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# The Campaign View from a Candidate's Kid

by Marisa Levitt

I remember my reaction when my parents told me that my dad was going to run for judge. I laughed. I'm not exactly sure why. Maybe I laughed because I was nervous. I often laugh when I'm nervous, and the thought of a campaign seemed like a pretty big deal to me.

And I was right. It was a big deal for my dad and the rest of my family.

Dad announced his candidacy as a Democratic candidate for Circuit Court Judge not long after I started my freshman year at Deerfield High School. So as I was just starting to adjust to the new challenges that high school brings, my whole family was adjusting to "campaign mode." Dad also had just finished a major trial that had been in the news a lot. Our family was looking forward to some "quiet time" after three months of Dad being on trial.



Running for judge is definitely not a quiet experience. There were "Levitt for Judge" signs and stickers and sticky notes and flyers all over the house—and all over town. It was a little strange to see our family photo on thousands and thousands of flyers. I remember the first time I

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# Tenth News

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JULY 2010

Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats Newsletter

Volume 7, Edition 7

## Resumé Mark-Up: A Retired Teacher and Sailor Speak Out

by Carol Hillsberg

Can the voters of Illinois forgive Mark Kirk's latest gaffe? Can the voters overlook the bizarre statements that Mark Kirk has made about his experiences as a teacher? In referring to his tenure as a nursery school teacher at a



United Methodist ministry called Forest Home Chapel, Rep. Kirk spoke about "the kids who were the brightest lights of our country's future, and I also remember those who bore scrutiny as people who might bring a gun to class." In this speech delivered September 19, 2006, on the floor of the House, Rep. Kirk was referring to his part-time teaching experience in a work-study program as a student at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, in 1981. Ithaca, New York, home to two renowned institutions of higher learning, is also known for its natural wonders, its gorges, not for its gun-toting preschoolers.

In a speech to the Illinois Education Association this spring, Rep. Kirk stated, "As a former nursery school and middle school teacher, I know some of what it takes to bring order to class." The latter pedagogical experience was at Milestone College, a private college preparatory school in London, England, where he taught history and English during the 1982-1983 school year. To me, the problem with this statement is that it is misleading, as Kirk's tenure as a teacher was so brief and so removed from relevant experiences in American public schools.

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How intelligent is this officer?

I'm a former Sailor who spent a lot of time chipping paint on boats and did real sea-time and true operational deployments, all of which were a minimum of six months at a crack, not two wimpy weeks. Where I cruised and what I experienced are not important and are not going to be used to leverage my personal image. In fact, I am humble enough even to keep my name, rank, and service number silent and simply to talk from my heart as a true and honest Sailor. These days, more and more politicians have attempted to wrap themselves in the glow of military service, telling exaggerated, if not wholly manufactured, stories about their tours of duty, awards, commendations, and accomplishments.



In recent features in both the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Senate hopeful Mark Kirk's military record is still the subject of discussion. In the *Tribune* article, the Republican's use of the term "deployment" is being scrutinized, while the *Sun-Times* article discusses a denial made by White House senior adviser David Axelrod regarding a charge from the Kirk camp accusing the White House of leaking information on Kirk's military record.

Kirk is not exactly a "Profile in Courage," as another former Naval

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# Jenkins for Cook County Board

by Ron Levitsky

In his novel, *Kaddish for a Child Not Born*, Imre Kertész tells the story of a man who, like the author in real life, had survived Auschwitz. The narrator relates how once in the concentration camp he was too ill to get his own meal—a meager portion barely enough to sustain him. A fellow prisoner brought the narrator’s meal, the other man not only risking his life to do so, but also missing the opportunity to eat a double portion and increase his own chances of survival. Years later, the narrator still wonders “... why did he do it?” The narrator can understand evil as the way of the world. It is the conscious choice of doing good that he cannot fathom.

While many of us face serious challenges in daily living, few have had the misfortune of contending with the violent and senseless death of a loved one. If we had, would it change our view of the world? Would it make us bend to cynicism or instead, like the narrator’s companion, defy evil through acts of goodness?

