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Do You Know How Your Congressman Votes?

Mark Kirk Unmasked as a Party-Line Republican

This is the first in an ongoing series of articles examining Congressman Mark Kirk's voting record in the 110th Congress.

Six months after his narrow victory over Dan Seals, Mark Kirk still appears to be on the campaign trail. He seems to be working harder than ever to recraft his image as a moderate Republican and to rebut those who (accurately) view him as a rubber stamp for the Bush administration. He's been busy sponsoring (or co-sponsoring) a flurry of legislative proposals and seizing every possible media opportunity – all with the aim of aligning his image with causes he knows are important to 10th District voters (e.g., the environment, aid to Katrina survivors, and help for disabled veterans).

But how genuine are these efforts? Do they

reflect a shift in Kirk's priorities and allegiances? Or are they mere smoke and mirrors?

As always, the proof is in the pudding – or, in this case, Mark Kirk's recent voting record. Kirk's actions on two of the most critical bills debated on the House floor so far this year (as identified by *The Washington Post*; see box on page 4) leave little room for optimism. Kirk voted against the supplemental appropriations bill that included a timeline for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq, against requirements to curtail war profiteering, and against funding for post-Katrina and Rita disaster relief and recovery.

Kirk also supported the Republican agenda by not casting a final vote either way on H. R. 4, which would require the U.S. government to negotiate lower prescription drug prices for

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Tenth News

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Power Lunch Serves Up Powerful Inspiration



Tenth Dems's John Hmurovic, one of the "exceptionally secure" men attending the Ultimate Women's Power Lunch, with Speaker of the House Hon. Nancy Pelosi.

by Mary Reynolds

As Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky put it, "2,062 powerful women and exceptionally secure men" attended her 6th Annual Ultimate Women's Power Lunch on Friday, May 4, 2007, at the Chicago Hilton. Among those present were more than 150 Tenth Dems, envious as we are of the

quality of representation our neighbors to the south enjoy. That wasn't just estrogen in the air; the ballroom was permeated with the scent of power exuded by Democrats finally in the majority again. Women came from all over the country – including Congresswoman Gwen Moore from Milwaukee, and a recent transplant to the Boston area back for the event – to bask in the Democratic warmth on a fine spring day in Chicago.

Many prominent political figures also were present to help celebrate, including at least 100 elected officials from all over Illinois, among them State Senator Susan Garrett and State



Dan Seals, Speaker Pelosi, featured speaker Hon. Geraldine Ferraro, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and Gov. Rod Blagojevich listen as Hon. Jan Schakowsky addresses the crowd.

Representatives Elaine Nekritz and Julie Hamos. Reverend Jesse Jackson also attended, as did his daughter-in-law, newly elected State Representative Sandi Jackson. Governor Rod Blagojevich attended and spoke about his tenure in Congress as a colleague and admirer of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, the keynote speaker. Dan Seals, the 10th District's former (and future) next congressman, was present and recognized; and he received enthusiastic applause from the audience. Senator Dick Durbin also attended and spoke briefly about Congresswoman Schakowsky's accomplishments in her committee work, especially on the Intelligence Committee. Michelle Obama was introduced as possibly our next first lady.

When the afternoon's formal program began, Geraldine Ferraro spoke first. She contrasted her groundbreaking campaign as a vice-

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West Deerfield Township Dems are On the Move

From your friends in West Deerfield Township

Greetings fellow travelers. Your friends in the West Deerfield Township Democratic Organization want to share with you a short note about what is going on in our sector in the ongoing battle for our Democratic Ideals. Some of our recent events include:

God and Politics: We recently hosted a seminar at the Deerfield Library on the topic "Is God an Independent? The Role of Religion in Politics." The featured guest was the well-known and highly regarded Dr. Ron Miller, author and professor of religion at Lake Forest College and the co-founder of Common Ground. Kudos to Ron Levitsky of the West Deerfield Dems for putting this together. We had a great turnout for this two-hour event and want to do more such events to reach out to the community.

