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“And Here’s..... Sarah”

by

Tom Holbrook

“You know it’s gotta be Romney.” “He’s got to name someone who is pro-choice to balance his pro-life stance.” “I know for a fact it’s gonna be either Ridge or Lieberman!” Such were the comments and predictions of those who “knew” exactly what Sen. John McCain had to do in order to pick the perfect running mate for his Presidency race. Boy, did he surprise us all with the one he came up with... a better-kept secret than Obama’s choice of Biden.

Gov. Sarah Louise Palin, at 42 the youngest and first female ever elected as Governor of Alaska, appears to be as big a maverick as McCain in her political decisions and way of life. Now 44 years old, the mother of 5 children has already shown herself as one who will not back away from a fight and is quick to remove those from her administrations who show themselves to be less than ethical or not team players.

The 1984 runner-up in the Miss Alaska contest, Gov. Palin has been described by some as a “hottie” in the looks department, which definitely should not be held against her, especially when standing beside Democrat VP choice Joe Biden in future debates. Her looks, however, place second in her ability to command an audience’s attention while in front of a podium, as she about the challenges facing her state and our country.

A Communications-Journalism major at the University of Idaho, Palin was a leader in her high school being the captain and point guard of their basketball team and led them to an Alaska Small-School state championship title while playing with a stress fracture in her foot. She sank two crucial free throws with only seconds to go in the game. She was the President of her school’s Fellowship of Christian Athletes and leader of team prayer before every game... and her nickname was “Barracuda” because of her intense play when competing.

Gov. Palin’s husband is a commercial fisherman and also works for British Petroleum on the North Slope of Alaska’s oil fields. She is for more and immediate offshore drilling in the lower 48 states and in the ANWR reserve in Alaska. She is a hunter, lover of ice-fishing, running and a snowmobile enthusiast. Her husband is a world class snowmobile racer winning the 2,000 mile “Iron Dog” race 4 times. Her five children consist of three daughters and two sons. The oldest son is 19 years old and will be deployed to Iraq September 11th. Her youngest son Trig is 4 months old and was born with Downs Syndrome. Gov. Palin was advised about the baby’s condition early in her pregnancy but made the decision to carry him to term anyway... a brave decision, although some have said it shows her to be an impractical individual.

Her maverick inclination has evidenced itself many times during her career but no more than immediately after being sworn in as Governor. She immediately rescinded many political appointments of outgoing Republican Governor Murkowski, whom she defeated in the primaries, and sold the state's private Windstar Jet plane purchased by Murkowski. It went on E-Bay for \$2.1 Million.

When gas prices went sky-high Alaska benefited because of their enormous oil revenue and Gov. Palin immediately proposed that each Alaskan be given a monthly \$100 debit card toward gas purchases and later changed that to an immediate \$1,200 per person check per year.

Truly, Sen. McCain has shown himself an innovative and daring leader with his choice for his VP running mate.

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