

## Christenson Victory Speech – November 8, 2011

<Entrance song – “We Weren’t Born to Follow”>

How is everyone doing tonight?

I can’t think of a better way to start off tonight than with the song, “We Weren’t Born to Follow” – it epitomizes what this campaign has been all about – People of all cultures, of all ages, of all backgrounds working together to better our community.

I am honored to be here with you as we celebrate the dawning of a new day in Malden – One that brings together all citizens, from all corners of the community to work together, shaping the future of our city.

I have learned so many great things over the past year – about myself, about this great city - but most importantly, about the power of community.

I think back over the past year and I remember the people who held signs, knocked on doors in the cold, wrote letters and made phone calls;

The people who expressed their concerns and offered their suggestions;

The people who participated in our online forums and spoke with me at events;

The people who inspired me by bettering the lives of others through their everyday work.

I look around this room tonight and I see those same people – and it is clear, this campaign was not about me. It was about the people of Malden – hearing your voices, encouraging your ideas and turning your passion into action.

It is YOU who will help Malden move forward!

And that includes my opponent, Deb Fallon – I thank for her public service and commend her family’s legacy of serving Malden.

(PAUSE)

A solid team is key to any campaign. The Christenson campaign could not have been successful without an outstanding group of people. Words can’t describe their energy, passion, and commitment to this race. I would like to ask them to join me on stage so we may all acknowledge their superb efforts.

- Kathleen Manning Hall – Campaign Manager
- Maria Luise
- Carol Ann Desiderio
- Kevin Duffy

- Adam Weldai
- Paul Hammersley
- Karen Hayes
- Mark Lawhorne
- Dianne Morad
- Keith Johnson
- Erika Israelson
- Jeff Christenson

I also want to thank their husbands, wives, and family members who picked up the slack at home while the team spent countless hours on the campaign.

Special thanks go out to the campaign kids. One of my favorite aspects of the campaign has been watching these young leaders play a part in the political process.

They remind me of myself – 27 years ago I dreamed of standing right here, on a night just like tonight. It was a goal I set back in 1984.

Tonight, we are all reminded that America is still a country where hard work and dedication lead to success. It is still possible for dreams to come true. Tonight, mine sure did.

And Tomorrow, it is Malden's turn.

**THANK YOU. NOW LET'S ALL CELEBRATE!!!**