



Congressman Mark Kirk's North News



Tenth Congressional District

May 2006

Environmental Restoration of Waukegan Harbor

Work will pave way for economic development and increased property values



Congressman Kirk with Waukegan Mayor Richard Hyde and Tim Gabrielse of Gabe's construction, discussing federal funding to clean up Waukegan Harbor.

Congressman Kirk is working closely with Waukegan Mayor Hyde, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and state officials to ensure one of his top local priorities is achieved:

The environmental cleanup of Waukegan Harbor.

"We all agree that no single project is more important to Waukegan's economy than the environmental restoration of the harbor," said Kirk. "A recent study concluded that property values in Waukegan would increase an average of \$53,000 per home following the cleanup of Waukegan Harbor. Wauke-

gan's economy will benefit from a combination of commercial and recreational investment on her lakefront."

Kirk secured \$1.4 million from the Economic Development Administration last year to fund the lowering of a 75-year-old harbor water line this spring.

Once the water line is lowered, the additional \$2.6 million Kirk secured will allow the Army Corps to do preliminary cleanups along outer portions of the harbor. This preliminary work will pave the way for the final cleanup of PCB hotspots under the EPA Legacy Act.

Navy-VA Hospital *First of its Kind in Nation*

Joined by top VA and Navy officials, Congressman Kirk revealed the site of the "first in the nation" joint Navy-VA Hospital. The new Navy hospital, fully integrated with the North Chicago Veterans Administration Medical Center, permanently secures high quality health care for veterans, sailors and their family members living in northern Illinois.

"By building the Navy's new hospital next to the VA, our northern Illinois veterans' hospital will never close," said Congressman Kirk. "This is the closest partnership between the

VA and military healthcare system in the country. Collaboration between the Navy and VA ensures the survival of veterans' health care in our community while upgrading medical care for sailors and veterans alike."

In October of 2003, Kirk won approval for the first stage of the integration, moving the Navy's mental health unit into the North Chicago VA. This blocked prior Administration plans to close our veterans' hospital.

In November 2004, Kirk won approval for the second phase — a \$12 million expansion of surgery suites and emergency



Northern Illinois veterans joined Kirk and North Chicago Mayor Leon Rockingham at the signing of a joint VA-DoD agreement.

rooms. When this phase is complete next summer, four new operating rooms and 14 new exam rooms will open for patient

care. The third phase is the most ambitious — a \$110 million Navy hospital to be fully integrated with the VA.



Congressman Kirk and *U.S.S. Cole* survivor CMC Parlier brief reporters in front of the Navy's new Battle Stations 21 program scheduled to open in June 2007.

Battle Stations!

Congressman Kirk and Command Master Chief James Parlier, a survivor of the bombing of the *U.S.S. Cole*, recently joined Navy leadership at Great Lakes Naval Training Center to preview the new \$70 million state-of-the-art "Battle Stations 21" simulation facility.

The Navy's new facility includes a three-story replica of a guided missile destroyer and Hollywood special effects to provide sailors with the most realistic training experience. The simulated ship — *U.S.S. Trayer* — will provide graduating recruits with

near real life training, modeled after the terrorist explosion that nearly sank the *U.S.S. Cole*.

"Like the Marine Corps Crucible, the Navy needed a demanding training experience that would capture the imagination of potential recruits, applying the latest simulation technology," said Kirk during the tour. "As a Navy Reservist and the congressman for the 10th District, I am proud that this facility is located in our community. The first unit of recruits will graduate from this world-class training experience in July of next year.

Education Impact Aid Funds for North Chicago Schools Saved

Working with local mayors and school boards from North Chicago, Highland Park and Glenview, Congressman Kirk introduced H.R. 4972, the Protecting Impact Aid for North Suburban Schools Act, to guarantee federal education "heavy impact" aid to North Chicago schools and to increase federal aid for Highwood, Highland Park and Glenview schools.

Under Kirk's bipartisan legislation, children from military families attending Highwood, Highland Park and Glenview schools will be officially counted in North Chicago School District's impact aid numbers. The move will allow North Chicago to maintain the 30 percent military student threshold required to retain "heavy impact" aid status.

"We have taken this action to guarantee federal education impact aid for the 4,000 students in North Chicago schools. My bill will also increase aid for Glenview, Highwood and Highland Park Schools," said Kirk.

The congressman's legislation comes as the Navy reviews a public-private partnership to upgrade homes for military families in North Chicago, Highland Park and Glenview. Additionally, Congressman Kirk worked with the Department of Education and secured an agreement from Education Secretary Margaret Spellings to protect "heavy impact" aid to schools as long as the new Navy public-private housing project continues.

This letter saved education impact aid for North Chicago schools.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
OFFICE OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

November 7, 2005

Honorable Mark Steven Kirk
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-1310

Dear Congressman Kirk:

At your request, the Department of Education has reviewed the Impact Aid Program for North Chicago School District No. 187 and its relation to the Department of the Navy's new Public-Private Venture (PPV) for that community.

