



Immediate Release

Contact:
Leigh Ann Vanausdoll
309-826-9950

**Colleen Callahan Today Announced Her Candidacy
for the 18th Congressional District.**

“I am both humbled and proud to be the Democratic Nominee to represent the working families of Central Illinois,” Callahan said.

“What brings me here today? My roots and my wings. My roots in agriculture, where being responsible at a very early age for a litter of pigs or a baby calf taught me that those animals AND my parents trusted and depended on me. I had to be accountable. My wings took me to a 30-year broadcasting career, where I educated and informed. I communicated. And I represented. I’ve been a voice when others didn’t feel they had one. I’ve been a voice when many believed theirs needed to be amplified. I’ll do the same in Congress,” she said.

“It’s time for someone who has worn many hats, someone who has been a mother, a wife, a daughter, an employee and an employer, someone who has worked to make change in her community and her profession, someone who has real life, everyday experiences. I will draw on those experiences in Washington D.C.” she stated.

Callahan stated, “It’s time to work together to create change and it’s time to re-focus on Middle Class values and needs. Our families fought for Social Security, Medicare, and the GI Bill and now here we are fighting to preserve them. It’s time to do better. It’s time, not just to listen...but to act!”

Callahan stated, our economy isn’t working, it’s teetering on recession and we have lost 3.4 million jobs under the Bush Administration. CEO salaries are 364 times the average working men and women’s income.

“We have to change a Health Care system that doesn’t work for my 83-year-old Mom who works four days a week at Menards to help her pay for her supplemental insurance needs. It doesn’t work for the 1,776,000 people in Illinois who lack basic health insurance,” she said.

Callahan went on to say, “President Bush’s Middle East Policy isn’t working. I’ve been to Afghanistan and Iraq at my own expense. I’ve seen the pride of our service men and women. And I’ve seen the work that they are so proud of. I’ve stayed in touch with those soldiers who express frustration with our current policy. I’ve looked into the eyes of Afghan women (86% of whom are illiterate) and Afghan children (25% who die before the age of 6). I’ve seen the unspoken expression of desperation. And I’ve seen the agricultural fields that produce the poppies that help fund the Taliban. We cannot continue to spend \$10 billion a month on a war with no end.” Callahan said.

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