

**99<sup>th</sup> birthday party – Governor Lynch  
Chambers March 7, 2009**

**When I finished my 3,200 mile walk across the U. S. to speak out for the campaign finance reform movement now ten years ago, I was often asked to share what I learned from all those miles and all those many, many towns and people.**

**What I learned, <sup>is</sup> and I hope you will not take this too personally; ~~is~~, that it is never too late to get in shape. ~~It is never too late to dust off the dreams you may have had for yourself your community and your country—and to do something about them.~~ It is never too late to have another great adventure, make a few thousands new friends, and, ~~well, it worked for me~~—to march on the Capitol and get arrested. Not all of my friends cared to get**

2,300  
welcome  
arrested—~~many~~ marched to the Captol and  
then <sup>some</sup> treated themselves to a gin and tonic and  
a pedicure This is a wonderful country and  
there is something for everyone. My advice  
these days to the people I meet is, that they  
should not think their age has anything to do  
with what they <sup>want</sup> decide to do, ~~with the dreams~~  
~~that define their best and highest instincts.~~

Follow your heart and you know it is true: the  
force will be with you, You will be given the  
energy needed if the project is worthy. I  
traveled as a Pilgrim, walked until given  
shelter, fasted until given food. I was never  
without either.

American people are ready for publicly funded  
elections. In a bipartisan national poll last  
month, conducted by the Terrace Group, 79%  
of voters across party lines saw large  
contributions as a roadblock to solving

America's most pressing economic problems. 76% of Democrats and 74% of Republicans believe that the influence of campaign contributions to members of Congress led to lax oversight that was a major cause of our financial crisis. The American public is ready for campaign finance reforms: and across the country experts are expecting N. H. to help lead the way. They recognize our strong leaders on this issue in Senators Martha Fuller Clark and Maggie Hassan. Senator Clark is sponsoring a bill this session called the Citizen Funded Elections Task Force and Senator Hassan is considering co-sponsoring it. This bill takes three important steps closer to Citizen Funded Elections in our state. Please join me in thanking them for <sup>trying to give</sup> ~~giving~~ our state this vitally important improvement in our 2009 elections. We elected the right man for

**President but he can not do it alone. the  
brave task he has accepted, needs every one  
of us He needs every Republican, Democrat,  
Green, Reformer, all of us. Thank you for this  
lovely party. I salute you. I never realized how  
hard you all work , how many hours you put  
in. Were I ten years younger I would consider  
walking across the country for a raise for all of  
you.**