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News Times (Danbury, CT) in print and on the Internet

Connecticut Post (Bridgeport, CT) on the Internet

The Stamford Advocate (Stamford, CT) on the Internet

Greenwich Time (Greenwich, CT) on the Internet

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Edward L. Marcus: Bernie, it's time to go

By Edward L. Marcus

Bernie Sanders did far better than I ever expected. He created something out of nothing. He surprised even the most sophisticated political analysts.

His wailing against Wall Street, highlighting income inequality, supporting free tuition and free universal health care created a group of supporters that made Bernie a contender. But he never was going to wear the "winner's belt," although he did make the Democratic primaries into an interesting, even historic, political battle.

Many people like me cannot understand his attraction. After all, when you come right down to it, it was a campaign of slogans and promises that could never be kept (much like the Trump campaign). There are too many in Congress, for example, who would never endorse many of his proposals. When the real cost of his promises became clear to voters, I believe they would have objected, as well.

Nevertheless, Sanders, in some ways, helped to make **Hillary Clinton** into a better, stronger person and candidate.

For Sanders, however, there is a time to go. That time is now.

Enough waving hands like a zealous preacher. Enough talk of a socialist approach to government. Sanders' last hope in the June 7, 2016 primaries was destroyed by an energized, successful Clinton campaign.

In the dozens of years I have been involved in politics and government, I have won elections and I have lost elections. Losing is like a shot in the guts. It sucks.

When you are knocked down, what counts is your ability to accept what happened and get up. Move on. Do the right thing.

Being disappointed and even angry are natural feelings. Staying in a political race to make that last speech, wave one more time at the crowd and shake a few hands — this is not in the best interest of the **Democratic Party** or in the fight against **Donald Trump**.

While he apparently has announced that he would join in the battle to defeat Trump, at this point, Sanders needs to simply announce his endorsement of Hillary Clinton.

The issue is very simple. Do you want to help Trump, who is becoming truly scary, or do you want the next President to uphold the values of our Democracy, uphold the Constitution, and maintain a rational foreign policy?

The nomination has effectively been won by Hillary. Sanders lost. He had loads of money and some enthusiastic people and he clearly made a mark in political history. He deserves congratulations for that.

Sanders' staying in the running throughout the convention, however, is simply mean-spirited — and all about Sanders and not the reality of graciously accepting defeat and becoming part of a team to defeat Trump, who if elected would result in a national catastrophe.

Bernie, hurry up and make that last speech, wave your hands and say goodbye. Please, it is time to tell your supporters to support and vote for Hillary. This is the time.

*Edward L. Marcus is former chairman of the **Democrat State Central Committee** in Connecticut and a former state Senate majority leader.*