On April 7, 1990, a sixteen-year-old junior from New Trier High School entered the home of his Wilmette neighbors, Richard and Nancy Langert. He brutally murdered the young couple and their unborn child. It took six months for police to identify and arrest the teenager, who admitted that he had murdered the Langerts simply to feel what it was like to kill someone. In contrast to that message of hate, Nancy Langert, bleeding to death, crawled next to her already dead husband and drew with her own blood a heart and a “U.” It was the way she had always signed her letters —“Love U.”

When the killer was arrested, a television reporter stuck a microphone in the face of Nancy’s sister, Jennifer Bishop, and asked if she was upset that, because of his age, the young murderer couldn’t receive the death penalty. As Jennifer explains, “That was a watershed moment.” Her sister had used her last moment on earth to express love and, in Jennifer’s mind, would not have wanted as her memorial a boy’s death.

Like the second prisoner in Kertész’s novel, Jennifer chose to do good in the face of evil. With her sister Jeanne, she began a long career in what she terms “restorative justice.” They both joined a national organization for families of murder victims, and they began to speak throughout the country for legislation to ban handguns and against the death penalty for children. Jennifer, the founder of IllinoisVictims.org, has been a consultant for several organizations dealing with victims’ rights and has helped persuade Congress to pass federal gun violence prevention legislation.

Jennifer and Jeanne’s work has earned them great respect from anti-death penalty advocates, but the sisters have been willing to risk this support by opposing a bill that would grant automatic parole hearings for young people, like the Langert’s murderer, who have been given life sentences without the possibility of parole. Jennifer believes that some of these teens are sociopaths who will always pose a danger to society. In addition, the victim’s family should be spared the anguish of attending these parole hearings and reliving the horror of the crime over and over.

Most recently Jennifer has decided to run for the Cook County Board. This is a daunting task, if for no other reason than the county’s

reputation. Typing “Cook County Corruption” on a Yahoo Search, I learned there were over four million “results” available. In comparison, Hercules’ cleanup of the Augean Stables was a simple job for Drano. In addition, Cook County has the largest unified court system in the world, as well as a budget and population that would make it the seventeenth largest state in the nation. What would make her want to get involved with the overwhelming problems of such a behemoth?



Besides working for political action groups such as the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Jennifer taught high school social studies for 25 years. She calls her teaching experience “extremely formative, second only to my sister’s murder.” She and her students discussed current events every day, and each of her classes addressed the concept of citizenship as “informed participation.” As she continually told her students, “If you don’t like things, change them.” She kept encouraging her students to consider one day running for office, while they encouraged her to do the same.

Finally, she did.

Two years ago, as a gun control activist, Jennifer attended a meeting of the Cook County Board. She was saddened to observe several “incompetent people on the board.” She had also been a volunteer with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Teens program, an inexpensive and cost-effective program that resulted in a 43 percent drop in recidivism among first-time, nonviolent offenders. Cook County Board President Todd Stroger cut that program while giving county jobs to his family and friends.

She learned that her County Board Representative, Republican Gregg Goslin, supported Todd Stroger’s budgets of 2007 and 2008, which cut physicians and law enforcement personnel while granting some of Stroger’s cousins six-figure jobs. She contends that, while Goslin portrays himself as an environmentalist, he votes against forest preservation practices. And she believes that he is unresponsive to his constituents’ concerns. After seeking advice from leading Democrats in the area including Dan Seals, Lauren Beth Gash, and Lee Goodman, Jennifer decided to run for the Cook County Board.

The 14th District’s boundaries are roughly Lake Cook Road to the north, I-90 to the south, western Wilmette to the east, and Barrington to the west. While solidly Republican in the past, this is changing. Although Goslin won his first race by 17,000 votes, he won his last election by only 6000. Jennifer has calculated that about half of the district is independent, and “We’re going to give them a reason to cross over.”

Jennifer’s platform, reformist and progressive, centers on four issues. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she considers the budget as “a moral document.” She will work to eliminate the “Stroger Sales Tax.” She believes in zero-based budgeting, which, unlike across-the-board cuts, would maintain good programs while getting rid of waste. She will take a hard look at streamlining and/or consolidating many county departments, and she will seek increased funding sources, including federal block grants.

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# Alexi Will Fight for Our Environment

by Steve Sheffey

Almost every day brings new accounts of Mark Kirk's "misrememberings," which come as no surprise to residents of the Tenth District. Character counts; and let's not forget that if this election is decided on the issues, Alexi Giannoulias also wins hands down.



