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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers,
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Tenth Dems Annual Fundraiser to Feature George McGovern

Those who attend the Tenth District Democrats' annual fundraiser on Saturday, July 28, will be treated to the wisdom of an elder statesman who has been involved in Democratic politics for more than 54 years. Former Senator George McGovern, the Democratic Party's presidential candidate in 1972, will give the keynote address.

Two awards will also be presented: the Rosenblit Volunteer Award, given to the Tenth Dems volunteer of the year; and the Mikva Leadership Award, presented to a public official who has displayed leadership in service to the public.

This year's event will also include a raffle, with an assortment of prizes available for those who participate.

Details are still being finalized for the fundraiser, which will be held at 5:00 p.m. on the 28th. Watch your mailbox for an invitation, or your e-mail for announcements, or call 847-266-8683 to make sure you get a ticket to attend. Space will be limited.

This is the fourth Tenth Dems summer fundraiser. Others have featured keynote speeches by Barack Obama during his campaign for the U.S. Senate in 2004, Wisconsin U.S. Senator Russ Feingold in 2005, and Indiana U.S. Senator Evan Bayh in 2006.

George McGovern: A Man With the Courage of His Convictions

by John Hmurovic

If we believe in an America that stands for compassion, equality, and justice for all, and that has the courage to stand up for those principles no matter which way the political winds blow, then George McGovern is the

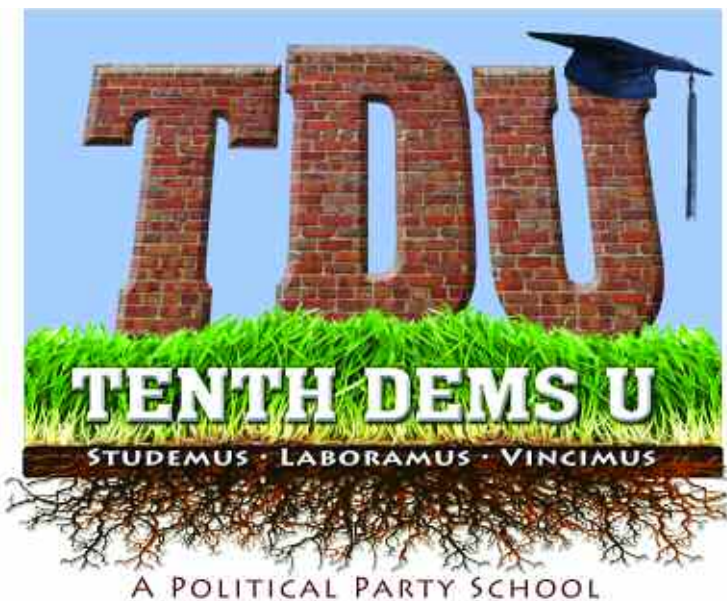
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Tenth News

www.tenthdems.org
JULY 2007 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 4, Edition 7

Tenth Dems University Opens This Month...Enroll Now!



by John Hmurovic

Our area's newest school doesn't have a campus. It doesn't have a full-time faculty. It doesn't have a library, bookstore, homecoming queen, or football team. But if you want to learn about politics and government within an easy drive of your home, you won't find a better school at a better price than Tenth Dems University.

Tenth Dems U is starting classes this month. It is open to all, and

tuition is free. All you have to do to become a student is go to our website at www.TenthDemsU.org, look at the list of available courses, and sign up. Check back often, because every month a new set of courses will be offered.

We don't have a full-time faculty, because all our instructors are volunteers. But don't let that fool you into underestimating the talent of our faculty. Tenth Dems U instructors are exceptionally high-quality volunteers. For example, one of the courses being offered this month is "How To Win An Election in the 10th District," and Tenth Dems U has the best instructor available to teach it – former 10th District Congressman Abner Mikva, who also served as a federal judge and, later, as an advisor to President Clinton.

Another course in July is "Whatever Happened to Gun Control?" This class will be led by Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, a leading campaigner for sensible gun laws ever since members of her family were murdered by a gunman in their Winnetka home. She will lead a panel of experts that consists of state Senator Dan Kotowski, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Gurnee Police Chief Robert Jones, and Thom Mannard, who is the Executive Director of the Illinois Council on Handgun Violence.

Tenth Dems U classes are aimed at three groups. We want to educate the public about the issues that we all need to know about. We also want to train those who may want to be candidates for public office, and those who want to know more about grassroots politics. Anyone in those last two categories would benefit from two other July courses: "Getting Out the Vote on Election Day," taught

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What Tenth Dems Means to Me

by George Rosenblit

I was recently asked how it felt to work as a volunteer for Tenth Dems. The short answer is GREAT! But the long answer will tell you why, and that may be more interesting.

