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Congressman Mike Thompson at Veterans Memorial Hall

by Carl Schmid

Fishing and farming families both have a stake.

...[Delta] important to our environment, culture, economy...

...science driving policy not politics...

In one year since Health Care Reform has passed, not one single death panel has been convened.

Congress came real close to allowing government to shut down, not a good way to run the federal government.

...struggling to get out of this recession...fragile recovery...

Pay as you go....funny thing happened to \$5.3 trillion dollar surplus.

...Medicare part D on the credit card, war in Iraq on the credit card, war in Afghanistan on the credit card, tax cuts on the credit card.

...[Ryan Bill] will lose 7000,000 jobs... Makes little sense.



A capacity turnout filled Veterans Memorial Hall for Congressman Mike Thompson's Annual Yolo County Pasta Dinner. In addition to delicious pasta, the event featured wine tasting offered by local vintners and a silent auction. Traditionally, the Congressman (photo above.) enjoys serving dinner to appreciative constituents. Among others,



Mark Johansen, Steve Souza and Dan Saylor (l-r.), helped the Congressman on the food service line.

E-waste was again collected at the event and recycled computers were donated to student and civic groups. Thompson has introduced legislation to regulate E-waste noting that "There are some real bad actors out there." He also takes pride in the fact that the pasta dinner generates almost no waste by recycling nearly everything that is not consumed.

Thompson has formed a working group

with Representatives McNearny and Spear to fashion appropriate water policy that avoids a false fight between farmers and fish. According to Thompson, a restored salmon fishery is worth six billion dollars to the state economy. Similarly, rice farms now provide most of the Pacific flyway. Thompson explains that Water policy is critical to our environment, economy and culture and should be determined by science.

A strong supporter of Health Care Reform, Thompson notes that this legislation has already had many positive benefits such as the availability of insurance for children born with preexisting conditions and enabling parents to include children under 26 on their policy. He pointedly remembers that some opponents of health care reform had cynically mislead the public with unfounded criticisms about death panels.

Thompson, "a Blue Dog Democrat", supported the pay-as-you-go rule "from the day I went to Congress." According to Thompson, this rule, which was later repealed by a Republican Congress, was partially responsible for generating the 5.3-trillion-dollar Clinton-surplus that had been projected prior to the Bush Presidency. A "funny thing" involving a series of irresponsible decisions then happened to that projected surplus (see left side bar quote) now resulting in a massive deficit.

Given this history, the Congressman ridicules the notion that the "tea people" are genuinely committed to fiscal responsibility. He is also concerned that given our fragile economic recovery, the current majority is acting irresponsibly by threatening to shut down the government while simultaneously proposing massive cuts in social programs as outlined in the Congressman Ryan plan.

As one friend mentioned, "We are lucky to have him in Washington."

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Calendar of Events

Sun., June 5, 11:00 am-3:00 pm, Champagne Brunch, hosted by Bill Julian and Robin Kulakow at their home, 43556 Almond Lane, Willowbank. A buffet brunch with refreshment will be followed by presentations featuring state and local elected officials.

Tues., June 7, 7:00-9:00 pm, regular DDC Board business meeting Davis Branch Yolo County Library, general members and public welcomed.

Mon. July 4, 2:00-8:00 pm, Celebrate July 4th in Community Park, volunteer to greet the public and give balloons to children. Contact Carl, 756-6569.

Promise Kept

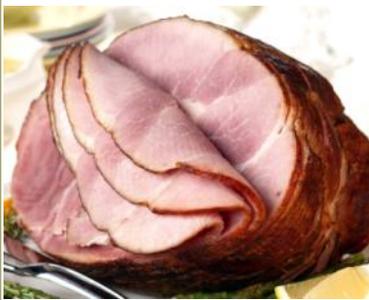


And if we have Osama bin Laden in our sights and the Pakistani government is unable or unwilling to take them out, then I think that we have to act, and we will take them out. We will kill bin Laden. We will crush al Qaeda. That has to be our biggest national security priority.— Candidate Barack Obama (2008 debate)