Last month, the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters announced that they are endorsing Alexi Giannoulias over Mark Kirk in the general election. Both groups have previously backed Kirk.

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/elections/2366804,CST-NWS-kirk08.article>

Highlights from a *Sun-Times* article explain why environmental groups have abandoned Kirk in favor of Giannoulias:

"Mark Kirk stood up to Big Oil when he stopped BP from polluting Lake Michigan," Kirk boasts on his website. But the environmentalists say Kirk may be exaggerating a bit when he says "he stopped" BP. "Virtually every politician in the state said they were spear-heading the effort to keep BP from dumping in Lake Michigan," said Jack Darin, Director of the Sierra Club of Illinois. In contrast to Sen. Dick Durbin, Mayor Daley and former Rep. Rahm Emanuel, who kept up sustained pressure against BP, "Kirk held a press conference and took a boat trip, but since that issue has faded from the headlines, we have not seen Kirk speaking out about BP's choice to move to dirtier gas at the Indiana refinery or for Illinois cars," Darin said... "One thing that has long troubled us about Mark Kirk is his long

## Mark Kirk Says "No" to Job Creation

Tenth District Congressman and Senate hopeful Mark Kirk has again revealed the Republican stalwart behind his "moderate" façade.

On June 17, Kirk cast two votes against The Small-Business Lending Fund Act of 2010. After voting in favor of a Republican motion to recommit (MTR)—a tactic intended to at least stall, if not kill, the legislation—Kirk then cast an outright "no" in the final roll call vote. The legislation passed the House anyway in a 241:182 vote. It now moves to the Senate where it is expected to face fierce opposition from Republicans who argue it will add to the federal deficit. Of course, these are the same Republicans who eagerly spent \$700 billion dollars to bail out the big banks that caused the economic crisis and who continue to fight to preserve tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans.

The Small Business Lending Fund Act (SBLFA) is the realization of a White House proposal designed to increase lending to small- and medium-sized businesses via community banks, with the ultimate goal of spurring job growth. "The big banks—the same ones that

support for big oil companies," Darin said.

"He sided with Dick Cheney and President Bush in renewing tax subsidies for big oil."

"He was one of the people down on the floor of the House chanting 'Drill, Baby, Drill!' in August, 2008," [Tony] Massaro [of the League of Conservation Voters] said.

In contrast, Giannoulias was a rare state treasurer who went out of his way to find ways to help the environment, such as creating "a thousand-dollar incentive for Illinois drivers to purchase a hybrid, which helped make sure that the movement toward cleaner cars didn't lose steam during the recession," Darin said.

Many of us previously voted for Kirk (I voted for him in 2002 and 2004). No matter when or how many times you voted for him in the past, you don't have to vote for him again. We now know he's not who we thought he was.

While Kirk fiddles with his resumé, Alexi continues to rack up endorsements from organizations that share our values. First, it was Planned Parenthood and NARAL Pro-Choice America, then the Human Rights Campaign, and now the Sierra Club and League of Conservation Voters.

If you care about the issues as well as about character, Alexi is the clear choice. Both candidates are strong on Israel—one of their few areas of agreement—but on the other issues we care about, only Alexi is with us.

Let's send a Senator to Washington who will fight for us, not Big Oil. Let's send Alexi Giannoulias.



demanding a bailout from the American taxpayers in 2008—still will not invest seriously in our small business," Congressman Tom Perriello (D-VA) said on June 23. Yet small businesses create two-thirds of the jobs in the U.S.

The SBLFA proposes to create a \$30 billion pool of capital for small- and medium-sized community banks, which they can, in turn, lend to small- and medium-sized businesses. Banks with total assets of \$1 billion or less could receive up to 5 percent of risk-weighted assets. Banks with total assets of \$10 billion or less, but more than \$1 billion, could receive up to 3 percent of risk-weighted assets.