I have been retired since 1990. Prior to that time, I had been in marketing management positions for nearly 40 years – even though my formal training was in chemistry, where I learned how to solve problems. As a result, I looked forward to a new challenge every day in my career field. It was great to be paid for doing something I really enjoyed.

Now, let's fast forward to age 50, when I received an invitation to join the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). This was a shocker! How did I get so old so fast? One-half century gone by, and counting! My first thought was, "What will I do when I retire?" I had no idea how to keep myself occupied at age 65 and beyond. With 15 years to think about it, this problem was put on the back burner for a while.

In the meantime, I joined a social action group through my religious affiliation. It felt good to help cook the food at home and feed the

homeless in a church in Evanston, even though I lived in Highland Park. One of the homeless, a different representative each time, came back into the kitchen to thank us for the food. I could feel my eyes watering. This activity marked the beginning of my heartfelt concern for those who were less fortunate. The die was cast.

So, at age 65, I sought activities involving social action. I became Outreach Speaker for AARP for five years, three of which included being liaison to Congressman John Porter to allocate funds for the elderly. Then, I volunteered to be an Outreach Speaker for the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform. When I heard about Tenth Dems, I realized that here was my chance to bring all my past experience – career, social action, and political involvement – to an activity where I could be useful and enjoy problem-solving once again.

Tenth Dems, the Tenth Congressional District Democratic Organization, and the people in it have been a joy. It has been an opportunity to help build a grassroots organization to support the best Democratic candidates for public office, local and federal. We signed up over 1000 volunteers and recruited interns from high schools and colleges. We trained them. They knocked on doors to talk to the voters and delivered informational literature to them at homes, shopping malls, railroad station platforms, and local events.

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Dan Seals addressed a packed room at Flanagan's in North Chicago on June 16th as Shields Democrats and Independents, a newly formed township organization, held its Candidate Forum. Other speakers included State Representatives Karen May and Eddie Washington, North Chicago Mayor, Leon Rockingham, and Circuit Judge candidate, David Weinstein. Visit www.shieldsdemocrats.org for more information on the organization. Photo by Marli Jones.

Volunteer, Please!

by Marla Sundh

"Hello, this is the Tenth Dems calling. We have some exciting volunteer opportunities..."

Now, please listen if you get that call. Volunteer activity has so many benefits for you that you may never have considered.

By volunteering and working on events, you get the satisfaction of knowing you have been on the ground floor of an important mission: bringing progressive government into our communities, local and national.

Through volunteering, you get an opportunity to make new contacts and meet new friends. When you volunteer, you come into contact with a diverse range of people, all of whom have made the decision to give of their time freely. Often these new friends can add richness and inspiration to your life.

Research has shown that volunteering is good for your health. A recent study at Johns Hopkins found participating in volunteer activities keeps the mind sharp, promotes healthy aging, imbues a stronger sense of well-being, and increases social contacts.

A common motivation for volunteering is the possibility for networking and skill development that may help you in your career endeavors. Self-confidence grows as you practice those new skills, whether by writing an article like this one, making phone calls, canvassing door-to-door, attending events, and more. Participating in running a fundraiser, for example, expands your skill set in budgeting, communication, marketing, and planning. What a nice addition to your resume! Marching in a parade or painting a sign can introduce you to skills in the public relations and artistic areas.

Often we forget that we are members of a community, whose interdependence is essential to a positive culture. Becoming involved in your community creates social cohesion, and our community becomes a more desirable and safe place in which to

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Tenth Dems Interns: Where Are They Now? by Ben Struhl

In the summer of 2004 the Tenth Dems, then a newly formed organization, took in its first class of interns. I was fortunate enough to be one of those first interns, and I enjoyed my time enough that I returned the next year to help supervise the new group of interns. Even after graduating from high school and going off to Brown University, I've kept coming back to 10th District grassroots politics – with the Moraine Township Democrats, on the Dan Seals campaign, and now back with the Tenth Dems as Projects Director. Recently, I thought I'd contact some of my old intern friends from the last few years and see what they were doing. It seems most of them have been as busy as I have – or even busier.

Bruni Hirsch, a fellow member of the Tenth Dems inaugural intern class, is currently going to school in Germany, as part of the "Tufts in Tuebingen" program at Tufts University. Bruni is going into her senior year. She is majoring in International Relations and Community Health, and minoring in German Studies. Bruni's first volunteer position was as an intern with the Tenth Dems, but since then she has been an intern and advocate for Rape Victim Advocates of Chicago and a social care manager for Neighborhood Health Plan in Boston. Last February she went to rural Nicaragua with the Tufts Medical School Clinic, and she will be vice president of the Tufts Community Union next year.

