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METRO

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Familiar face in the race

Bruderly tries - for the third time - to unseat longtime Rep. Stearns.

By MATT GALNOR, The Times-Union

Twice now, David Bruderly has taken a swing at longtime U.S. Rep. Cliff Stearns.

He's come up empty both times - losing by about 30 percentage points in both 2002 and 2004.

Undeterred, the Gainesville Democrat is taking his third crack at Stearns this fall, trying to unseat the nine-term Ocala Republican.

"I think the fella needs a job," Stearns said.

Bruderly, for the record, is an environmental engineering consultant. Right now, though, he's campaigning full-time.

Bruderly is confident, despite the past two elections, that he can win. He, like other lesser-known Democratic challengers, is hoping for an anti-President Bush, anti-incumbent wave he can ride Nov. 7.

The district includes western Duval County and most of Clay County - and all or part of Alachua, Bradford, Gilchrist, Lake, Levy and Marion counties.

Stearns says he votes more conservatively than he should for the district. He expects that as long as he's in office, he'll have a Gainesville Democrat running against him.

During his first campaign, Bruderly jumped in on the last day with \$50,000 and ran it, he says, like a county commission campaign.



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"Knowing what I know now, I was crazy to think I could win," Bruderly said.

Two campaigns later, Bruderly finds himself in much the same situation.

His goal was to raise \$500,000. Finance reports through the end of September show he's raised just more than \$106,000.

His staff consists mostly of volunteers and his biggest fund-raising regret is not having enough money to pay workers.

Money isn't an issue for Stearns, who had more than \$2.3 million sitting in his campaign account, federal records show.

U.S. House members serve two-year terms and make \$165,200 a year.

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David E. Bruderly

U.S. House Representative, District 6

Party: Democrat

Age: 59

Residence: Gainesville

Occupation: Engineering consultant

Education: Bachelor's degree from U.S. Merchant Marine Academy; master's degree from Columbia University.

Background: Environmental engineering consultant for 32 years working in more than 20 states and over 40 countries worldwide; director of the Florida Hydrogen Business Council, Sustainable Alachua County, Florida Defenders of the Environment and the Cross Creek Initiative.

Family: Divorced, two children, four grandchildren

Web site: www.bruderly.com

What should the role of Congress be in preventing corporate scandals such as the investigation into the leak probe at Hewlett-Packard? Congress has the responsibility to maintain, protect and create regulations that prevent corporate scandals before they have a chance to occur. Holding "kangaroo hearings" after the fact does little for workers and investors who have been duped by those who break the law willingly. The incumbent has a history of gutting the regulatory process and then holding "kangaroo hearings" for those who take advantage of his largess. For example, in the late 1990s he killed efforts by Arthur Levitt, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission to make the securities industry more transparent and implement rules to insure auditor independence. After Enron and Arthur Andersen executives took advantage of these changes and destroyed these two fine companies, Stearns only held "kangaroo hearings," which did little to correct the failed system.

Jacksonville voters will be asked if they want to return the former Cecil Field to a Navy jet base, even though city leaders have decided to keep pursuing a commerce center on the property. If voters say they want the Navy back, what should be done? Cecil Field was abandoned by the Navy. At the time the incumbent Congressman [Stearns] should have fought to keep Cecil Field as a naval base. However, the decision has been made and I believe Cecil Field Commerce Center now should be retained. Jacksonville is in a unique position to support both proposals. The city government should try and convince the Navy to homeport a nuclear carrier at Mayport Naval Station and allow other nearby military bases to provide air support. These viable alternatives to Cecil Field would allow residents of the community to build infrastructure and promote new businesses in the area.

When should U.S. troops pull out of Iraq? Why? The question is not when, rather how the U.S. will accomplish this task. The United States military cannot continue to serve as a unilateral global anti-terrorist force. I propose a multi-point plan for disengaging U.S. forces from Iraq. The first step is for the U.S. to help create a Middle East Security Organization, similar to NATO. MESO will be formed to empower Arab nations to assume responsibility for enforcing security in the region. All nations in the region must participate to stabilize Iraq, including Saudi Arabia, Syria and Iran.

What is your position on stem cell research? I oppose the ban on embryonic stem cell research and support proposals that would use discarded embryos from artificial fertilization activities. It is irresponsible to create human embryos and then

throw them away.



Cliff Stearns

Party: Republican

Age: 65

Residence: Ocala

Occupation: U.S. representative

Education: Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University

Background: U.S. Air Force captain; small-business owner

Family: Wife, Joan; three children

Web site: www.cliffstearns.net

What should the role of Congress be in preventing corporate scandals such as investigation into the leak probe at Hewlett-Packard? The American people expect Congress to continue its strict oversight into corporate wrongdoing when necessary. My subcommittee held hearings on Hewlett-Packard, Enron and other instances of corporate fraud to determine what new safeguards are needed to prevent these abuses. All corporations have a duty to be good citizens but when they do not live up to this responsibility it is incumbent upon Congress to investigate and enact any necessary laws to ensure it never happens again.

Jacksonville voters will be asked if they want to return the former Cecil Field to a Navy jet base, even though city leaders have decided to keep pursuing a commerce center on the property. If voters say they want the Navy back, what should be done? The decision to bring a Navy jet base back to Cecil Field rests first with the mayor, the City Council and the people of Duval County. I believe that the people most affected by the jet base should have their voices heard on this issue.

When should U.S. troops pull out of Iraq? Why? The premature withdrawal of American troops from Iraq would have disastrous consequences for Iraq, for the Middle East, and for American foreign policy, and it would lead to a full-scale humanitarian disaster. Mistakes have been made in Iraq, but there is ongoing progress in expanding Iraqi security forces and rebuilding the nation's infrastructure. We should begin a drawdown of U.S. forces when the Iraqis are capable of defeating the terrorists and defending their own freedom.

What is your position on stem cell research? The issue is federal funding of more embryonic stem cell research, which is at this point, speculative. There is and has been no ban on private funding of [the research], so supporters could invest heavily into it if it were so certain, and yet we do not have one cure from [such research]. At the same time, research from adult stem cells has resulted in successful treatments since the '80s. Based on this history and the destruction of human embryos, I cannot ask taxpayers to fund embryonic stem cell research.

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