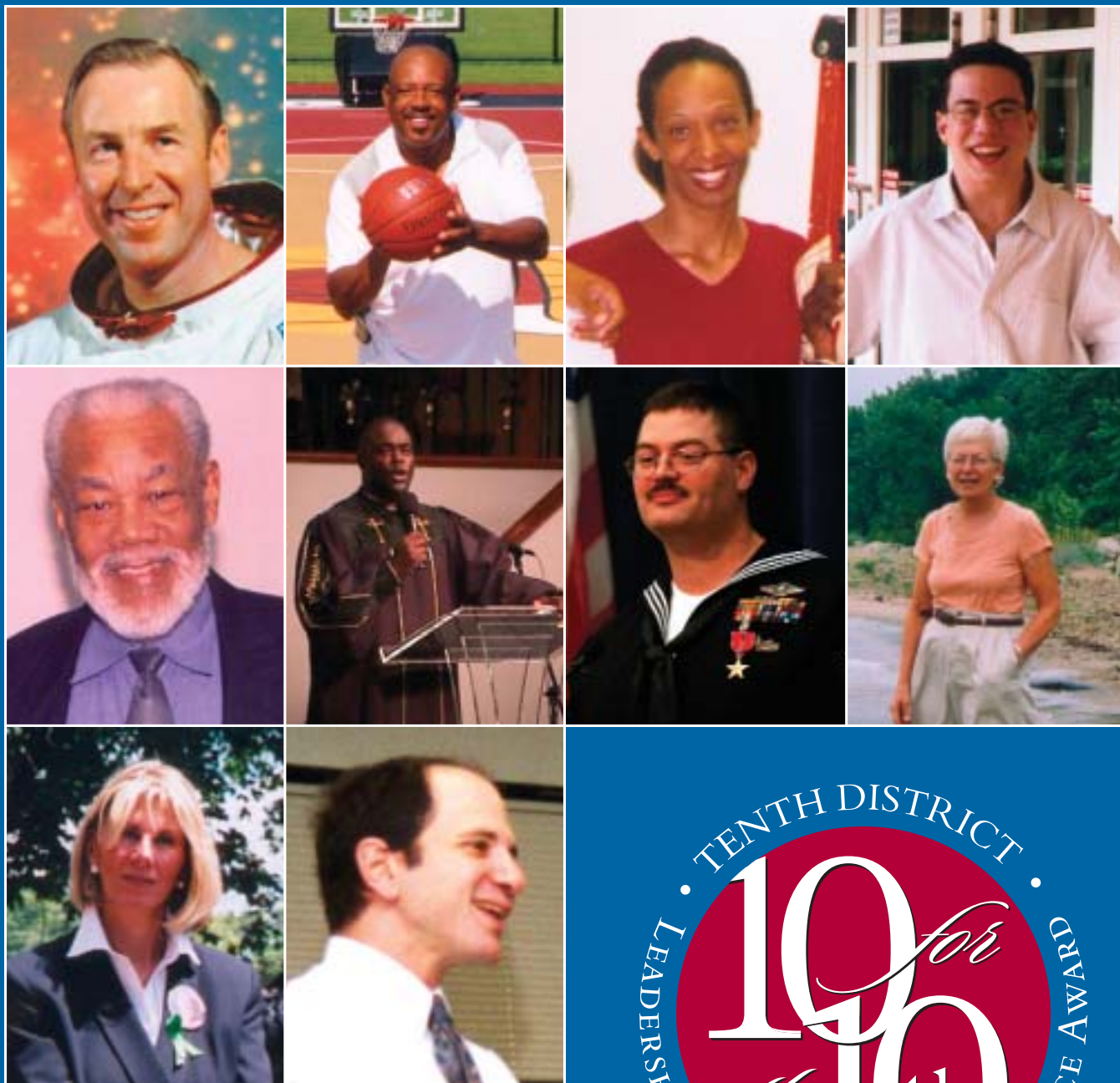


SPECIAL
ISSUE

Congressman Mark Kirk's

Leadership Awards

August 2004



*Meet ten very special Americans
who represent their communities
with distinction.*





This special place we call the Tenth Congressional District of Illinois, with a diverse population and some of the finest schools in the nation, is home to both the best-educated Zip Code in America and the second poorest jurisdiction in Illinois — unique gifts and unique challenges. During my four years of service, I have traveled across this district to see and hear first-hand how the federal government can best serve the needs of our communities.