Pursuant to section 8003(b)(2)(H) of the federal Impact Aid statute, we have determined that the school district meets the criteria of this subsection to continue to be considered a heavily impacted district while Naval Station Great Lakes is involved in a base housing privatization initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Schagh".

Catherine Schagh, Director
Impact Aid Program

Students thrive in Kirk's Laureate Program

Twenty-four gifted seventh grade students kicked off Congressman Kirk's Tenth District Laureates Program last fall with a day of laboratory work at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine. While at the University, students were able to participate in an anatomy lab with the opportunity to see, touch and work with real human organs. "You could actually feel the texture of them," said Christian Neumeister, 12, a seventh grader from Lake Forest. "I don't think that's something any book or computer could supply." The program, in its second year, provides highly-focused educational opportunities to gifted students from 12 middle schools in the Tenth District.



Remembering Our Veterans

Congressman Kirk awards WWII veteran and Waukegan resident Paul Eagon the bronze star, a medal he earned while fighting in Germany and Belgium.

SERVICE BY THE NUMBERS

(January 1, 2001-April 1, 2006)

141,554

Constituent Letters Answered

18

Medicare Town Hall Meetings

8,767

D.C. Tour & Ticket Assistance

487

Eagle Scout & Gold Award Recipients

985

U.S. Flag Requests

41

Weekends Spent on Reserve Duty

2,929

Votes in the 107th, 108th & 109th Congress
(Voting percentage 97%)

"Kids Against Mercury"

In March, Congressman Kirk met with a group of students from Elm Place School in Highland Park. The students are concerned about the alarming mercury levels in Lake Michigan and have formed a coalition to encourage local residents to seek action from their state legislators. "Kids Against Mercury" has put together a list of ways citizens can help. Here are a few suggestions:

- ✓ **Use less electricity.**
If we use less electricity, we will burn less coal and less mercury will be emitted into the air.
- ✓ **Urge your power company to include information about mercury emissions in their billing statements as a public service.**
- ✓ **Petition the State of Illinois to give power companies tax breaks for using renewable power sources.**
- ✓ **Consider boycotting products that contain mercury.**
Know what you are buying and what you are eating.
- ✓ **Tell your representatives that you support cuts in mercury emissions.**



I would like to hear your views on key issues we face in Congress.

To help me represent you better, please fill out the questionnaire below:

Protecting Our Kids

1. Congress is considering linking all state criminal and pedophile databases, permitting school districts to review national records before hiring teachers or coaches. Do you:
- Support this reform as a needed protection for children
 - Oppose this as potentially violating the rights of school job applicants
 - Do not know

Fuel Conservation

2. To reduce America's dependence on foreign oil, Congress is considering raising the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for all cars and trucks in America. Do you:
- Support this as a needed conservation measure
 - Oppose this as an unneeded burden on auto makers and unions
 - Do not know

401(Kids) Savings

3. Congress is considering establishing 401(Kids) tax-deferred savings accounts enabling parents to save for a child's college education, first-time home purchase or to start a business. Do you:
- Support the creation of 401(Kids) as a needed way to boost savings
 - Oppose this for budget deficit reasons
 - Do not know

Immigration Reform

4. Over 11 million people are in the United States, having entered illegally. With regard to illegal aliens living in the United States, do you support:
- Granting amnesty, allowing them to become U.S. citizens
 - Arresting them for deportation
 - I do not like either option
 - Do not know

Classroom Safety

5. Under current federal law, a teacher must show a specific suspicion before searching a student for a weapon or drugs. Congress is considering reforms to give very wide latitude to teachers to keep their classrooms drug and gun-free. With regard to this proposal, do you:
- Support giving teachers wider powers to search students without their permission
 - Oppose this proposal because it could violate the privacy rights of students
 - Do not know

Iraq

6. With regard to Iraq, which policy do you support:
- An immediate departure of all U.S. troops
 - Announcing a scheduled departure, regardless of what happens to the recently elected Iraqi government
 - Staying until the elected Iraqi government asks U.S. troops to leave
 - Do not know

Mercury Pollution

7. Studies show that Lake Michigan suffers from mercury pollution. Most of this pollution comes from coal-fired plants that produce electricity. Congress is considering mandating new pollution control equipment that could raise the cost of electricity. With regard to this proposal, do you:
- Support additional pollution controls, even if electricity rates rise
 - Oppose such controls because electricity already costs too much
 - Do not know

Prescription Drugs

8. The federal government recently offered seniors the option to add coverage for their prescription drugs to their Medicare Part A and B plans. About 55,000 seniors in the 10th Congressional District signed up for this coverage. With regard to the Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, do you think Congress should:
- Implement Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage, working out problems as they arise
 - Scrap the plan all together as either too expensive or complicated
 - End all options for coverage and offer only one government plan
 - Do not know

