

The Bandera PROPHECY

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Steve Keough announces for U.S. Senate

Steve Keough, a retired Navy Captain, is seeking the Democratic nomination to face Texas Sen. Ted Cruz in the 2024 election for U.S. Senate.

Born in Newton, Mass., Keough is a patent attorney who teaches at the leading law school in San Antonio. He is a member of the Texas AFT. Keough graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1977, and also holds a master's degree in congressional studies from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., and a law degree from Boston College Law School.

He has served his country in many capacities and has also worked on behalf of the international pro-democracy movement in other countries. When the Shah of Iran fell in 1979, Keough was on the ground that day with a commercial passenger plane he had personally chartered. He was able to evacuate several senior-level American military personnel, their families, and local Iranians who had been working with the Americans. Among those rescued was the senior Iranian commander of the airport and his family.

Unfortunately, Keough's father was one of the dozens of Americans taken hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran later that year, and held for 444 days.

In more recent times, Keough served as a civilian seeking to promote pro-democracy changes in Russia and several former Soviet-controlled countries. This involved direct engagement with citizens and the most senior civilian leaders in those areas – often in delicate or unfriendly settings.

As a patent attorney, he currently works on intellectual property issues and has successfully defended U.S. inventors and companies against international firms trying to steal their technologies. Keough speaks

Mandarin and has trained Chinese lawyers about the importance of international intellectual property rights. He also has worked with members of Congress on high-value U.S. trade-related and intellectual properties issues.

President Bill Clinton appointed Keough to work as a civilian Special Advisor to the Threat Reduction Advisory Committee, which focused on assessing and countering nuclear threats to America. His appointment was affirmed by the Administration of President George W. Bush.

Keough was working on those nuclear deterrent issues for the committee on 9/11.

Keough is passionate about immigration and border issues, believing that the government has a responsibility to keep its citizens safe while at the same time a duty to treat immigrants and asylum-seekers with care. He has visited the countries of many people seeking to enter the U.S. and has also spent time in asylum camps in Mexico, listening to the tragic stories of refugees who fled their homelands.

As the father of four daughters, Keough is a strong supporter of women's reproductive rights and body autonomy, saying the U.S. Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade* has "thrown women to the dogs – the rabid dogs of extremism." He believes the relationship between a doctor and a patient is an inviolate one and that politicians should not inject themselves into decisions that are not theirs to make. The issue of body autonomy "goes beyond reproductive rights," Keough noted, saying that he is fighting for LGBTQIA rights as well.

Transgender people and their families, for instance, "have had tremendous, excruciating pressure put on them" with laws aimed at removing rights to transgender healthcare, he said. Keough believes all U.S. citizens are entitled to healthcare and that body autonomy is a basic human right – and is the essence of healthcare.

As a veteran himself, Keough believes veterans' rights are a moral imperative. "We must do better by our veterans," he said.

He is a very progressive Democrat who, as a child, became a lifetime member of the National Rifle Association at a time when that organization was focused on gun safety. In his work as a professional

military bodyguard to four-star admirals, and later as a Navy officer himself, he has spent his lifetime advocating for the proper use and handling of guns. He supports the rights and duties of responsible gun ownership.

Keough welcomes the opportunity to share his views on issues discussed here as well as national security, foreign policy, climate change, infrastructure, education, and more. Additional information is available at his website, www.keoughforsenate.com, on Facebook@keoughforsenate, or at ballotpedia.com. To contact the campaign, email scheduler@keoughforsenate.com, or call Dr. Marisela Roeges at 832-443-8851.