

# PORTAGE BLUE PRINT

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5      MAY 2007

## PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

In addition to being one of our most outspoken and tough minded Representatives, Congressman Tim Ryan also has an excellent record when it comes to the environment.

According to the League of Conservation Voters, (LCV) Congressman Ryan scores high in its evaluation of pro environmental candidates...

LCV's mission is to "advocate for sound environmental policies and to elect pro environmental candidates who will adopt and implement such policies."

LCV's National Environmental Scorecard was designed to track voting records of Congresspersons and educate the

public about key environmental issues. Here are Congressman Ryan's ratings:

### Vote Ratings

**109th, 2nd Session (2006) 92%**

**109th, 1st Session (2005) 89%**

**108th Congress (2003-2004) 100%**



Tim Ryan's unwavering support for responsible legislation has resulted in his cosponsoring the following bills:

Rep. Markey's H.R. 567 to preserve ANWR along with other bills to protect Alaska's National Forest.

Candice Miller's H.R. 718 to preserve the environment of the Great Lakes, in addition to many similar bills focusing on the Great Lakes and its ecosystem,

Rep. Insley's bill to protect existing roadless wilderness, as well as bills to increase renewable fuels, to increase public transportation and fuel efficient vehicles, and to fund clean water initiatives.

To see how your other representatives voted go to [www.lcv.org](http://www.lcv.org)

## MAY EVENTS

- May 12th — Ohio Democratic Party Annual Dinner. Hillary Clinton guest speaker.
- May 12th—ODP Mother's Day Lunch
- May 17th—Northeast Portage Democrats meeting in Mantua
- *Make sure your 2007 Dues are paid.*

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## NORTHEAST PORTAGE DEMOCRATS HONORED

A special congratulations and hats off to our own Northeast Portage Democrats who were presented with Democratic Recognition Awards at the Chair's Circle Benefit last Friday.

Governor Strickland and Congressman Tim Ryan were both special guests.

Barb Gaskins and Carol O'Laughlin both received the highest honors from Portage Democratic Party Chairman, Craig Stephens, for their hard work and tireless dedication to the operations of party Headquarters, located on Main St. in Ravenna. Gary Carpenter,

who is a lifetime member, received the First Chair award for his contributions in the Ohio Coordinated Campaign efforts in the 2006 election.

So if you see them, give a shout out and a warm thanks to Barb, Carol and Gary for helping to turn Ohio blue!!!!

## THE COST OF BUSH'S WAR IN APRIL

Each of these names had a face, to someone it was the most important face in the world.

To someone it was the face of a good friend  
 To someone it was the face they gave life to, the face that gave *their* life purpose  
 To someone it was the face that made them laugh  
 To someone it was the face of courage and honor  
 To all who knew these names, these were faces they'll never forget.

In April, 104 more of our brothers, sisters, sons and daughters lost their lives in Bush's War. How many more will be sacrificed before demand peace.

Support our troops, bring them home.

May they rest in peace and give us the courage to demand peace.