The SBLFA also includes incentives for banks to increase loans to small- and medium-sized business. Banks that boost small business

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# On the Fourth, Tenth Dems Wants You!

by Lauren Miller

As an intern for Tenth Dems, I enjoy what is the best occupational privilege one could have: access to as many Fourth of July parades as possible. Last year alone, I attended a total of six parades throughout two days and had the time of my life waving my flag and throwing candy to eager children lined up along the street. I especially enjoyed carrying a giant cut-out of President Obama throughout all of the parades, even though my laugh became rather forced after hearing the joke, "He isn't real, is he?" at least a hundred times.



While attending parades is a great way to show support for your town as well as the United States, it is also a great way to learn more about your community. Local state senators and congressional representatives almost never miss such a patriotic opportunity for free publicity, making for an exciting gathering of various elected officials. Of course, one can never have too many campaign buttons or, for that matter, campaign paraphernalia in general.

In anticipation of the Fourth of July, I thought I would give some helpful tips for those who want to join certain candidates and walk in a parade. First and foremost: Wear comfortable shoes! Walking shoes, not flip-flops, will ensure that you will be blister-free by the end of a long day. Second, bring plenty of candy to throw, as well as water to keep you hydrated on what will probably be a hot day. However, having an umbrella or raincoat handy may be a good idea, too. And, finally, have fun showing your Democratic pride!

Although walking with Democrats if you are in a predominantly Republican neighborhood may seem nerve-racking, there is always a friendly group of people willing to cheer everybody on. I strongly encourage everybody to walk with a candidate and make the most of this Fourth of July!

## **Here's a list of all the parades in and around the 10th District, for those interested in participating or watching!**

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS** – Frontier Days starts on July 1 and runs through July 5. The parade is on the 5th, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. It begins at Oakton and Highland and ends at Recreation Park.

**BARRINGTON** – Brats, Beers, Bands and Fireworks begins on June 30, and culminates with a fireworks display on July 4th. The Independence Day Parade steps off at 10:00 a.m. July 3rd on Main Street.

**DEERFIELD** – 47th Annual Family Days, July 3rd and 4th, features Brickyard Park fireworks, food and activities at Jewett Park, and the traditional downtown parade, which steps off on Sunday at 12:00 p.m. at Jewett Park.

**DES PLAINES** – Happy 175th Birthday, Des Plaines! Festivities include an ice cream social, fireworks, and of course the parade, which steps off July 4th at 1:00 p.m. at Oakton and Center Streets and proceeds north to the History Center.

**GLENCOE** – The July 4th parade starts at 2:00 p.m. at Central School.

It is the centerpiece of a day filled with children's games and an art fair in the morning, and food, entertainment, and fireworks in the evening!

**GLENVIEW** – "2010 – Remember When?" is the theme of this year's Independence Day celebration on Monday, July 5th. The main parade steps off from the Our Lady of Perpetual Help parking lot, 1123 Church Street, at 11:30 a.m. The day begins with a decorated bike parade at 11:00 a.m., and ends with a Twilight Show and fireworks at 7:30 p.m.

**HIGHLAND PARK** – The Fourth of July parade begins at 11:00 a.m., stepping off from the Port Clinton Parking Garage at the corner of Laurel and St. Johns and ending at Sunset Woods Park. The first event of the day is the Children's Bike and Pet Parade at 9:45 a.m., and the finale is the fireworks display, scheduled for 9:15 p.m. at Wolters Field.

**LAKE BLUFF** – A weekend of festivities is planned to celebrate Independence Day, beginning on Friday, July 2nd. The parade is scheduled for Sunday, July 4th, at 10:00 a.m.

**LINCOLNSHIRE** – The July 4th parade starts at 11:00 a.m. from Sprague School. Holiday events begin on July 3rd and include a kids' concert, carnival games, the 28th annual 5K race, and a Fireworks Extravaganza.

**MOUNT PROSPECT** – The Independence Day parade steps off at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 4, from the corner of Prospect Avenue and Emerson Street. Fireworks are set to go off at 9:30 p.m. at Melas Park.

**MUNDELEIN** – This community celebrates the Fourth with a four-day festival of events known as Mundelein Community Days. From Friday, July 2nd through Monday, July 5th, there are special events scheduled all day, every day! The parade steps off on Monday at 2:00 p.m. from Hawley Street and proceeds to Mundelein High School.

