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*The opinions expressed are those of the writers, and not necessarily endorsed by Tenth Dems*

# Presidential Health Records

by Ronald F. Altman, M.D.

Let me tell you some stories, just as presidential candidates do. One November, Americans unknowingly elected a dying man as president. This man, though still in his early sixties, had a long history of medical problems that had been kept almost entirely secret from the American people until after his death. He was seriously ill with poorly controlled high blood pressure, kidney disease, arteriosclerosis — and spinal paralysis. He was, of course, Franklin D. Roosevelt. Five months after this election, he was dead of a stroke.

Here's a more recent story. In 1986, Paul Tsongas, an up-and-coming Massachusetts senator, was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, a treatable but often deadly cancer of the lymph nodes. His cancer was treated with chemotherapy and radiation, and he had a bone marrow transplant to restore his immune system. He announced that he was cancer-free after these treatments. Unfortunately, cancer was back in his lymph nodes within a year. Still, after more chemotherapy, this man ran for president in 1992, winning five primaries in a field that included Bill Clinton. According to Lawrence Altman, M.D. (no relation), science reporter for *The New York Times*, "Mr. Tsongas and his doctors...repeatedly said that he had been cancer-free when he had not." Senator Tsongas never released his full medical records during the campaign. Many have speculated

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# Tenth News

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JUNE 2008 Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter Volume 5, Edition 6

## Now Is the Time to Get Involved!

by John Hmurovic

Five months from now, it will be over. Will we have four more years of Republican rule in the White House? Will we have four more years for Republicans to lock in a right-wing majority on the Supreme Court that will likely last for decades to come? Will we have two more years of Republican Congressman Mark Kirk, who plays a clever game of hiding behind a "moderate" mask, which he takes off when he thinks no one is looking?

If we fail this time, how will you feel? How will you feel if you sat along the sidelines and did nothing to stop it from happening?

Now is the time to get involved. We only have five months to go. Candidates need your help. Groups like Tenth Dems need your help. There are opportunities for you to help—opportunities that do not necessarily require huge amounts of time.

In the months ahead, for example, Tenth Dems will be working to educate voters and train volunteers through Tenth Dems University. We can use help setting up these training and education programs. Help us find and book locations for our classes (which would take an average of less than one hour a week). Help us contact potential speakers for our classes and handle the details of their involvement (which would take an average of less than one hour a week). Work with us to set up a local political discussion group in your community,



a part of our Let's Talk Politics series (which would take an average of three hours a month). There are many more small tasks that need to be done. We rely on the help of many volunteers, each doing a piece of the job with the time he or she has available, to make Tenth Dems University a success.

And that's the story throughout Tenth Dems, or any other political organization, or, for that matter, any candidate's campaign. No matter how little time you have, no matter if you are unable to leave the house, no matter what your age, or where you live, there are ways you can help.

In Tenth Dems, probably one of the most important needs we have right now is for those who can serve as project leaders. Volunteers who have only a little time to give need direction. Project leaders provide that by making sure a project gets done, guiding and leading the other volunteers to make it happen. If you think you can be a project leader, let us know so we can find a project for you to guide that suits your interests and our needs.

Contact us at 847-266-VOTE (8683), or [volunteers@tenthdems.org](mailto:volunteers@tenthdems.org), to talk about how you can help. We can get you involved with Tenth Dems, explain to you how you can help your local Democratic organizations, or steer you to a candidate's campaign. The time to do something is now. There will never be a better time.

# Jan Schakowsky's Power Luncheon

by Sharon Sanders

If you're ever feeling like you're alone in your progressive thought, or that your friends or relatives don't get it, then you must sign up for the next Jan Schakowsky event. If her annual luncheon is too far off, then attend anything that Jan has to do with in the next few months.

There were eighteen hundred women (and a few good men like our own George Rosenblit) in attendance at McCormick Place on May 9 for this awe-inspiring, rabble-rousing event. I came away energized and reinvigorated and feeling that I was at a political revival meeting. Hallelujah! Praise the Democrats! Let's go forward and together we can beat the Republican "devils," "the purveyors of evil against our way of life," and "the destroyers of our faith in the democratic system."