Buzz Maslov, another of the original 2004 interns, has also been busy. Going through college at breakneck pace, he graduated summa cum laude from the University of Illinois with a degree in economics. Now he's going to Harvard Law School, where he just finished his first year. This summer he's working as a summer associate for a law firm in Washington, D.C., where he's involved in antitrust and corporate defense work.

Anita Birse, one of our second year interns, has also graduated from college recently. Anita graduated Lake Forest College with a double major in politics and psychology. Currently, she works at Loyola University as a financial assistance advisor and will begin graduate study there in the higher education program with an emphasis on student affairs. In addition to all her schoolwork and her job, Anita still serves in the U.S. Army Reserves.

Another of our second year interns, Dan Swislow, has been taking a year off from school to do political work, interning for Senator Chris Dodd and working with a fundraising consulting firm. Over the summer Dan is continuing with Senator Dodd, doing work on the Senate Banking Committee. Dan has also recently gone to New Orleans to help out with post-Katrina recovery. He also has interned with Hillary Clinton's Senate re-election campaign, backpacked in Europe, and worked as Deputy Press Secretary for the Harrison for Congress campaign in New York City. He plans to finish college next year and graduate from New York University in the spring.

Amanda Wall, another second year intern, has also been busy politically, interning for State Representative Barbara Flynn Currie and for Senator Dick Durbin at his Chicago office. Earlier this year she interned at The People's Law Office, a civil rights law firm. This summer, Amanda is in South Africa working at The Institute For Democracy in South Africa in the parliamentary information monitoring service. She's currently a junior at the University of Chicago.

Last year's interns have been keeping pace with the others. Among them, Doug Horn has graduated recently from the University of

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My Dilemma, or... *How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Like the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill* by Adrienne Kirshbaum

For six years, I seethed and suffered. I watched a terrible administration make one bad decision after another, only to be returned to office with a majority of the popular vote. I looked around me at the people I saw walking down the street and shopping in the malls and I wondered, "What are they thinking!?!?" I feared that I was growing old, and quite possibly would never see another Democratic majority. The evidence of corruption and incompetence in the Bush administration continued to build. And then we had the election of 2006. Slowly – much too slowly – the people of this country had awakened. Finally, as the death toll mounted, they had realized that the Iraq War was not going well, and they turned to the Democrats to get us out of there. There were other issues, of course, but the pundits had decided that Iraq was the main reason for our victory, and now the pressure was on us to end the war.

I worried about this as I tasted the joy of victory. Being a Democrat and a Cubs fan, I always find a reason to worry. But I believed that if we weren't able to make a difference in Iraq, the people would turn on us, and no matter what else we'd be able to accomplish, they'd vote us out. So, along with most other loyal Democrats, I held my breath, crossed my fingers and hoped for success.

The much-publicized first 100 hours went so well, and I was thinking, "See? We showed them! We know how to run things!" But only a fool would think it was always going to be that easy. And there was still the war to worry about. And the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill.

I think a large part of the problem with the public's perception of Congress is that the bills legislators deal with are so complex and so difficult to understand. It takes a lot of work to decipher them and determine what they mean and how they will affect us. We get our news from newspaper headlines designed to arouse us or, on television, from sound bites meant to inflame and sensationalize. There is no space in the newspaper, or time on TV, for in-depth analysis of a bill that has hundreds of pages. So when both houses of Congress were able to pass a bill that demanded time lines to get our troops out of Iraq, I cheered. It was happening; we were going to end the war!

Then President Bush vetoed the bill.

This is when my troubles started. Neither house of Congress was able to get the two-thirds majority necessary to override the president's veto. A compromise bill was fashioned, with no time lines, less money for the war, and benchmarks for the Iraqis. It only funded the war through September of this year, which was a shorter time than the original bill. Bush signed it, and the uproar was deafening. Many of the "progressive" radio hosts on the station I listen to all day cried, "Cowards! The Democrats folded! They caved in!" This, of course, was also how it appeared to me. I didn't understand the legislation. And as far as I was concerned, any compromise with Bush was a bad thing.

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Tenth Dems U *continued from page 1*

by political consultant Steve Sadin, and "Dirt Digging and Legislative Lookup: Internet Research in Politics," which will be taught by local political blogger Ellen Beth Gill.

Here are a few additional facts about Tenth Dems U:

Class Locations

We will be holding classes at locations throughout the 10th District. The first group of classes will be in Winnetka, Deerfield, Northbrook, and Highland Park.

Instructors

Our aim is to bring you courses taught by only the best. Our instructors are people who have worked in their field, and who have years of experience and knowledge to share.

