

Paul Richmond, Democrat for Congress, 6th District
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Does Our Congressman Represent Us?

Many of the Delegates to the 2004 Democratic National Convention were struck by this odd fact: Most of us opposed the Iraq War and wanted us out. But our candidate didn't.

Most local Democrats have a similar problem. Our party platforms call for restoring the rights we've lost under the PATRIOT Act, getting out of the "Free Trade" agreements that are destroying our country, and Clean, Fair Elections. But our elected leaders don't seem to share our views.

My name's Paul Richmond. I believe when you see something wrong, you've got an obligation to speak up, and I've spent most of my life fighting injustice. I've helped defeat a major pork barrel project at the ballot. I've helped end a pilot program that had the National Guard accompanying police in drug raids. I've helped stop the University of Washington Police from carrying M-16s. I've brought real and positive change to the communities I've lived in. Now I'm running for office so we can take back our country.

Our government's gotten us into an illegal war. We've got 4,000 U.S. soldiers dead, and close to 30,000 U.S. soldiers already crippled for life. The numbers of dead civilians in this war is in the hundred thousands. The number of refugees we've created in this war is in the millions and mercenaries outnumber our soldiers. We had the world's sympathy after September 11, 2001. We got in this war so a few crooks could line their pockets. Now the world hates us. That's not the country we want. We can do better.

While we're fighting a war on terror, our own government's taking away our rights. Under the PATRIOT Act the government can spy on any us and lock any of us up without a lawyer. Under the 2007 Defense Authorization Act, the military can be used against any of us, be we strikers, protesters, or people waiting in a line if food runs out. Under the Homegrown Terrorism Act, ideologies can become illegal. That's not the country we want. We can do better.

Our country's falling apart. Our bridges and ferries don't work. Our schools are inadequate. Our medical care is now 34th in the world with more than 40 million uninsured. That's not the country we want. We can do better.

Norm Dicks has brought a lot to the 6th District. But he voted for laws that have hurt us all. He voted to allow the military to be used against us. He's co-sponsored a law that looks at making ideologies illegal. He's voted for a war that's got young men in their twenties urinating into catheters. He's supported the "Free Trade" agreements that have our children's food, our military's hardware and even our flags made in China. That's not the country we want. We can do better.

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