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VOTE ON IRAQ AGAIN AND AGAIN

Over in Iraq, our troops get up every day and risk their lives in the middle of an Iraqi civil war. They have to do their job, no matter what the risk, and no matter what the cost. They do what they are asked to do...and so should Congress. Congress's job right now should be to bring our troops home safely, and we can't turn away from this issue just because it's tough going.

The only way we will ever get our troops out is by putting constant pressure on supporters of this disastrous war. Let's make them vote again and again, so that they have to go back home and explain why they keep voting to keep our troops in Iraq. When they feel the heat for their vote, that's when they will change their vote, and that's how we will bring our troops home.

The message from the voters last November was clear -- safely redeploy our troops out of Iraq. Telling ourselves "we don't have the votes now, so what's the point" doesn't cut it. I understand that we may not get to 67 or 60 or even 50 votes on Feingold-Reid right now. But remember, when I first proposed that Congress use its constitutional power of the purse to end the war, support was scarce at best. Now, the majority of Senate Democrats, including our leadership and presidential candidates, are firm supporters.

If we give in to the defeatist "we don't have the votes" attitude, we're playing right into the hands of the president and supporters of his war who cannot wait for the day they don't have to talk about Iraq. If supporters of this war are going to vote to keep our troops in a situation that is hurting our military as well as our national security, they should be prepared to defend it every day.

One question that I keep getting asked by reporters is why Democrats aren't reaching out to moderate Republicans to come up with some sort of consensus legislation. I also see stories criticizing the Democratic leadership for failing to bring in Republican moderates to pass legislation. My response is simple -- what good is getting 60 or 67 votes to pass a nonbinding Sense of the Senate resolution on Iraq that doesn't bring the troops home?

When I hold my town hall meetings in Wisconsin, nobody is asking me to push for an empty compromise. They ask me how we can finally end this war. This summer we heard a growing chorus of Republicans call for change in Iraq but their words have proven to be empty. If members are serious about changing course in Iraq, Feingold-Reid is the surest way to do it.

The American people have been clear in what they want -- an end to this war. Last

November, Democrats were saying all the right things but now it's time to follow through.

I know some of my colleagues want to avoid any Iraq debate on the Defense appropriations bill. Sorry, but Iraq is the most important issue we face and the Senate must address it as we take up the Defense spending bill this week. That's why I will again be offering an amendment to set a deadline for bringing our troops home. I intend to do so today.

If those of us in Congress who want to end this war don't take every opportunity to push back against this administration, we will be just as responsible for keeping our troops in Iraq.

Congress has got to stand up to this administration, and stand up to every phony argument it makes for keeping our troops in Iraq. In this debate, we need honesty, determination, and above all, persistence.

With President Bush in office, we can't change things in Iraq if we don't vote to do so. If we lose that vote, we need to vote again and again and again.

We have to hold war supporters' feet to the fire until they finally listen to the American people, recognize the damage this president's Iraq policy has done, and vote to safely redeploy our troops.

By Sen. Russ Feingold

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THE COST OF BUSH'S WAR IN SEPTEMBER



Here are the Americans that were killed by our foreign policy in September

Support the Troops, Bring Them Home

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

May God have mercy on us for not doing more to stop this killing.

Specialist Chirasak Vidhyarkorn
 Sergeant Randell Olguin
 Specialist Christopher G. Patton
 Sergeant 1st Class James D. Doster
 Sergeant Robert T. Ayres III
 Staff Sergeant Donnie D. Dixon
 Sergeant 1st Class Randy L. Johnson
 Staff Sergeant Zachary B. Tomczak
 Staff Sergeant Kevin R. Brown
 Corporal Anthony K. Bento
 Specialist David L. Watson
 Specialist Joshua H. Reeves
 Command Sergeant Major Jonathan M. Lankford
 Specialist John J. Young
 Captain (Doctor) Roselle M. Hoffmaster
 Private 1st Class Luigi Marciante Jr.
 Corporal Graham M. McMahon
 Private 1st Class Christian M. Neff
 Sergeant Edmund J. Jeffers
 Specialist Aaron J. Walker
 Specialist Matthew J. Emerson
 Specialist Joseph N. Landry III
 Corporal Ryan A. Woodward
 Specialist Marisol Heredia
 Lance Corporal Lance M. Clark
 Captain Drew N. Jensen
 Specialist Thomas L. Hilbert
 Specialist Jason J. Hernandez
 Sergeant Lee C. Wilson
 Corporal Christopher L. Poole Jr.
 Corporal Bryan J. Scripsick
 Staff Sergeant John C. Stock
 Sergeant Michael J. Yarbrough

Specialist Nicholas P. Olson
 Specialist Donald E. Valentine III
 Staff Sergeant Michael L. Townes
 Private 1st Class Brandon T. Thorsen
 Corporal Terrence P. Allen
 Sergeant John Mele
 Staff Sergeant Terry D. Wagoner
 Specialist Todd A. Motley
 Specialist Jonathan Rivadeneira
 Private Christopher M. McCloud
 Lance Corporal Jon T. Hicks Jr.
 Corporal Carlos E. Gil Orozco
 Staff Sergeant Gregory Rivera-Santiago
 Sergeant Michael C. Hardegee
 Sergeant Nicholas J. Patterson
 Specialist Ari D. Brown-Weeks
 Specialist Steven R. Elrod
 Staff Sergeant Yance T. Gray
 Sergeant Omar L. Mora
 Private 1st Class Sammie E. Phillips
 Sergeant Alexander U. Gagalac
 Staff Sergeant Courtney Hollinsworth
 Sergeant 1st Class David A. Cooper Jr.
 Corporal William T. Warford III
 Private 1st Class Dane R. Balcon
 Corporal Javier G. Paredes
 Specialist Keith A. Nurnberg
 Specialist Rodney J. Johnson
 Sergeant Joel L. Murray
 Specialist David J. Lane
 Private Randol S. Shelton
 Staff Sergeant Delmar White
 NAME NOT RELEASED YET

A CORPORATE BAILOUT TO SAVE THE COUNTRY

During the last week of September, the news media informed Americans that the profitability of General Motors, other auto makers, and presumably other manufacturing concerns which have operated in the United States since before World War II, is severely impacted by the obligations that those manufacturers undertook to their employees over the course of those many years.