Length of Courses

Many classes will be just one session, probably two hours maximum. Some, like this month's class on political research on the internet, will have more than one session, but will be set up so you can still learn something even if you only attend one of the sessions.

Admission to Tenth Dems U

Pre-registering for courses is important. We may have limited seating for some of the classes, so go to www.TenthDemsU.org to reserve your spot. Classes are open to everyone, regardless of whether you reside within the 10th District. Again, there is no cost to attend, and new courses will be offered every month.

Degrees

Yes, we are offering degrees. Attend five Tenth Dems U classes and you will be awarded an associate's degree in 10th District politics. It takes completion of ten courses to earn a bachelor's, 20 for a master's, and 30 to become a doctor of 10th District politics. We plan to have our first graduation ceremony to award the degrees next summer.

Studemus. Laboramus. Vincimus.

If your Latin language skills have too many cobwebs to be dusted off, here is what the phrase above means: "We study. We work. We win." It appears on the Tenth Dems U logo for a good reason. We learn in school that democracy is what makes America great. Tenth Dems U is all about making it even better. If "we study," we will learn more about the problems and issues we face and how to take action to bring about change. If "we work," we can make

Why I Volunteer *continued from page 2*

We also gave grants of money to people running for office.

It costs money to run this type of operation. We need to raise funds. So if you believe in true democracy, please give what you can afford, but give something, and help share the burden when you are asked.

I'll be 83 in August. I once thought I'd be over the hill at 65, but I'm not over the hill yet. Nor will I ever be as long as I can think clearly. I firmly believe that adults of all ages should not only be concerned about the direction of our country but also should be actively engaged in the political process – to make things happen for the benefit of all, not just for the few. Being active is healthy. It gives you a reason to get up early in the morning. And you'll live longer.

So what are you waiting for? Join Tenth Dems today if you haven't already. And don't forget to volunteer. There's something for everyone to do, regardless of experience. To volunteer, contact volunteers@tenthdems.org, or call 847-266-vote (8683).

A Preview of August Offerings for Tenth Dems U

America's Military Misadventure in Iraq: How did we get there? What has been accomplished and at what cost?

Date: Wednesday, August 1, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Location: TBA

Instructor: David Borris, businessman, Democratic committeeman, wage and benefit advocate, and peace activist.

We will briefly discuss the creation of the modern state of Iraq in the aftermath of the first world war, the United States's support for Saddam Hussein's brutal regime throughout the 1980's, Gulf War I and the decision not to go into Baghdad, and the subsequent UNSCOM and UNMOVIC inspections.

We will review the National Security Strategy of 2002 and the political philosophy that gave it birth and touch on the critical differences between pre-emptive and preventative war in international law.

We will then examine some of the now obvious mistakes made in the invasion's aftermath within the context of American militarism and pursuit of empire. This will allow us to discuss the costs - financially, in human suffering, in the stability of the region as a whole, and in damage to America's image around the world. The class will explore the unique privatization of this war, and war profiteering in general.

Finally, we can engage in a discussion of where we go from here, and the consequences of various courses of action.

those changes happen. And if we succeed, the result for all of us will be that "we win."

Be a part of Tenth Dems U and be a part of making change happen by getting the best political education, from the best instructors you can get, at the best price, close to home.

Go to www.TenthDemsU.org to enroll.

Get Ready to Rock and Enroll!

Important: Be Sure to Register in Advance. Seating May Be Limited.

Interns *continued from page 3*

Illinois in Champaign. After working with the Tenth Dems he went on to work for local State Senator Kathy Ryg in the western part of the 10th District. Now, fresh out of school, he's busy looking for a job.

Rachel Mose tick, also of last summer, is our only former intern who is still in high school, but she's been no less busy as she looks forward to her senior year. Right now she is interning at Highland Park Hospital, shadowing medical professionals as they do their jobs. She hopes to take her experience back to school with her, and to get honors credit when she graduates next year. As yet she is undecided where to go to college.

So, while former interns at Tenth Dems have gone on to a wide variety of different activities, many have continued to participate in grassroots politics and other public service endeavors. All of us at Tenth Dems would like to wish our former interns the best, and the author would like to thank them for their contributions to this article.

Tenth Dems U July 2007 Class Schedule

Hon. Abner Mikva on

How To Win an Election in the 10th District

Date: Tuesday, July 24, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln, Winnetka

Instructor: Hon. Abner Mikva, Former 10th District Democratic Congressman

In 1972, Abner Mikva ran an aggressive and passionate campaign for the 10th District Congressional seat. He lost, but came back two years later and became the first Democrat to represent this area in Congress since Julius Goldzier was swept into office on the strength of the Grover Cleveland/Adlai Stevenson ticket in the 1892 presidential race. Today, Democrats have one of their best shots at reclaiming that seat, but it's not going to be easy. In this course, Judge Mikva will share some of his extensive knowledge of the 10th Congressional District and what it takes to win here. He will discuss the challenges he had to overcome to narrowly edge out his Republican opponents, and which of the lessons that he learned still apply today. In this course we will also discuss the current 10th District's geography, and take a look at the people who live here, what issues they care about, and how they have voted in recent elections.