Direct Action – The Environment: We put our backs where our mouths are. On May 12th we did one of our twice annual *Adopt a Highway* cleanups. Karen Truskowski of our group was able to arrange with the Lake County Highway Department for us to sponsor a high-traffic, two-mile stretch of Deerfield Road between Wilmot and Riverwoods Roads. Twice a year, in spring and fall, we get out there with our orange vests and garbage bags (provided by the highway department) and clean up the environment. And it's made a great difference. In the last year we have filled about 30 of those big, 55-gallon bags.

Presidential Committees: Who says the election is a long way off? Many of our folks have already joined various presidential campaign committees in support of one candidate or another. With the primaries now front loaded we will need to be getting out there this fall with petitions for the primary candidates!

An Intern: We have been able to arrange for a part-time summer college intern. This person is going to help us build a database of our best, best voters.

We have a very full schedule for this summer and fall including:

Fourth of July: This is a big event for us. We typically have a very large and very, very loud contingent that walks the parade and has a booth. This has been great for our visibility. This will be our fourth year.

More Seminars: This fall we hope to hold our own presidential debate. Although we will invite Hillary, Barack, John, Bill, and everyone else running, we expect their representatives to show instead. Nevertheless, we look forward to a lively debate of the various candidates' positions.

Adopt A Highway: We'll be out there again in the fall with our garbage bags. It's better in the spring, but we still do it twice a year.

Thanks to all the other townships for their ideas, help, and support. Let's make 2008 a very, very Democratic Year.

Republicans Proven Wrong Again by Steve Sheffey

In the last election, Mark Kirk's supporters argued that Democratic control of Congress would be bad for Israel. They told us that we had no stronger friend in Congress than Kirk. You can bet we'll hear the same rhetoric in 2008 from Kirk's supporters. Now that the Democrats do control Congress, let's see what actually happened so that we can measure their credibility.

The new Congress contains a record 13 Jewish Senators, only two of whom are Republicans. Of the 30 Jewish members of the House of Representatives, 29 are Democrats. The reason, of course, is that Democrats are strong on all of the issues of concern to the Jewish community, including Israel, while Republicans, thanks in part to the influence of the Christian right, have only Israel with which to appeal to Jewish voters. It is no wonder that 87 percent of Jews voted Democratic in the last election and that even those who dispute that figure admit that Democrats won the Jewish vote by a healthy margin.

New Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) is well-known as a strong friend of Israel. Carl Levin (D-MI), himself a Jew, now chairs the Armed Services Committee. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is no longer chaired by Lincoln Chafee (R-RI), who was no friend of Israel and who was defeated last November. This committee is now chaired by John Kerry (D-MA), who is unquestionably far better on Israel than Chafee was.

New House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) stated on March 13, 2007, that, "America's commitment to Israel is unshakable. ... Let us be very clear: Iran must not be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon. ... There are those who contend that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is

about Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. In truth, the history of the conflict has never been about the occupation. It is over the fundamental right of Israel to exist. ... The United States will stand with Israel now and forever."

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has a long record of strong pro-Israel activity. Tom Lantos (D-CA), the only Holocaust survivor in Congress, now chairs the House International Relations Committee. His deputy, Howard Berman (D-CA), is also Jewish. The House Subcommittee on the Middle East and Southeast Asia is now chaired by Gary Ackerman (D-NY), a very pro-Israel Jewish Congressman (he was sworn in on a *chumash*, a Jewish bible). The House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations is now chaired by another staunch supporter of Israel, Nita Lowey (D-NY), also Jewish. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who is Jewish, now chairs the International Terrorism and Nonproliferation Subcommittee.

Although the new Democratic Congress has been in session only a few months, it has already proven its commitment to Israel:

- When President Bush announced that he would ask Congress to transfer \$86 million to the Palestinian Authority, Nita Lowey used her prerogative as chairwoman to block the transfer; she later agreed to \$59 million only after the scaled-back Administration proposal was supported by Israel.
- Gary Ackerman, who delivered an impassioned defense of Israel during last summer's Lebanon war, denounced the Mecca Accords at the hearings his committee held.

