

Presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard Presents before UVU students



Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard at Utah Valley University

Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard visited Utah Valley University (UVU) and spoke before students on Friday, February 21, 2020. She began by talking about how the biggest things the talking heads on TV miss is saying it's all about left vs. right, capitalism vs. socialism, etc. The powerful elite in Washington have forgotten who they work for and there are very real issues present today that affect us. The "us vs. them" culture is polarizing and has paralyzed Washington leading to gridlock. There is absolutely no focus on passing legislation, rather how to keep power for those that hold it, and how to obtain it for those who do not. Representative Gabbard is a Major in the US Army National Guard and said that the military is diverse, but they stand united by a mission of service to the country and politicians should do the same. Democracy requires all of us being active, so Washington remembers who they work for. They forget their power lies within the people. Gabbard urged the students to get out and vote regardless of party or belief. Mrs. Gabbard said she is happiest when doing things for others and

has wanted to serve people since she was a little girl. We are stronger as a nation when we treat each other with respect and see each other as fellow Americans. The “cancel culture” prevalent today undermines our values and principles such as the 1st amendment.



Presidential candidate Gabbard with UVU students

After her speech, she moved onto a question and answer session. The first student to receive the microphone thanked her for her service and stated that his brother also serves in the National Guard. His question was regarding her views on the 2nd Amendment, or the right to bear arms. She said she would encourage dialogue so that we can see we have more in common than what we disagree on. We can uphold rights and find ways to prevent tragedies at the same time. The next question came with someone reminding her that she is a self-proclaimed “hawk on terror”. He asked, with Iranian General Soleimani gone, is the world safer? She replied with no. President Trump took action without constitutional authorization. It is not disputable that (Soleimani) is a bad guy. She then went on to question what the ripple effects are, both immediate and long term. The main point of our actions should be, does it make us safer or not? The greatest responsibility

of POTUS is to ensure the safety of the people. Because of this action, all Iraq troops had to shift focus from ISIS and the Taliban to a defensive from Iran. This allows for the possible resurgence of terrorist organizations.

Next question was on bridging the gap between parties. Mrs. Tulsi Gabbard said this is at the heart of the issues. The 1st step she would take would be to invite congressional leaders to the white house. This bridge divides. An example of “mending the gap” from her time in the Hawaii legislature: She started with something simple: food. Her mother made macadamia nut toffee for all members of U.S. Congress and also the staff. She also wrote them personal notes. It helped her to be successful and heard, not automatically shunned by a republican majority.

For the next question about foreign policy, Mrs. Gabbard said that President Trump fumbles foreign policy. Her unique experience sets her apart. She knows what it is to have “boots on the ground”. She served 2 tours and 17 years. She has been a Member of the U.S. Congress and on the Homeland Security and Armed Forces Committee. Other candidates don’t understand short- and long-term consequences of the decisions made in foreign policy. We need to shift from being the world police and focus the military on threats. We need to redirect that money on these regime change wars to communities.



Dallas Karren with presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard

A Question about healthcare came next, where the presidential candidate said that insurance is focused on paying out little as possible. Price gouging is big. Yes, it costs to research and develop. But insulin? 3 doctors made it and only put \$1 patents on it yet it costs \$300/vial today. We need to negotiate lower prices. Additionally, prevention and awareness are important.

Cybersecurity was the last question and Congresswoman Gabbard said that it's hard to identify, and laws are not caught up with this rapidly changing threat.

I myself am a Republican. But I thought Congresswoman Gabbard's presentation was very interesting to listen to and had good points. I also got a picture with her after the meeting.

Dallas Karren, UVU student