What Andy Ogles risked by defying Kevin McCarthy

David Plazas | TN DAILY NETWORK | Tennessean

Once New Year’s week, the Fox & Friends show came to Nashville and interviewed Congressman Mark Green, R-Cleveland, who reaffirmed that Republicans were ready to govern once they took control of the U.S. House of Representatives.

He also expressed confidence Will Calί’s questions about fiction among GOP members of Congress and another Republican House Leader Kevin McCarthy successfully enough votes to be elected Speaker of the House.

“Most of this is read out loud and we can get used to and get that commitment to Americans to cross the finish line,” said Calί.

But, on Tuesday, McCarthy could not get a majority of his colleagues to vote for him. After three rounds of voting, the House adjourned without a Speaker and with which means the lower chamber cannot govern.

Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeff蕊es received more votes than McCarthy on Tuesday and in several more ballots on Wednesday and Thursday. On Friday, in the 12th vote, McCarthy finally secured more votes than Jeff蕊es (214-210), but he still fell short of a win.

(Editors note: More rounds of voting occurred prior to the print deadline for this column.)

Andy Ogles stood firm against Rep. Kevin McCarthy

Among the 20 or so insurgents who repeatedly thwarted McCarthy was the congressman’s Chattanooga colleague, Andy Ogles, R-Columbia, a former Maury County mayor, lobbyist and contrary to establish a reputation for being a maverick.

Ogles was elected in 2022 to the newly drawn Fifth Congressional District, which extends from Maury County to Wilson County with portions of Wil- liamson and Davidson. Last year, the Tennessee General Assembly split Nashville into three districts in a ploy to add one more Republican seat to the House. They succeeded in forcing long-term Democratic U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper into retirement.

Ogles once seemed like he would be in lockstep with Tennessee’s other rep- resentative Republican U.S. House members on the Speaker vote. In September, Ogles told POLITICO: “He’s (McCarthy) earned the right to lead the caucus — I’ll be supporting him.”

However, in a Facebook post prior to Tuesday’s vote, Ogles shared a letter he signed with a handful of other repre- sentatives stating that they had no as- surances that McCarthy would deliver on promises he made to them about de- centralizing and defanging House leader.

This fervor is reminiscent of the Tea Party, which elected enough repre- sentatives to be a thorn in the side of ruling Republicans and Speaker John Boehner. But at least Boehner was elect- ed on the first ballot in 2010. No Speaker has had to endure multiple ballots for 100 years.

Will Ogles prevail or be isolated?

Ogles sent a powerful message about how he intends to act as a congressman and set the stage for a very dangerous game. He voted against McCarthy 8 times, siding with McCarthy ally Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, the first few times then switching to side with Rep. Byron Donalds, R-Florida.

However, on Friday, in the 12th round, the congressman switched his vote to McCarthy saying negotiations have been made in “good faith.” What he gained is still to be seen.

While Rep. Mark Green is surely par- tisan, the doctor and combat veteran whom helped start the Reagan O’Snell Club to encourage bipartisan cooperation knows this what moment means for Republicans. Aside from Ogles, all of Tennessee’s other seven Republican House members voted for McCarthy again. They now know that this moment means too and they don’t want to waste it.

Ogles may believe he is representing his Fifth District constituents, several of whom reside in a portion of Nashville.

Is this what his voters really want? Surely, reasonable citizens can see that gamesmanship does not advance their interests and only weakens the House majority’s newly acquired power.

Ogles won on a bet, which may for- give the freshman Republican, but if he is on the losing end, he could risk be- coming politically isolated. And what does losing mean anyway? He may now be McCarthy’s go-to guy, but voters who wanted him to snub the Republican leader may now feel disinchanted.

David Plazas is the director of op- inion and engagement for the USA To- Day Network Tennessee. He is an editor- board panel member of The Tennesseean at apnews.com. You can reach him at dplazas@tennessean.com or tweet to him at @dplazasplazas

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| On-Site Hilton Hotel |
| 4-star with 292 rooms and rooftop lounge and pool |
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What’s next on the horizon?

The next phase of construction at BNA, which we’re calling New Frontier, will ensure we have the infrastructure and capacity to serve the Middle Ten- nessee region and beyond for years to come.

We just completed the new Concourse III at BNA, but it already time to extend that to add five additional gates, along with building a new Concourse A to add 20 additional gates. This in- creased capacity is important as we continue to attract new airlines and routes to serve the destinations that travelers want to visit, whether that’s in the U.S. or internationally.

We love having the nonstop London service through British Airways, and we have our sights set on adding more non- stop international service.

The future of Nashville and Middle Tennessee is exciting, and air service will be a big contributor to the success of the region as more people, businesses and tourists visit our great city.

We’re hard at work at BNA to ensure we have the world class airport Nash- ville needs and deserves. It takes time and a lot of construction to get us there, but we’re more excited about the future.

Thank you again for your pa- tience with our construction and sup- port of BNA as we reach new heights to- gether.

Doug Kreulen is president and CEO of Nashville International Airport.