1st Lieutenant Travis L. Manion	Lance Corporal Jeffery A. Bishop	1st Lieutenant Phillip I. Neel
Staff Sergeant Jay E. Martin	Chief Warrant Officer Dwayne L. Moore	Captain Jonathan D. Grassbaugh
Sergeant Alexander J. Funcheon	Private 1st Class Jason M. Morales	Specialist Ebe F. Emolo
Private 1st Class Brian A. Botello	Corporal Wade J. Oglesby	Private 1st Class Levi K. Hoover
Sergeant Norman L. Tollett	Corporal Michael M. Rojas	Private 1st Class Rodney L. Mccandless
Staff Sergeant Jason R. Arnette	Private 1st Class Richard P. Langenbrunner	Commander Philip A. Murphy-Sweet
Specialist William G. Bowling	1st Lieutenant Shaun M. Blue	Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph A. Mcsween
Private 1st Class Miguel A. Marcial Iii	Lance Corporal Jesse D. Delatorre	Petty Officer 2Nd Class Curtis R. Hall
Sergeant Michael R. Hullender	Lance Corporal Daniel R. Scherry	Chief Petty Officer Gregory J. Billiter
Sergeant William J. Callahan	Private 1st Class Lucas V. Starcevich	Private 1st Class Jay S. Cajimat
Sergeant Peter Woodall	Private 1st Class Aaron M. Genevix	Petty Officer 2Nd Class Joseph C. Schwedler
Private 1st Class Nicholas E. Riehl	Sergeant Mario K. De Leon	Private 1st Class Daniel A. Fuentes
Specialist Eddie D. Tamez	Private 1st Class Steven J. Walberg	Private Damian Lopez Rodriguez
Private 1st Class David Austin Kirkpatrick	Sergeant Joshua A. Schmit	Specialist Ryan S. Dallam
Corporal Christopher Degiovine	Sergeant Brandon L. Wallace	Captain Anthony Palermo Jr.
Corporal Willie P. Celestine Jr.	Lance Corporal Daniel J. Santee	Specialist Jason A. Shaffer
Lance Corporal Adam Loggins	Staff Sergeant Robert J. Basham	Sergeant Forrest D. Cauthorn
Specialist Jeremy E. Maresh	Specialist Ryan A. Bishop	Private 1st Class James J. Coon
Lance Corporal Dale G. Peterson	Sergeant Larry R. Bowman	Staff Sergeant Jerry C. Burge
Sergeant Brice A. Pearson	Corporal Cody A. Putnam	Corporal Joseph H. Cantrell Iv
Sergeant Randell T. Marshall	Private 1st Class John G. Borbonus	Private 1st Class Derek A. Gibson
Specialist Jerry R. King	Specialist James T. Lindsey	Private 1st Class Walter Freeman Jr.
Staff Sergeant Kenneth E. Locker Jr.	Corporal Jason J. Beadles	Staff Sergeant Shane R. Becker
Specialist Michael J. Rodriguez	1st Lieutenant Gwilym J. Newman	Private 1st Class Gabriel J. Figueroa
Staff Sergeant William C. Moore	Sergeant Raymond S. Sevaaetasi	Specialist Curtis R. Spivey
Sergeant Michael L. Vaughan	Private 1st Class Kyle G. Bohnsen	Lance Corporal Daniel R. Olsen
Private 1st Class Garrett C. Knoll	Private 1st Class Brian Lee Holden	Sergeant Bradley D. King
1st Lieutenant Kevin Gaspers	Specialist Ismael Solorio	Specialist Brian E. Ritzberg
Private 1st Class Jeffrey A. Avery	Private 1st Class Brett Andre Walton	Staff Sergeant David A. Mejias
Staff Sergeant Marlon B. Harper	Specialist , Clifford A. Spohn Iii	Staff Sergeant Eric R. Vick
Private Michael J. Slater	Sergeant Adam P. Kennedy	Sergeant Robert M. Mcdowell
Sergeant William W. Bushnell	Staff Sergeant Jesse L. Williams	Name Not Released Yet
Staff Sergeant Steven R. Tudor	Private 1st Class David N. Simmons	Name Not Released Yet
Private 1st Class Christopher M. North	Staff Sergeant Harrison Brown	Name Not Released Yet
Corporal Ray M. Bevel	Sergeant Todd A. Singleton	

## PUTTING A FACE ON BUSH'S WAR



Gunner Lee 'Thorny' Thornton was born on November 25, 1983. From an early age he had wanted to be a soldier and he enlisted in his home town on August 30, 2000 at the age of sixteen. He was the epitome of the professional soldier; diligent, motivated, enthusiastic and tremendously fit.

He had a gentle side, and this and his unstinting loyalty endeared him to all who were fortunate enough to meet and work alongside him. He was also a compassionate man and had run a marathon for charity in 2005, entirely of his own initiative and organization. He was intending to organize another similar event on his return from Iraq. Outside of Army life, he was a devoted family man who enjoyed nothing more than a game of football with his brother.

Lee Thornton was part of a squad training Iraqi troops north of Basra, when he came under attack. He had volunteered to go on the patrol the day after two of his colleagues were killed in another ambush. He was that kind of soldier. He was shot and very seriously wounded, he was air-lifted to a hospital where he sadly died.