Jan Schakowsky has a history of fighting for the underdog. She never waivers from this, which is more than I can say for most in Congress. It would take an entire page to name all the committees she is on and positions she has held, but a few include founding member of the Out-of-Iraq Caucus, Democratic vice chair of the bipartisan Women's Caucus, and vice chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection. And although there were two very important speakers at the luncheon, Michelle Obama and Valerie Plame, I, personally am always most inspired by the words of Jan Schakowsky. She has that down-home, self-deprecating, dry humor that makes us laugh, even while we're deeply saddened by the current administration's destruction of the very foundations of this great nation.

Michelle Obama did an excellent job talking about the great difficulties of being a wife and mother in the public spotlight — the pull between family and civic duty. Personally, I can't imagine how anyone can survive this long, drawn-out election process without falling apart emotionally and physically. Yet, those who do seem stronger for it. She spoke of the plight of today's women — the difficulty of stagnant wages, the lack of healthcare, the struggle for equality, underfunded schools, and the erosion of dreams of a better life for them and their children. Michelle emphasized how much is at stake for all of us and how we must join together in the grassroots movements to make sure we don't let it all slip away. One felt her great personal strength and determination to be there for her husband as he inches closer to the nomination.

Valerie Plame Wilson, as the keynote speaker, did a biographical trip through her life leading up to the treacherous disclosure of her identity as a CIA operative. Her anger at the Bush administration, Rove, and Cheney is evident no matter how many times she tells her story. It's always the same, and yet it's there to remind us again and again how devious these people are in twisting the truth as they retaliate against anyone who goes against them and tries to expose their dirty deeds. The Bush administration was determined to find a way to go to war in Iraq and no one was going to stop them. Because of how these people have destroyed her career and damaged her personal life, Ms. Plame is currently suing Cheney and Rove. Her goal is to get the truth out on several levels: 1) to tell the real story regarding the yellow cake uranium fiasco, which led to her outing at the CIA; 2) to hold

accountable our public servants, with the hope they will not be allowed to use their power to pursue personal objectives; 3) to assure that the executive branch does not meddle in her right to publish her story; and, finally, 4) to guarantee that none of this ever happens again. These are lofty goals indeed, but she feels it is critical that she try to make a difference.

Before the festivities adjourned, Jan introduced elected officials and provided an opportunity for congressional candidates to take the microphone, including our own Dan Seals. Dan exhorted the enthusiastic crowd to think about January 20, 2009, and the many positive changes we can look forward to.

Valerie Plame concluded her talk with a quotation from Thomas Jefferson: "When people fear government, there is tyranny; when government fears people, there is liberty." Simple words, and yet, so true. Jan Schakowsky's speech echoed this thought. We must all stand together in the name of democracy.

## Bucking for the Dean's List

by Ellen Beth Gill

I've been pretty busy lately, but I did have time to stop by Tenth Dems University on March 28. Jan Schakowsky spoke about various issues including the election, Iraq, the economy, and Bill Foster. I've missed a lot of spring semester, but I've heard from one of the faculty that I'm still eligible for the Dean's List.



Jan Schakowsky shows her support for Tenth Congressional District candidate Dan Seals at a recent Tenth Dems U class.

Jan's comments on Foster's victory in the IL-14 included the facts and figures. Republicans spent about 20 percent of their congressional committee coffers on Oberweis and still lost. The comment that caught my attention the most was when she described her door-to-door experience. She said she met people who are really hurting as victims of the Bush administration and they

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# Lest We Forget: Bush's "War on Terror"

## A political tactic of fear against Americans

*This is the fourth in an ongoing series about the abuses of the Bush administration.*

*by George Rosenblit*

We have been mesmerized by the three words, "War on Terror," dangling before our eyes and ears since 9/11.

President George W. Bush terrorized and traumatized our entire nation, the citizens of America, by repeatedly using the words "War on Terror" in his speeches and in his State of the Union addresses. The purpose, of course, was to instill fear in our minds so we would not take the risk of "changing horses in mid-stream" during wartime, ensuring his reelection and that of his confederates.