Employers contracted with their employees during the 1940's, '50's, and '60's to provide generous future retirement benefits, including lifetime health care. That would have seemed a good business decision in 1960, when the projected lifespan was 72 years. Who would have thought that so many retirees would inconveniently still be drawing

benefits into their eightieth and ninetieth years of age?

This unexpected plethora of long-lived retirees has proved a financial disaster to established American employers, on a scale comparable to Katrina's impact on government revenues in Louisiana. In 1974, with the leadership of Senator Metzenbaum, the federal government set up the Pension Benefits Guarantee Corporation, which established a tax-funded "insurance" fund that pays to retirees some portion of the retirement income their former employers had contracted to pay them prior to those former employers filing for bankruptcy protection in the federal courts. The effectiveness of this system is demonstrated in Ohio, where Republic/LTV Steel bankrupted in 2001, reneged on its labor

contract obligations to current employees and retirees, and sold its production assets to International Steel Group. ISG prospered in the absence of employee and retiree contract obligations and has made steel at a profit since, putting to shame foreign competition.

Bankrupting out from under employee contract obligations is less attractive for businesses like GM who sell to the consumer public, which has been trained at great expense to respond to the GM brand names. Who would pay \$60,000.00 for a vehicle produced at a former Cadillac plant if it was called "International Auto Group Escalade"? So there has to be a more subtle way to let American auto manufacturers escape their contractual retiree and employee

responsibilities and still keep their consumers.

Hopefully some pro-big-business Republican, as distinct from "fiscally conservative" Republican, will figure out that an efficient way to bail out long-established American manufacturers with decades of retiree-health-care obligations, is for the federal government to take over paying for everybody's health-care. A national single-payer healthcare payment plan to bail out American industry? Who'd have thunk it? Besides Canada and Great Britain and Germany and France and Japan, that is.

- Christopher J. Mallin, Old Country Lawyer

BRING THE TROOPS HOME NOW

All during the month of October, the Northeast Portage Democrats and the Portage Democratic Coalition will be gathering signatures asking Congress and the Administration to end the war.

For a \$5 donation your signature will appear with other Club members in a full page ad in the Record Courier demanding an end to Bush's War in Iraq.

Your signature appears with the statement, "We, the undersigned, make public our opposition to the continued military occupation of Iraq. Further, we call upon the United States Congress to discontinue funding for this occupation, except for the safe, swift, and orderly withdrawal of all troops."

Your \$5 donation will help pay for the cost of the ad.

To sign the petition print the form on page 5 of the newsletter and return it with your check made payable to the Northeast Portage Democrats.

Mail it to our address PO Box 171, Hiram, OH 44234 or drop it off at our October meeting.

Remember peace is the only battle worth waging.



*"An eye for an eye and the whole world goes blind."
... Mahatma Gandhi*

"When even one American - who has done nothing wrong - is forced by fear to shut his mind and close his mouth - then all Americans are in peril."

Harry S Truman

OCTOBER 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			

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- October 1 — President Jimmy Carter's Birthday.
- October 18 — Northeast Portage Democrats Meeting.
- October 30— Democratic Debate in Philadelphia, PA

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Alan Munson
- Donna Munson
- Trey Adams
- Paul Denison



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

Leanne Shafer	President	LShafer@neportagedems.com
Maria Lukas	Vice President	MLukas@neportagedems.com
Ed Frato-Sweeney	Vice President	ESweeney@neportagedems.com
Charmaine Kepes	Treasurer	CKepes@neportagedems.com
Donnie Danner	Secretary	DDanner@neportagedems.com

RUN TIM RUN

If you're a Democrat and live in North-east Ohio, you're certain to know Congressman Tim Ryan. For those of us who know him it's easy to envision him as US Senator Tim Ryan after the next election.



As an outspoken opponent of the Iraq War and the prolonged occupation of Iraq and as a champion of old fashioned middle class, middle America values, Congressman Ryan has few equals. He

epitomizes the strength and moral muscle we Democrats want to see. He is unafraid whether challenging the President on Iraq, taxes or it's failed foreign policies and makes frequent trips back to his district to let us know he works for us.

The Northeast Portage Democrat's website contain a number of the speeches Congressman Ryan has made which are as impressive as his progressive voting record.

His no nonsense, fiscally moral and direct styles make him the ideal candidate to win the northern and southern parts of Ohio. He does nothing but win.

He is smart, youthful, filled with enthusiasm, strong in stature, and exudes a genuine interest in serving the needs of the people not only in his congressional district but in the nation at large too.

He would be a formidable opponent in 2010 against Sen. George Voinovich, one that would give Ohioans another Democratic senator working for the needs of citizens over the special interests.

Thus, I encourage you to watch his speeches, review his positions and send him a message letting him know we want him to take on Dubya's water carrier, George Voinovich.

Write to Tim encouraging him to run for Senate

*Congressman Tim Ryan
1421 Longworth Office Building
Washington, DC 20515*

~ Paul Denison