

## *Democrat delights in chance to crow*

The Cincinnati Enquirer (Ohio)

May 31, 2007 Thursday, Kentucky Edition

Copyright 2007 The Cincinnati Enquirer All Rights Reserved

**Section:** METRO; Pg. 4B

**Length:** 638 words

**Byline:** Patrick Crowley , [pcrowley@enquirer.com](mailto:pcrowley@enquirer.com)

### **Body**

---

FORT MITCHELL

Man who defeated Northup outlines his legislative agenda

It wasn't the type of discussion often heard in Northern Kentucky political circles:

Rolling back President Bush's tax cuts to pay for universal health care; rescinding Bush's approval to go to war in Iraq; criticizing Senate GOP leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky for the way he handles legislation.

That's because it was a Democratic Congressman - John Yarmuth of Kentucky's 3rd District - delivering the remarks.

Yarmuth, of Louisville, spoke during a Wednesday morning breakfast that raised about \$5,000 for the Truman Club, the fundraising arm of the Kenton County Democratic Party.

About 45 people paid \$120 for a breakfast buffet at the Fort Mitchell Country Club and to hear Yarmuth, who defeated Republican incumbent Anne Northup in November.

Yarmuth talked of his excitement in being part of a group of new House Democrats who helped take control of Congress from the GOP.

"They are shoving us right in the middle of everything, letting us champion legislation," he said.

Yarmuth said the Democratic controlled House, with the help of some GOP votes, has passed five bills that had been "blocked by the president or Mitch McConnell and the Republicans in the Senate."

Those include reducing interest rates on student loans, cutting subsidies for oil companies, implementing the 9/11 Commission reports, enacting government ethics reform and forcing drug companies to negotiate prices for Medicare Part D.

McConnell's office had no comment on Yarmuth's claim.

As a way to generate an estimated \$80 million for universal health care, Yarmuth favors rolling back the Bush tax cuts on people who earn more than \$1 million a year. That idea is also pushed by Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois.

Yarmuth did express mild frustration with the leadership of his own party for not making a strong stand against the Iraq war spending bill recently passed by Congress.

## Democrat delights in chance to crow

"They still haven't quite figured out how to take advantage of the power they have," he said. "I was not particularly pleased when we were put in the position last week of having to vote on a piece of legislation that gave Bush exactly what he wanted."

Yarmuth said he wants to end the war, but that cutting funding is not the best way, though he did ultimately vote against the spending bill.

"The best way to end the war is either to remove the president's authority to be in Iraq in the first place, or force the (troop) redeployment through legislation," he said.

Crescent Springs lawyer Sue Cassidy said Yarmuth's views are supported by many Northern Kentucky voters even though the two local members of Congress - Sen. Jim Bunning of Southgate and Rep. Geoff Davis of Boone County - are staunch Bush supporters.

Yarmuth is "representing a good bit of Northern Kentucky's views" although we've not been able to elect a congressman or senator to represent us that way, Cassidy said.

During the 90-minute breakfast, the party honored five young Democrats for their work on the 2004 elections: **Wil Schroder**, son of Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Wil Schroder; Megan Maxfield; John Hammons; Alex Mattingly; and Sarah Bailey.

Party building

By Patrick Crowley

Kenton County Democratic Party Chairman Jamie Jameson said the \$5,000 raised by Wednesday's breakfast will go toward the party's \$30,000 grass-roots voting plan.

So far the party has raised about \$10,000 for the November effort, he said.

"That money is going to go strictly to grass-roots efforts," Jameson said, including materials for volunteers to take door-to-door in the fall. "We're looking for Democrats to be precinct captains to help us implement that plan."

The Democrats have about 40 precinct captains right now; the goal is to have a man, a woman and a youth in all of the county's 108 precincts for a total of 324.

**Load-Date:** June 1, 2007