The psychological effect of the term "War on Terror" has been recently covered in many publications. Here are some examples:

"The 'war on terror' has created a culture of fear in America. The Bush administration's elevation of these three words into a national mantra since the horrific events of 9/11 has had a pernicious impact on American democracy, on America's psyche and on U.S. standing in the world." And...

"Constant reference to a 'war on terror' did accomplish one major objective: It stimulated the emergence of a culture of fear. Fear obscures reason, intensifies emotions and makes it easier for demagogic politicians to mobilize the public on behalf of the policies they want to pursue."

*~ Zbigniew Brzezinski, The Washington Post, March 25, 2007*

"The 'War on Terror' is a fraud and a façade, a mere label concocted and trumpeted by an administration known for its signature dishonesty. The label conceals the Bush Administration's international crimes of unprovoked military aggression — the armed invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, two sovereign nations the Administration meant to attack from its first days in office. With its pathological lying, secrecy, and brilliant propagandizing the Administration has prevented a compliant mainstream press from communicating fully the realities of the war." ([www.counterpunch.org/behan05082008.html](http://www.counterpunch.org/behan05082008.html))

Terror is not an enemy, so how can we declare war against it? Can we go after it with a slingshot, a pistol, a rifle or a cannon? Impossible!



"Terror" is a word that describes the fear that people experience when they visualize or experience acts that can cause bodily or mental harm. Bush should know this since he personally sanctioned terror against prisoners, both the guilty and the innocent.

In his first presidential inaugural address on March 4, 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke to the nation via radio and announced his plans for a "New Deal" to begin the task of solving the economic woes of the Great Depression. He stated, "So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." He used a positive psychology of hope for the downtrodden. This is in sharp contrast to Bush's political program of repeatedly creating a negative atmosphere

of fear among the citizens he has sworn to protect.

The mainstream media chose to aid and abet Bush's spread of disinformation, deceit, and manipulation of the truth, tactics normally used against an enemy. And so, we are the enemy — Bush's enemy. But where was the investigative reporting taught in our finest colleges of journalism? Was the press bamboozled like we were? Did the media feel it would be unpatriotic to embarrass our leaders in time of war? Or, as in many cases published in the media, were they afraid of losing access to governmental sources of information that could enable them to scoop rival news outlets? Or all of the above?

There is a brighter day on the horizon. With a Democratic president and enough Democratic seats in the House and the Senate to pass legislation and override vetoes, we can end the Iraq War; tighten oversight of governmental, financial, and industrial operations; reverse seven years of oppressive legislation; and retrieve our cherished constitutional civil liberties. This can happen only if enough people support Democratic candidates financially, vote, and help get out the vote. But it doesn't stop there. It's important to remain interested in politics on an ongoing basis. As a citizen of this great country, you can help with oversight of your government's operations and make your voice heard through your Democratic representatives in Congress and by writing letters to the editors of your local newspapers. To become active, contact Tenth Dems at [volunteers@tenthdems.org](mailto:volunteers@tenthdems.org), or by telephone at 847-266-8683.

## An Apathetic America

*by Gary Lukens*

With the Iraq War in its fifth year of endless political squabbles and internecine wars of hate, why are Americans allowing this war to continue with little more than a whisper? One would think the greatest presidential canard in our history would elicit more than a few feeble antiwar demonstrations from America's conscience.

Say what you will about the hippie-led antiwar movement of the Vietnam War era, but that movement made a considerable difference toward ending a conflict with no apparent end. Moreover, when 700,000 antiwar demonstrators converged on our capital in November of 1969, they forced Richard Nixon to either listen to the people or seek shelter deep within the inner bowels of the White House.

Imagine what would happen if our current president were confronted with such a demonstration.

Have Americans today become so immersed in their own little worlds that they would let one man's obsession ruin this great nation? Is that what our forefathers had in mind when they wrote the Constitution? Has the monarchy we removed during the Revolutionary War risen to currently reside in the White House?

It is my sincere hope that all Americans realize what is at stake here. For whether we win or lose is no longer the paramount issue. What is paramount now is whether Americans can shed the apathy that allowed this war to begin and reclaim the right to govern ourselves. If we can do that, surely we can overcome the careless actions of one man and escape the fate of his perilous obsession.