**NORTHBROOK** – "Making a Difference Through Service" is the theme of this year's parade, which honors Boy and Girl Scouts. It steps off on Sunday, July 4th, at 2:30 p.m., from Cherry Lane and Western Avenue. A full day of activities explodes with fireworks at 8:45 p.m. at the Velodrome.

**PALATINE** – A parade through downtown Palatine is just one of a calendar of events taking place Thursday through Monday, July 1 through 5, to celebrate Hometown Fest. The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. on Wood Street.

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# Oil & Water: Never Mix

by Debra Shore

When I give talks about the history of water management in our region, I often paraphrase Eric Sevareid who said, "All problems started out as solutions." In the 1880s, the solution to the problem of Chicago's contaminated drinking water was to dig a 28-mile ditch called the Sanitary & Ship Canal and reverse the flow of the Chicago River, using lake water to flush our sewage downstream. And it worked! (I call this the Audacity of Slope.) Chicago's drinking water was safe and the canal system provided a route for commercial navigation between the Mississippi River system and the Great Lakes. But that grand solution created several other vexing problems.

You see, the reversal of the river created a conduit between two watersheds — the Mississippi, which drains into the Gulf of Mexico, and that of Lake Michigan — that did not exist in nature. And now we



are spending millions of dollars attempting to keep Asian carp, the latest in a series of invasive species, from speeding up this watery highway and causing environmental havoc. These bighead and silver carp are together known as Asian carp and are considered a menace because they can grow as big as 100 pounds

and can consume 20 percent of their weight in plankton each day, thus outcompeting other fish species for their basic food source. In some reaches of the Missouri and Illinois Rivers, Asian carp have established enormous populations and dramatically altered the river ecosystem. They've knocked other fish out of contention in the battle for habitat and survival (and knocked boaters off their feet - see the widely-viewed video of silver carp jumping in the Mississippi River). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jb80mEr7VqI> and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdcQ560pxNE>

The carp are now only about 40 miles from the lake, so we are in a race against time.

This brings me to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Remember the aphorism that all problems started out as solutions? Drilling offshore, far from pristine beaches, vital estuaries, and productive fisheries, was the solution to our unquenchable thirst for oil. We haven't been able to break that chemical dependency — and now look at the problems that reckless spill has caused and will cause for years to come.

## On the Fourth...

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**PROSPECT HEIGHTS** – The Independence Day parade steps off from the south side of the Palwaukee Plaza parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 3.

**ROLLING MEADOWS** – The parade steps off from the Rolling Meadows High School parking lot at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 4.

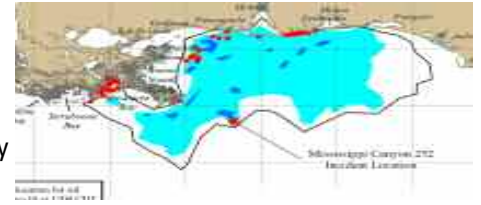
**VERNON HILLS** – Sunday, July 4th begins with a Bike Decorating Contest at 8:00 a.m., followed by the main parade at 9:00 a.m., stepping off at Deerpath Road and Atrium Boulevard. A fireworks display ends the day at Century Park.

In the leadership program I attended at the Kennedy School of Government two years ago, faculty made a point of distinguishing between technical solutions and adaptive change, or what I call "changing the culture." For example, the technical solution for Asian carp is to build an electric barrier to try to keep them from getting into the lake; the adaptive change would be to learn to eat them. With respect to fossil fuels, the technical solution — the one we reach for most often — is to find a new way to drill for oil or gas or sequester the carbon dioxide produced by burning coal. But what is really required in this case is adaptive change — we have to change the way we live our lives. We have to take our foot off the gas pedal and dramatically change our behavior.



I wish I were more confident about our ability to do this. Certainly I have seen profound changes in my profession in the last 35 years. There are no more linotype operators setting hot type for publications — as there were when I started out as a writer. Some jobs are gone (Typewriter repairman? Manufacturer of hot wax machines?). Others have supplanted them.

Unfortunately, we must bear the burden of solving problems that we did not create — as others have before us. The stakes are daunting. Many of us are teetering between determination and despair. And yet, look at how far we have come! When we dug the Sanitary & Ship Canal 120 years ago, there was no Environmental Protection Agency. No one knew about watersheds or ecosystems. Ecology was a nascent discipline. With enough money and enough will, human agency could solve any problem!