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Power Lunch

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presidential candidate running with Walter Mondale in 1984 with the present campaigns of Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. She referred to the innocence of those days and to the fact that Senators Clinton and Obama today will be more prepared for campaign pitfalls, in part because of the gauntlet that she had to run. She also spoke movingly, as did both Representatives Schakowsky and Pelosi, about her nomination for vice president at the convention in 1984 in San Francisco. As we listened to these reminiscences, we could not help but make the connection between that groundbreaking event in San Francisco 23 years ago and this year's groundbreaking election of San Francisco's representative to Congress as the first female speaker of the House.



Hon. Lauren Beth Gash and Sen. Durbin

Ferraro, Pelosi, and Schakowsky told how they remembered that during the 1984 nominating speeches for Ferraro, and during her speech accepting the vice-presidential nomination, the floor of the hall was covered with women – convention delegates, aides, women who had brought their children. All three also remembered that the entire hall



Tenth Dems Muriel Lazar and Doug Gerlemand discuss politics.

dissolved in tears of joy that a woman had finally come to this place in America. Ferraro explained how she later found out that many male delegates had given their tickets to female alternates from their states so that these women could be present on the floor for this momentous occasion.

Gerri Ferraro may have been the first woman to run for one of the highest elected offices in our country on the ticket of a national party, but Speaker Nancy Pelosi has now actually taken the power of an elected official as far as a woman has ever been in America. Senator Durbin spoke about his pride in seeing her distinguished presence at high-level meetings with the president in the cabinet meeting room. In her own address, Speaker Pelosi roused the crowd with her demands for the continuing right to safe abortion, universal health care, and, what is perhaps uppermost on all of our minds at present, an end to this senseless war.

The afternoon was an opportunity for women (and those secure men who were also there) to see and hear local and national speakers and to recharge our Democratic batteries. Yet, amongst all the celebrities present, it just may have been our own Jan Schakowsky who made the strongest impression. Before she did her David Letterman quality take on the top ten reasons why it's good to be back in the majority in the House of Representatives, Jan talked about what it meant to her to have the opportunity to second the nomination of Nancy Pelosi for speaker of the House. When she read to us the short nominating speech she had made on that momentous January day, our eyes began to well up, and we understood more clearly the deep emotion felt in San Francisco 23 years ago.



Ellie Sykvan and Priscilla Sperling were among the 2,062 "Jan Fans" who filled the room.

Kirk Unmasked continued from page 1

Medicare beneficiaries. But his position on this bill was clear to those who looked more closely at its procedural history. Just seven minutes prior to sitting out the floor vote, Kirk voted in favor of the Republican motion to send the bill back to committee – in other words, to stall it indefinitely.

A cursory glance at Kirk’s votes on the five other key bills brought to a vote on the floor since the start of the 110th Congress might suggest a possible shift in his priorities. In each case, he voted the Democratic position on the final, up-or-down vote (see box). However, closer scrutiny reveals that, prior to each of these final

provisions at the heart of H.R. 6, including those that rescinded \$14 billion in tax breaks and subsidies for oil companies in order to generate money to fund development of clean, renewable energy resources – not exactly the vote one would expect from a congressman who claims to be a great friend of the environment!

The story of Kirk and H. R. 2, which would raise the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour over two years, follows much the same plot. Kirk dutifully voted “yes” on the bill when it came to the House floor. But just thirty minutes prior to this vote he voted along with other House Republicans to send the bill back to committee, i.e., to prevent it from coming to the floor at all – not

LEGISLATION	PRELIMINARY VOTE		FINAL VOTE	
	DEMOCRATIC POSITION	KIRK VOTE	DEMOCRATIC POSITION	KIRK VOTE
H. R. 1591: Supplemental appropriations bill to help the U.S. fight the war on terror. Includes a timeline for withdrawing U.S. troops from Iraq; requirements for minimizing no-bid and cost-reimbursements contracts.	N/A	N/A	Yes	No
H. R. 4: Medicare prescription drug price negotiation act of 2007.	N/A	N/A	Yes	Did Not Vote
H. R. 6: To reduce our nation’s dependency on foreign oil by investing in clean, renewable and alternative energy. The bill rescinds the tax breaks and subsidies for big oil companies, raises an additional \$6.3 billion in royalties from companies that pump oil and gas in public waters in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska, and redeploys these monies to fund alternative energy development.	To block consideration: No	To block consideration: Yes	Yes	Yes
H. R. 2: To increase the federal minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$7.25 an hour.	To block consideration: No	To block consideration: Yes	Yes	Yes

up-or-down votes, Kirk loyally supported the Republican agenda.