# Greenwashing: It's Cool to be "Green" (or at least to pretend)

by Donnie R. Dann

Being green is in. In newspapers, TV ads, on packaging materials, or wherever a company goes about marketing its products or services, American businesses are loudly touting their "green" credentials.

Just to name a few, General Electric, Dow Chemical, and Duke Energy are members of the U.S. Climate Action Partnership (USCAP), a group formed to urge a mandatory cap on U.S. carbon emissions. However, some of these companies are members of a group known as Center for Energy and Economic Development, and they work to oppose regulations that limit greenhouse gases. There are other examples of companies that talk out of both sides of their mouths. While Duke Energy wants a carbon emissions cap via USCAP, it is also a member of Americans for Balanced Energy Choices, a lobbying group that puts their efforts into promoting coal.

Wal-Mart, to its credit, widely promoted its policy to sell 100 million energy-saving compact fluorescent lightbulbs. It also pledged:



- ❁ to work with suppliers to make electrical products 25 percent more efficient
- ❁ to sell only energy star rated air conditioners by 2010 and to double the sales of home efficiency products
- ❁ to consider selling hybrid or plug-in cars (and maybe charge them from turbines in Wal-Mart parking lots)

This is all commendable, but at the same time Wal-Mart places stores in areas that destroy prime farmland and natural habitat. This exacerbates sprawl, increases food prices, adds to car-dependency, raises the amount of greenhouse gases, and puts further pressure on our diminishing native wildlife.

Meanwhile there are companies that do their very best to really be "green." A recent issue of *Fortune* listed its top 10 in 'Going Green,' including S. C. Johnson, Goldman Sachs, and P.G. & E. See the complete list: [http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/fortune/0703/gallery.green\\_giants.fortune/index.html](http://money.cnn.com/galleries/2007/fortune/0703/gallery.green_giants.fortune/index.html)

This problem also confronts us as shoppers, in the products on display in supermarket aisles. Many almost shout "green," "natural," "environmentally safe," and more. How can a responsible consumer assess the validity of these claims? The Food and Drug Administration

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## Mayor Bill Gentes' Campaign for State Senate, 26th District

*This is the first in an occasional series of articles spotlighting Democratic candidates for state and local offices within the 10th District*

We have an opportunity to capture the last remaining State Senate seat held by a Republican in Lake County. This is a great opportunity because the incumbent Republican, Bill Peterson, is retiring. We are



Round Lake Mayor Bill Gentes

feeling quite positive about our candidate, Mayor Bill Gentes of Round Lake. In his two terms as Mayor of Round Lake, he has led the charge on major issues facing our region, roads, jobs, and healthcare.

The 26th district stretches from Waukegan to Woodstock and from Fox Lake to Barrington, including all of Libertyville. About

15 percent of the 26th is in the 10th Congressional District, including the homes of some 22,000 voters. The district represents Lake, Cook, and McHenry counties. This district has undergone a huge population change; nearly 40 percent of residents of the district have moved to the 26th in the last six years. Most of these people demographically resemble the voters who have elected Bill as mayor twice.

Bill's opponent has never held elected office and is a millionaire from Barrington. He is the hand-picked successor of Senator Peterson, who has been the most right-wing social conservative in the Illinois Senate, and we could expect more of the same.

Mayor Gentes has picked up many endorsements from unions and other organizations. Two major organizations that have endorsed him already include Personal PAC and Citizen Action for Illinois, which

recognize his commitment to social and economic justice. He won his primary in February convincingly with 58 percent of the vote. His primary endorsements included all the major newspapers.

Many of us know Bill as the "Blogging Mayor." His blog is more than three years old and attracts 1,500 loyal readers a day ([www.eroundlake.com/blog](http://www.eroundlake.com/blog)). He has spoken at numerous national conferences on blogging by elected officials. If you have not seen his blog, by all means go. He promises to be the blogging senator as well!



Volunteers for Bill Gentes' State Senate campaign invite you to join them in helping him win!

His website is cutting edge and has a handy sign-up for his weekly newsletters on the main page ([www.billgentes.com](http://www.billgentes.com)). He also has a blog on the site as well and it is well done and quite interesting.