But we have learned — sometimes the hard way — that a healthy economy is utterly dependent on a healthy environment. Our waters are cleaner in many places than they were 35 years ago because we don't want our rivers to catch fire or our lungs to be black. Perhaps, too, we are learning to be stewards of nature, not merely users or abusers of natural resources.

We have our work cut out for us, don't we? Yesterday's technical solutions have become today's problems. We have to adapt. We have to change the culture.

**WINNETKA** – The village's annual parade is Sunday, July 4th, at 1:00 p.m. It steps off from the corner of Elm and Glendale Streets and ends at the Village Green. A spectacular fireworks display completes the day's events at 9:15 p.m.





# Retired Sailor

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officer might have suggested.

Several years ago, there were attacks on a gentleman who was a real Vietnam veteran, and who did operate with the Navy SEALs and was a true decorated hero. He never wrapped his candidacy around his military career. He wanted potential voters to be aware of his true political agenda and where he wanted to lead our nation. Can you recall his name? He lost his bid for the presidency after he was attacked by opposition spin doctors, although he was never cited by the Navy, or true former shipmates, for lying. John Kerry's leadership, courage, and sacrifice earned him a Silver Star, the Navy's fifth highest medal, a Bronze Star with Combat V, and three Purple Hearts, awarded for wounds received in combat. John Kerry was awarded a Bronze Star for rescuing a Green Beret who had gone overboard during a mission. According to his Bronze Star citation, "Lt. Kerry directed his gunners to provide suppressing fire, while from an exposed position on the bow, his arm bleeding and in pain, with disregard for his personal safety, he pulled the man aboard. Lt. Kerry's calmness, professionalism, and great personal courage under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Real medals, real service, and never questioned by the Pentagon. Now, a few years later, a gent running for the U.S. Senate from Illinois has been exposed as having made the false claim that he was Navy Intelligence Officer of the Year when, in truth, he was merely a co-recipient of a unit citation.

This was not an innocent error, a misstatement, or "misremembering." Any officer or enlisted Sailor who is a recipient of an individual award is also normally given a medal, such as a Navy Commendation Medal, or a higher award. When an active duty or reservist naval officer claims to be a recipient of recognition that he did not honestly receive, he has committed a serious breach of Navy rules. The Uniform Code of Military Justice, Article 107, addresses matters like these, providing that any person who, with intent to deceive, signs any false record, return, regulation, order, or other official document, knowing it to be false, or makes any other false official statement

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## Mark Kirk Says "No" to Job Creation

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lending would pay a lower interest rate on borrowed funds. In contrast, institutions that fail to increase lending would pay a higher rate.

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates the cost of implementing the SBLFA at about \$3.3 billion over four years (2011 to 2015). Since the bill would not affect direct spending or revenue, the CBO has said that the pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. "The program is fiscally responsible and totally paid for," Representative Perriello said. "In fact, it gets capital to our small businesses and returns interest to taxpayers."

Assuming the SBLFA passes the Senate, it's expected to be merged into the Small Business Jobs Tax Relief Act of 2010 (SBJTRA)—a bill Kirk voted for just minutes after casting a "yes" vote in favor of a

knowing it to be false, could be punished as a court-martial may direct.



An "official document" or "official statement" could include more than an entry in a military logbook, record, or official correspondence; it could, for example, include a formal statement to the public in a congressional campaign. Perhaps, initially, Kirk merely attempted to articulate his general experience and general service background to a staffer, who may have misunderstood and generated false information for campaign ads and the official website. However, one would expect a candidate running for Congress to review documents drafted by staff (and, we all certainly would hope that a U.S. Senator would not merely rely on staff to create a bill and not review or read it himself). My goodness, how intelligent would that be?

What I learned through my service, first and foremost, was to NEVER GUN DECK a log (in civilian language, that simply translates to, "Don't lie, cheat or generate any false statements"). Additionally, as my leadership responsibilities grew, I was also held accountable for my crew; if someone messed up, I was held responsible and would have to step up to clean up the mess, or face my skipper and pay the price. So, even if someone else created the mistake, it is still the duty and obligation of Kirk to proofread the documents and approve the published comments. Could this be why we have recently learned that the Pentagon confirmed that Kirk was advised of two violations of military rules while on active duty?