Kirk’s final votes alone give a skewed picture of his record. A closer examination of Kirk’s complete voting record on these 2007 key bills, including his preliminary procedural votes, reveals that Kirk continues to walk the tightrope between the need to appease constituents and his unwavering support for the Bush-Cheney agenda. In virtually every case, Kirk cast procedural votes, prior to the final up-or-down vote, in support of Republican efforts either to prevent these important Democratic proposals from moving forward or to water them down to a degree that would undermine their initial intent.

Take H.R. 6, for example, a bill designed to reduce the nation’s reliance on foreign oil and to stimulate development of alternative, clean energy sources. Kirk ultimately voted for passage of H. R. 6 – as he knew his constituents would wish. But approximately five hours prior to the final vote, Kirk joined other House Republicans in a straight party-line vote to block consideration of this important legislation. Prior to that, he cast two procedural votes to stall or alter the bill, one to send the bill back to committee (roll call no. 38) and another to consider a Republican substitute bill (roll call no. 39). The Republican substitute bill that Kirk supported proposed to eliminate



exactly the vote one would expect from a congressman who purports to support raising the minimum wage.

The saga continues. As we went to press, Congress sent President Bush an Iraq war funding bill with benchmarks, but not timelines. How did Kirk vote on this legislation? Since the final roll call votes published in the morning newspaper don’t always tell the whole story, we will continue our in-depth analysis of Congressman Mark Kirk’s voting record in the 110th Congress in future editions of this newsletter.

Public Relations is No Substitute for Public Policy

by Barbara Altman

The lead article in the May 12th *Chicago Tribune* reported 10th District Congressman Mark Kirk's trip to the White House with ten of his fellow so-called moderate Republicans to urge the president to rethink his Iraq war policy. In the report, the *Tribune*, which has never been accused of being a left-leaning media outlet, questioned Kirk's motives. Expressing skepticism that the visit was primarily intended to influence the president to rethink his failed Iraq policy, the news article acknowledged the possibility that Kirk's trip to the White House was motivated primarily, if not exclusively, by his fear of losing his seat in '08. No one who has been following Kirk's votes, or even visits his official websites, can doubt that his May White House visit was political public relations, and nothing more.

The face page of Mark Kirk's official website consists almost exclusively of press releases. On May 22, 2007, a visitor to www.house.gov/kirk would have learned from Kirk's "blog" in the upper left hand corner of his home page that a middle school in Northbrook has been named one of the top performing middle schools in the United States. Moving to the center of the home page, the visitor would have found another press release proclaiming that the 10th District's congressman is cosponsoring the American Veterans Disabled for Life Commemorative Coin Act. According to this, the most prominent of the press releases displayed on Kirk's home page on May 22, the legislation would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury "to mint coins in commemoration of veterans who become disabled for life while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces," with the revenue from the coins to be used to construct a "memorial" to disabled veterans. Another link accesses a video clip of Kirk speaking on the floor of the House in support of this legislation.

Left unaddressed in this press release – or anywhere else in Kirk's website – is any mention of the care or benefits due disabled veterans. A Google search of Kirk and "Walter Reed" does not yield any perorations against the deplorable conditions disabled veterans have been subjected to at this Army hospital. Rather, on March 5, CBS News in Chicago quoted Kirk as warning Democrats against turning the Walter Reed scandal into a partisan issue. Kirk's website is also silent about the logjam in the Department of Veterans Affairs that is making disabled veterans wait months and years for approval of the benefits they deserve. See *The Washington Post*, April 8, 2007.

This is not to say that Congressman Kirk's website is totally devoid of content. The links across the top do include one labeled "issues." Click on the "issues" tab, and the following list of "issues

Congressman Mark Kirk is working on" is displayed: "Environment, Education, Health Care for All, Fighting Crime and Illegal Drugs, Transportation, Foreign Policy, Retirement Security, Congressional Integrity and Fiscal Responsibility." However, there is far less here than meets the eye, as clicking on the links to these "issues" reveals.

