

Republican Perspective
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by Ed Manning

WALKAWAY

*“Who can't relate to the idea of leaving one chapter behind and moving on to the next?”
Mike Shinoda, American Musician*

This past Spring, Brandon Stratka started a campaign on Facebook — #WalkAway. He posted a six minute video articulating why he was walking away from liberalism and the Democrat Party. His video went viral. He asked others to post videos of why they were leaving the Democrat Party. Now, on Saturday, October 27th he has organized a WalkAway march in Washington, D.C. It will be interesting to see the turnout and media coverage.

Mr. Stratka is a hair stylist and an aspiring actor in New York City. He is member of the LGBTQ community. He says that he was a liberal Democrat up until a year ago. He said he was afraid to post his video because it would hurt his chances to become an actor. A conservative friend encouraged him to follow his passion. What changed him? For the reasons he became a liberal are the same reasons he is walking away. In his own words:

“For years now, I have watched as the left has devolved into intolerant, inflexible, illogical, hateful, misguided, ill-informed, un-American, hypocritical, menacing, callous, ignorant, narrow-minded, and at times, blatantly fascistic behavior and rhetoric.”

“I have watched these formerly-sensible people, who claim to reject racism, have come to embrace the principles of universally hating and blaming all of society's problems on all people who have white skin. I have witnessed the irony of advocacy for gender equality morph into blatant hatred and intolerance of men and masculinity. I have seen the once-earnest fight for equality for the LGBT community mutate into an illogical demonization of heteronormativity and the push to vilify and attack our conventional concepts of gender.”

The members of the # WalkAway movement are rejecting one of the Democrats recruiting tools — victimhood. The calls of “white privilege” and that “America was never great.” Individuals of the # WalkAway campaign are breathing the “can-do” spirit that is the core of America's being. Candace Owens of TurningPointUSA said they are “fleeing the plantation of Democrat servitude.” TurningPointUSA is a conservative non-profit. Its mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government.

Brandon Straka was raised in Nebraska and opposed Donald Trump's bid for the presidency. When he asked friends in Nebraska why they voted for Mr. Trump, he was surprised to learn how Obama-era regulations had crippled their businesses. How they were struggling to make it. He became concerned at their plight.

Joining the WalkAway campaign is international artist and Grammy nominated composer, Al Conti. Mr. Conti withdrew from the Recording Academy after he perceived the Grammy telecast as a "Trump bashing platform."

After Mr. Conti posted on his Facebook page that he joined #WalkAway, he was worried about the hostility that might come his way. Instead, he told the Epoch Times that he received an outpouring of love and support from people all over the country and all over the world, in the form of comments, tweets, shares, emails, and album sales. Sales of his albums shot up so fast that Amazon ran out and had to restock.

Al Conti grew up in Argentina during the 1970s "Dirty War." He told the Epoch Times there is an uncomfortable resemblance between the Obama-style mindset and the thinking of Argentinian dictator Perón. Once he made that connection, Conti said he had already walked away.

Why is it that liberals engage in uncivilized conduct? Is it a genetic defect? We witness the harassment of elected Republican politicians and members of the Trump administration. California Congresswoman Maxine Waters ranting that such conduct is acceptable. We see universities banning conservatives from speaking while allowing liberals the platform. These same institutions of learning have become breeding grounds for radical leftist ideology.

Brandon Stratka may have touched a nerve with his campaign. Republicans should march in support on October 27th. From his Facebook video:

"Once upon a time I was a liberal. But liberalism has changed. And I will no longer be a part of an ideology or political party that represents everything that contradicts my values of unity, equal opportunity, personal empowerment, compassion, and love.

So I am walking away.

And I encourage all of you to do the same. Walk away."