

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Dear friends,

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address the 2nd Annual Global Peace Foundation forum. I would like to first thank Mike Yakawich for his continued leadership and the countless hours spent working not only for the community of Billings but surrounding communities as well. The work you do may not always be seen immediately but you and your work has undoubtedly made a lasting impact on these communities and for that, I thank you.

Leadership is critical piece to the success of any team, community or organization. A leader must possess a strong moral compass, principled logic, and a servant's heart to serve and be a leader in the community. Decisions are not always easy or simple to get to, but with these traits those decisions can be made with confidence.

These values are often influenced by the life experiences a person may have had. For me, my formative years growing up in a blue collar timber town, Whitefish Montana and a Career as a Navy SEAL played a major role in making me the man I am today. I've seen the hardships a community faces when their jobs and industry are decimated by an outside force, when the factories and mills are forced to close their doors. I know that as a leader you must be the voice and work for those communities to bring back those good paying jobs to Montana, and most importantly protect the jobs already here.

My time as a Navy SEAL taught me that you don't leave anyone behind, but that you must have expectations for each and every person. That life has great meaning, and that every person is an intricate part of the community and everyone has something to contribute. I also learned from my time over-seas and in Congress that the differences that divide Americans, and Montanans, are far less than those that divide many parts of the world. This is why I've always made an effort to meet with those whom I agree with, but to also take the time to meet with those whom I may not.

One of the simplest tools I can suggest to any leader is that a smile goes a long ways. Do not scowl, or frown at those who are there to challenge your beliefs and standing. Welcome them as a friend with a smile. First-impressions are lasting, and can make all the difference. Thank you again for this opportunity and if I can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to ask.

In God We Trust,



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress

"The Only Easy Day Was Yesterday"