Bill needs your help to get the word out about his candidacy. Please help him as much as you can this summer and fall by telling your friends and neighbors about this exceptional candidate.

# Kirk and Israel

by Steve Sheffey

It's started again. We're hearing that Mark Kirk is more than just a vote when it comes to Israel — he's indispensable; he's irreplaceable. You get the feeling listening to some people that if the Democrats nominated Judah Maccabee, they'd still vote for Kirk. ("Maccabee may say he's good on Israel, but how do we know? He's never held office.") Let's inject a dose of sanity into this discussion.

Kirk is good on Israel, he understands the issues, and he articulates them well. Kirk is on the House Appropriations Committee, where he is the 23rd ranking of 29 Republicans (there are 37 Democrats). He sits on the Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, where he is the third-ranking of five Republicans (there are eight Democrats). It's important to have backers of Israel on that committee, and Kirk backs Israel. Kirk's overall record on Israel is a plus in his column.

But support for Israel is so strong and so deep in Congress that Congress will be just as pro-Israel whether Kirk wins or loses. Kirk is completing only his fourth term in Congress. He is in the minority party. He chairs no congressional committees of importance to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Congress.org ranks Kirk only the 257th most powerful member of the House. Here's the full list, but you'll have to scroll to the bottom half to find Kirk:

[http://www.congress.org/congressorg/power\\_rankings/overall.tt](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/power_rankings/overall.tt).

Kirk does co-sponsor some pro-Israel measures, but if Kirk were not in Congress, the Democrats would find other Republicans to co-sponsor pro-Israel legislation, and those measures would pass by the same overwhelming margins. The next time you receive a list of Kirk's accomplishments, ask for the final vote tallies. You'll see that the pro-Israel measures he signs onto all pass by overwhelming margins and are all co-sponsored by Democrats. Israel enjoys strong bipartisan support in Congress and among the American people. Israel has many friends in Congress with much more influence and power than Kirk.

Howard Berman (D-CA), who is Jewish, recently succeeded Tom Lantos as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Berman has been described by *Congressional Quarterly* as "hawkishly committed to Israel, a hard-line opponent of radical Islam and a fierce defender of human rights." That's how some people describe Kirk, but Berman sets the agenda and make things happen. He has far more power and influence than Kirk and it is hard to imagine a better friend of Israel in Congress than Berman.

The House Subcommittee on the Middle East and Southeast Asia is chaired by Gary Ackerman (D-NY), a very pro-Israel Jewish Congressman (he was sworn in on a chumash—talk about "feeling it in his kishkes"). The House Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, of which Kirk is a member, is chaired by another staunch supporter of Israel, Nita Lowey (D-NY), also Jewish. Brad Sherman (D-CA), who is Jewish, chairs the International Terrorism and Nonproliferation subcommittee. All these members of Congress have far more power and influence than Kirk, and they'll all still be



there whether Kirk wins or loses.

And, of course, there are many other good friends of Israel in Congress, such as Rep. Robert Wexler (D-FL), who chairs the Foreign Operations Europe Subcommittee, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-NY), who led the fight against arms sales to Saudi Arabia, Rep. Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), a graduate of Crown Heights Yeshiva and Assistant Democratic Whip, Rep. Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), Rep. Jane Harmon (D-CA), and Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY). I think it would come as a surprise to all of them, and to many more members of Congress not listed here, that Mark Kirk is considered by some to be Israel's best friend in Congress.

Strong support for Israel in Congress goes straight to the top. 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." Whether Kirk wins or loses, Pelosi will still be the most powerful member of the House.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-MD) has a long record of strong pro-Israel activity and is another strong, powerful ally. In defending Israel's actions in Gaza, Hoyer recently said, "The truth is that Israel's actions constitute nothing less than justifiable self-defense. This Congress — and the American people — will not succumb to propaganda which labels Israel's actions 'unjustified' or an 'over-reaction.'"

None of this is to say that Kirk is not a friend of Israel or that we should take any support for Israel for granted. The point is that the fate of Israel does not hinge on Kirk's re-election. If Kirk loses, we'll be replacing him with Dan Seals, who also is a strong friend of Israel and who will join an overwhelming, bipartisan majority in Congress that supports Israel. Congress will remain strongly pro-Israel no matter whom we elect — and I think that's good.

