

Subj: **The Write Stuff -- Honoring My Father, Moreland Perkins, On His Birthday -- A Newsletter from Owen Perkins' Campaign**
 Date: 4/13/2013 3:09:52 A.M. Mountain Daylight Time
 From: peopleforperkinshd2@gmail.com
 To: owenperk@aol.com



The Write Stuff -- April 12, 2013

Dear Friends,

I've got a jam-packed newsletter for you –this is not your father's political newsletter – and I hope you'll do me the favor of reading this first important part before some announcements I think might interest you farther down on the topic of fracking, gun violence, Earth Day, Voter Registration, Cesar Chavez, a day of service, a night of baseball, and – no kidding – The Book of Mormon, Broadway style. If I'm sending you duplicate e-mails, please let me know, and [if you'd prefer to unsubscribe, please click here](#).

I wanted to write a special e-mail to you as I honor my father, **Moreland Perkins**, who would be celebrating his 86th birthday this coming **Tuesday, April 16th**. It's a little awkward to write so many of you about a man that most of you never knew, but I've expanded my e-mail list for this one mailing so that I can include some folks who might be especially interested in helping me pay tribute to my father and who make it a little easier to talk about the man who meant so much to me.

Both of my parents have been tremendous inspirations to me throughout my life. They were both educators, and I followed them into a career as a teacher at the junior high, high school, and college levels before eventually going on to journalism. My father was an especially active figure on college campuses in New York and Maryland, most notably, serving as a leading voice for Civil Rights, for the Peace Movement and nuclear disarmament during the Vietnam War era. He published two books, a groundbreaking philosophical study on sensory perception called ***Sensing the World*** and a literary analysis of Jane Austen called ***Reshaping the Sexes in Sense and Sensibility***. In retirement he maintained a long legacy of leadership and activism as he kept working to make a difference in our community and our country.

My father passed away the day after last year's November election, but he was engaged to the end, calling me on election night to congratulate all of us in Colorado on the role we played in securing victory for President Obama. To have shared that joyous occasion with him was especially meaningful, as he highlighted the impact our grassroots campaigning had on the election and as he took the opportunity to wish me continued success in the campaign he knew awaited me, a race "closer to home," as he put it.

On Tuesday, his birthday, my family and I will be in the **Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia**, near where Dad grew up and where we camped together while he was teaching at the University of Maryland. We'll celebrate his life and mark the end of his journey as we follow his wishes and spread his ashes in a place that helped him replenish his own unique sense of spirituality.

Just last night, my mother and I had the opportunity to watch a wonderful documentary on **Ethel Kennedy**, written and directed by Ethel and Bobby's youngest child, Rory. My father was proud to have been a Harvard classmate of **Bobby Kennedy's**, and as I watched the film, I couldn't help thinking that had Bobby lived to know of Dad's work, his values, and his accomplishments over the course of his 85 ½ years, he would have been just as proud

to tell his family he was a classmate of Dad's.

For those of you who know me well, I hope you see something of my parents in me. And if you are just getting to know me now, I think it's important that you know something about the forces that shaped me. My father and I shared a belief in the sanctity of creativity and the imagination. He was a life-long problem solver, constantly searching for new perspectives, posing new questions, working out new solutions, and passionately pursuing creative breakthroughs. He had an intellectual appetite that could never be satisfied, and both he and my mother shared a sense of purpose that kept them both looking for ways to contribute at every stage of their lives.

Perhaps the biggest impression each of my parents made on me over the course of the last couple years – when my father's health was declining and my mother selflessly cared for him, extending his life and defending his dignity – was their sense of compassion. So many of the decisions they made together and individually in the difficult last year and a half of my father's life were informed by their ceaseless concern for each other, their desire to alleviate each other's suffering, and their ability to find comfort and meaning in each other's company, even more than 30 years after ending their marriage. Their marriage may not have been picture perfect, but their friendship and devotion to each other and to our family over the years was exemplary.

Like most of us, I'm sure, my politics were shaped by my parents. I can remember standing up for **George McGovern** as a third grader, almost alone in a class of twenty-some eight-year-olds, because I believed in my parents and the values they imparted. Our subsequent excitement about **Jimmy Carter's** first campaign for president was a time of real awakening for me, and I began to recognize in a select few leaders the qualities that drew me to emulate our founding fathers along with my own parents as I blended a deep-seated sense of patriotism with an evolving belief in **the potential of public service and the good that can come from government**. Wasn't that a time!