Whatever Happened to Gun Control?

Date: Monday, July 16, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook

Instructor: Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins, Gun Control Activist

Despite the deadliest shooting spree in recent U.S. history occurring just a few months ago, the issue of gun control does not appear to be near the front of the list of concerns being discussed by most candidates and voters. Jennifer Bishop-Jenkins will lead a panel discussion on what has been happening with gun control, as well as the status of gun laws in Illinois, proposed legislation, and what the NRA lobby is doing to oppose gun restrictions. Jennifer has been a leading voice on the issue of gun violence ever since her sister and brother-in-law, and their unborn child, were shot to death in their Winnetka home in 1990. Accompanying Bishop-Jenkins will be a panel of experts: State Senator Dan Kotowski, Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, Gurnee Police Chief Robert Jones, and Thom Mannard, the Executive Director of the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence.

Dirt Digging and Legislative Lookup:

Internet Research in Politics

Date: Saturday, July 28, 2:00 p.m.

Location: Garden Room of McDonald's, 50 Waukegan Road, Deerfield

Instructor: Ellen Beth Gill, attorney, political activist, and author of Ellen's Tenth Congressional District Blog

In this day and age, you can find timely, in-depth political information online, completely free of charge. However, most people don't know it's there, much less how to find it. Fortunately, Ellen Gill, a prominent local political "blogger" and an expert on internet research, will tell you what you need to know about how the internet has revolutionized the way our government is monitored and how campaigns are run, as well as what you can do to be a part of this new wave. You'll get hands-on experience at tapping into Congressional voting records, court cases, committee hearings and more. The course will also help you decipher the information that you find.

Keep your schedule free for a second, related course in August. Details to come soon.

Getting Out the Vote on Election Day

Date: Thursday, July 19, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Highland Park Recreation Center, 1207 Park Avenue West, Highland Park

Instructor: Steve Sadin, Political Consultant

If your supporters don't vote...you lose. It's as simple as that. But nothing is simple about getting voters to the polls. That's why political campaigns devote a lot of effort to "getting out the vote." Steve Sadin, a professional political consultant and founding member of Tenth Dems, has worked on getting out the vote in many campaigns. He will share his expertise, including his experiences in helping the 2004 Barack Obama campaign for the U.S. Senate build its north suburban campaign nearly from scratch. He will also delve into the specifics of phone banking, canvassing, computer skills, and identifying constituent groups to build an effective get-out-the-vote operation.

Volunteer, Please continued from page 2

live. And volunteers discover that it feels good to contribute to the well-being of their community.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any political organization. Electoral campaigns rely on volunteers and can be won or lost by the strength of that group. Patty Livingston is one of those volunteers. Patty started with Tenth Dems in our organization's infancy, partly because she "loves meeting people with the same principles and values." She has worked phone banks, set up meetings, worked in the Moraine office, and attended events. Patty believes working together makes us stronger. "I believe in the Democrats," she relates.

Mary Reynolds, Tenth Dems volunteer coordinator, believes in the volunteers. Here's how she describes that faith: "I'm always amazed by the enthusiasm and ingenuity of Tenth Dems volunteers. When I'm stuck on an assignment, there's always somebody with different experiences and skills to get the project rolling again. Seeing volunteers staff an event is poetry in motion – everyone is always so willing to pitch in. I guess the most rewarding part of coordinating volunteers is getting phone calls or emails: 'Mary, I heard you were looking for volunteers this week. How can I help?' Tenth Dems volunteers have busy, multi-faceted lives, but they know how critical it is to work for progressive change in our district. Every volunteer's effort makes a difference."

Recent political contests have attested to the power of grassroots volunteerism. We have to look no further than our own district to see that. A true democracy means involvement, and government by the people. A healthy volunteer population is essential to those principles. Tenth Dems is proud to boast that kind of volunteer base. And we've always got room for more. To volunteer, contact volunteers@tenthdems.org, or call 847-266-vote (8683).

McGovern continued from page 1

personification of our ideal.

McGovern is best known as the Democratic presidential nominee who lost to Richard Nixon in 1972, as a three-term U.S. Senator from South Dakota, and perhaps most of all as one of the leading voices against the war in Vietnam. But McGovern's life has many more chapters than those, including important connections to Chicago's north suburbs.