## Greenwashing *continued from page 4*

has established regulations governing the labeling of "organic foods," significantly improving both the soundness of, and the consumer confidence in, those products. Wouldn't similar rules on environmental marketing enlighten the consumer and at the same time reward the conscientious manufacturer and undercut the sales pitch of the deceptive one?

Until the Federal Trade Commission establishes new guidelines, known

as "Green Guides," to better define the meaning of "green" (which are expected within the year), you can access a website created by a private company in partnership with students and professors at the University of Oregon, [www.greenwashingindex.com](http://www.greenwashingindex.com). Here consumers can report the major offenders and actually post the most abusive ones online.

It will be comforting to know that when you buy a product or service from a company that purports to protect the environment, it really does.

## Kirk Unmasked:

# Mark Kirk Votes Against Victims of Sub-Prime Mortgage Crisis



*This is the thirteenth in an ongoing series.*

Last month, the House of Representatives passed two critical pieces of legislation aimed at stemming the fallout from the sub-prime mortgage crisis — the Neighborhood Stabilization Act (H.R. 5830) and the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act (H.R. 3221).

Little credit for the House's passage of these important bills — which President Bush has threatened to veto — goes to Congressman Mark Kirk. Although Kirk voted for the passage of one of the three amendments that comprise the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, he voted against the other two. He also voted against the passage of the Neighborhood Stabilization (NS) Act. Kirk's three votes against victims of the sub-prime mortgage crisis raise important questions about his motives for supporting the borrowers' protections enacted in the first amendment of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.



The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act is widely seen as the most comprehensive legislative response so far to the ongoing mortgage crisis. The bill consists of three key amendments to existing housing legislation. The first amends the FHA Housing Stabilization and Homeownership Retention Act (H. R. 5830) to provide lower-interest, FHA-guaranteed refinancing to distressed borrowers — after their current lender agrees to forgive a portion of the outstanding debt. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that about 2.8 million borrowers at risk of foreclosure in the next four years will be eligible for an FHA-guaranteed refinanced loan, provided that their lenders agree to participate in the program. Amendment 1 also includes reforms to strengthen the regulation and oversight of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and the Federal Home Loan Bank system — with the overriding aim of preventing a repeat of the current crisis.

Amendment 2 seeks to help stabilize the housing market. It amends the Housing Assistance Tax Act of 2008 to create additional incentives to stimulate home sales, including a refundable tax credit that works like an interest-free loan of up to \$7500 for first-time homebuyers. This amendment also helps returning soldiers avoid

foreclosure by lengthening the time a lender must wait before starting foreclosure proceedings after a soldier returns from service, from three months to one year. Despite Mark Kirk's vociferous claims that he supports veterans of the U.S. armed forces, he voted against this amendment.

The third amendment of the AHRFP Act protects the ability of states and cities to insist that lenders follow the foreclosure procedures outlined in existing laws and that foreclosed properties are properly maintained. Again, Kirk voted against the passage of this provision, choosing to support banks and mortgage lenders over consumer protection.

Kirk also voted on May 8 against the Neighborhood Stabilization Act (H.R. 5818). The bill, which was supported by the National Governors Association, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the AFL-CIO, Habitat for Humanity, the NAACP, and the National Urban League, among

others, seeks to provide assistance to communities hit hardest by foreclosures. It authorizes \$15 billion in federal grant and loan programs to help state and local governments purchase, rehabilitate, and resell or rent foreclosed homes.

Kirk's votes against the Neighborhood Stabilization Act and the second and third amendments of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act reflect his strong ties to the banking and mortgage industries. These ties have long prevented Kirk from supporting legislation that cuts into lenders' profits. Last November, for example, Kirk voted against the Mortgage Reform and Anti-Predatory Lending Act (MRA) of 2007. (See "Mark Kirk, We Have a Problem," *Tenth News*, May 2008.)

