nor can I forget.

Yet when it comes to politics, there are some things I can forgive. As a reasonable person, I understand that often in the course of governing, our Representatives have to “keep up appearances” and kowtow to the party line or to the President when of their own party. These aren’t necessarily bad things, but part of the process of serving your constituents and playing the political game. It wasn’t Bill Johnson’s support of a fellow Republican that angered me but his support and promotion of Donald Trump when he crossed the line from “fellow Republican” to “willful traitor” that I cannot excuse, that I cannot forgive. He made an oath to the Constitution and he broke it. He should know better, he DOES know better.

I now see that there is no hope for a Republican Party completely co-opted by this traitor and that it is only through the Democratic Party that we can hope to govern and guide our country to Prosperity. After seeing so many of our military veterans fall to the temptations of our enemies, I, myself a former USAF officer, feel a responsibility and solemn duty to restore your trust in our veterans through service to our country, to Ohio, and crucially to our District.

During this time of unprecedented turmoil and change, there are still things that remain constant – “Duty, Honor, Country.” It binds the fabric of American society. These words are what compelled Ohioans to answer President Lincoln’s call when traitors to our great Nation first reared their ugly heads. It was Ohioans that split the Confederacy in two at Vicksburg, it was Ohioans that broke the back of the Confederacy at Atlanta, and it was Ohioans that marched to the Sea to remind future traitors that if you betray America, you will face the wrath of the Ohio Patriot. My fellow Ohioans, it is with this reminder that I call upon you today. Our great-grandfathers have earned and bought Liberty for us at the expense of their ease, their comforts, and their blood. I do not ask you to go to war but I do compel you to act, and in doing so I ask for your vote.

**RESTORE THE AMERICAN DREAM**

ARCHIVED AT [WWW.KRIPCHAK.COM](http://WWW.KRIPCHAK.COM)

The United States is the Arsenal of Democracy and Ohio is the engine of that Arsenal. Without us, the country is lost. With us, the March of Progress will continue. It was Ohioans who invented the airplane and first soared to the skies and it was Ohioans who first landed on the Moon. Through Ohio, these great United States can accomplish anything. And if I am elected, if you choose me to represent you, through my solemn oath to "Duty, Honor, Country," Ohio will once again captain our great Nation to a new era of Prosperity.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. L. Kripchak', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

MICHAEL L. KRIPCHAK  
Candidate  
US Congressional District 6, OH