Moreover, in typical "Republican-speak," the titles often camouflage a very different agenda from what they suggest.

Follow the link to "Health Care for All," for example. There, Kirk touts the Medicare prescription drug program. Whatever the merits of Medicare prescription drugs – and one might have expected Kirk to state his position on the Democrats' proposal to empower the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate with drug companies to obtain lower prices for Medicare beneficiaries – this program does not even purport to furnish health care services to "all."

Also under the "Health Care for All" banner is Kirk's proposal to limit tort awards and trial lawyers' contingency fees. Again, there's no explanation as to what this proposal has to do with "Health Care for All." Even banning medical malpractice litigation would do nothing for the plight of the 45 million men, women, and children in this country who lack health insurance. Notwithstanding his website claim that Kirk is "working on" the issue of "Health Care for All," Kirk does not even acknowledge the crisis of the 45 million uninsured, much less propose any legislation that would ameliorate this crisis.

Next, read what Congressman Kirk's website offers under the heading, "Foreign Policy." There we learn more about his resume, including meetings he has attended and committees he has served on. What we don't learn is where Kirk stands on the war in Iraq. Did he support the surge? Does he advocate benchmarks? Would he vote to bring our troops home by a date certain? If he has strong views on these critical issues,

Kirk certainly isn't using his official website to tell his constituents what those views are.

Which brings us back to the May 12 *Tribune* article about Kirk's trip to the White House. What could he possibly have said to Bush that would represent the views of his constituents? As Ellen Beth Gill so aptly quipped in her May 14 blog, Mark Kirk's position on Iraq, as gleaned from his speeches and his votes, can best be summarized as follows: "I am against continuing the war, and for getting tough with Bush, but for funding the war and for keeping troops in Iraq and continuing to support Bush, because if I make enough anti-war noise in the press, my district will never figure out that I really still mean stay the course, because it worked for me before." It is painfully clear that Mark Kirk is all politics and no policy.



100 Days To Be Proud Of

by Marla Sundb

When the Democrats became the majority party in both houses of Congress this past November, there was well-deserved jubilation and great expectations. More than 110 days have passed since the new 110th Congress rolled up its collective sleeves and began its work.

During that period, the new Congress demonstrated that it had heard the clamoring voice of the American people, who are disgusted with the ruinous actions of the Bush administration and are demanding more competence and accountability from Congressional leadership. Democratic leaders in the House and Senate immediately began work on bringing legislative initiatives to the floor that mirrored the voters' concerns.

With the efforts of the hard-working Democrats, a bill was passed by both houses to increase the minimum wage, as well as bills approving implementation of the 9/11 commission recommendations, a portion of which had been ignored by the Administration. Congress also answered the call to step up funding for research to develop life-saving measures for those suffering with serious chronic diseases, through expansion of stem cell research.

The Senate and House versions of all of these bills are currently in conference. This negotiation is designed in part to ensure that the legislation with the best chance of eluding a presidential veto reaches Bush's desk.

Congress also has responded to the most vehement message of the November election – withdraw our troops from the midst of the disastrous civil war in Iraq, a war that began under false pretenses. The new Democratic Congress passed a federal spending bill that included a timetable for withdrawal of American troops from Iraq. Unfortunately, Republican legislators continue to ignore the will of the majority in great enough numbers to prevent the two-thirds majority vote necessary for overriding President Bush's recent veto. Our Congressional leaders are at work on a two-tiered funding plan for the war, with specific benchmarks. Some are more steadfast, demanding that all funding for the war be terminated now.

In other strides, the 110th Congress:

- Through bipartisan cooperation, passed a budget resolution, something the 109th Congress was unable to do. The details are now being hammered out by the House and Senate.
- Made significant strides in oversight, including the ability to hold



House Democratic leaders after passing the Iraq Accountability Act.

hearings and issue subpoenas, that have resulted in hearings on the firing of U.S. Attorneys and other possible abuses of the attorney general.