While I learned important lessons about growing environmental threats and the need to protect our children from club drugs — I was struck by the people who are champions for these and many other important issues that impact our everyday life. Quiet Americans who take up the challenge of service with honor while representing their cause and our communities with distinction.

And so to recognize these special citizens for their leadership and community service which exemplifies the best of the Tenth Congressional District of Illinois, I am honored to announce the first recipients of the “Ten for the Tenth” award.

In this special edition of our congressional newsletter, you will meet ten very special Americans who represent their communities with distinction. But as you look around our neighborhoods, attend our hometown PTA meetings and Little League games, or just reach out to those who serve and protect in our communities, you will find many that reflect the same commitment and desire to make a difference in the lives of others. And it is their commitment that makes not only our communities great but our country strong.

I hope you join me in recognizing and congratulating these community leaders. It is my honor to represent the Tenth District in the United States Congress.

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress

Supporting Our Troops

Last November, Congressman Kirk brought together area church groups, high school singers and local musicians to join with him and local military heroes to honor and lift the spirits of U.S. troops serving in Iraq and Afghanistan during the holiday season.

Joining the congressman in bringing the compact disc entitled “Voices from Home” to

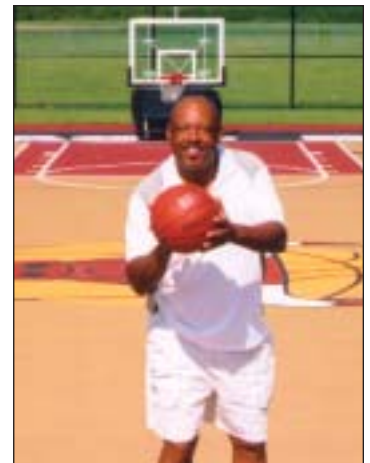


Capt. James Lovell, Jr.

life was local hero and captain of Apollo 13, **James Lovell Jr.** We honor Captain Lovell with a Ten for the Tenth award for his dedication and service to the American space program and his community service here at home. In addition to his work on “Voices from Home,” Captain Lovell chairs the congressman’s Military Academy Nominating Committee which assures that the best and brightest young men and women from the 10th Congressional District have an opportunity to attend the nation’s military academies. Captain Lovell graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and during his years of service was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Navy Distinguished Service Medal, two Navy Distinguished Flying Crosses, and the Congressional Space Medal of Honor.

Preventing Youth Violence

When Congressman Kirk reached out to Chicago Bulls’ owner Jerry Reinsdorf to help build a world-class basketball facility for at-risk youth in North Chicago, they turned to a community leader who could provide first-hand advice and hands-on support. **Jim Spriggs** is being honored with a Ten for the Tenth award for his work to



Jim Spriggs

help renovate the basketball courts at Foss Park in North Chicago in an effort to curb youth violence. This project was inspired by the tragic deaths of two teenagers. Kirk and Reinsdorf worked with Jim Spriggs and other North Chicago community leaders to fund the construction of the recreation facilities and extracurricular programs that will serve nearly 4,000 young people.

Rescuing At-Risk Youth

When Congressman Kirk went to work with North Chicago's Daisy's Resource Center to bring "Youthbuild," a federally-funded program designed to help at-risk youth, to the community he teamed up with this



Sadiqa Queen (center)

Ten for the Tenth award recipient, **Sadiqa Queen**. As Founder and Executive Director of YouthBuild Lake County, Ms. Queen has successfully advocated and promoted the development of numerous underprivileged young men and women by providing needed job training, alternative schooling, counseling, and youth leadership programs. We honor Sadiqa Queen for her work that has been instrumental in fostering positive images and encouraging positive thinking in the minds of our young people.

Navy Sailors Provide Flood Relief

This spring, as the banks of the Des Plaines River began to overflow and threaten many 10th District communities, Congressman Kirk called upon the U.S. Navy



Petty Officer Alan Dementer

for assistance. Within hours, sailors stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Center answered his call for help and began working around the clock to fill sandbags and hold back the flood waters. **Petty Officer Alan Dementer** tirelessly led the effort to save Gurnee's grade school from the rising river. Petty Officer Dementer had recently returned from service with the Marine Expeditionary Force in Iraq where he was awarded the Bronze Star for courage. Dementer and over 400 other sailors rotated in four shifts to sandbag the area surrounding the grade school. For his leadership that helped save Gurnee's grade school and his exemplary military service record in Iraq, we are proud to present Petty Officer Alan Dementer with this Ten for the Tenth award.