Regardless of how trivial Kirk's false statements about his service may appear to be, a real intelligence officer would never allow such political spin about his service. In the military, the only folks who are allowed to be "spin doctors" are those who serve as disc jockeys for Armed Forces Radio. Illinois does not need a dishonest braggart representing us in the U.S. Senate, especially one willing to exploit and exaggerate military service for political gain. He insults every active duty Sailor and officer, and every veteran who ever served this nation with honor and distinction.

*The author is a decorated Navy veteran with a line-of-duty disability.*

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Republican motion to recommit that would effectively have killed it. This type of flip-flop is among Kirk's favorite ploys. It allows him to support his party's efforts to kill Democratic legislation without casting a "no" vote in the high-profile final roll call—which, inevitably, would come back to haunt him.

The SBJTRA provides tax deductions and incentives to encourage investment in small business and to enhance cash flow in the early years. For example, the bill decreases the capital gains tax for those who invest in small businesses in 2010. And it increases by 400 percent (from \$500 to \$20,000) the tax deduction for start-up expenditures, "allowing small business owners to recover more of their start-up costs and freeing them to create new jobs." Mark Kirk's refusal to support these two important pieces of legislation aimed at spurring job creation highlights his true priorities and precisely why Illinoisans must work hard to ensure that he does not win the opportunity to represent our great state in the Senate.

# The Campaign View from a Candidate's Kid

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read one of Dad's flyers. There was a statement that really caught my eye: "Committed to Fairness." I was sitting at the kitchen table with my mom, and I said to her, "This is really true, you know. Dad is very fair." Even when my sisters, brother, and I have maybe done something wrong, Dad always listens to both sides of the story and is really very fair when he decides what to do. "Dad will make a great judge," I told my mom.

No surprise, Dad was also a great campaigner because he really likes meeting new people. It was a lot of work, though, and I don't think he got a lot of sleep. To be honest, I don't know anyone who works harder than my dad. He is my role model. He is a great lawyer. He's on the school board. He is the president of the baseball league. He always says, "Those who do the most, do the best." In other words, the more you do, the greater the impact you can have.

Dad always taught me that nothing is impossible. If you want something, you just have to give it your all—and that's what he did to win the primary election. Before the rest of the family woke up, Dad got up and went to train stations. He knocked on doors when it was freezing outside. He spent a lot of time meeting new people at political events. Unfortunately, he had campaign events most nights and on weekends. While Dad's campaign only lasted a little over three months, it was a very long three months. I know that I was ready for it to end.

While a lot of the primary campaign was pretty rough, there were some good moments.

So many kids at school told me that their parents were voting for Dad. To hear that felt great. We also got to meet a lot of nice people, including Congressional candidate Dan Seals and Dad's opponents. Yes, my parents and Dad's opponents actually became friends after spending so much time together on the campaign trail. I thought that was pretty incredible, but actually not surprising because my dad gets along with everyone.

Election Day in February was...unique. A good friend and I held signs at a polling place. It was freezing and snowing (and we were a little miserable), but I'm really glad that I helped out. It was a great experience.

That night, however, was very stressful. We sat in our kitchen with my grandma and aunt and watched the returns on the computer. Family in Texas, Florida, and California kept calling for updates, and it was a little overwhelming. There was a lot of tension in our kitchen on February 2. Where was Dad? Well, not one to stop working, he was out in the cold, taking down yard signs with my uncle. When we finally saw that Dad had won, we were jumping up and down, and it was awesome. I can't describe how happy my family was. I will remember it forever. We called Dad, of course, and he said he would be home in a while as there were more signs to take down.

And, luckily, there will be more signs to put up and doors to knock on and events to attend. I know that the road ahead for Dad and my family won't be easy. But, I know it is worth it because Dad will be an awesome judge. It's his dream, and he will give it his all.

## Tenth Dems Interns in for a Hot Summer

*by Stephen Ark*

On November 4, 2008, after the speeches finished and the confetti fell and CNN's holographic reporters signed off, our job seemed complete: We elected Barack Obama president and sent the most Democrats to Congress in decades.