- Voted to cut student loan interest rates by half and is investigating possible abuses by lenders and financial aid officers.
- Voted to roll back the subsidy for the major oil companies.
- Voted to require Medicare to use its bargaining power to purchase prescription drugs in bulk and pass those savings along to Medicare beneficiaries.
- Voted through Senate Bill 119 to eliminate defense contracting abuses, including no-bid contracts like the ones awarded to Halliburton for military action, relief, and reconstruction.
- Will shortly vote in the House on a bill to further stem lobbying abuses.

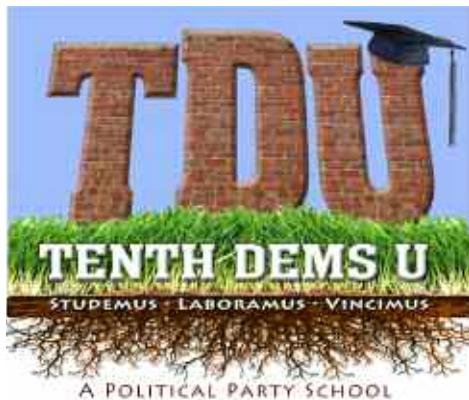
This new Democratic Congress spends far more days in session than did the Republican 109th Congress, displaying a work ethic that undoubtedly will lead to productivity unknown in the last Congress. A recent AP poll showed that the public approval rating of the new Congress is up from a dismal 24 percent in early 2006 to 40 percent and, it is hoped, rising.

The work of this Congress shows that it has the perseverance and determination to fight the hard issues, regardless of stonewalling and obstructionism by the other side. And even if some of these measures fail – it's 20 more months and counting, and the most intractable, myopic administration in recent U.S. history will stagger into the history books.

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Miller and Lerner Raise Consciousness in Deerfield

by Ellen Beth Gill

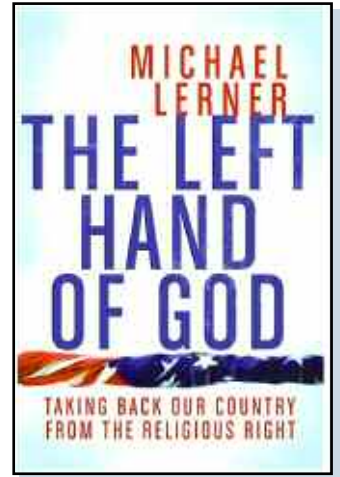
Dr. Ron Miller, chair of the Religion Department at Lake Forest College and co-founder of Common Ground, recently spoke in Deerfield. The talk was actually a review of the book, *The Left Hand of God*, by Rabbi Michael Lerner.

The world, according to Miller, is seen by each and every one of us through our own level of consciousness, the political left being at the rational level, typified by the founding fathers and their predecessors such as John Stuart Mill and John Locke, and the political right being at the tribal level, a simplistic "us vs. them" outlook that Miller described as "survival mode." Higher levels are the psychic consciousness, based on intuition and synchronicity, and mystical consciousness exemplified by the great religious leaders.

Miller reminded us that we have to be careful to respect each other's level of consciousness, even if we disagree with it, because great teachers invite and feel the other side. The strategy for creating meaningful dialogue among people at various levels of consciousness is to have each person break out of his or her own narrative and then for all, together, to get to a higher-level narrative that includes the truths from each.

Miller urged liberals to respect and feel the other side and invite others to join them, pointing out that Lerner's idea for such an invitation is a new spiritual covenant with America. The covenant is written to be acceptable to people of many religions, or to people of no religion at all. It rejects materialism and embraces the idea that "all families deserve a living wage, full employment, affordable, high-

quality child care, affordable health care, access to an excellent education and flexible work schedules." Education is to be "values-based," not entirely focused on skills. The covenant also includes personal responsibility, which is defined as a promise to "live with integrity, joy, honesty, kindness, openheartedness, compassion, forgiveness and generosity," and social responsibility, which includes a requirement that corporations operate in a socially responsible manner. Rounding out the covenant are environmental stewardship and the creation of a safer world based on Lerner's Global Marshall Plan.



While I have high regard for both Miller and Lerner, I don't know if I'm feeling as optimistic as they. Republicans have ratcheted up their noise machine to unprecedented levels, including accusing Democrats of not supporting the troops and using divisive rhetoric on proposed legislation on hate crimes and immigration. It is hard to imagine that inviting Republicans to join rational consciousness is going to make any difference. However, Miller does offer one comforting thought. We don't need all or most of them to effect change. We need only about 12 percent.

