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Politics in New Jersey

By Josh Bunton

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Joshua J. Bunton

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Have you been paying attention to the National News lately? No? Then, you haven't heard about Governor Jim McGreevey.

For those who aren't familiar with the story we'll begin with the beginning.

On Thursday, August 12, 2004, Governor Jim McGreevey held a press conference to announce he was "resigning" effective November 15, 2004.

Accompanied by his wife, Vanessa, Governor Jim McGreevey further announced that he was a "gay American," and that he had an affair with Golan Cipel.

In an interview with The New York Post on August 14, 2004, Golan Cipel claims that he is a heterosexual and was sexually assaulted by the New Jersey governor more than a dozen times.

As concerning as this scandal is, the mainstream media is applauding the fact that he was "brave" to come out and ignoring the more important issues.

There's the issue of Golan Cipel (an Israeli national) who Governor Jim McGreevey named as his Homeland Security adviser. Cipel has no security experience. He is a former poet and sailor who once worked as a television news reporter and a spokesman for the Israeli Consulate in New York.

Cipel got the job without the official fanfare that typically accompanies such appointments. Cipel did not undergo a background check. Furthermore, Cipel is not an American citizen, so he could not qualify for a security clearance.

Then there is the issue of the governor waiting until November 15, 2004 to resign. The New Jersey GOP has requested the governor to quit immediately as he stated on August 12, 2004.

Sources have confirmed that John Kerry's campaign requested Governor McGreevey to wait until after the November 2, 2004 presidential election to resign. The source stated, "The Kerry campaign asked him to stay on until after the election because they need to have consistency until after the (presidential) election."

Additionally, the source confirmed the Kerry campaign requested the stay in McGreevey leaving office because, "the campaign contacted the Governor's Office and asked McGreevey to hold off on resigning, according to the source, fearing such a disruption would shift campaign funds and focus

away from Kerry's race and into a contest for governor on Nov. 2."

What's more concerning is the governor's decision to put politics ahead of what's good for the state of New Jersey.

If McGreevey were to resign before Sept. 3, there would be a special election Nov. 2 to fill the remaining 14 months of his term.

However, after September 3, 2004, Senate President Richard J. Codey, D–Essex, will likely be acting governor until January 2006.

Democrats said Republicans were exploiting the situation for political reasons.

Politics will be politics, in the end the only people who pay the price is the "citizens." Whether it is domestic issues or the current threat of terrorism in New Jersey the citizens should demand the right to an open election.

Josh Bunton is the former editor of ConservativeIssues.com. Josh's commentaries appear on RenewAmerica.us and have been featured on ChronWatch. You can visit Josh's WebSite at ReadJJB.com

New Jersey Home Remodeling

By Total Remodeling

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The U.S. state of New Jersey lies on the Eastern seaboard, with New York to its north and northeast, and Delaware and Pennsylvania to its west. New Jersey became heavily industrialized soon after the Revolutionary War, with the building of canals and railroads. It retained its position as a heavily

industrialized state well after World War II. However, it is now better known as a commuters' state, because many people who live in New Jersey commute to work in New York City, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. People prefer to buy homes in the suburbs of New Jersey's cities and travel to work in other states.

At Total Remodeling, we have done several home remodeling projects in New Jersey. Since New Jersey was one of the original 13 colonies, its craftsmen, architects, and designers absorbed several styles that were popular in the colonial period and also copied Victorian examples. Many homes in New Jersey have been built in the Neoclassical and Victorian styles. Most homes in New Jersey are built of wood, and since New Jersey is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the wood does tend to show signs of wear and tear within a few years.

Total Remodeling has done several projects in New Jersey using vinyl siding and roofing products, as well as doors and windows. We have used modern home remodeling products to give a new look to homes designed in the Victorian style. For example, we used vinyl siding products to finish a Second Empire French Victorian house in Maplewood, New Jersey, and received an award for our efforts. The vinyl siding products we use—System 2000 and Elite—replicate the look of cedar clapboard but require less maintenance. Our skilled craftsmen were also able to add and emphasize authentic period details that enhanced the look of the house.

Many homeowners in New Jersey have consulted us on home remodeling projects when they planned to sell their homes. One of our home remodeling projects in New Jersey was for a couple whose children had just joined college—this project took us four years to complete. At the end of this project, the couple hoped to sell their home of 15 years for at least \$300,000, which was the closing price in their locality. They closed the sale of their home at \$410,000.

Whether or not you plan to sell your home or live in it for the rest of your days, you can always consult us at Total Remodeling for your home remodeling needs.

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