Born in South Dakota in 1922, he is certainly a product of his upbringing in the American Midwest. The son of a Methodist minister, McGovern grew up learning the values of caring for the plight of others and standing up for what you believe is right.

When World War II began, McGovern was 19. He volunteered for military service and became a pilot of a B-24 bomber. He flew 35 combat missions and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

After the war, McGovern returned to school. He considered following in his father's footsteps and studied at Garrett Theological Seminary in Evanston; but he changed course and attended Northwestern University, graduating with a doctorate in history. Returning home to South Dakota to teach, he became active in Democratic politics, drawn to the Democratic Party in part by Lake County resident Adlai Stevenson.

Although he is probably best remembered as one of the earliest opponents of the war in Vietnam, McGovern has devoted devoted much of his life to helping the poor and hungry. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed him the first head of the Food for Peace program. In Congress, he led efforts to expand programs to combat hunger,

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Kirk Votes Both Ways on the 9/11 Commission Recommendations and Student Loans



This is the second in an ongoing series of articles on Mark Kirk's voting record in the 110th Congress

As Mark Kirk struggles to walk the tightrope between his responsibility to represent the values of Tenth District voters and his steadfast support of the Bush administration, he increasingly is relying on a time-tested tactic: take the Democratic position on high-profile, final votes but undermine the same policies by voting the Republican position on less visible, procedural votes.

Last month, this newsletter highlighted two key votes during the 110th Congress in which Kirk employed the aforementioned tactic: H. R. 2 – Increasing the Minimum Wage and H.R. 6 – Reducing the Nation's Dependence on Foreign Oil by Investing in Renewable Energy. (See "Do you Know How Your Congressman Votes? Mark Kirk Unmasked as Party-Line Republican," *Tenth News*, June 2007).

In this issue, we examine Mark Kirk's voting record on two other bills debated on the House floor this session: H.R. 1 – a bill designed to improve our nation's security by enacting the remaining reforms recommended in 2004 by the 9/11 Commission (which earlier had been rejected by the Republican-controlled

Congress); and H.R. 5 – The College Student Relief Act, a Democratic proposal to reduce interest rates for student borrowers whose families earn between \$26,000 and \$68,000 a year.

In the case of both H.R. 1 and H.R. 5, Kirk voted yes--the Democratic position--on the final vote when the bill came to the House floor. But just minutes before those votes he supported Republican-led efforts to block these important pieces of legislation from moving forward to the House floor by voting "yes" on motions to send the bills back to committee. (See box below)

This two-tiered approach has constituted Mark Kirk's effort to have his cake and eat it too. He strives to craft an image of himself as a moderate Republican while simultaneously supporting the ultraconservative Republican agenda.

That's why it's critical for Tenth District voters to know Mark Kirk's full voting record, including his procedural votes. We'll continue to examine Kirk's record in the 110th Congress in future issues of this newsletter.

Legislation	Motion to Recommit to Committee (To Block Consideration)		Final Vote	
	DEM POSITION	KIRK VOTE	DEM POSITION	KIRK VOTE
H. R. 1: Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission	No	Yes (Roll call 14)	Yes	Yes (Roll call 15)
H.R. 5: The College Student Relief Act	No	Yes (Roll call 31)	Yes	Yes (Roll call 32)

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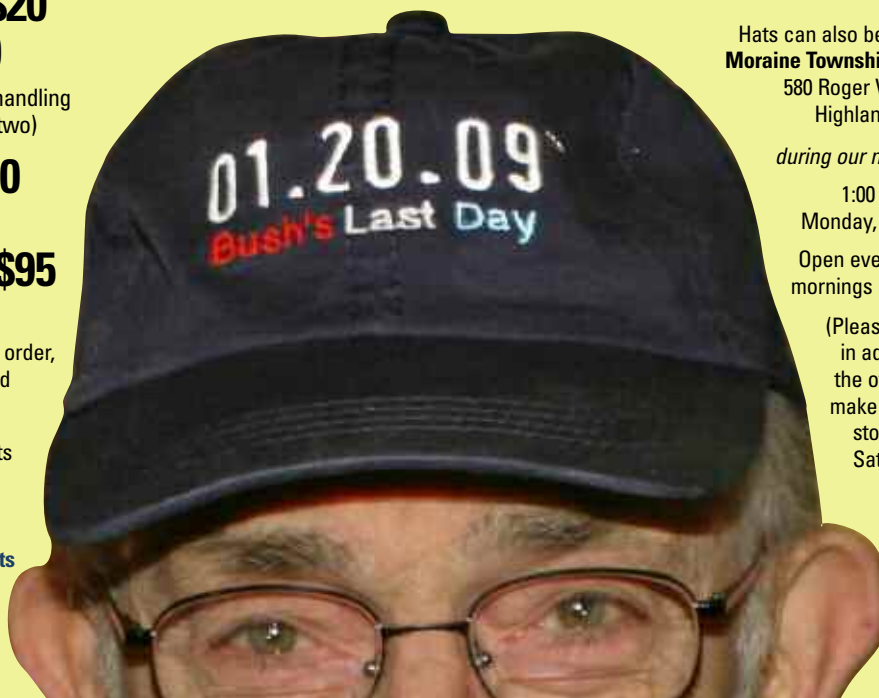
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in advance to be sure
the office is open, or to
make an appointment to
stop by evenings or
Saturday mornings.)