Republicans Wrong continued from page 3

- Alcee Hastings (D-FL), who chairs the United States Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, introduced legislation urging all European nations to allow for open access to the Holocaust archives located in Bad Arolsen, Germany.
- A letter authorized by the new chair of the House Foreign Affairs Europe Subcommittee, Robert Wexler (D-FL), who is Jewish, along with Gary Ackerman and their Republican counterparts, says the European Union should not give aid or grant recognition to the Palestinian Authority until it recognizes Israel, renounces violence, and accepts previous Israeli-Palestinian agreements.
- Tom Lantos has proposed the Iran Counter-Proliferation Act of 2007 (H.R. 1400), which would target foreign companies investing in Iran's energy sector. As Lantos pointed out, the Bush administration is crippling the Iran Sanctions Act by exercising its authority to ignore key sanctions provisions. Lantos' legislation would also re-impose import sanctions on Iranian exports to the United States.
- Rep. Steve Rothman (D-NJ), head of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, said at an April 19 hearing that Al-Hurrah has violated U.S. policy by airing live interviews with terrorist leaders such as Hezbollah chief Sheik Hasan Nasrallah.
- Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) initiated a congressional letter that would urge the United Nations to recognize the Jewish National Fund as a non-governmental organization.
- Rep. Ackerman's committee brought attention to the plight of Jews in Arab countries who, said Ackerman, "were compelled to leave their homes because of circumstances that included terror and government edicts." Ackerman stressed at the

May 8th hearing that "Jewish refugees from Arab lands are of great concern to the Committee."

- Nancy Pelosi was among the first to denounce Jimmy Carter's biased, error-ridden screed *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*, speaking against the book even before she officially became Speaker of the House. "With all due respect to former President Carter," she said, "he does not speak for the Democratic Party on Israel." Senator Reid, Democratic National Committee Chair Howard Dean, Steve Israel (D-NY), Charles Rangel (D-NY), Jerry Nadler (D-NY), and John Conyers (D-MI), the new chair of the House Judiciary Committee, also issued statements criticizing Carter's book early on.

The point of all this is not that the Republicans are necessarily all bad on Israel. Many Republicans agree with the above Democratic stands on Israel, and some, including Mark Kirk, have even become minority party co-sponsors of these efforts. It would be easy to do an attack piece on Republicans, selectively listing the few Republicans in Congress who do not support Israel, similar to the Republican-inspired attack pieces on Democrats that appeared last fall. But that would be just as misleading. Most Congressional Republicans do support Israel. The point is that in the last election, Kirk supporters misrepresented the views of the vast majority of Democrats in Congress. Our Republican friends are entitled to their own opinions, but not to their own facts. There are major differences between the parties, but Israel is not one of them. People who truly care about a strong U.S.-Israel relationship should not try to turn bipartisan support for Israel into a partisan issue. The Democratic Congress is already proving to be every bit as pro-Israel as its Republican predecessor, if not more so. If you're pro-Israel and you yearn for the days when Denny Hastert ran the show, then vote Republican. But please don't question the pro-Israel commitment of those of us who vote Democratic. We are in good company.

The Tenth Congressional District Democrats

Are Proud to Present a FREE Showing of:

The Dixie Chicks in **SHUT UP & SING**

The compelling documentary about the Dixie Chicks and the Bush administration's efforts to squelch those who disagree with them.

*We are guaranteed the right to free speech by our Constitution.
What price must we pay for this privilege?*

Join the Discussion

WHEN: Tuesday, June 12, at 7:00 P.M.

WHERE: The UAW Region IV Hall
680 Barclay Blvd., Lincolnshire,
approximately four blocks west
of Milwaukee Ave., just north of
Aptakisic Road

- Bob Medich, media director at the Old Town School of Folk Music, will be our featured speaker and moderator. Mr. Medich has received numerous national awards for his work as an on-air promotion writer and producer.
- Popcorn and other light refreshments will be available for purchase. Come early and bring your friends for this very informative event and discussion.



Join Us and Be Part Of the Effort to Take Back Our Constitution

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