When Dad retired from teaching, he was quick to immerse himself in the community beyond the classroom, running for **Mayor of Riverdale, Maryland** against a corrupt eight-term incumbent with a machine-style political posse in place on the Town Council. Dad won the election, but he had to deal with five of six hostile Council members throughout his term. He didn't run for re-election, but he worked tirelessly for the candidate he hoped would succeed him, helping her win the race along with five of his six candidates for Town Council!

The work never stopped for Dad, as he further retired only to further engage himself in making a difference and bettering his community. **He worked with elementary school children, establishing a gifted and talented program in the public schools** of his new home in Florida, and **he became a board member of the NAACP**, still fighting for the ideals instilled in him by my grandparents, ideals he shared with his sister and passed on to me and my sister. He was an early supporter of Barack Obama's – it didn't hurt that they were both Harvard men – and he was my first and biggest booster.

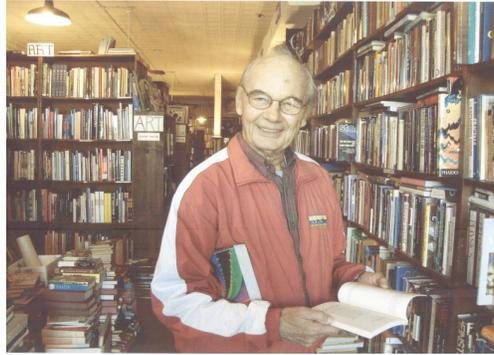
I don't think I ever could have won my first election for **Denver Country Secretary** without my father's encouragement. He started me on my political journey, and he couldn't wait for this next race. He was one of the few people I would talk to about the upcoming race, as I was determined to wait until after we finished the business of the 2012 election season before entertaining thoughts of my own campaign. Sadly, Dad was taken the day after the election, missing out on the big campaign he'd been anticipating with such enthusiasm.

As we head to the Blue Ridge Mountains to take my father on his final journey, I'd like to ask you to honor Dad with **one last chance for him to make an impact**. Please join me on his birthday by making a contribution of any size to recognize the legacy of an ultimate grassroots activist, a gentleman from Virginia who never stopped believing in the ability of good people to better their community.

If you'd like to join me in honoring my father, I'd suggest a contribution of either \$86 in recognition of his birthday next week, or \$27 in tribute to the year of his birth, 1927. If that's beyond your budget, I understand, and I'd ask you to consider \$14 for 2014, or even \$2 for House District 2. That sounds like so little, but it means so much. This campaign isn't about money, it's about people – actual humans, not corporations, not committees – and believe me, your engagement is no small gesture. If ever there was a time when your participation would resonate, it's this month as my vision for the path ahead is brought into focus by the uplifting love shared between my family and my father.

[Please click here to make a contribution on my secure Act Blue page](#), or mail a check to **People for Perkins**,

2171 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210.



I'd also like to give you something back from my father, **something tangible he wanted to pass on**. Over the years, my father tried to dismantle his extensive library, but he left an enviable collection that I'd love to share with those who appreciate a good book. I have a list of available books on my website, so [please peruse the stacks](#) and let me know if you'd like one for yourself. I'm also posting some of his writing and a [slide show of his life's journey](#).

Thank you for letting me share the memory of Moreland Perkins and for helping me pay a final tribute to Dad on his birthday.

Silent March to Honor the Victims of Gun Violence

Please join our friends at **Colorado Ceasefire** on **Thursday, April 18th at the State Capitol** for a noon rally to honor the victims of gun violence. Colorado Ceasefire is collecting shoes to display on the Capitol steps, with each pair representing a victim. They hope to display at least 1,000 pairs of shoes, and all the shoes will be donated to local charities following the silent march.

A "silent march" displays the empty shoes as a graphic illustration of america's preventable epidemic of firearm death, injury, and trauma. Some of the shoes belonged to actual victims of gun violence. The shoes will be displayed on the west steps of the Capitol to remind the public to support efforts to reduce gun violence this year.

If you'd like to donate shoes ahead of time (before April 15), **please contact HD2's Rita Schweitz at (303) 300-2200** to arrange the donation, or send an e-mail to info@coloradoceasefire.org. Shoes can also be dropped off at the **Park Hill United Methodist Church at 5209 Montview Blvd. in Denver from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to noon on weekends through the 15th**. The display will go up at 10 a.m., and you can also bring your shoes to the Capitol on the 18th.