Evolution of a Passionate Voter

by Dorothy Heidloff Fletcher

The Republican Party lost me a long, long time ago when I finally realized that I had lost my voice in the Party and thus my ability to help select candidates or influence policy.

I have labeled myself as an Independent for more than 20 years.

A year ago I committed to being an active and founding member of Shields Democrats – a Voice for Democrats and Independents – after attending a coffee for Democratic candidate Dan Seals. I have also committed to supporting the Tenth Congressional District Democrats in many of its endeavors.

Recently, the Tenth Dems had a political button made up which states: “Voting is Not Enough!” I so agree! I work with Shields Township Democrats because I passionately believe that we need to educate the electorate as well as get people out to vote, and in a much greater number than the 17% of registered voters who bothered to vote this past April.

I believe now that Democrats/Independents offer the best path to establishing a more just nation and restoring our badly damaged international reputation.

Shields Township Democrats – a Voice for Democrats and Independents – pledges to present candidates as well as incumbents in settings where voters can easily question, challenge, or support a candidate or elected official. We work for in-depth reporting of issues and explaining how our elected officials actually vote. We want to encourage caring and competent people to consider running for an office and then support them.

We work with the Tenth Dem’s educational program (Tenth Dems U: see related articles in this issue of the Newsletter) in which people

can learn grassroots organizing and the operations of our Democratic republic at all levels of government.

We Shields Township Democrats, just one year old, are a diverse group, which I believe is a true strength. Some of us are life-long Democrats! Some of us are true independents. I grew up in Democratic Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Ohio as a Taft Republican. I can remember going door-to-door for Nixon in 1960 and meeting plenty of opposition. I walked with my six-year-old son – I believe in exposing kids to the political process. It is a great way to introduce children to civics. He is an activist to this day!

I am also a member of the League of Women Voters and a descendant of one of the original suffragettes of pre-Civil War marches. My ancestor spent time in jail because of her advocacy. My desire to register everyone is not always warmly received, but I argue: first register, next educate and then get out the vote. And that vital second step, to educate, is what I believe Shields Democrats has set as a major goal and why this convert works to get out the vote.

The political landscape of Shields Township, and Lake County, and perhaps, our nation, is evolving. Have a voice in this change. Join us!

A note about “Townships,” if, like me, you are curious about what constitutes a township:

- Townships are the oldest existing form of government on the North American continent – originating in Rhode Island in 1636. Illinois townships began in 1850.
- Townships birthed annual town meetings.
- Townships facilitate governmental functions between the county and municipalities.
- Today 85 of 102 counties operate under townships and serve eight million people.

The New American Story

by Steve Sheffey

“You’re entitled to your own opinion, but not your own facts.” That famous quote from the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-NY) is cited in, and animates, Bill Bradley’s new book, *The New American Story* (Random House: New York, NY 2007, 364 pages). Although Bradley’s book comes up short on specific proposals, it provides some valuable insights about the political situation today.

Bradley’s assessment of George Bush’s presidency is that nothing happened “except a jingoistic war, narrowed constitutional rights, unsafe workplaces, destruction of the environment, massive wealth creation for a few, and the further worsening of the average American’s economic and social conditions. Sound familiar? They delivered what they promised, after all.”

Bradley calls for an end to the politics of division and for reaching out to the majority of Americans not driven by extremist ideologies. He believes that the political elites may be at each other’s throats, but the American people are not, and that the red/blue division is largely a fiction created by the media. Most Americans are closer in ideology and viewpoints than the elites on both sides who purport to represent them and who attempt to create divisions where there are none. As Bradley points out, “demonizing the other side doesn’t facilitate the process that leads to an informed consent of the governed.”

Bradley understands that it is possible to thoughtfully argue one’s position without abandoning reason or civility. He uses the abortion debate as an example. Right-to-lifers want severe restrictions on abortion. Pro-choice supporters oppose any additional limitations on abortion, however reasonable, out of fear that a reasonable

regulation today might lead to an unreasonable regulation tomorrow. The public does not share the zeal on either side. The vast majority of Americans, according to Bradley, think abortion should be legal but are troubled by it, yet neither party reflects this nuanced view. Instead, each party has made the extreme view the litmus test for candidate endorsements. This is but one example of how candidates are forced to play to positions more extreme than those held by most of their constituents.