Before he left for Iraq, Lee Thornton sat down and wrote his fiancée a letter he hoped she would never have to read. The soldier had left instructions with his "soulmate", 21-year-old student Helen O'Pray that she was to open it only in the event of his death. At his funeral, Lee Thornton's fiancée shared his letter with the world. Hands trembling, she read his letter so that we could all put a face on the cost of this war.

These were Lee Thornton's words,

*Hi babe,*

*I don't know why I am writing this because I really hope that this letter never gets to you, because if it does that means I am dead. It also means I never had time to show you just how much I really did love you.*

*You have shown me what love is and what it feels like to be loved. Every time you kissed me and our lips touched so softly I could feel it. I got the same magical feeling as our first kiss. I could feel it when our hearts get so close they are beating as one. You are the beat of my heart, the soul in my body; you are me because without you I am nothing. I love you Helen, you are my girlfriend, my fiancée and my best friend.*

*You are the person I know I could turn to when I needed help, you are the person I looked at when I needed to smile and you are the person I went to when I needed a hug. When I am away it is like I have left my soul by your side. You have shown me so much while you have been in my life that if I lost you I could not live. You have shown me how to live and you have shown me how to be truly happy.*

*I want you to know that every time I smile that you have put it there. You make me smile when others can't, you make me feel warm when I am cold. You have shown me so much love and so much more. I want you to know how much you mean to me. You are my whole world and I love you with all my heart, you are my happiness. There is no sea or ocean that could stop my love for you. It is the biggest thing I have ever had. When I say I love you I am trying to say... that you make me feel warm and great about myself, you make me smile and laugh everyday; you make time to talk to me and listen to what I have to say.*

*I know God put me and you on this earth to find each other, fall in love and show the rest of the world what true love really is.*

*I know this is going to sound sad but every night I spent away I had a photo of you on my headboard. Each night I would go to bed, kiss my fingers then touch your face. I put the photo over my bed so you could look over me as I slept. Well now it is my turn to look over you as you sleep and keep you safe in your dreams. I will always be looking over you to make sure you're safe.*

*Helen, I want to say something and I mean this more than I ever did before. You were the love of my life, the girl of my dreams.*

*Just because I have passed away does not mean I am not with you. I'll always be there looking over you keeping you safe. So whenever you feel lonely just close your eyes and I'll be there right by your side. I really did love you with all I had, you were everything to me.*

Never forget that, and never forget I will always be looking over you. I love you, you are my soul mate.

Love always and forever.

Lee



Lee and Helen in happier times

CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS NEED TO SEIZE THE POSITION "SUPPORT THE TROOPS".

Congressional Democrats are expected this week to send to President Bush the conference-approved Iraq-Afghanistan funding bill requiring troop withdrawal to begin by October 1.

President Bush has declared for weeks that he will veto a funding bill if it contains a withdrawal timetable and presents the bizarre position that, if Congress sends the President a funding bill that the President will veto, that Congress is not supporting The Troops.

Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi need to make a clear public announcement that Congress has passed a bill providing ALL the

funding for The Troops in Iraq and Afghanistan that the President requested.

Congress has done its duty to The Troops. If the President now vetoes that funding, it is the President who is not supporting The Troops.

The Associated Press reported on April 24: "House and Senate Democratic appropriators agreed Monday on a \$124 billion bill that would fund the Iraq war but order troops to begin leaving by Oct. 1 with the goal of completing the pullout six months later.

Bush has promised to veto the measure, which would force lawmakers back to

the drawing table. Democrats would need a two-thirds majority to override a presidential veto."

Senator Reid and Speaker Pelosi should announce that, if the President vetoes the funding, Congress WILL NOT RECONSIDER a funding bill.

Somehow the President has convinced the media that, if the President vetoes the funding, Congress must pass another funding bill that the President would approve. This is simply not the case. The President wants the funding, not the Congress or at least not the Democrats.

Many, if not most, Democrats would sooner not fund

the war at all. If the President does not accept the funding that Congress passes, that's a Good Thing. If the President vetoes the Iraq funding bill, that may end the occupation of Iraq sooner.

Congressional leaders should make it clear that this bill, with a withdrawal timetable, is the only chance the President will get to continue funding his war. Mention this to your Congressman next time you see him.

- Old Country Lawyer.

