

Editorial: McCain bold if not heroic

By Dave Berry, publisher and editor daveb@phillipsmedia.com | Posted: Wednesday, August 2, 2017 4:15 am

While taking heat from within his party for his vote on the healthcare issue last week, U.S. Sen. John McCain proved himself bold and conscientious, if not heroic, when he voted thumb down on a bad bill and made a statement in favor of a better way to make laws going forward.

Of course, it's easier to make such a bold vote with one's conscience while knowing there will be no more elections to face and no more campaign money to raise. But this man proved himself a hero long before his first election to office, and if not heroic with this move, he was at least conscientious.

With his vote, McCain saved the Republicans from themselves, at least for as long as it can last. They were about to make the same mistake Democrats, with an assist of non-participation from Republicans seven years ago, made with the Affordable Care Act, passing something with only their own fingerprints on it.

The best chance for a majority of citizens to unite behind a meaningful healthcare plan that provides access and control costs will be for members of both parties to get their heads together to write something — together — that will have both parties' fingerprints on it, even if it is with the smallest of majorities created out of yes votes from both sides, after hearings to get input from stakeholders across the nation.

Something is wrong in government when the majority leader of any party threatens his campers that if they can't force something — just anything — across the goal line after behind closed doors efforts hadn't produced anything, that they will be forced to have to work with the other side to get something done.

Too much is at stake for any party to go it alone on something that affects all citizens, regardless of their political brands.

— *Dave Berry*