Fracking and the Colorado Social Legislation Committee

Last Monday I was able to attend the Colorado Social Legislation Committee's weekly forum, and the topic of the week was fracking. As someone who found my way to politics through my environmental activism, the issues of fracking and its impact on health, the environment, and the critical western reality of water usage and supply is of special interest to me. **Senator Matt Jones** of Longmont and **Becky Long** of Conservation Colorado led the discussion. If you're interested in seeing part of the forum I was able to video tape, [please click here for the video](#).

I encourage anyone with an interest in the upcoming issues on CSLC's agenda to attend one of the final few meetings of the legislative session. They meet **Monday's at noon for a brown bag lunch** and discussion in the basement of the **First Baptist Church at 1373 Grant St.**, right across from the Capitol. Upcoming topics include the following:

–Monday, April 15: **Impact of Sequestration Cuts on Colorado**, with Carol Hedges (Colorado Fiscal Institute), Larson Sillbaugh (Legislative Council), and Pamela Harris (Mile High Montessori).

–Monday, April 22: **Issues of Homelessness**

--Monday, April 29: **Mental Health Issues**

Earth Day is Coming

It's been great to see Earth Day (April 22nd) get increasing participation and relevance as Coloradans recognize the reality of climate change and take a day to recommit to our legacy of conservation. There are multiple activities coming up in the area, but here are a few that caught my attention.

- Wednesday April 17th: **Tree Hugging and Lugging**. Groundwork Denver will be meeting at **City Park at 1:30 p.m.** to load up and move fruit trees to the GrowHaus in north Denver before planting them in Commerce City the following week. The event should take a few hours, with a return to City Park by 4:30 pm. If you'd like to help, please RSVP to katie@groundworkcolorado.org for details.
- Saturday, April 20th: **Volunteer Bike Repair**. Volunteers who'd like to fix flat tires are meeting at **32nd and Lowell** to help residents who bring their bikes in to fix their flats. If you'd like to help, please RSVP to kristy@groundworkcolorado.org, and if you need help with a flat bike tire, bring it by **between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.** You might even be put to work concocting some pedal-powered smoothies for those who drop by.
- Saturday, April 27th: **Tree Planting**. Come out to Commerce City to help **plant 60 fruit trees with volunteers and residents from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**. Contact kristy@groundworkcolorado.org to RSVP and for details.
- Saturday, April 27th: **Bike and Ride the Rail**. The entire light rail system will be **free on April 27th** in honor of the new West Rail Line opening! Several neighborhood groups are hosting parties at stations along the way. Park the car and walk, cycle, and ride around Denver.

Get Out The Vote -- Yes, It's Time!

The Denver Democrats are implementing one of our most ambitious GOTV plans for the coming cycle, and we're getting an early start on voter registration. We had tremendous success **getting high school students throughout Denver registered to vote** last year, and we're ready to get new voters signed up this spring as local seniors turn 18 and prepare to exercise one of their most vital rights.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the Denver Dems should make plans to participate in a brief voter registration training. If you've already done one in the past, it will be easy and fun, but we all need to be re-trained every year. It takes about a half hour or so. Here are some upcoming dates and times for trainings at the Democratic Party of Denver's office at **574 S. Broadway**.

- Sunday April 13th 11:00 - 11:40 and 11:45 to 12:30
- Monday April 15th 6:00 - 6:40
- Thursday April 18th 6:30-7:15
- Saturday April 20th 3:00-3:40
- Monday April 22nd 6:30 to 7:15

We'll be **registering students at South High School on April 23rd, 24th, and 25th**, so please go through a training and join us mid-day at South High to engage young adults in Denver! We expect to offer a training to those who want to stick around after **our next House District 2 Democrats Monthly Meeting on Saturday, April 20th at the Friends Meeting House at 2280 S. Columbine**. We meet from **9:00 - 10:30 a.m.**, and the training will take place at the end of the meeting.

Si Se Puede, Cesar Chavez Honorees

Congratulations to **Senator Pat Steadman**, Colorado Democratic Party Latino Initiative Chairman and Democratic National Committee member **Manny Rodriguez**, and civil rights attorney **Kenneth Padilla**, who were each honored for their work in carrying forth the vision of **Cesar Chavez, promoting justice, dignity and fairness for all working people**. The awards were given by the **Labor Council for Latin American Advancement** and followed a ribbon cutting ceremony at a spruced up Cesar Chavez Park at 41st and Tennyson. **James Mejia** was the keynote speaker.

