

ALANNA HARTZOK RAN A GOOD RACE FOR CONGRESS

(The following report on Alanna Hartzok's campaign to represent Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District was put together by GroundSwell Editor Nadine Stoner from various posts, press releases, and Alanna Hartzok's web page.)

Alanna Hartzok, Scotland, PA, ran a good campaign in her bid to represent Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District. She was born and raised in the district. The theme of her campaign was From Wealth Inequality to Economic Democracy. She had been asked by the Chair of the Democratic Committee of her county to run. The large district covers all of six counties and part of six others. She had a team of around 30 strong and inspired people who took upon their shoulders various important campaign tasks.

Well qualified, her credentials posted for a WTAE-TV spot (<http://www.wtae.com/politics/alanna-hartzok/27860160>) are: B.A. Psychology, Ohio Wesleyan University; M.A. Psychology, University of West Georgia; Advanced studies: Institute of European Studies; California Institute of Integral Studies; Henry George School of Social Science; Founder and Co-director, Earth Rights Institute (non-profit); Writer, Author, award winning book. She is a Thought leader in new economics / economic democracy; Mental health counselor, conflict mediation professional; and As a citizen advocate for property tax reform initiated and guided PA state legislation that passed with a nearly unanimous vote.

She had impressive endorsements (see her website <http://hartzokforcongress.com/>): Three star Admiral Joseph Sestak served in the U.S. Navy for 30+ years and, a Democrat, he represented Pennsylvania's 7th Congressional District from 2007-2011; Jean Eisenhower's grandfather was Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower's second cousin; and the Council of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

However, Bill Shuster was elected to an eighth term with 91,771 votes to Alanna Hartzok's 52,803 votes. Either Bill Shuster or his father Bud Shuster have represented the Pennsylvania 9th District for 42 years. Shuster spent \$3.5 million to Alanna Hartzok's \$18,000 and she still got 37% of the district's popular vote..

Rep. Bill Shuster chairs the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. As reported by Charlotte Huffman of Philadelphia (CBS) (<http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2014/09/23/i-team-investigation-cockpit-danger/>), Bill Shuster was the leading recipient of contributions from the airline industry 2012-2014.

He received more money from the airline industry than any other member of Congress. His top contributor was United Continental Holdings, the owner and operator of United Airlines.

In a press release Oct. 13, 2014, Alanna Hartzok an-

nounced: "In response to Ellen Saracini's plea that District 9 citizens be alerted to this situation, the Hartzok for Congress campaign is holding press conferences on Tuesday, October 14. They will be held at the Franklin County Democratic Party headquarters in Chambersburg, at the AFSCME Council 83 Building in Duncansville, at the Indiana County Democratic Party headquarters in Indiana, and at the Holiday Inn in Uniontown. Speakers include Ellen Saracini, widow of Captain Victor J. Saracini who was the United Flight 175 pilot when the plane was hijacked and crashed into the South Tower on 9/11; and Melodie Homer, widow of LeRoy Homer, the First Officer on Flight 93 that crashed into the field in Shanksville."

Sponsored by Michael Fitzpatrick (R), Representative for Pennsylvania's 8th congressional district, the Saracini Aviation Safety Act of 2013 (H.R. 1775) would direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue an order with respect to secondary cockpit barriers. The Act requires all commercial planes to install a second barrier to entry to the cockpit area that is currently vulnerable to hijackers who could easily enter and take control of the plane whenever the cockpit door is opened. On April 26, 2013 the bill was assigned to the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee chaired by Congressman Bill Shuster who controls what does or does not get put on his committee agenda.

"To this date, despite numerous appeals by Families of 9/11, The Airline Pilots Association, Allied Pilots Association, Association of Flight Attendants, Federal Flight Deck Officers Association, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, as well as his own District 9 constituents, Congressman Shuster has refused to release the bill for a vote in the House.

"Thus far I have run a positive congressional campaign addressing the need for good jobs for all and presenting ways to build an economy that works for everyone, not just the wealthy few,' says Alanna Hartzok, the Democratic Party candidate for Congress for District 9. But then Ellen Saracini, widow of the pilot of the hijacked plane that crashed into the South Tower on 9/11, informed me that Representative Shuster was blocking this urgently needed aviation safety bill. I decided it was my responsibility to respond to her request to alert the citizens of District 9 about Congressman Shuster's inaction on this extremely important legislation.

"The Hartzok for Congress campaign understands the seriousness of these allegations and provided press packets with additional information. For just one example informing our concern, members of the press were urged to watch news story by CBS3 Investigative Reporter Charlotte Huffman, prior to the press conference: <http://philadelphia.cbslocal.com/2014/09/23/i-team-investigation-cockpit-danger/>."