

body is perhaps summed up best by Madison in Number 57 of *The Federalist Papers*: "The House of Representatives is so constituted as to support in the members an habitual recollection of their dependence on the people."

The late Speaker Tip O'Neill's dictum "all politics is local" and our referral to this place as "the people's body" symbolize this fundamental understanding of the nature and purpose of the House.

Modern campaigning, with its emphasis on image and short, simple messages, and its use of television to project these images and messages, combined with the role of special interest money in financing increasingly expensive House contests, is in danger of severing this defining relationship between Members and their constituents. At risk is the disenfranchisement of the American voter. In 2002 several factors have combined to make my home state of Iowa a microcosm of this troubling development.

This is the first election following the Constitutionally-mandated decennial census and resulting reapportionment of the House. In Iowa, re-Districting properly is not the incumbent protection process it is in most states. Rather, the state's constitution requires that Iowa's ninety-nine counties be grouped together in a configuration that distributes the population most evenly among the five Congressional Districts without dividing a single county. This approach should and has in the past meant a renewal of political life in the state, with a new alignment of districts revitalizing the state's body politic.

This year the district realignment process worked well. The question now is whether the outside interest groups involvement has mushroomed to such an extent that the nature of our state's congressional elections have changed in such ways as to incentivize negativity and reward the kind of campaigning designed to appeal to the lower instincts of human nature.

The slim margins of control in both bodies of the national legislature, the protection extended to incumbents and therefore the status quo in other states, a close gubernatorial contest and a hotly contested Senate seat, the closeness of the last presidential election in the state and the pivotal role the Iowa caucuses will play in the 2004 race for the White House, have all combined to make Iowa a principal battleground on which this year's political fight is being waged.

As a consequence, money has been pouring into the state from national special interest PACs. Our airwaves have been jammed with radio and television ads, both positive and now increasingly negative in nature, purchased at already exorbitant and rapidly escalating cost. Mailings from campaigns and parties cram the state's mailboxes and politicians from across the country flock in droves to the Iowa, ostensibly to assist this or that candidate, but certainly to boost their own ambitions for leadership positions in Congress or on the broader national stage.

In addition, interest groups from across the political spectrum are making "independent expenditures" on behalf of Iowa candidates in unprecedented numbers. These efforts, whether positive or negative in nature, in the form of newspaper, radio or television ads, mailings or the sending in of workers to forward a candidate or cause, are by law without the knowledge, much less the control, of the campaigns effected by them.

What is being lost in this cacophonous war of political words and images is the voice of individual Iowans, that to which Members and candidates for the House are charged principally to attend.

As many of you know, I have been an advocate of radical campaign finance reform throughout my tenure in the House. Since first seeking public office, I have refused contributions from special interest PACs and accepted support only from individual Iowans, limiting that to half what is allowed by law. I have regularly offered to enter into agreements with my opponents to limit campaign spending and just as regularly been rebuffed, as I was this year.

Moreover, I also have consistently requested that outside groups not make independent expenditures in my races. I have done so this year and would like to reiterate and underscore that request now. Outside interest groups should stay out of what are intended by the Constitution and ought to remain in-state voter choices.

But as important as it is to me, the shifting nature of modern campaigns is about much more than House races in Iowa. If the trend toward more expensive races and thus heavier financial obligations for candidates is not curbed, Congress will become a legislative body where the small businessman or woman, the farmer, the worker, and the ordinary citizen are only secondarily represented.

Whatever the makeup of the 108th Congress, I would hope that it will give a high priority to finishing the work of campaign finance reform that this Congress so imperfectly began.

CONGRATULATING JOHN AND
BEVERLY "MITZIE" MUTER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John and Beverly "Mitzie" Muter of Port Hope, Michigan, as they prepare to celebrate fifty years of marriage and a life-long commitment to each other and their three children. John and Mitzie's dedication and loving relationship serves as a beautiful and inspiring model for their family, friends and neighbors.

In the early 1950s, Mitzie and her parents stopped to get something to eat at a tavern in the small community of Lewisville, Michigan, when John spotted her across the room and told his friends that she was the girl he was going to marry. After a year-long courtship, John proposed and Mary Lou accepted. They were married on the thirtieth of May 1953 in Saints Peter and Paul Church in Ruth.

John and Mitzie lived, worked and raised three wonderful children, John Jr., Jill and Jamie, in Saint Clair Shores. Mitzie devoted her life to raising and nurturing the children and providing a stable and supportive family environment. John had a long and distinguished career as a master electrician until his retirement, giving him more time to spend with Mitzie, their children and grandchildren. After John's retirement about 20 years ago, the couple moved to their farm in Port Hope. Mitzie then opened and ran a clothing store, Mitzie's Fashion Boutique, in Harbor Beach for many years.

Family members recall the many pleasures of summers, weekends and winter holidays spent at the Muter family farm in Port Hope. In the winter, John, Mitzie, family and friends enjoyed snowmobiling and other cold-weather activities. Summers found them fishing, gardening, attending church picnics and heading off to county fairs. Over the years, the love and commitment that John and Mitzie showed for each other and the children created an incredible bond that has extended to their grandchildren and beyond.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating John and Mitzie as they approach the milestone of fifty years of marriage. A good marriage is one of life's most cherished covenants because it represents a declaration of love, and, as Paul said in his Letter to the Corinthians, "Though I speak with the tongues of men and angels, but do not have love, I am nothing." I am confident that John and Mitzie's love for each will endure into eternity and I wish them many future years of marital bliss.

RECOGNIZING DR. JAMES WITHERS

HON. WILLIAM J. COYNE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 19, 2002

Mr. COYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to one of my constituents who has recently been recognized for his efforts to provide medical care to southwestern Pennsylvania's homeless population.

Dr. James S. Withers, M.D., will be receiving a 2002 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award on September 24 at the National Press Club. Dr. Withers is the founder and Medical Director of Operation Safety Net in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Each year the Community Health Leadership Program honors ten outstanding, individuals who have found innovative ways to bring health care to communities where health care needs have been ignored and unmet. Each award winner receives \$120,000—\$105,000 for program support and \$15,000 for a personal stipend.

Dr. Withers, who teaches medicine at Mercy Hospital in Pittsburgh, has been actively involved in providing health care to local homeless residents since 1993. In that year, he founded Operation Safety Net to provide this care. Operation Safety Net currently has 16 volunteer teams which seek out homeless individuals and address their health care needs. Operation Safety Net currently serves about 900 patients a year, many of whom suffer from substance abuse and mental illness.

Dr. Withers has said that the award money will be used as matching funds for a grant to carry out a 3-year plan to improve health care for the homeless and develop methods for measuring the results of such efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to commend Dr. Withers for all of his hard work and congratulate him on the recognition of his efforts with a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Award.