To me, it also meant an end to my new weekend hobby: the canvassing, the phone calls, and the campaign office experience, with its fast pace and chaotic charm. When my high school guidance counselor sent out a list of summer work opportunities, I knew Tenth Dems had what I was missing.

I joined the team as an intern in 2009 and jumped headfirst into local politics, completing projects and staffing events. As an intern, I attended a meeting of the Chicago Bar Association, spoke to huge crowds, hob-nobbed with Howard Dean and Gov.



Pat Quinn, and met hundreds of people at street fairs, festivals, and parades.



Now I've returned for another summer, sticking around to help manage the intern program before starting school at Macalester College in the fall. I'm not the only one to come back:

"Working with Tenth Dems has empowered me to be more active in my community," said Lauren Miller of Kenilworth, another returning intern. "It has given me the knowledge necessary to pursue politics and help elect Democratic officials."

Last summer, she founded a "grassroots-like Democratic club" called "The Progressive Club" at Loyola Catholic Academy. "I was able to apply many of the lessons I learned from Tenth Dems and campaigns to high school and getting both apathetic and over-active students engaged in politics," Miller said.

Lauren and I are joined by the nearly 20 other high school and college students who make up Tenth Dems's 2010 intern class. As has been true the previous five summers, this group is

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# Jenkins for Cook County Board

*continued from page 2*

Second, Jennifer is committed to eliminating the county's corrupt hiring practices, which she contends is part of a patronage system that wastes 12 to 15 percent of the county's budget.

Third, based on her experience as an advocate and volunteer, Jennifer will bring best practices to develop crime-prevention programs that are proven cost-effective measures for reducing violent crime.

Finally, Jennifer will be a strong supporter of the county's vast forest preserve system. Disturbed by conflicts of interest that can arise by having the same people serve on both the county and forest preserve

boards, she supports an independent, all-volunteer forest preserve district board.

Surviving Auschwitz and Buchenwald, Imre Kertész had the courage to write novels that pose questions challenging the common assumptions of what it is to be human. For his efforts, Kertész was awarded the 2002 Nobel Prize for Literature. In wrestling with the senseless horror of her sister's death, Jennifer Bishop Jenkins chose to react not with hate or nihilism but rather to advocate for causes she believes will make our world a better place in which to live. Her decision to run for Cook County Board is but the latest example of her desire to commemorate her sister's memory by working for the common good. For this, she deserves our gratitude and active support.

# Tenth Dems Interns in for a Hot Summer

*continued from page 7*

scattered throughout, and even beyond, the 10th Congressional District, from Grayslake in the North to Mount Prospect in the South and from Gurnee to Chicago.

"I love being an intern here," said Julia Sheppard, a high school student from Wilmette. "I've learned a lot about how politics works at the local level and just how important civic engagement,

volunteering, and donating are to political grassroots organizations."

Like Julia, Tenth Dems interns learn about politics by planning and attending events, working with candidates and elected officials, and completing research projects.

An intern's summer includes "opportunities to engage in public speaking, the option to be in parades, volunteering at booths, learning Excel, and talking to strangers," said Roberto Luna, a rising junior at



Eastern Illinois University.

"It seems that the knowledge learned and retained from the office and at events will stay with me forever."



*Playing with children  
Some good training before he  
Joined the GOP*

*Haiku by Ed Nickow*



*Mark Kirk a teacher?  
No, just the children's playmate  
Four year old children*

# Retired Teacher

*continued from page 1*

Mark Kirk's distortion of his own resumé and his exaggerated claims regarding his experience as a teacher are troubling, especially to those of us who have taught for more than a year. Teachers know first-hand how crucial education is to the future of our country. Teachers know first-hand how difficult their job is and how much effort it takes to make that difference for your students. Teachers know first-hand what it is like to teach in circumstances much more stressful than those in a church nursery school or a British private school.

I taught reading and language arts in a middle school for 25 years, from 1979 to 2004. For the past six years I have taught reading at Oakton Community College. I do know "what it takes to bring order to a class." Moreover, I know how important it is to be scrupulous with the information you are imparting to your students. Whether the subject is English, history, biology, or any other discipline, it is important to be accurate and clear. Just as it's a disservice to students to distort this content, it's a disservice to the citizens of Illinois to misrepresent his own record, as Mark Kirk has done again and again.