Suburban Gangs

9. Gangs connected to international drug cartels are moving out of Chicago to the suburbs. There are over 3,000 documented gang members operating north of Lake-Cook Road. With regard to this problem, Congress is considering extending federal criminal jurisdiction against gang members in schools. What is your opinion?
- This reform would be an unwanted extension of federal law enforcement into local police jurisdictions
 - This reform is needed to support suburban police departments who are now fighting urban drug gangs
 - Do not know

National Security Agency

10. After September 11, the President authorized the National Security Agency (NSA) to expand its international wiretaps to also monitor people who had been contacted by terrorist groups inside the United States. With regard to this program, do you believe:
- The program should be stopped and the NSA should be banned from working in the United States
 - The program should be continued to monitor potential terrorists in the United States
 - Do not know

TO MAIL BACK:

1. Please cut page along dotted line (left).
2. Fold top edge down to arrow.
3. Fold bottom third up to meet top fold.
4. Place tape at top opening to seal.
Be sure mailing address is showing.

ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Chicago Tribune
FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Benny's fans seek stamp of approval

Letters and an online petition seemed at first like a fine way to get Jack Benny — the comic who always claimed to be 39 years old — on a 39-cent stamp. U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-Ill.), whose district includes Waukegan, said he is already on board and plans to lobby the U.S. Postal Service.

February 15, 2006

The NewsSun

Family reunion

"Project Grandma" unites 14 Mexican grandparents with immigrant kids... 14 elderly grandparents who received visas to visit their relatives living in Waukegan that they hadn't seen for up to 20 years. The three-week visit, starting Dec. 30, was coordinated through Congressman Mark Kirk, R-Highland Park, his Latino advisory board and the Club Social Tonatico made up of immigrants from the town.

January 11, 2006

Daily Herald

Harbor hope on horizon

An estimated \$35 million in federal and local funds will be needed to complete the harbor cleanup and open 1,600 lakefront acres for a grand vision. "This is what I believe will become the largest economic development program in northern Illinois after the modernization of O'Hare airport," said U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, who already has secured millions and is pursuing more.

April 20, 2006

PIONEER PRESS

Kirk Secures Hospital Funding

U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk, R-10th, of Highland Park, said he secured an agreement with the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, allowing all Lake County hospitals to be reassigned higher Medicare reimbursement rates used in Chicago. Kirk said the agreement means that Lake County hospitals will receive more than \$6 million in Medicare reimbursements over the next three years...

February 23, 2006

Write your return address here:

PLACE
STAMP
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Congressman Mark Kirk
707 Skokie Boulevard, Suite 350
Northbrook, Illinois 60062-4010

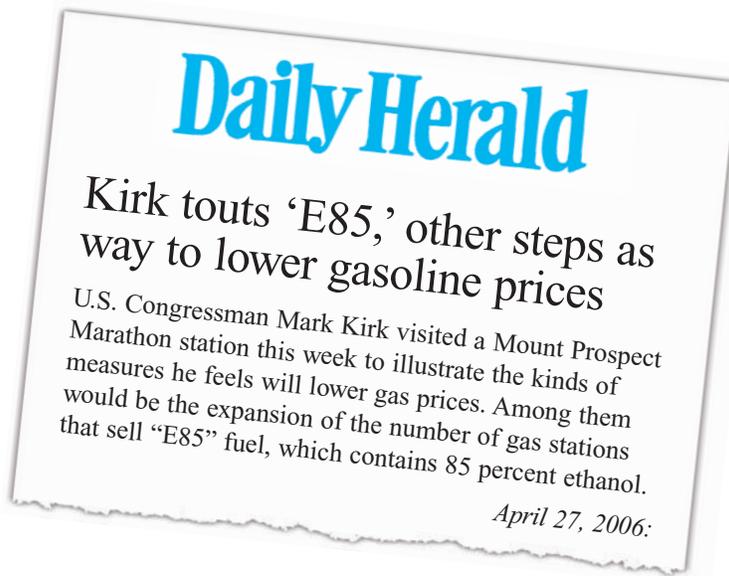
OFFICIAL BUSINESS:
Congressional Survey Enclosed

Kirk: Action Needed to Lower Gas Prices

With gas prices headed toward \$3.00 per gallon, Congressman Kirk outlined federal regulations and laws Congress should act on to ease gasoline costs:

- End monopolies on blended fuel by creating a nationwide standard and competitive pricing.
- Increase Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards from an average of 20.7 miles per gallon to 33 miles per gallon by 2014.
- Extend federal tax credits on purchases of hybrid vehicles.
- Expand the number of gasoline refineries.
- Provide incentives for production of alternative fuels like E85 – 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline.

Congressman Kirk meets with the press at a Marathon Gas Station in Mount Prospect, where E85 gasoline is selling 30 cents cheaper than regular unleaded gas.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

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Handwritten signature of Mark Kirk in black ink.

M.C.
Presorted Standard
ECRWSS