Excellent June 5 Brunch-not to be missed

The Champagne Brunch will again be hosted by Bill Julian and Ron Kulakow at their home (see Calendar above). The brunch, which will include ham, turkey and champagne (l.-r. below; their attendance confirmed) is an excellent buffet provided by Club members and served with the help of the Davis College Democrats. In addition to music, the formal program features presentations given by State Senator Lois Wolk, Assemblymember Mariko Yamada, County Supervisors Don Saylor and Jim Provenza, and most other elected county, city and school board officials. Prominent keynote speakers in previous years have included notable statewide officials: Lt. Gov. John Garamendi and Secretary of State Debra Bowen. We expect to secure a speaking commitment from a constitutional officer as the keynote speaker for this year's event and will make this announcement as soon as possible.

Funding provided from this event is essential for the Club to pursue community activities, such as DDC's recent support for Measure A (see p.3), which was unprecedented for a nonpartisan ballot issue. Please join us for an enjoyable event while supporting your community. You are also welcome to contribute your favorite brunch recipe. But most importantly, please attend, as the Brunch will be unsuccessful without you.



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(continued p.3)

Congratulations Davis and Davis Schools by Carl Schmid



Members of the winning "Yes on A" team enjoyed a brief, well-earned celebration "for our children" as election results were released: (l.-r.) Board Member Sheila Allen, Pres. Richard Harris, Member Gina Daleiden, Leslie Harris, who coordinated much of the campaign, Delaine Eastin, a leading school advocate and Winfred Robinson, Davis School District Superintendent.

Measure A, a temporary \$200 parcel tax increase to provide emergency funding for our schools, was approved in a particularly close election (see below). This measure enjoyed the support of School Board members and the endorsement of the Club Board as well as the YCDC. As reported in previous Club Newsletters, our School Board has provided excellent leadership by forging a sense of community resulting in shared sacrifices among all of the interested partners in our school: parents, teachers, administration and taxpayers. The extreme contrast between how budgetary problems were addressed in Davis and by way of example, Wisconsin among other troubled places, provides convincing evidence that the School Board has earned our respect and support. Moreover, quality public education is a Democratic principle. We congratulate them again for their community leadership.

At the Measure A Victory Party in her home, Delaine Eastin expressed her pride at Davis's continuing commitment to the future of our community and children saying, "This is a town that cares about children." Making a larger point, she quoted Thomas Payne. *When we think or talk about taxes, we ought to recall that we lie down in peace and sleep in safety. That we are free to follow our farms or stores or other prosperous occupations. And that these blessings of liberty are secured for us by the taxes that we pay.* This insightful comment neatly summarizes the essential debate taking place in various forms throughout the nation over taxes, spending and the proper role of government. The Board has certainly controlled spending on public education, an essential government service, and Davis voters have responded by taxing themselves.

When $1 = 2$? (trick test question)

In the April Newsletter, Delaine Eastin asked what grade Davis voters will earn in the ballot. Davis has earned a solid A (see above). As a follow-up pop quiz question, when does $1 = 2$?

Tax increases require at least two-thirds of those voting to pass. Measure A passed by a margin of just 267 votes out of 16,476 ballots (11,073 voting Yes versus 5,403 voting No). Consider that if just 89 of those, who voted in favor, switched sides, the measure would have failed despite its overwhelming support by a huge majority. Of course, many close elections have been decided by tiny margins (e.g. Bush versus Gore in Florida). The possibility of a close outcome is why each side persuades as many voters as possible and gets out their vote. However, the two-thirds requirement for passage is still problematic, since each "No" vote automatically counts as **twice** that of each "Yes" vote: so much for the democratic principle of "one person one vote." Our State Legislature is chronically crippled by a similar provision requiring a two-thirds super majority to increase any tax.

Strangely, super majority voting requirements can be changed by a mere simple majority voting to approve appropriate ballot propositions. This makes no sense. The only laws requiring a super majority consensus would seem to be those rules that determine *how* we govern ourselves rather than applying those rules to routine administration. This is bad arithmetic. Davis voters recently earned an A, but sadly, we state voters still get an F.

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Democratic Newsletter

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Champagne
Brunch**

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