So why all of a sudden was Kirk willing to vote for Amendment 1 of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act — a measure that protects homeowners at risk of foreclosure at the expense of the banking and mortgage industries? Perhaps Kirk cast his vote knowing that

the amendment would pass the House anyway — and without the two-thirds majority support needed to override President Bush's threatened veto. In that circumstance, his vote in favor of this legislation could be seen as just one more example of Kirk's most commonly employed image-building tactic — supporting legislation disapproved by his Republican masters only when his vote will have no real effect on the ultimate fate of the legislation. After all, right now Kirk is in the midst of a tough reelection campaign — hardly the optimal time to be exposed as insensitive to low-income Americans at risk of losing their homes.

Whatever Kirk's motive for supporting this one portion of the House's aid package for distressed borrowers, he certainly can't be counted upon for consistent support of individual interests over those of his corporate backers. His vote against the relief for veterans embodied in the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act's second Amendment is a compelling case in point. Tenth District voters who want their congressional representative to be truly committed to protecting consumers over corporate interests should study Mark Kirk's record carefully. Those who do surely will work to elect Dan Seals in November.

## McCain's Health Records *continued from page 1*

that his futile presidential bid prevented opposition to Clinton from developing. In any case, Tsongas' candidacy clearly affected the results of the 1992 race.

Paul Tsongas died of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma on January 19, 1997, two days before Bill Clinton was sworn in for his second term. He was hospitalized many times and was seriously ill for much of the presidential term for which he had run. To his credit, Senator Tsongas publically apologized for his deception. He recommended that all future presidential contenders be required to release their full medical records during the campaign.

Other candidates for the presidency in the recent past have concealed their medical history to improve their chances of election. Bob Dole was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1990; he delayed successful surgical treatment for more than a year while considering his presidential prospects. Hubert Humphrey contracted bladder cancer in 1966. His cancer was treatable, but he delayed treatment until 1971, reportedly having said that the American people would never elect a president who they knew had had cancer. Humphrey's delay in obtaining treatment for his bladder cancer was responsible for his death in 1978.

We all know the outlines of another story, although only the candidate and his doctors have all the facts. John McCain was treated for malignant melanoma in 2000. He underwent extensive surgery, including removal of the sentinel lymph nodes revealed by injection of a radioactive tracer. Sentinel lymph nodes define the immediate area to which a cancer is most likely to spread. Reported results from Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Arizona, showed Stage IIa (out of IV) melanoma (almost 1" in diameter and .22 mm. deep) with no cancer in the lymph nodes. These results can be evaluated

through studies published in 1992 that indicate that even after five years, such patients have a 14% chance of recurrence and a 9% chance of death from the cancer.

Doctors have reported that McCain has had four melanomas successfully removed since 1993. However, these facts must be taken on faith. The last time McCain's complete medical records were released to the public was 1999, and at that time they consisted of 1500 pages. Since March 2007 McCain's campaign has promised three times to release his records.

Days ago, on the Friday before Memorial Day, the McCain campaign released 1173 pages of medical records. These did not constitute the entire file, and we have no idea what, or how much, was withheld. Journalists allowed access to the records also were allowed a 45-minute telephone conference with McCain's physicians. All that was made public was a five-page summary of the records prepared by McCain's physicians.

This partial release of McCain's medical records was tightly controlled by his campaign. Photocopying was not permitted. Those invited to review the 1173 pages of records were given just three hours in which to do so. The small, select pool of invited reporters represented multiple broadcast outlets but only two newspapers. While we have not had the opportunity to evaluate the credentials of these reporters, we know that *The New York Times'* Lawrence Altman, M.D., probably the nation's most respected medical print journalist, was not among them.

Without, at the very least, a thorough review of John McCain's complete medical records by a disinterested third party with a strong medical background, the public cannot know the degree to which the candidate's health is threatened by the possibility of a recurrence of cancer. History teaches that no voter should be asked to consider a candidate for the presidency without access to full knowledge of his health status.

## Dean's List *continued from page 2*

"got that." She also saw that they got the connection between their economic hurt and the Iraq War.



*Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky fields questions on a wide range of topics from attendees at a recent Tenth Dems University class.*

Jan was also at the Take Back America Conference in D.C. and noted that people had tears in their eyes listening to Obama's speech on race in America.