**GREAT REPUBLICANS IN HISTORY**



**ENDED SLAVERY.**



**ENDED COLD WAR.**



**ENDED DEMOCRACY.**

"In my line of work you gotta keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kinda catapult the propaganda."

George W Bush  
May 24, 2005

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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- May 13th—Mother’s Day
- May 17th—Northeast Portage Democrats meeting in Mantua

## MAY 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

### DEMOCRACYFORAMERICA.COM PROVIDES FREE TRAINING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Democracy for America (DFA) is a political action committee founded by former Vermont Governor Howard Dean after his unsuccessful presidential campaign in 2004.

Dean’s vision was to build a network of progressive candidates to compete in every state and district. To succeed in this, DFA provides training and organizational support to state and local DFA groups nationwide to create a grassroots network that promotes fiscally responsible, socially progressive Democrats at all levels of

government.

#### DFA Night School

Aside from the intensive Training Academy weekends, Democracy for America offers a free Night School workshop that combines an online presentation and a live conference call.

Night School lessons are interactive and cover a variety of topics such as “Getting Out the Vote” and “Sustaining Media Presence.”

Past Night School lessons are available for download

at no charge, or can be purchased in DVD format.

#### DFA Training Academy

The Democracy for America Training Academy is a two-day workshop created to train grassroots activists with the skills and strategies needed to elect Democratic candidates to office.

The workshop provides low-cost training for activists and candidates who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford such education from political campaign professionals.



#### Welcome New Members

Jackson Tittle

Sandy Tittle

Ambrose Briscar

Irene Briscar

Peace  
also takes  
courage.

VOTE SMART, VOTE TOUGH,  
VOTE DEMOCRAT

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make note of these new contact addresses as they have changed. New and renewing members please complete the membership form enclosed with this newsletter and mail with your check to our new PO Box.

Northeast Portage Democrats  
Attention: Membership  
PO Box 171  
Hiram, OH 44234

Phone: 330.569.3152  
E-mail: [Media@neportagedems.com](mailto:Media@neportagedems.com)

Leanne Shafer	President	<a href="mailto:LShafer@neportagedems.com">LShafer@neportagedems.com</a>
Maria Lukas	Vice President	<a href="mailto:MLukas@neportagedems.com">MLukas@neportagedems.com</a>
Ed Frato-Sweeney	Vice President	<a href="mailto:ESweeney@neportagedems.com">ESweeney@neportagedems.com</a>
Charmaine Kepes	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:CKepes@neportagedems.com">CKepes@neportagedems.com</a>
Donnie Danner	Secretary	<a href="mailto:DDanner@neportagedems.com">DDanner@neportagedems.com</a>

## MOVIE AND A POTLUCK SUCCESSFUL

Thank you to all who attended! The Northeast Portage Dems first ever Community Nite at The Mantua Fire Station was a success!

The food was excellent and the company, as always, was entertaining. The Oscar winning documentary outlined a clear and simple message: we have entered a period of consequences and there is no more time to waste.

A special thanks to State Representative, Kathy Chandler, who addressed the group to provide information on the new state budget. She and her fellow legislators are working hard to pass compre-

hensive funding changes that would cut property taxes for every senior in the state of Ohio and begin shifting the burden of public school funding to the state and away from property owners.

Also a very special thanks to Palmer Peterson, former candidate for Congress in the 14th District. As a meteorologist and lifetime resident of Northeast Ohio, Palmer's perspective was distinctly objective. Special thanks to Karen and Allen Harshbarger.

Visit [nativeenergy.com](http://nativeenergy.com) and find out what's being done and what you can do to change the course of global warming.

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Read the following quote from President Bush and ask,

How does this president **KNOW** that things won't start to stabilize and turn around in Iraq tomorrow?

Why is he so certain we won't win?

What is he not telling us?

"The strategy is to help the Iraqi people achieve the objectives and dreams which is a democratic society.

That's the strategy. The tactics — now — either you say yes it's important we stay there and get it done or we leave."

**"We're not leaving so long as I'm the president.** That would be a huge mistake. It would send an unbelievably you know terrible signal to reformers across the region.

It would say we've abandoned our desire to change the conditions that create terror."

George W Bush  
Aug 21, 2006

**"We're not leaving so long as I'm the president. "**

Makes you wonder