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Brian F. Keane

Age: 36

Title: Executive Director

Company: SmartPower

Company Location: Hartford

Residence: Hartford and
Needham, MA

Career Highlights: In 1989, I earned a bachelor's degree in broadcast journalism and political science from American University in Washington, D.C. I subsequently served as a legislative assistant to Congressman Les Aspin (D-Wis.), and as deputy national field director for the Paul Tsongas for President Campaign in 1992. From 1992 to 1995, I was national field director for The Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan, anti-deficit organization. In 1995, I became executive director of Economic Security 2000, the first nonpartisan, grassroots organization dedicated to saving and reforming Social Security. In 1999, I was named director, external affairs of The Conservation Law Foundation, New England's leading environmental advocacy organization.

Community Volunteerism Highlights: I was a former candidate for Massachusetts State Senate. I also served as chairman of my eldest brother Tom's successful campaign for Boston City Council, and his subsequent race for the U.S. Congress in 1998.

Biggest Success: Marrying my wife, Kate Sawyer.

Dream Job: My dream job is somewhere between the intersection of public policy and public service. In my career thus far, I have relished taking tough, and often misunderstood, public issues and turning them into politically accepted public policy. In fact, that's what we



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PHOTO/STEVE LASCHER

trying to do with Smartpower — bring clean, renewable energy into the homes of people across the state and New England in order to create clean air, healthy communities and energy independence.

I am a “cause” person. I feel the most fulfilled professionally when my job is in line with a cause I am passionate about. A good “cause” makes me jump out of bed each morning, and gives added purpose to each and every day.

Person You Most Admire: Former Massachusetts Sen. Paul E. Tsongas. Today, some think that one cannot be both a person of principle and a politician. In fact, “principled politician” is considered an oxymoron, akin to “military intelligence” or “jumbo shrimp.” To such people, I readily argue that in 1991, I had the privilege of working for this person who not only came close to becoming president of the United States, but who also became my friend and mentor.

Paul proved to me it is possible to reach the highest offices in our land and still retain honesty, ideals, passion and honor. He proved that one could keep his or her values and integrity and still be a highly successful politician. He was the kind of politician — and person — my parents must have had in mind when they taught us that politics is indeed a noble profession. ■

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