Bradley urges the Democratic Party to “become synonymous in people’s minds with a good job at good pay, universal health care, superior public education, pension security, a safe environment, a strong military, and a conviction that the best way to lead the world is by example.”

Bradley supports public financing of campaigns because, as Barney Frank (D-MA) said, “We are the only people in the world required by law to take large amounts of money from strangers and then act as if it had no effect on our behavior.”

The media also is part of the problem, according to Bradley. Instead of helping the public analyze issues, the media strives for conflict. The media attempts to create “balance” by giving each side the same weight, without attempting to determine the truth of conflicting claims and without attempting to expose distortions and outright lies.

The candidates, too, come under fire from Bradley for not speaking from their core convictions and failing to stand up to their consultants and fundraisers. Candidates rely too much on the polls and not enough on their inner convictions. But candidates with guts can win, as Sen. Russ Feingold proved in 1998, by standing on

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both at home and abroad. He served as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Food & Agriculture Agencies from 1998 to 2001, and since 2001 has been the U.N.'s Global Ambassador on World Hunger. In 2000, President Clinton awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, calling him "one of the greatest humanitarians of our time."

RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE RAFFLE

Planning for the Tenth Dems 4th annual fundraiser is speeding along. We want to remind everyone that we are still seeking items that we can raffle off that evening. Please see the list below, and if you can donate any of those (or other) items, we would gratefully accept those prizes. Just reading the list might trigger an idea of some contribution you, or a friend or associate, could add to the lineup. Remember, we depend on YOU for our success. Contact Marla Sundh at bombay9804@aol.com or Karen McCormick at karo856@comcast.net if you have questions or something to donate.

Wish List for Raffle Prizes

Services:

- ✓ Floral arranging
- ✓ Lawyers to donate making a will or other services
- ✓ Landscape design and consultation
- ✓ Cooking – catering, desserts, meals cooked in your home, classes
- ✓ Spa and Beauty treatments – massage
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Interior decorating

Goods:

- ✓ Gift Certificates – from individuals for stores/restaurants/services
- ✓ Sporting Event tickets – Bears, Bulls, Cubs, Sox, Blackhawks...
- ✓ Signed Memorabilia – sporting equipment, books, posters
- ✓ Tickets to theater/music venues – Ravinia, symphony, opera, Second City, ballet
- ✓ Vacation homes, time shares, hotel getaways
- ✓ Lessons – music, sports, academic, personal training
- ✓ Political memorabilia – particularly buttons
- ✓ Airline Miles
- ✓ Artwork ✓ Jewelry ✓ Electronics
- ✓ Memberships – health club, botanic garden, museums...
- ✓ Gift baskets – wine, food, books, children's, spa
- ✓ DVDs, CDs, autographed books

Please note the following:

- 1 – We need a description and value of the donation
- 2 – We can't accept gifts from corporations (just individuals)
- 3 – Gifts to Tenth Dems are not tax deductible



Bob Medich, media director at the Old Town School of Folk Music, addresses a crowd of Tenth Dems at the June 12 screening of "Shut Up and Sing," the documentary movie about the Dixie Chicks and their experiences following their 2003 exercise of their right to freedom of speech.

Dilemma

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It was all downhill after that. Cindy Sheehan resigned from the peace movement and said that the Democrats were as bad as the Republicans. People started talking about third parties and swore they wouldn't vote for a Democrat ever again. I wanted to shout, "Stop! Third parties aren't the answer! Look what Ralph Nader did for this country!" But who would listen?

So I began to reevaluate. First of all, I didn't become a Democrat because we won all the time. I became a Democrat because the party best represents my beliefs. Where would I run to, anyway? And second, it really isn't that bad a bill. At the end of September, when the funding expires, there will be new discussions and maybe some of the Republicans who talk a good game will actually join the Democrats in demanding a time line to end the war. Or the administration will decide to draw down troops just to save face. However it happens, I'm hopeful that in the fall there will be some progress. And, like a true Cubs fan, I believe in tomorrow. Because if we never give up on our Democratic values, a better tomorrow WILL come!

New American Story

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principle and refusing to take any soft money.

In short, Bradley calls for a Democratic party that reaches out to the American people, not the special interests, and for candidates who will speak from their convictions, not from scripts. He calls for the politics of civility, not the politics of division and demonization. This is good advice for us in the 10th District, whether in the primary or the general election.

**Visit our website
for new features**

TenthDems.org

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