Saving the North Chicago VA Hospital

For nearly five years, Congressman Kirk has been fighting to keep the VA Hospital in North Chicago open to serve our growing veteran population. The inspiration for this work came from **Johnnie**



Johnnie Allen

Allen. Following 30 years of service in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Allen took an active role in veteran's affairs, specifically the treatment of those disabled during their tours of duty. In 1991, he became the Superintendent of the Veteran's Assistance Commission of Lake County, where he continues to provide valuable services to America's wounded soldiers. Mr. Allen also belongs to a number of veteran's organizations including: the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion, and the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). For his leadership and dedication to his country and community, it is an honor to present Johnnie Allen this Ten for the Tenth award.

Keeping the Faith

When two 16-year olds — Jereau Patterson and David Mackins — were murdered, Congressman Kirk reached out to **Pastor John I. Caples**, knowing that he would move quickly to break a cycle of violence that could erupt between the friends and family of those involved. Pastor Caples brought both sides together and broke the tensions that would have led to more suffering. As one of a dynamic group of pastors working in North Chicago and Waukegan, Pastor Caples is now partnering with federal efforts to boost employment, education and non-violence. For his commitment and dedication to bringing communities together through faith, hard-work and compassion, we recognize Pastor Caples' outstanding service with this Ten for the Tenth award.



Pastor John I. Caples

Youth Advocate for the Disabled

Not long ago, Congressman Kirk told the President about a young man making a real difference for disabled Americans. To honor and recognize his efforts, President Bush penned a special note of thanks to **David Kuriniec**. During his years at Stevenson High School, David has helped secure improvements in access and mobility throughout the school and has left a lasting impression on all who worked with him. David, who has cerebral palsy, began his mission to help others with disabilities when he found he had difficulty accessing the West Wing building at Stevenson as a freshman. David Kuriniec is an inspiration to others and for his passionate work on behalf of disabled people we proudly present him with this Ten for the Tenth award.



David Kuriniec

Protecting Lake Michigan

Congressman Kirk believes that protecting Lake Michigan is critical to preserving our way of life and our children's environmental heritage. He has worked tirelessly to educate national and local leaders about growing threats to the lake, including rising mercury levels and a diminishing shoreline which threatens endangered species and open space. Joining the congressman in his fight to protect our shoreline from high-rise developers and preserve open space in our communities is environmental leader, **Joyce O'Keefe**. Ms. O'Keefe, working with the congressman and the U.S. Navy, is leading the Illinois Open Lands Association effort to preserve two miles of Lake Michigan shoreline located in Highland Park. Ms. O'Keefe has highlighted this habitat as home to eight endangered species and millions of migratory birds. The U.S. House approved transfer of this shoreline to an environmental trust and the provision is expected to become law this fall. For her environmental stewardship, we recognize Joyce O'Keefe's leadership with this Ten for the Tenth award.



Joyce O'Keefe

Protecting Kids from Club Drugs

When Congressman Kirk pledged to reduce the flow of dangerous club drugs — like ecstasy — into the United States, he found an ally to help advance his cause. When the congressman hosted an International Summit for the Elimination of Club Drugs, his ally, **Kate Patton**, explained to the Belgian and Dutch ambassadors, along with the White House drug czar, why Congressman Kirk's pledge means so much to her. Mrs. Patton was instrumental in passing Kelley's Law, named after her daughter who overdosed from ecstasy and died in 1999. This State of Illinois legislation strengthened the penalties for those selling ecstasy and other club drugs. Mrs. Patton founded the Kelley McEnery Baker Foundation which focuses on educational programs to help parents and their children prevent club drug use. For her efforts as an outstanding community leader, it is a great honor to present Kate Patton with this Ten for the Tenth award.



Kate Patton

Inspiring Young Minds

As a former school teacher, Congressman Kirk worked with bright, young minds anxious to be challenged and inspired. In **Barry Bradford**, Stevenson High School students Allison Nichols, Brittany Saltiel, and Sara Siegal found an outstanding and talented teacher. Along with Mr. Bradford, the Stevenson juniors produced a documentary titled, "We Are Not Afraid," about the 1964 murders of three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi. The award-winning documentary has led to a Neshoba County task force call to reopen the case and bring to trial those responsible for the 40-year-old murders by the Ku Klux Klan during Freedom Summer. The case, referred to as "Mississippi Burning" by the FBI, was previously never brought to trial. Through their efforts, Mr. Bradford and his students sparked the Mississippi Attorney General to start an active investigation and the justice department is studying the case as well. We honor Barry Bradford with the Ten for the Tenth award for his leadership and we recognize the outstanding efforts of his students in addressing this important civil rights issue.