On McCain, Jan reminded us that these supposed senior moments McCain is having about a relationship between Iran and al Qaeda are reminiscent of the outright lies about a relationship between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda told by the Bush administration to get us into Iraq. She also wanted us all to remember and remind voters we know that McCain isn't so very middle-of-the-road when it comes to a woman's right to choose. McCain is anti-choice and has been so for his entire career.

There was a lot of talk about the Iraq War among audience members.

One person reminded us all of the *Frontline* series "Bush's War."

Another member of the audience brought up the problem we've caused by using depleted uranium in munitions. This problem is not new. Depleted uranium was used in Gulf War I and is often credited with what is called Gulf War Syndrome. Childhood leukemia has been a big problem in Iraq since that Bush I war. The story has gotten traction lately because of recent reports of soaring cancer rates not only among Iraqis, but among our U.S. soldiers.

On the economy, Jan talked about the laws that reward U.S. corporations for moving jobs and their headquarters off-shore. She suggested we change tax and trade policy to stop these rewards for taking jobs out of the U.S. and that we work to create green jobs. She



also mentioned Barney Frank's effort to further regulate financial services to help prevent another mortgage meltdown in the future.

Jan said not to worry, the Michigan and Florida bylaws committees of the DNC will figure out how to seat the delegates and that we are going to be very proud of our country the day we elect President Barack Obama.

Lucky for me Jan didn't assign any Tenth Dems U homework.

*Excerpted from ellenofthetenth.blogspot.com*

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## Mark Kirk Only Pretends to Be Green

by Steve Sheffey

As Benjamin Disraeli is said to have quipped, there are lies, damn lies, and statistics. Mark Kirk claims that he is such a great friend of the environment that he outscored Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama in the latest League of Conservation Voters ("LCV") scorecard. And it's true: In 2007, the first session of the 110th Congress, Kirk received a score of 90%, whereas Hillary Clinton scored 73% and Barack Obama scored 67%.

I was not aware that Clinton and Obama were the yardsticks by which Kirk measures his performance, but Kirk does not measure up. Here's what Kirk doesn't tell you. The LCV counts not voting as negative, so a missed vote counts as a bad vote. As some of you may have noticed, Clinton and Obama were campaigning for president in 2007. Clinton voted pro-environment on every vote she voted, but she missed four votes. Obama voted pro-environment on all but one vote, but he too missed four votes. That's why they scored lower.

But in the 109th Congress, 2005-2006, Kirk received a score of only 53%, and in his previous two terms, his scores were 71% and 59%. During the same periods, Clinton scored 89%, 92%, and 88%. Obama scored 96% in his first two years in the Senate, the same period Kirk received a score of 53%. We deserve a congressman who will always be strong on the environment, not a congressman who scores well only when he perceives his chances for re-election are slipping away.

And what about McCain? He received a score of ZERO in 2007. McCain managed to miss every single vote. I couldn't believe it either. His previous scores were 41%, 56%, 36%, and 6% (that's not a typo). Check it out at [http://capwiz.com/lcv\\_stage/bio/keyvotes/?id=192&congress=1102&lvl=C](http://capwiz.com/lcv_stage/bio/keyvotes/?id=192&congress=1102&lvl=C)

It's hard to know whether to be more disappointed in Kirk's actual record or in his allowing his campaign to knowingly circulate misleading information about his record. Either way, the case is clear: Kirk has to go. This is one more reason we can do much better with Dan Seals.



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## WE'RE STILL TALKING POLITICS!

Join the Tenth Congressional District Democrats in another in a series of coffees throughout the district:

Wednesday, June 4, at 7:00pm  
at the Panera Bread at Arlington  
Heights Annex Shopping Center,  
5 West Rand Road

Thursday, June 12, at 7:00pm  
at the UAW Hall,  
680 Barclay Blvd., Lincolnshire

Tuesday, June 24, at 7:00pm  
at the Northbrook Public Library

- Add your voice to the discussion. The stage is yours.
- Have you read any good political books or articles?
- Everyone and their opinions are welcome.
- Bring your friends—we love to see new faces.
- Refreshments are on us!

For more information, call 847-266-VOTE (8683)  
or email [events@TenthDems.org](mailto:events@TenthDems.org).