"April 23rd will be the twentieth anniversary of the passing of Cesar Chavez, yet he continues to inspire all of us involved in the struggle for justice and fairness in life and in the workplace," the printed program read. *"Cesar spent his life working to represent and lift up thousands of farm workers, the poor and the uneducated, the people invisible to the rest of society. He showed the workers how to win, even against tremendous odds, by encouraging them to believe in themselves."*

A Day of Service with Denver Young Dems and Project C.U.R.E.

Please join volunteers working to sort medical supplies for distribution to those in need around the world on **Monday, April 29th and Tuesday, April 30th at 7 p.m.** The Denver Young Dems are teaming up with Project C.U.R.E. for what promises to be a fun and engaging hands-on experience where we can help make a difference. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Aaron Culbertson at ACulbertson@denveryoungdems.org. There are volunteer opportunities Monday the 29th and Tuesday the 30th, but there are only 15 spots available each night, so sign up quick if you're interested.

How The West Was Won – Back on Blake St. for Rockies vs. Diamondbacks

We exceeded our goal on Opening Weekend at my Rockies Reunion fundraiser, with a great turnout of campaign supporters who urged the Rockies on to a sweep of the Padres, establishing an undefeated home record at Coors Field this season. If we can keep that up, the Rockies will be better than .500!

I've got a **second baseball event planned for Monday, May 20th**. This will be a relatively small outing, giving all of us a chance to visit closely together as we enjoy the game and a pre-anthem event at the nearby Wynkoop Brewery.

We have four ticket rates to fit your budget as the Rockies take on their Western rivals, the **Arizona Diamondbacks**. All the tickets are together in the **Outfield Box** section down the first base line, so pay what you'd like. *Box office value is \$44.50 (\$39 + \$5.50 service fees).*

- Season Ticket:** \$35
- All-Star:** \$50
- MVP:** \$75 (includes pre-game cocktails and appetizers at the Wynkoop Brewery)
- Hall-of-Famer:** \$100 (Host recognition and pre-game cocktails and appetizers at the Wynkoop Brewery)

Game starts at 6:40 p.m. Pre-game Event at 5:00 p.m.

[Please click here to purchase tickets on our secure Act Blue payment page](#), or send checks to People for Perkins, 2171 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210.

I'd Like To Share With You The Most Amazing Book!

Book It Now – A Night at the Theater with Colorado's Tony-Award Winning *Book of Mormon*

You're probably well aware of *The Book of Mormon*, either through spirited discussions at your doorsteps, or by the unavoidable buzz of the **nine-time Tony Winning musical** from 2011 that electrified Broadway before starting its tour in Denver, where creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone started their careers.

Please join me for a special opportunity to see the return engagement of **Broadway's Best Musical** from 2011 at the Buell Theater in Denver. The performance is set for **Wednesday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.** in the heart of downtown Denver at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

It may seem a long way off, but **the last time the show came to Denver, it sold out in hours**. I've made special arrangements to reserve a block of tickets, and I'd love to have you join us for an irresistible night at the theater. I need to have all my tickets spoken for by the end of April, so I encourage you to [reserve a ticket now through my secure Act Blue payment page by clicking here](#) or by sending a check to **People for Perkins**, 2171 S. Franklin St., Denver, Colorado 80210.

We have the first four rows of the balcony reserved, including **12 front row seats for early donor/hosts!** Our cost is \$63.50, and we are offering a few price ranges to fit your budget. I know it's a little more expensive than most of my events, but I'm confident you'll find the production well worth it, and the campaign portion of your ticket price will go to great use as in helping facilitate communication and outreach with the residents of House District 2.

- South Park Prophets** – \$100
- Hello – This Seat Will Change Your Life:** \$125
- I Believe! – Broadway Backers** \$150 (Includes Pre-Show Reception with drinks and cocktails)
- Saints' Circle** – \$200 (Includes **Front Row Balcony Seats**, Pre-Show Reception, and Host Recognition)

Thanks for sticking with this unusually newsy newsletter. I'm always eager to communicate with folks who care about our community, though I'll rarely have this much information in one helping for you. I'd love to hear your

input and your ideas about our district, about Denver, and about Colorado as we strive to build a society to match the scenery.

Sincerely,

Owen Perkins

Candidate for Colorado State House, District 2



--

People for Perkins
2171 S. Franklin St.
Denver, Colorado 80210

To unsubscribe from this e-mail, [please click here](#).