**POLITICAL CAMPAIGN SPEECH**

**FOR**

**LORNA NOBLES**

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished guests, members of the press, and to all my fellow constituents and neighbors, I want to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to stand before you as I take this moment to express my commitment to our district and our collective well being. With this announcement, I stand here to declare my intentions... I have chosen to be a part of “the **solution**.” Today, I am announcing my candidacy for Arkansas State Representative in District 26.

Hot Springs, Arkansas, has been my home for, well, most of my life. I’ve grown up here.... I’ve studied here... I’ve built a life, a home, a career, and a family here. I am both a consumer and a business owner.... I experience the gamut of life in this community. I’ve seen this city, and its fellow cities.... Malvern, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and the rest of Garland and Hot Springs Counties, weather storms, build infrastructure, manage crises, and come together as a collective community, to sustain quality of life in the present while preparing for the future.... and through it all, one thought has stayed with me. **I AM** this district. **WE ARE** this district. The responsibility of the future of District 26 lies within **ALL** of us. Because I realize this so deeply, I have chosen to “walk the walk...” and not just “talk the talk.” Our mutual success as a thriving district depends on each one of us.... to identify the issues, explore avenues of relief and change, devise concrete, practical plans for implementation, and work to sustain a nurturing, supportive environment so that **all** constituents have the realistic, **optimistic** opportunity to **thrive**.

...And speaking of “**Hot Springs,**”. I once heard a quote from former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt. She famously said, “A woman is like a teabag. You never know how **strong** she is until she’s in **hot water**.” (**Wait for the laugh**). Folks, make no mistake.... I am aware that with this announcement, I may be placing myself in “hot water,” however, my conscience and I had a little chat.... and we **BOTH** realize that the “buck stops **HERE**.” I am profoundly aware that in this great country, we have a voice and each one of us is entitled to be proactive in determining how to advocate for ourselves, our families, and our community. For that reason, I am offering my self and my services to be that voice in our state capitol.

I know that I am very blessed to have lived.... here in Hot Springs.... witnessing the issues and living a life inextricably bound to the heartbeat of this community. I’ve grown up here.... made friends.... gone to school and built a professional life here. I established a family here.. I’ve raised a child here.... (**do you want to add**)... some of you may know her.... her name is Laurie Rushing, and from what I hear, for the past \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years, she’s been doing quite a good job in her capacity of State Representative!!! (**Wait for the laugh**).... Can you just **IMAGINE** what we would be able to accomplish as a “dynamic mother-daughter **DUO**??? I’ve watched her grow and thrive and build a life here for her own children.... and I have been inspired as I witness Laurie’s own commitment to advocating for all of us...

But one voice is just the beginning... You might.. and can.. and **WILL** say, we are profoundly invested in the success of this community. Over the years, we all have witnessed the ebb and flow of communal health.. we’ve lived through good times and challenging times. We’ve seen industry and commercial opportunities come and go. We’ve applauded opportunities like legalized gambling, to fill our coffers.... and we’ve expressed deep concern as businesses are forced to shut down and, as a result, infrastructure erodes.

It will take someone who is deeply vested in both the history of this community as well as the daily functioning, to effect positive change... to be heard where it counts. I believe that I am that voice.. to represent each and every one of **US**... to examine what’s lacking.. to fight for what’s needed.. whether in tax incentives, effective promotional campaigns to draw attention to pressing issues, leading proactive community initiatives.... we will work together to preserve our home communities, and I will do my best to deliver our message, where it counts, and implement the message of our people.

There is an expression I once heard.... it was a line from an old English poem.... “I am part of all that I have met.” To all of my neighbors, friends, and colleagues in District 26, we are all in this together and listen to me when I tell you, I truly believe you are all a part of me. If ... and **WHEN** elected as your newest State Representative, I pledge to do everything in my power to make sure we are heard and considered... so that our successes sustain and our challenges are met. The time has come for each area of our wonderful district to handle the issues so that our children and **THEIR** children can thrive in our beautiful, historic home. Thank you all!!