Barry Bradford

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Measure would protect bluffs Ft. Sheridan area would stay wild

Loaded with rare plants such as Canadian buffalo berry and home to endangered songbirds such as the cerulean warbler, 2-1/2 miles of bluffs and ravines on the North Shore are on their way to protection from development at Ft. Sheridan thanks to a provision tucked into a national defense-spending bill. Sponsored by U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk ... the provision appears in the fiscal 2005 National Defense Authorization Act, which was passed by the House on May 20 and awaits action in the Senate. "If Congress does not take action, a developer could build high-rises along the bluffs," said Kirk.

June 22, 2004

Daily Herald

County rallies for voice in transit reform

Lake County insists it won't take a back seat on Chicago area transportation issues in a growing suburban backlash against a plan to restructure the way bus, rail and road priorities are determined. Chances are the suburbs' voice will be heard. "Two-thirds of the nine million Chicago area residents live in the suburbs," Kirk said. "Areas outside the city should have a fair say in the process."

June 15, 2004

Chicago Sun-Times

REGIONS BEST-READ NEWSPAPER

Kirk asks feds to probe beach closings

Rep. Mark Kirk on Tuesday requested a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration study on whether bacteria in sewage dumped in Lake Michigan in Milwaukee is responsible for the current beach closings in Illinois. Kirk said the NOAA study, to be done by next year if it is approved in the coming weeks, could answer the question.

June 16, 2004

The NewsSun

County's smart traffic project marks initial passage

"To live in Lake County is to be stuck in traffic," said U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk. "For the average driver, this system allows us to provide many more green lights in the appropriate direction and increase speed." Kirk was a key player in securing federal funding for the system over the past four years.

June 30, 2004

PIONEER PRESS

Round-the-clock efforts save school

Thanks to some very devoted volunteers, including a few who literally slept in Gurnee Grade School a few nights, students will have a home to come back to this fall. A statement from U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, noted that the sailors were led by Petty Officer Alan Demeter, who recently returned from Iraq. Demeter received the Bronze Star for his work with the First Marine Expeditionary Force. "They're so excited about doing it," Roux said of the sailors working to save Gurnee Grade School. "They're young men and women who are dedicated to their community and to the country."

May 27, 2004

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Get moving on the Great Lakes *Tribune Editorial*

...First, the Bush administration should get behind a bill, sponsored by Emanuel and U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk to give states \$4 billion in grants over five years to fight invasive species, pollution and other problems in the Great Lakes.

May 24, 2004

Spring 2004 Survey Results*

To cut the federal deficit, the Congress should:

- 25% Raise taxes for Americans making \$100,000
- 74% Cut federal spending
- 1% Continue borrowing

The House passed a \$275 billion transportation bill while the Senate passed a \$318 billion bill. With regard to the two versions of the bill:

- 17% Congress should adopt the \$318 billion Senate transportation bill and the 5-cent gas tax increase
- 39% Congress should adopt the \$275 billion House bill without a gas tax increase
- 44% The President should veto the bill until the budget is balanced

With regard to our policy toward Iraq, the United States should:

- 45% Stay the course and finish the job
- 31% Reduce the U.S. commitment and limit our goals
- 24% Pull out of Iraq

Recently, Congress added a \$500 billion prescription drug benefit to help seniors pay for their medicine. Under the old law, Medicare gave no help to seniors for the cost of prescription drugs. With regard to this program, should the Congress:

- 48% Implement the law to have Medicare help with prescription drug prices
- 14% Add an additional \$500 billion benefit to help pay for more of the cost of medicine
- 38% Repeal the law because it is too expensive

Recently, President Bush proposed a Constitutional Amendment to define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. With regard to this proposal, Congress should:

- 42% Pass the proposed amendment to the Constitution and send it to the states for ratification
- 39% Reject the amendment and let states define marriage (Illinois law requires marriage to be between only men and women)
- 19% Legalize gay marriage

* Based on responses from 2,000 constituents



In early July, Congressman Kirk welcomed over 75 veterans from the 10th District to Washington, D.C. for a special ceremony at the new World War II Memorial honoring their military service.

SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

January 1, 2001- July 15, 2004

80,473

Constituent Letters Answered

5,209

D.C. Tour & Ticket Assistance

1,991

Votes in the 107th and 108th Congress
(Voting percentage 98%)

612

Flag requests

209

Eagle Scout & Gold Award Recipients

91%

Weekends Home in the District

24

Weekends Spent on Reserve Duty



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House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Kirk".

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS