

COLUMNLEFT

What Am I Thankful For?

BY ALON BARLEVY, PH.D., PRESIDENT,
HUBERT HUMPHREY DEMOCRATIC CLUB

During this season, it is traditional to reflect and give thanks. Indeed, there are many people to whom I am thankful.

I am thankful to Patrick Fitzgerald for putting a stop to the politics of personal destruction and refusing to tolerate the behavior of the most corrupt administration in over 130 years. For the first time since the Ulysses Grant administration, a sitting White House official has been indicted.

I am thankful to Ronnie Earle, who brought justice to The Hammer. Although DeLay is acting like a crybaby by complaining that Earle's indictment is politically motivated, Earle's record shows that 12 of 15 political indictments he has sought during his career were against Democrats.

I am thankful to California voters who told Arnold Schwarzenegger in no uncertain terms that kicking the butts of nurses, teachers, police officers and firefighters is completely unacceptable. In fact, California's voters have so little patience for Schwarzenegger that Prop. 73, which was heading toward a victory, went down to defeat after the governor endorsed it.

I am thankful to Rep. John Murtha for waking up the Bush administration to the fact that, when it comes to the war in Iraq, "[t]here's a difference between supporting the troops and continuing to support a failed policy."

I am thankful to Iraqi War veteran Maj. Paul Hackett, who courageously ran against all odds in Ohio's 2nd

Congressional district earlier this year to come within a couple of points of capturing a seat that has gone Republican for over 30 years. Had he won, we would have been spared the disgrace that his opponent, Jean Schmidt, brought to the House of Representatives when she called Rep. Murtha, who served honorably for 37 years in the Marines, including in Vietnam, a "coward."

I am thankful to Rep. Linda Sanchez who stood up for the people of Louisiana and Mississippi by holding Bush's feet to the fire until he flip-flopped on the Bacon-Davis Act. Now the billions of dollars in federal aid will go toward helping the victims of Katrina, rather than lining the pockets of Cheney's friends at Haliburton.

I am thankful to Robert Greenwald who has done a wonderful job of exposing Wal-Mart's business practices in his movie *Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices*.

I am thankful to Sen. John McCain who led the U.S. Senate in telling Bush and Cheney that, as a victim of torture, he will not allow America to torture others. The Geneva Conventions apply to people, regardless if they wore a uniform or not at the time they were apprehended.

And finally, I am thankful to Stephanie Miller whose voice on 1150AM every morning helps me get through the day. She and her co-host use

humor, imitations and sound effects to make the bleak news of the day a little easier to take.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. Next November the extreme right wing's stranglehold on power will come to a screeching halt.

Hope you have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Text of Article

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Alon Barlevy, PhD.

President, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club

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