

# New Haven Register

## Edward Marcus: Hillary Clinton right choice for nation

By Edward Marcus

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The next president of the United States will face a host of new challenges, many of which we cannot even begin to imagine. We will need a president intimately familiar with world affairs, as well as key personalities around the globe.

When it comes to domestic affairs, we have clear choices. Do we want to continue and improve upon the advances made by the Obama administration or do we want to reject those changes and go back in time.

Finally, there is a dysfunctional Congress to deal with. It will be critical to elect a president able to negotiate with those holding widely divergent views. We must end what most view as a congressional standoff, particularly when it comes to such major issues as healthcare. It is time for cooperation in Congress. Lack of congressional action and failure to approve a new livable minimum wage, and what used to be routine budget approvals, has resulted in the continual risk of government coming to a screeching halt.

As you might guess, I believe Hillary Clinton is the one individual who has the ability and experience to handle these difficult challenges. We need to expand upon the progress of the Obama administration. As president, Hillary Clinton would help to entrench and keep alive progressive priorities for the foreseeable future..

It is interesting to note that Robert Gates, former head of both the CIA and the National Security Council, wrote in his book, "Duty," that he was impressed with Hillary Clinton's foreign policy abilities and considered it his good fortune to have served as secretary of defense when she was secretary of state. Gates is a Republican and often highly critical of a number of Democrats in senior positions.

No other candidate has her depth of experience dealing with foreign governments and foreign conflicts. Experience and know-how counts.

Some of Clinton's far-left detractors suggest she is not liberal enough and perhaps indistinguishable from Republican contender Jeb Bush. While I certainly disagree in the comparison, it does highlight the fact that Clinton tends toward the so-called middle-of-the-road on many issues. That's a good positive thing and will help her force Congress to act as necessary and provides her with a unique ability to work with reasonable people throughout the country and world. There are a lot of diverse groups that constitute America and the previous Clinton administrations clearly proved that going down the middle of the road is the path that most people in this country strongly believe in.

Incidentally, she is accused of being too "cozy" with Wall Street yet she clearly said that "There's something wrong" when "hedge fund managers pay lower taxes than nurses." She has made income inequality an important issue in her campaign. Nevertheless, she does seem to have Wall Street's proverbial ear, which is positive, and permits her to reach out to that constituency in order to gain their support for progressive positions.

It would say a great deal about America to have the first woman president follow the first black president. However, in my mind, that is just an added extra. Being female or male, at this point in our nation, is really irrelevant. The only thing that counts is an ability to do the job . . . and take the heat and still function in a productive manner.

Hillary Clinton, as secretary of state, has demonstrated an unusual capacity and ability to handle the stress and keep on course. As for issues related to Benghazi and her emails, well, frankly, those are nitpicking, side-tracking distractions from the issues that count.

Now is not the time to backtrack in our nation's progress. Electing either a Republican or a Democrat who is too far to the right or too far to the left will only further entrench each side and result in inaction and stalemate.

The Republican cast for President is like a bad Broadway show-Donald Trump leading the Republican pack? Bring on Hillary, give our country a fighting chance for success.

*Attorney Edward Marcus is former chairman of the Democrat State Central Committee in Connecticut and principal of Branford-based Marcus Law Firm. .*